

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – December 21, 2018

News & Notes

RUNAWAY GINGERBREAD COOKIES FOUND BY HEALEY SCHOOL KINDERGARTENERS

A full batch of gingerbread cookies escaped from Special Education Facilitator Susan Maday in the Healey School kitchen on the morning of Thursday, December 20. But because the Healey School kindergarteners had read several different interpretations of the classic runaway gingerbread story in December, such as *The Runaway Tortilla*, *The Matzo Ball Boy*, and *The Runaway Rice Cake* in class, the students knew exactly what to do.

Kindergarten teachers Ms. Bruneault, Ms. Cameron, and Ms. Conley helped their students trace cookie crumble clues through the school and into the front office. There, the runaway cookies were found hiding in miniature gingerbread replicas of a Mystic Housing building and Somerville fire station created by Library Aide Wendy Whoriskey. Once returned to the classrooms, the cookies were ready for students to decorate.



SANCTUARY COMMITTEES RECOGNIZED FOR TIRELESS WORK

The Somerville Board of Aldermen and Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone recently presented representatives from the Sanctuary City Steering Committee and Educators for Sanctuary Schools with a citation in recognition of their tireless work “...organizing numerous supports and services to aid immigrant residents, students, and families in Somerville, providing invaluable assistance to our residents while strengthening the welcoming spirit of our community.” Through this work, members from across the Somerville community have worked diligently to ensure that immigrant families continue to feel welcome and safe in our community, and are aware of the resources available to them.

TAKING A BREAK AND READJUSTING TO ROUTINES – A BLOG POST

In her [latest blog post](#), Somerville’s Early Education Director, Dr. Lisa Kuh, shares a few tips for early childhood educators on how to help children readjust to a school routine after a break. You may also want to visit the Somerville Early Education Pinterest site for great ideas on activities you may want to try with your children during this Winter Break: <https://www.pinterest.com/spschools/see-somerville-early-education/>.

What's Happening

Somerville Public Library "Girls Who Code Club" Kicks Off in January

Girls in grades 6-12 are invited to join the Somerville Public Library's **Girls Who Code Club**, which gets under way in January 2019. Girls Who Code Club members will decide how they want to use computer science to impact their community. The Club also offers a sisterhood of supportive peers and role models. Club facilitators are local professional women working in the technology field. Club members will be able to learn from fun and simple online coding tutorials, build community through interactive activities, and learn about inspiring role models. Girls also work in teams to design and build a Girls Who Code Project that solves real world problems they care about through code. The club will meet at the Somerville Public Library (79 Highland Ave.) on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm, January 8 through April 9, 2019. Contact Karen Stevens at kstevens@minlib.net to register!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Project

Somerville's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration will take place at the East Somerville Community School on Monday, January 21st, from 10:00 to 11:30am. Students are invited to submit essays about "Celebrating the Strength of Our Differences", this year's theme. Members of the Somerville Human Rights Commission will select four essayists who will be invited to read their pieces on stage, one from each of the following grades: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Essays should be no more than 1-1/2 pages (250-300 words), clearly handwritten or typed, and should respond to the following:

- **Elementary School Students:** Describe a time when you've learned or been positively impacted by someone who is different from you.
- **High School Students can choose from the following:**
 - What is your dream or wish for the community that recognizes and celebrates differences?
 - How have you found strength through difference?
 - How is our community positively impacted by our differences?

Deadline to submit essays to the front office of your school is January 8, 2019 at 2:30pm.

Upcoming School & District Events:

Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us and click on the "calendar" link at the top of the page for a list of upcoming activities in our schools and in our District this month.

Monday-Friday, December 24-28: Winter Break – All Schools Closed (All district offices closed on 12/24 and 12/25 only)

Monday-Tuesday, December 31-January 1: Winter Break – All Schools Closed (All district offices close at 1:00pm on 12/31 and will be closed all day January 1)

Wednesday, January 2: Schools re-open on regular schedule after Winter Break. Welcome back!

Upcoming School Committee Meetings:

Find the complete School Committee schedule, agendas and meeting minutes (as approved) online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee.

Monday, January 14, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Monday, January 14, 7:00pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, January 16, 7:00pm: Long Range Planning Subcommittee Meeting at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Upcoming Somerville Family Learning Collaborative Workshops and Events:

Find a complete list of SFLC events and workshops at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families.

SFLC January Drop-In Playgroups. Session 2 Drop-in Literacy Playgroups for children birth – 5 years old (children must be accompanied by an adult). Playgroups are at the Cummings School building (42 Prescott St.). Registration begins January 8th. Call (617) 62-6600, x6990 or register online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups.

- Tuesdays, 3:00-4:30pm: January 8, 15, 22, 29 – Discover & Learn (Yellow Door)
- Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am: January 9, 16, 23, 30 – Climb & Create (Pink Door)

- Thursdays, 10:00-11:30am: January 10, 17, 24, 31 – Discover & Learn (Yellow Door)

Sharing Our Stories. Sharing our Stories is a support group for families with young children who have special needs. Join us on Thursday, January 10, 7:00-8:30pm at the Cummings School building (42 Prescott St.) for our next gathering. Raising a child who does not always fit in can be challenging. This free, open-ended group will offer adults the opportunity to share joys, concerns, frustrations, questions, and resources about their experiences. Facilitated by Amy Bamforth, LICSW. Conversation in English; interpretation available upon request.

Serve and Inspire Volunteer Orientation. Join us Thursday, January 17th, 6:00-8:00pm at the Cummings School building (42 Prescott St.) to learn how you can support Somerville youth through volunteer opportunities in our district.

Special Education Basic Rights Workshop. Join the Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SSEPAC) and Diana Santiago from Massachusetts Advocates for Children on Wednesday, January 23rd, for a Spanish-language workshop that introduces participants to federal and state special education laws, the special education process, and parent and student rights. Workshop takes place at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.), from 6:30-8:30pm. Spanish to English interpretation will be provided.

SFLC Community Resource Clinic. Do you have questions about community resources? Are you looking for childcare? Join us on Thursday, January 24th, 5:00-7:00pm at the Cummings School building (42 Prescott St.), for a Community Resource Clinic. Meet representatives from the SFLC, City of Somerville Health and Human Services, and SomerViva for information, resources and referrals. The SFLC Community Clothing Closet, a resource offering free clothing for families in need will be open. For more information, please contact Francia Reyes at freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us or (617) 625-6600, x6994.

Course Planning Night for 8th Grade Families. On Thursday, January 31, 6:00-7:00pm, all 8th grade parents and families in the district are invited to Somerville High School to learn about the high school course selection process and to meet their students' future high school counselors. Interpretation will be provided. Event takes place at the SHS Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Looking Ahead:

Friday, January 4, 8:00-8:45am: **Cramer Coffee Collab** at the Healey School Library (5 Meacham St.)

Tuesday, January 8, 5:30-7:00pm: **Argenziano School Council Meeting** (290 Washington St.)

Wednesday, January 9, 5:00-6:30pm: **West Somerville School Council Meeting** (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Thursday, January 10: **West Somerville Neighborhood School Picture Re-Take Day** (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Tuesday, January 15, 9:00-10:30am: **Kennedy School K-3 Winter Concert** (5 Cherry St.)

Tuesday, January 15: **West Somerville Neighborhood School Grade 6 Trip** to Museum of Science

Wednesday, January 16: **Half-Day Wednesday for PK-8** (PK dismissed at 11:30am; K-8 dismissed at noon)

Thursday, January 17, 6:00-8:00pm: **Serve & Inspire Volunteer Orientation** at the Cummings School building (42 Prescott St.)

Thursday, January 17, 6:30-8:00pm: **Beginner's Instrumental Concert** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Friday, January 18: **West Somerville Neighborhood School Boostathon**

Monday, January 21: **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** – All Schools and District Offices Closed

Community News & Events

Girls Who Code Club. Somerville Public Library's Girls Who Code club gets under way in January 2019! Girls decide how they want to use computer science to impact their community, and they also join a sisterhood of supportive peers and role models. Club facilitators are local professional women working in the technology field. Members will learn from fun and simple online coding tutorials, build community through interactive activities, and learn about inspiring role models. Girls also work in teams to design and build a Girls Who Code Project that solves real world problems they care about through code! Open to girls in grades 6-12. The club will meet at the Somerville Public Library (79 Highland Ave.) on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm, January 8 through April 9, 2019. Contact Karen Stevens at kstevens@minlib.net to register!

SYHA Learn to Skate/Learn to Play Hockey Clinics. Rolling registration available throughout the Fall / Winter. Clinics run every Saturday through February. Details and registration information at www.somervilleyouthhockey.org.

Somerville Parks & Recreation. Visit <http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities> to learn all about the Somerville Parks & Recreation Department's current programming.

City & District Employment Opportunities

Consider joining a winning team! Current city and district opportunities include:

- [Electrician for the Lights and Lines Division](#), DPW – Electrical Lights and Lines, City of Somerville
- [Traffic and Parking Project Manager](#), Traffic and Parking Dept., City of Somerville
- [Social Media Manager/Community Engagement Specialist](#), Communications and Community Engagement, City of Somerville
- [Manager of Accounts Payable](#), Auditing Dept., City of Somerville

Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/jobs> for a complete listing of current open positions in the City of Somerville.

- [Temporary Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional](#), Argenziano School, Somerville Public Schools
- [School Based Family and Community Liaison](#), East Somerville Community School, Somerville Public Schools
- [BOKS Program Lead Trainer](#), East Somerville Community School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Temporary Special Education Resource Room/History Teacher](#), Somerville High School, Somerville Public Schools

Visit <https://www.schoolspring.com/jobs/?employer=16902> for a complete listing of current open positions in the Somerville Public Schools.

Have something to share with the community? Send information to connections@k12.somerville.ma.us to share an event. Please note that we look for events and programs that support youth development. Include date, time and name of event, along with any additional pertinent information. Or, submit your event to <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/calendar/submit>.

Our Commitment to the Whole Child

VISION: "We believe in developing the whole child — the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of all students — by providing students with the skills, opportunities, and resources that will nurture innovative ideas, foster pride in diversity, inspire students to become lifelong learners and empower them to enrich their communities."