

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – March 1, 2019

## News & Notes

### HIGHLANDER THEATRE CLUB MEMBERS EARN SEVERAL AWARDS AT MA THESPIANS FESTIVAL

Nearly 40 students from the Highlander Theatre Company at Somerville High School attended the 2019 Massachusetts Thespians Festival at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School last month. Of those students, 29 presented work at the festival, either as a cast/crew member of *Holy Broth*, the Highlander Theatre Company's entry to the One-Act Festival, or as a participant in "Individual Events" in Musical Theatre, Acting, or Technical Theatre. Somerville High School was represented well at the MA Thespians Festival. Somerville students returned with an unprecedented number of theatrical awards and honors. Highlights from the Festival include:

- Senior Valerie Farley received the festival's only award for Excellence in Directing for her direction of *Holy Broth*. Valerie also received the highest possible rating (Superior) for an Individual Event in Dramaturgy; she presented her work on HTC's December production of *RENT*.
- *Holy Broth* took home awards for Excellence in Design (Maya Cooleybeck, Lucy Gunther, and Athena Parkman) and Acting (for Adriana Martinez as Abuela).
- Athena Parkman was honored with a new "Two Hats" award for achieving excellence in both Design and Performance in one production (*Holy Broth*). Athena also received a rating of "Excellent" for her Individual Event in Costume Design
- 24 hours after being inducted into the International Thespians Society, SHS freshman Sandra Mood earned a rating of "Excellent" in her Musical Theatre Individual Event.
- Jacob Benevento and Grace Lotti also received the highest rating of "Superior" for their Individual Event in Acting. They presented a scene from our upcoming play *Silent Sky*, which is coming up in March!
- Isabella Milanowski and Sam Hook also received "Superior" ratings for their Acting Individual Events. They both performed monologues from plays.
- Marsden Rodriguez, Sam Hook, and Amanda Hook also received "Excellent" ratings for their Musical Theatre Individual Events. They each performed solo songs from musicals.



### DR. DARIUS GREEN EARNS DISTINGUISHED FELLOW DISTINCTION

Dr. Darius Green, Assistant Principal of the Broadway House at Somerville High School, was selected as one of six "Students at the Center Distinguished Fellows" by the Student-Centered Learning Research Collaborative. Dr. Green is part of the second cohort of Distinguished Fellows, who are selected because of their vision, contributions, and impact in student-centered learning. During their 2-year term (2018-2020), Distinguished Fellows will work with research teams and youth researchers to bridge research, practice, and policy as it relates to student-centered learning. Congratulations to Dr. Green for his leadership in impacting youth across the region. Learn more about the Students at the Center Distinguished Fellows program at <https://studentsatthecenterhub.org/profile/distinguishedfellows/>

## ARGENZIANO STUDENTS MEET CHALLENGE, HAUL IN MORE THAN 37,000 PLASTIC CONTAINERS IN PHASE 1 OF CELTICS, JN PHILLIPS AUTO GLASS GREENSHIELD® RECYCLING INITIATIVE



After recycling a school-best 2,691 bottles in just 10 days as part of the Boston Celtics and JN Phillips Auto Glass GreenShield® Recycling Education Initiative, students from Mrs. Lamer's winning 7<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom class at the Argenziano School were rewarded with a special field trip to the Museum of Science where they were joined by Boston Celtics legend Leon Powe ('08 NBA Champion) and JN Phillips Vice President of Field Services Dan Cadigan. The students began the field trip with a 'design challenge', splitting up into small groups to assemble a trophy out of recycled materials. After the contest, they participated in an active discussion regarding the importance of environmental preservation. Argenziano students combined to recycle 37,377 plastic containers over that 10-day period in January, upping the program's overall total to 641,932 items over the last seven years of

challenges. The recycling challenge was the first of three challenges Argenziano students are undertaking as part of this program. They recently completed their 'reduce challenge' in February. The final challenge takes place this month, with students participating in a 'reuse' challenge. Stay tuned for more updates about this exciting recycling challenge.

## EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOURTH GRADERS RESEARCH CAPE COD BEACH EROSION

Fourth grade students at the East Somerville Community School in Ms. Ceballo's class researched Cape Cod beach erosion, beach erosion prevention and learned about community stakeholder needs. Students demonstrated workable solutions through 3-D models that included solutions like adding coconut fiber rolls, planting vegetation and building sea walls. Along with their software models, students wrote detailed reports outlining their projects. They presented their projects to their peers and families.



## SHS CTE STUDENTS TAKE HONORS AT SKILLS USA DISTRICTS COMPETITION

Earlier this week, Somerville High School Drafting teacher Mr. Bendel and Graphic Design teacher Mr. McElroy, led Somerville's Career and Technical Education (CTE) students as they participated in the Skills USA Districts Competition. Keefe Technical High School in Framingham hosted the event where SHS students competed against students from 12 other vocational schools from all over Massachusetts in their respective programs. Along with a performance based assessment (hands on work), SHS CTE students also engaged in rigorous, written assessments that focused on their trade's mathematic calculations, professionalism, safety, and code rules/ laws, while adhering to a strict dress code and professional behavior policy. Three SHS students earned awards and will move on to the Skills USA States competition. Congratulations to Antonina Aliberti, who won the bronze medal in cosmetology over 500 hours; Harjot Kaur, who claimed the silver medal in cosmetology over 500 hours; and Stephen Freitas, who took a silver medal in technical drafting.

# What's Happening

Highlander Boys Basketball Quarterfinal Playoff Game – Friday, March 1, 7:00pm

On Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>, the (15-5) Somerville Highlander's Boys Basketball team will host a quarterfinal playoff game in the MIAA Division 2 North Basketball Tournament. The #2-seed Highlanders received a bye and will play #10 Billerica. This will be the last home game in SHS Brune Field House before it closes this spring as part of the Somerville High School renovation project. Please come out and show your Somerville pride by supporting the team. Doors open at 6:00pm, and tipoff will be 7:00pm at the Brune Field House. Tickets are Adults \$7 and Students \$5. Additional parking is available behind the school in the Medford Street Vocational lot.

### **2019 Summer Camp and Activities Fair – Tuesday, March 5, 5:30-7:00pm @ the ESCS**

Find out about summer camps, recreational activities, and learning opportunities at the 2019 Summer Camp and Activities Fair. Representatives from more than 40 organizations will be on hand to answer questions and share information about art, music, sports, nature, and other programs available to Somerville youth in the city and the surrounding community. Stop by this free family event and get ready for a great summer! Event takes place at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.).

### **Save the Date! SHS CTE Fair – Saturday, March 16, 9:00am-12:00pm**

Join Somerville High School students and teachers to learn about our Career and Technical Education programs, see student projects, and try your hand at creating some of your own work. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about Somerville's innovative CTE programs.

### **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 31\*** 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 [bfavalaro@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:bfavalaro@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!

### **Bridge Closures to Support Green Line Extension Begin March 22**

Bridge closures throughout Somerville to support the Green Line Extension are scheduled to begin on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Learn more about the scheduled bridge closures and detours at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/bridge-closures-support-green-line-extension-begin-march-22>. Anyone interested can sign up to receive a weekly email outlining upcoming construction citywide at [www.somervillema.gov/construction](http://www.somervillema.gov/construction). Somerville residents are also encouraged to enroll in the City's alert system at [www.somervillema.gov/alerts](http://www.somervillema.gov/alerts) to ensure they are notified prior to major detours or disruptive construction activity in their neighborhood.

### **Upcoming School & District Events:**

Visit [www.somerville.k12.ma.us](http://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, March 5, 9:00am-1:00pm: Argenziano 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip** to Omni Theater, Museum of Science

**Tuesday, March 5: Healey PTA Laser Tag fundraiser** at Xtreme Craze in Woburn

**Wednesday, March 6: Half Day Wednesday for PK-8** (PK students dismissed at 11:30; K-8 students dismissed at noon)

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

**Wednesday, March 6, 7:00-7:30pm: Winter Hill School Improvement Presentation to School Committee**, at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Wednesday, March 6, 7:30-8:00pm: ESCS School Improvement Presentation to School Committee**, at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Thursday, March 7, 6:00-8:00pm: Spring into STEAM** event at the Brown School (201 Willow)

**Saturday, March 9, 8:00am-4:00pm: Region IV Science & Engineering Fair** at the Somerville High School Field House (81 Highland Ave.)

### **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](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee).

**Monday, March 4, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Monday, March 4, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall

**Wednesday, March 6, 6:00-7:00pm: Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole** at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Wednesday, March 6, 7:00-8:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor); Winter Hill School Improvement Presentation from 7:00-7:30pm and ESCS School Improvement Presentation from 7:30-8:00

**Wednesday, March 13, 7:00-8:00pm: Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole** at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Monday, March 18, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.); Healey School Improvement Presentation from 6:00-6:30pm; Argenziano School Improvement Presentation from 6:30-7:00pm

**Monday, March 18, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall

**Wednesday, March 27, 7:00-8:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning**, at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families).

**Summer Camp and Activities Fair – Tuesday, March 5, 5:30-7:00pm @ East Somerville Community School.**

SomerPromise and the SFLC host the Summer Camp and Activities Fair, where more than 40 organizations from Somerville and the surrounding area will be available to share information about summer programs for Somerville youth. Stop by this free family event to learn about the many summer options available to Somerville youth.

**Sharing Our Stories Support Group – Thursday, March 14, 7:00-8:30pm @ Cummings Building (42 Prescott St.).**

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.

**Maple Syrup Boil Down Festival – Saturday, March 16, 10:00am-1:00pm @ South Street Farm (198 South St.)**

Watch and learn as sap from local trees is boiled down into pure maple syrup over a warm fire. Family-friendly activities, taste tests, hot cocoa, music and more! Hosted by Groundwork Somerville.

**SSEPAC Anti-Bullying Presentation – Monday, March 25, 6:30-8:30pm @ East Somerville Community School**

Join the Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council for a workshop on the Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Law. The workshop will also focus on school-wide efforts to create safe and supportive school environments for students with disabilities and provisions that require IEP Teams to address the bullying of students with disabilities.

**SFLC Community Resource and Legal Clinic – Thursday, March 28, 5:00-7:00pm @ Cummings Building, Room 12.**

Meet representatives from the SFLC, Somerville Health and Human Services, and SomerViva for information and resources related to immigration and other family needs, or make an appointment for a free legal consultation with representatives from the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program. For a legal consultation appointment, email [mquiroz@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:mquiroz@k12.somerville.ma.us) or call 617-625-6600 x6958. The SFLC Community Clothing Closet, a resource offering free clothing for families in need, will be open.

## Looking Ahead:

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

**Wednesday, March 13, 8:30-10:30am: Argenziano Spanish grade 8 students** - presentation at Somerville High School

**Wednesday, March 13, 8:30am-2:30pm: Argenziano Grade 2 Maple Syrup field trip** to South Street Farm

**Wednesday, March 13: West Somerville Neighborhood School 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish trip** to Somerville High School

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

**Thursday, March 14, 4:00-6:30pm: West Somerville Parent-Teacher Conferences** (177 Powder House Blvd.)

**Friday, March 15, 12:45-2:45pm: West Somerville Neighborhood School 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Maple Syrup trip**

**Friday, March 15, 6:30pm: Healey PTA Movie Night** for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders – The Greatest Showman, in the Healey Library (5 Meacham St.)

**Friday, March 15: Somerville High School Sophomore/Junior Semi-formal** at the Arts at the Armory in Somerville  
**Saturday, March 16, 9:00am-12:00pm: Somerville High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Fair** at the SHS Atrium (81 Highland Ave.)

## Community News & Events

**Powder House Blvd. Community Meeting.** The meeting will include an update on the investigation into the February 8 fatal hit and run at Powder House Blvd. and Hardan Rd., as well as information about traffic calming measures on Powder House Blvd. Discussion will include information on the interim measures already in place, upcoming measures planned for the spring, a proposed plan for new permanent measures, and remaining options for community consideration. The meeting will start at 6:00pm.

**2019 Urban Ag Ambassador Applications.** Are you a Somerville resident interested in becoming a [2019 Urban Agriculture Ambassador](#)? Applications are being accepted through Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Learn more about this exciting new opportunity at [www.somervillema.gov/urbanag](http://www.somervillema.gov/urbanag). Participants attend four Saturday learning sessions and volunteer 30 hours in return for the free program.

**Family and Children's Concert Series.** The Tufts University Department of Music presents Kiniwe in the Distler Performance Hall at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center (20 Talbot Avenue, Somerville) on Saturday, March 9th, 2019 at 1 p.m. Kiniwe, the African Music and Dance Ensemble of the Tufts Music Department, presents a concert for children and families. Led by Attah Poku, Kiniwe will perform Kete from the Ashanti people of Ghana, and Kpanlogo from the Gã people from Ghana. Free event; no tickets required.

**Greater Boston North Shore Flag Football.** Get in the game with flag football! Registration for North Shore Flag Football is open! Registration deadline is March 8!! Visit [www.northshoreflagfootball.com](http://www.northshoreflagfootball.com) to register. Call 978-338-4108 or email [admin@northshoreflagfootball.com](mailto:admin@northshoreflagfootball.com) if you have questions. Games are played Sunday mornings and the season starts April 7. One game and one practice per week with a minimum of 7 weeks of games. Every player gets an official NFL FLAG jersey and flag belt to keep. Football for the team, certificates of excellence from the NFL, championship rings, and great teamwork. Visit [www.northshoreflagfootball.com](http://www.northshoreflagfootball.com) to learn more.

**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:

- [Wire Inspector](#), Inspectional Services Dept., City of Somerville
- [SHMEO Catch Basin Cleaner](#), Water and Sewer Dept., City of Somerville
- [Good Jobs Intern](#), OSPCD – Economic Development, City of Somerville

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

- FT Lead Teacher Positions, Somerville Community Schools Afterschool Program
- PT Assistant Teacher Positions, Somerville Community Schools Afterschool Program
- [Afternoon Library Utility Aide](#), East Somerville Community School

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

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Have something to share with the community? Send information to [connections@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto: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."