

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – February 4, 2019

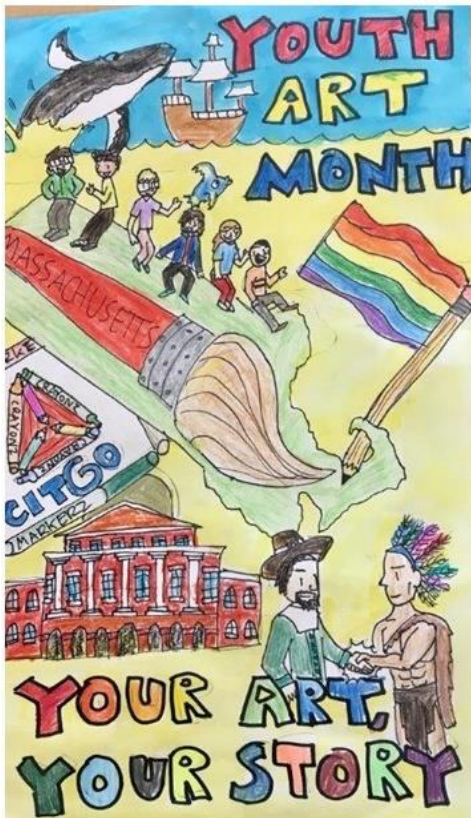
News & Notes

SPS STUDENTS GAIN RECOGNITION FOR EXEMPLARY ART ENTRIES

Somerville Public Schools students and art educators recently earned recognition for their outstanding artwork. A trio of Somerville High School students earned several honors at the Massachusetts Scholastic Art & Writing Competition, sponsored by the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) at Tufts and the Boston Globe. Student entries were judged on originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

- Sophomore Tyler Gaffney (art teacher, Mrs. Jessica Howard) earned 4 Gold Key Scholastic Art Honors for the following Digital Art entries: *Fall*, *Picking Flowers*, *Meteor Shower*, and *Fur Elise*.
- Junior Nikolas Protopapas earned 3 Honorable Mentions for Digital Art entries *Mountain Side*, and *Date* (art teacher, Mrs. Jessica Howard), and for a Painting entry, *Beach Day* (art teacher, May Chau).
- Freshman Simone Gwynn earned Honorable Mention honors for a Digital Art entry, *Fireflies* (art teacher, Mrs. Jessica Howard).

Somerville students also received statewide Youth Award Month (YAM) recognition for entries in the following grade levels: Kindergarten, Grade 4, Grade 6, Grade 8, High School, and Overall K-4. Somerville received 6 of 17 awards,



competing against many entries from districts throughout Massachusetts. YAM entries will be displayed at the statewide YAM Exhibit 2019, sponsored by the Sargent Art Company and the Massachusetts Art Educators Association. The Exhibit will be on display at the State Transportation Building at 10 Park Plaza in Boston and will be open weekdays February 11 through March 27 (closed weekends and on

President's Day). A YAM Family Celebration will take place Sunday, March 3, 12:00-4:00pm, which includes an Awards Ceremony at 12:30pm.

HIGHLANDER THEATRE COMPANY'S PRODUCTION OF HOLY BROTH EARNS ACCOLADES AT EMERSON COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL



The Highlander Theatre Company (HTC) at Somerville High School presented its first performance of *Holy Broth* late last month, earning accolades from adjudicators at the Emerson College High School Drama Festival in Boston for its strong performances, Costume/Makeup design by SHS student Athena Parkman, and Direction by SHS senior Valerie Farley. HTC will be offering a public performance of *Holy Broth* on Friday, February 8th, 7:00pm at the SHS Auditorium, before its final showing at the Massachusetts Thespians Festival at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School on February 9th. The February 8th public performance at SHS is "Pay What You Can" for SPS students, faculty, and staff (please bring your ID), and \$10 for the general public. Pay at the door or online at <https://shsma.booktix.com/view/7/2d7c47af4d4e4da7/>.

HOLY BROTH, written by Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright Quiara Alegría Hudes, is the story of Ashley (played by

Vivian Santos-Smith), a Puerto Rican girl from Philly who is getting a D in her Spanish class and struggling to communicate with her Abuela (Adriana Martinez). At home, everything with mom (Tatiana Pineda) is lost in translation. With some pushing by her Spanish teacher (Athena Parkman) and the help of an old soup recipe, Ashley finds a way to create a new language with her Abuela.

SOMERVILLE VARSITY BASKETBALL TOPS MEDFORD 60-54 IN THIRD ANNUAL TUFTS CLASSIC

The Somerville High School Highlanders faced off against the Medford Mustangs in a much-anticipated hoops match-up on Super Bowl Sunday afternoon, with the Highlanders coming out on top, 60-54. Read all about this year's Tufts Classic: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/sports/high-schools/2019/02/03/james-mcewen-leads-somerville-boys-basketball-past-medford/jCYC86P2ltNzc2vSLBsEyl/story.html>.

What's Happening

School Committee Winter Office Hours and Public Hearing on Powderhouse Studios

The Somerville School Committee is hosting a second public hearing on the proposed Powderhouse Studios Innovation School on Wednesday, February 6th, 6:00pm at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. There will be a presentation about the plan and then public comment. Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/powderhouse-proposal for more information. The School Committee also invites you to share your thoughts about adding this potential new school and the district budget for the upcoming school year during public comment at the start of every full School Committee meeting, by contacting School Committee members directly, and during office hours being held throughout the city from January 22 through February 10, 2019. Below is a list of remaining winter office hours.

- Tuesday, February 5, 9:00-11:00am – School Committee Member Andre Green at Winter Hill Brewing, 328 Broadway
- Friday, February 8, 10:00-11:30am – School Committee Vice Chair Emily Ackman with City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin & State Representative Mike Connolly at the Cross St. Senior Center, 165 Broadway
- Sunday, February 10, 10:30am-noon – School Committee Member Laura Pitone with City Councilor Mark Niedergang at Armory Café, 191 Highland Ave.

Somerville High School Open Houses

Find out about Somerville High School's excellent teaching and learning community during their annual Open House events this week. Visitors will have an opportunity to meet members of the staff, learn about the curriculum, and tour the campus. Morning (8:15am-10:00am) and afternoon (12:15-2:00pm) sessions will be offered on Thursday, February 7, and Friday, February 8. Visitors are welcome to attend multiple sessions. All tours will begin with a 15-minute introductory meeting in the SHS auditorium followed by a tour of the campus and classroom visits. Call (617) 625-6600, x6153 if you need additional information.

Somerville High School Class of 2019 "Class Day" Festivities

Are you a Somerville High School Class of 1969 graduate? If so, we hope you'll join in the SHS 2019 Class Day festivities. Somerville High School is looking for 50 graduates from the SHS Class of 1969 to participate in Class Day activities. Class Day will take place on Friday, May 24, starting at 9:00am at SHS (81 Highland Ave.). If you are an SHS Class of 1969 graduate and would like to be a participant in the Class of 2019 Class Day activities, please email Barbara Favalaro, SHS Main Office, Head Clerk at bfavaloro@k12.somerville.ma.us, or call (617) 625-6600, ext. 6110 to sign up. The Class of 2019 looks forward to seeing past graduates from the Class of 1969!

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, February 4, 2:45-4:15pm: Next Wave/Full Circle Parent-Teacher Conferences (8 Bonair St.)

Monday, February 4, 7:00-7:30pm: SHS School Improvement Presentation to School Committee at the City Council (BOA) Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Tuesday, February 5, 8:00-9:30am: ESCS Principal Coffee and Roundtable at the East Somerville Community School Conference Room (50 Cross St.)

Tuesday-Friday, February 5-8: East Somerville Community School PTA Book Fair (50 Cross St.)

Wednesday, February 6: Half-day Wednesday for PreK-8 (PK dismissal at 11:30am; K-8 dismissal at noon)

Wednesday, February 6, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Wednesday, February 6, 6:00pm: Powderhouse Studios Proposal Public Hearing at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Thursday, February 7, 8:15-10:00am: Somerville High School Open House – Morning Session (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, February 7, 12:15-2:00pm: Somerville High School Open House – Afternoon Session (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, February 7, 2:45-4:15pm: East Somerville Community School Parent-Teacher Conferences (50 Cross St.)

Thursday, February 7, 3:00-4:30pm: Somerville High School Parent-Teacher Conferences (81 Highland Ave.)

Friday, February 8, 8:15-10:00am: Somerville High School Open House – Morning Session (81 Highland Ave.)

Friday, February 8, 12:15-2:00pm: Somerville High School Open House – Afternoon Session (81 Highland Ave.)

Friday, February 8, 5:30-9:00pm: ESCS 7th/8th Grade Dance at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)

Friday, February 8, 7:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company Production of *Holy Broth* at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Saturday, February 9: SHS Highlander Theatre Company presents *Holy Broth* @ MA Thespian Festival in Acton-Boxborough High School

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, February 4, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, February 6, 6:00pm: Powderhouse Studios Public Hearing at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Monday, February 11, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Tuesday, February 12, 5:30pm: Powderhouse Studios Community Presentation at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)

Wednesday, February 13, 7:00-8:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Somerville Family Learning Collaborative Workshops, Events, and Resources:

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

Marijuana, Vaping and Youth: A Discussion for Adults – Thursday, February 7, 6:00-7:30pm. Join Somerville Prevention Services, the Somerville High School Parent Teacher and Student Association (PTSA) and the City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department for a discussion about marijuana and vaping in our community. Child care and interpretation will be available. A light dinner will be provided. Discussion will take place at the Highlander Café/Culinary Arts Bistro at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.).

Sharing Our Stories Support Group – Thursday, February 14, 7:00-8:30pm. Join SFLC staff and fellow Somerville parents for a support group for families with young children who have special needs. 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. Support Group meets at the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.).

SFLC Community Resource and Legal Services Clinic – Thursday, February 28, 5:00-7:00pm. Meet representatives from the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC), City of Somerville Health and Human Services, and SomerViva for information and resources, or make an appointment for a free legal consultation with representatives from Greater Boston Legal Services and the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program (HIRC). Call (617) 625-6600, x6994 or email freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us for a legal consultation appointment. The SFLC Clothing Closet, a resource for free clothing for families in need, will be open. At the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.).

Looking Ahead:

Monday, February 11: ESCS Grade 6 Field Trip to Harvard Museums

Monday, February 11, 1:30-2:00pm: East Somerville Community School Superintendent Awards (50 Cross St.)

Monday, February 11, 6:00-6:30pm: Kennedy School Improvement Presentation to School Committee at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Monday, February 11, 6:30-7:00pm: Next Wave/Full Circle School Improvement Presentation to School Committee at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Tuesday, February 12: ESCS Grade 8 Field Trip to Aquarium

Tuesday, February 12: ESCS Grade 6 Field Trip to Harvard Museums

Tuesday, February 12, 5:30pm: Powderhouse Studios Community Presentation at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)

Tuesday, February 12, 5:30-7:00pm: Argenziano School Council Meeting (290 Washington St.)

Wednesday, February 13, 3:00-5:00pm: Kennedy School Parent-Teacher Conferences (5 Meacham St.)

Wednesday, February 13, 4:00-5:30pm: Healey School Site Council Meeting at the Healey Library (5 Meacham St.)

Thursday, February 14, 8:00-9:00am: Unidos 1st Grade Parent Breakfast at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)

Thursday, February 14, 4:00-5:30pm: Somerville High School Science & Engineering Fair Exhibition Night (81 Highland Ave.)

Monday, February 18: President's Day Holiday – All Schools and District Offices CLOSED

Monday – Friday, February 18-22: February Vacation - All Schools CLOSED

Community News & Events

Marijuana, Vaping & Youth: A Discussion for Adults. Somerville Prevention Services, the SHS PTSA, and Somerville's Health and Human Services Department invite you to a discussion on Marijuana, Vaping and Youth. The discussion takes place Thursday, February 7, 2019, 6:00-7:30pm at the Somerville High School Highlander Café/Culinary Arts Bistro (81 Highland Ave.). Prevention resources will be distributed. A light dinner and refreshments will be provided, and childcare and interpretation services will be available.

Writers' Den. Writers' Den presents two *Writing and Publishing Get-Togethers* for writers in grades 4 through 8, at the Somerville Public Library (Central branch) on Highland Avenue (Auditorium, 1st floor): Thursday, January 24, 3:15-5:30pm and Thursday, February 21, 1:00-5:30pm. Share writing that you bring, free write, and have writing

challenges and mini-workshops. Publishing possibilities will be discussed. If you love to write, this is for you! Free. Also, Middle School Writers' Den meets regularly on Monday evenings, 6:15-8:00pm at the Healey School, except when there is no school. All writers in grades 4-8 are welcome. For more information, contact kid@12zine.com. Visit www.12zine.com to read all the publications.

Brian Higgins Foundation Trivia Night. The 17th Annual Brian Higgins Foundation Trivia Night takes place Thursday, March 21, 2019 from 6:30-11:00pm at the Tufts University's Cousens Gym. Join the fun and support a great cause! The Brian Higgins Foundation's goal is to help children with special needs and their families have a fun quality of life. Along with a fun and friendly trivia competition, the evening includes a silent auction, a 50/50 drawing, numerous raffles to win, a light dinner and a cash bar. Donations are tax deductible. Enter a team for \$250, or purchase an individual ticket through PayPal and join an existing team. Registration deadline is March 1, 2019. Learn more about this event and the Brian Higgins Foundation at <http://www.thebrianhigginsfoundation.org/>.

Somerville Parks & Recreation. Want to learn how to play tennis this winter? Somerville Parks & Recreation has you covered with an Indoor Tennis Program for youth ages 8-12 year olds. Learn more about this program at https://www.somerville.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30059. Program runs February 26 through April 2, 2019. Visit <http://www.somerville.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:

- [Senior Clerk](#), Fire Dept., City of Somerville
- [Deputy Director of Libraries](#), Libraries Dept., City of Somerville
- [Social Media Manager/Community Engagement Specialist](#), Communications and Community Engagement, City of Somerville
- [Primary Water Operator](#), Water and Sewer Dept., City of Somerville

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

- [Assistant Principal – Beacon House](#), Somerville High School
- [K-12 Supervisor of Health and Physical Education](#), Somerville Public Schools
- [Director of Somerville Community Schools](#), Somerville Public Schools
- [SHS Welcome Center Liaison](#), Somerville High School

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."