

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – January 25, 2019

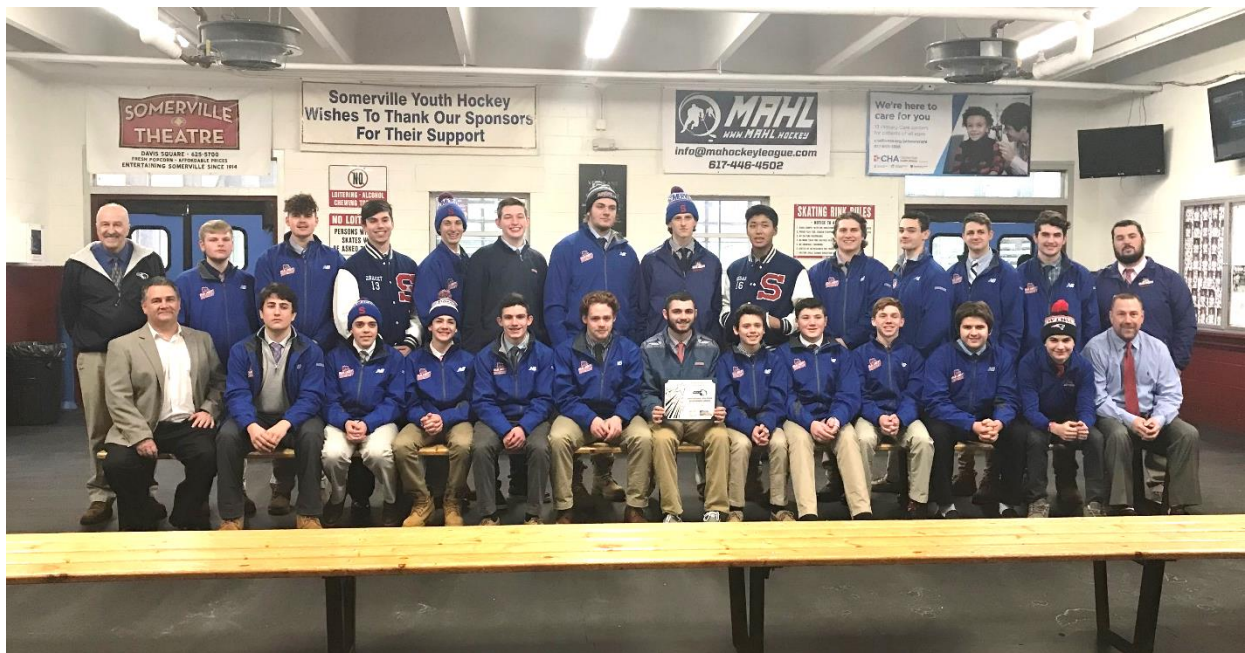
News & Notes

HIGHLANDER HOCKEY TEAM EARNS MIAA EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Somerville High School Boys Ice Hockey Team was recently awarded the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Educational Athletics Achievement Award, in recognition of their outstanding community service work this year. Aside from their commitment on the ice, Somerville ice hockey student-athletes have dedicated their off-ice time to giving back to the community in a number of ways. From serving veterans and seniors at the Mayor's Thanksgiving Dinner held at the Somerville Council of Aging, to helping at a local toy drive and running a toy drive with the Lynn Jets that donated toys to the Mystic Learning Center and to the Lynn Community Center, Highlander Ice Hockey players have played an important role in making a positive difference in the lives of their fellow Somerville community members. The MIAA acknowledged their leadership in demonstrating the five pillars of MIAA Educational Athletics at a special recognition event on Wednesday, January 23rd. MIAA's five pillars serve as the criteria to achieving excellence in a school's athletic program and include the following.

- Wellness –empower students to make healthy life choices
- Sportsmanship – respect for self, team, opponents, officials, rules, and the game itself
- Coaches' Education – provide resources for teacher-coaches who serve as curriculum instructors of educational athletics
- Leadership – promote the power of positive influence that student-athletes and teacher-coaches share as role models
- Community Service – recognize the privilege of athletic participation and the responsibility of giving back to the community

Congratulations, Highlander Ice!



HEALEY SCHOOL 7TH GRADERS LEARN HOW TO BRING POETRY TO LIFE

Seventh grade students at the Healey School learned how to bring poetry to life through an in-class poetry workshop with Spoken Word Poet, Anthony Febo. Read all about how students in Ms. Emma Daniels' English Language Arts class gave voice to their food-focused poetry in this recent blog post: <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/bringing-poetry-life-healey>.

SPS STUDENTS SELECTED TO MASSACHUSETTS ALL-STATE TREBLE CHORUS

Twenty-four (24) Somerville Public Schools students in grades 4-6 will be representing their schools and their district as members of the 2019 Massachusetts All-State Treble Chorus. More than 800 candidates statewide auditioned for a spot on this prestigious chorus. The mission of the All-State Treble Chorus is to provide a quality honor choir experience for selected students in grades 4-6 who participate in their school's general music and/or choral programs. The Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) engages the very best conductors who are recognized for their expertise with children's choirs. The conductors select repertoire appropriate for this age level. Repertoire is varied, of a high quality, pedagogically sound, and engages the young singer to encourage age-appropriate and expressive singing. This year's chorus conductor will be Marianna Parnas-Simpson, founder and director of the Houston Treble Chorus in Texas. Students will perform at the MMEA conference on March 2, 2019 in the Plaza Ballroom at the Seaport Hotel Boston. Visit www.massmea.org/newsevents/all-state-festival-concert/treble-chorus for more information. Congratulations to the district's 24 student representatives:

| Student Name | School | Grade | Student Name | School | Grade |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Katherine Kiely-Ilch | Argenziano | 6th | Brianna Quezada | East Somerville | 4th |
| Amelia LaGuerre | Argenziano | 5th | Seamus Meader | Healey School | 6th |
| Piper MacDonald | Argenziano | 5th | Bridget Bourgoin | Kennedy School | 6th |
| Isa Membreno-Gomez | Argenziano | 6th | Fiona Hanley | Kennedy School | 6th |
| Cybele Miller | Argenziano | 6th | Lydia Hopper | Kennedy School | 5th |
| Jack Quinonez | Argenziano | 5th | Alice Hunter | Kennedy School | 6th |
| Anarghya Rajbanshi | Argenziano | 5th | Leila Smee | Kennedy School | 6th |
| Linnaea Sidel | Argenziano | 4th | April Soltysiak | Kennedy School | 5th |
| Sheila Argueta | East Somerville | 5th | Gerteasha Morelus | Winter Hill School | 5th |
| Maya Grandoit | East Somerville | 5th | Julian Goodrich | West Somerville | 4th |
| Bhavroop Kaur | East Somerville | 5th | Vanessa Gutierrez | West Somerville | 4th |
| Ryleigh Martell | East Somerville | 5th | Julia Rafkind | West Somerville | 4th |

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 a 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 posted throughout the city from January 22 through February 10, 2019. Below is a list of remaining winter office hours. (**denotes new listing*)

- Saturday, January 26, 9:00-10:30am – School Committee Member Lee Erica Palmer (Spanish bilingual) with City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, Representative Denise Provost, and Senator Pat Jehlen at 17 Pitman Street (Lee's house)
- Saturday, January 26, 9:30-10:30am – School Committee Member Paula O'Sullivan at Diesel Café, 257 Elm St.

- Saturday, January 26, 12:00-1:30pm – School Committee Chair Carrie Normand with City Council President Katjana Ballantyne, Representative Christine Barber, and Senator Pat Jehlen at Angelina's Pizzeria, 230 Holland St.
- Sunday, January 27, 10:30am-noon – School Committee Member Laura Pitone with City Councilor Mark Niedergang at Armory Café, 191 Highland Ave.
- Tuesday, January 29, 7:30-8:30am – School Committee Member Dan Futrell at Bloc 11 Café, 11 Bow St.
- Wednesday, January 30, 8:00-9:00am – School Committee Member Lee Erica Palmer (Spanish bilingual) at Forge Bakery, 626 Somerville Ave.
- *Wednesday, January 30, 8:30-9:30am – School Committee Member Laura Pitone at Kennedy School Coffee Hour, 5 Cherry St.
- Thursday, January 31, 7:30-8:30am – School Committee Member Dan Futrell at The Biscuit, 406 Washington St.
- Thursday, January 31, 6:00-8:00pm – School Committee Member Andre Green with Representative Christine Barber at Tipping Cow, 415 Medford St.
- Friday, February 1, 8:15-9:30am – School Committee Chair Carrie Normand and School Committee Member Paula O'Sullivan at Soundbites, 704 Broadway
- Friday, February 1, 10:00-11:30am – School Committee Vice Chair Emily Ackman at Dunkin', 220 Broadway (Spanish interpretation available)
- 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.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration – Monday, January 28

Somerville's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, rescheduled to Monday, January 28th, will take place at the East Somerville Community School auditorium (50 Cross St.), from 6:00-7:30pm. The event will feature musical performances, readings by winners of the student essay contest, and more. The Somerville Human Rights Commission is also holding a Winter Clothing Drive during the event. Donations of gently used or new winter clothing for school-aged children are welcome, and will be distributed to the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative's Clothing Closet.

Somerville Learning 2030 Community Conversation & Reflection – Tuesday, January 29

This past fall, the City of Somerville, Somerville Public Schools, and many of our community agencies and organizations partnered to reach out and ask you – our community – what you value most and where we should focus our efforts to make sure every Somerville youth has a great learning experience while growing up in our city. Through surveys, focus groups and community visioning sessions, you shared your voice and values and let us know what's most important in creating a thriving, healthy, opportunity-filled city for our youth. Join us to hear about our findings and share your reflections. Tuesday, January 29, 5:30-7:30pm at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School Cafeteria (115 Sycamore St.). Light pizza dinner and refreshments served at 5:30pm; facilitated session 6:00-7:30pm. Please RSVP at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SVLJan29Reg> by Monday, January 28, 2019 if you plan to attend.

Course Planning Night for 8th Grade Families – Thursday, January 31

Somerville Public Schools 8th grade parents and families in the district are invited to Somerville High School on Thursday, January 31, 6:00-7:00pm, 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.)

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, January 28, 6:00-6:30pm: **Brown School Improvement Presentation to School Committee** at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Monday, January 28, 6:30-7:00pm: WSNS School Improvement Presentation to School Committee at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, January 30, 2:45-4:15pm: Healey Parent-Teacher Conferences (5 Meacham St.)

Wednesday, January 30, 1:30pm: Somerville High School Early Release Day

Wednesday, January 30, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting at the Somerville High School Library (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, January 31, 9:00-10:00am: Healey Grades 3-8 Winter Concert at the Healey Cafeteria (5 Meacham St.)

Thursday, January 31, 9:15am: Argenziano MLK Celebration Concert at the Argenziano Cafeteria (290 Washington St.)

Thursday, January 31, 2:45-4:15pm: Winter Hill Community Innovation School Parent-Teacher Conferences (115 Sycamore St.)

Friday, February 1: Spring Sport Registration opens for baseball, softball, boys and girls outdoor track & field, boys and girls ultimate Frisbee, boys and girls crew, boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls tennis

Friday, February 1, 8:00-8:45am: Cramer Coffee Collab at the Healey School Library (5 Meacham St.)

Friday, February 1, 6:30-8:30pm: Brown School Tropical Dance at the Argenziano Cafetorium (290 Washington St.)

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 28, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of the Whole at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Monday, January 28, 7:00pm-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, January 30, 5:30-6:30pm: Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole at the City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room (93 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, January 30, 6:00-8:30pm: School Committee and Board of Aldermen Joint Hearing at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Somerville Family Learning Collaborative Workshops, Events, and Resources:

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

Resources for Families during Federal Government Shutdown. The Somerville Health and Human Services Department has put together informational resources to assist families during the current federal government shutdown. Families who receive SNAP benefits should be aware that SNAP benefits for February arrived early on recipients' cards, and cards WILL NOT get loaded again later in February. Families are encouraged to be mindful and plan accordingly. Additional resources are available for families being impacted. Please visit the [Somerville Family Learning Collaborative website](#) for more information.

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.). To register, call (617) 625-6600, 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)

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:

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-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, 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, 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

Community News & Events

Tapping of the Trees. Groundwork Somerville (GWS) invites you to the Tufts University campus in front of Paige Hall on Sunday, January 27th, 1:00-2:30pm, to be part of the annual [Tapping of the Trees event](#). It will be an event of ceremonious celebration with tapping of the first maple sugar trees of the season! You will learn how to drill spires into the trees and watch the sap start to flow. It's a fun event for the whole family. Learn the basics of this long-standing Massachusetts winter tradition and support the local food movement all winter long. Sap will be collected throughout the month of February to boil down at GWS's annual community boil down event on March 16th. If you are interested in signing up to help GWS collect more sap, contact Casey at casey@groundworksomerville.org.

Green Line Extension Project Public Meeting. Get an update on the Green Line Extension (GLX) Project from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation at a public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 30th, 6:00-8:00pm at the East Somerville Community School Cafeteria (50 Cross St.). The format of this meeting will be an interactive, open house setting to provide information on GLX station designs, upcoming traffic detours, and details on the Community Path.

2018 Somerville High School Health Survey Results & World Café Style Community Discussion. Somerville Cares About Prevention (SCAP) invites you to learn about Somerville student health issues and share your ideas to improve health in our community, as they present the results of the 2018 Somerville High School Health Survey. SCAP and Somerville Positive Forces (SPF) 100 Youth Leaders will share highlights from the results of the 2018 SHS Health Survey in an interactive game format, which will be followed by a World Café Style discussion. Enjoy an open community discussion with parents/guardians, grandparents, youth, teachers, counselors, mentors, leaders and others, on a variety of youth health topics. Light refreshments will be served. Event takes place on Thursday, January 31st, 5:30-7:30pm at the SHS Highlander Café/Culinary Arts Bistro (81 Highland Ave.)

Winter Hill in Motion Streetscape Improvements Community Meeting. Learn about proposed improvements to Broadway in the Winter Hill neighborhood and share your feedback at a community meeting on Monday, February 4, 6:30 p.m., in the Healey School cafeteria (5 Meacham Street). Proposed work includes creating a dedicated bus lane on a portion of Broadway, as well as bike lanes, additional crosswalks, and looking at traffic signal timing. Meeting will include a short presentation by city staff on the work to date, followed by a discussion of the proposed plan. For more information, contact transportation@somervillema.gov.

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.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30059. Program runs February 26 through April 2, 2019. 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:

- [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."