

CONNECTIONS

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

News & Notes

WINTER HILL STRENGTHENS CONNECTIONS WITH FAMILIES THROUGH MATH

Recent Family Math Engagement Events at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School are strengthening school-home connections while supporting learning and helping students build leadership skills. Read all about this approach to family engagement in a recent blog post: <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/math-engagement-winter-hill>.

WHERE TO FIND SNOW DAY INFORMATION

There's no way around it – we're heading into snow season. Before the snow arrives, though, we want to be sure you know where to find snow day information. Below are some tips to help you stay informed in the event of a snow day.

How will you know if school has been cancelled?

Parents and guardians were asked to supply contact information during registration. You will receive a phone call from the district and an email to let you know if school is closed. You can also check the SPS website: www.somerville.k12.ma.us, local television outlets, and the district social media sites (www.facebook.com/SomervillePublicSchools or @SvilleSchools).

More information:

- The City of Somerville sends out alerts on inclement weather days. Sign up here: www.somervillema.gov/alerts
- Visit the City's website or social media sites for up-to-date information: www.facebook.com/SomervilleCity/ or @SomervilleCity
- Parking is on the even side of the road during snow emergencies this season (unless otherwise posted). School parking lots will no longer be available to residents during snow emergencies. Find the off-street parking map for snow emergencies and get more information at the City's Snow Winter Guide webpage: www.somervillema.gov/snow.
- Are you a SHS Highlander or Full Circle student looking to make some extra money? Sign up for the City of Somerville snow shoveling program and help out a senior. Learn more at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/teen-snow-shoveling-program>
- Learn about the decision-making process around calling a snow emergency at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/SchoolClosures.



SHS HIGHLANDERS TAKE ON MEDFORD MUSTANGS IN 3RD ANNUAL TUFTS CLASSIC

The Somerville High School varsity boys and girls basketball teams will face off against the Medford Mustangs in a doubleheader on Sunday January 20th, early afternoon at Tufts University's Cousens Gym. This marks the third year of this annual rivalry doubleheader. This year's event will include a donation drive for area food banks. Read all about the upcoming matchup in a recent Tufts press release: <https://now.tufts.edu/news-releases/medford-and-somerville-hs-basketball-teams-tip-2019-tufts-classic>.

What's Happening

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.

Somerville Mid-Term Ceremonies – Monday, January 7

The City of Somerville's Mid-Term Ceremonies and Mid-Term Addresses by Mayor Curtatone, the incoming President of the Board of Aldermen, and incoming Chairperson of the Somerville School Committee will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 7, in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). Organizational meetings of the Board of Aldermen and School Committee will take place immediately before the Mid-Term Addresses. Members of the public are invited, and the speeches will be live streamed on the City's cable and educational access television stations, as well as online at www.somervillema.gov. A reception will immediately follow the official ceremony and speeches.

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.

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.)

Thursday, January 10, 7:00-8:30pm: Sharing Our Stories at the Cummings School Building (42 Prescott St.)

Saturday, January 12: SPS Pre-K and Kindergarten Online Registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins (online)

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

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 7, 6:00pm: Somerville Mid-Term Ceremonies at the Somerville Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

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

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

Wednesday, January 16, 7:00-8:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning 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:

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

Wednesday, January 23, 6:30-8:30pm: Special Education Basic Rights Workshop at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)

Thursday, January 24, 8:45-10:45am: WSNS Winter Concert at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Thursday, January 24, 5:00-7:00pm: SFLC Community Resource Clinic at the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.)

Community News & Events

Healey Schoolyard Design Community Meeting. Please join the Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and Ward 4 Alderman Jesse Clingan for a community meeting on Thursday, January 10 to discuss design plans for the Healey Schoolyard. The meeting is scheduled for 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Healey School cafeteria at 5 Meacham St. For more information or with any questions about the project, please contact Arn Franzen at AFranzen@somervillema.gov. You can also visit the Friends of Healey Facebook event for information at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/398480917610399/>.

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!

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:

- [Spanish Language Liaison Assistant Internship](#), SomerViva: Office of Immigrant Affairs, 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.

- [BOKS Program Lead Trainer/Assistant Trainer](#), Several Schools, Somerville Public Schools
- [K-12 Supervisor of Health and Physical Education](#), Somerville Public Schools
- [Director of Somerville Community Schools](#), 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."