

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – March 22, 2019

News & Notes

WHCIS, SHS Students Share Love of Music through Peer Mentoring

On March 18th, three seniors from the Somerville High School Orchestra traveled to the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (WHCIS) to work with Grade 7 and 8 string instrument students.

The SHS students - Kristina Gurung, Shamah Nzikoba, and Tayara Romero - all got their start in the string instrument program at the WHCIS with orchestra director Andrew Blickenderfer, and have continued throughout their four years at SHS. As Honors-level students, they have additional peer mentoring responsibilities both at the high school and across the community. In doing so, they set an example for others through their dedication to the music program, aspiring to personal musical excellence, and encouraging the next generation of SHS Orchestra musicians. We celebrate their commitment, citizenship, and generosity, and look forward to their continued growth and success in years to come.

You can learn more about the district's diverse and welcoming music program by contacting your school's music teacher, or Richard Saunders, Director of Music, (617) 625-6600, x6143, or by email at rsaunders@k12.somerville.ma.us.



Annual Fair Highlights Innovate Career & Technical Education Programs

Somerville High School hosted its annual Center for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Fair on Saturday, March 16. More than 150 visitors and 40 eighth grade students attended the 2019 event. It was an opportunity to meet current students, alumni, and teachers, and speak with them about the CTE department's innovative programs.

The event began at the SHS Atrium, where guests were paired with Student Ambassadors. CTE Student Ambassadors are nominated by their peers to serve in this capacity and are required to complete three training sessions in order to serve as an Ambassador. Visitors had a chance to explore all of the CTE programs offered at Somerville High School, and to participate in various hands-on activities, working alongside current CTE students and faculty.

In Carpentry, for example, visitors could build toolboxes and in Cosmetology, they could design hairstyles and try their hand at creative nail painting techniques. In Graphic Design and Visual Communication visitors used InDesign, a desktop publishing and typesetting software application, to create their own notebooks with a color cover to take home. Culinary Arts opened their kitchen for guests to make mini pizzas from scratch and another station to prepare fried egg sandwiches, while in Metal Fabrication, guests could create their own beautiful copper rose. Visitors also had an opportunity to see and learn more about some of the school and community projects current SHS CTE students are working on as they explored during their visit.

The Somerville High School Center for Career and Technical Education's programs provide students an opportunity to specialize in a particular trade or technical discipline while preparing for college or a career. For more information about the SHS CTE program, visit <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/CTE>.



SHS Freshman Earns Silver Key Award in Critical Essay Category at Scholastic Art and Writing Competition

Somerville High School freshman Emilia Sheridan, under the guidance of her teacher Theresa Dietrich, earned a Silver Key Award in the Critical Essay category at the 2019 SMFA/Boston Globe Scholastic Art & Writing competition. Emilia's essay was titled, *Celia Sanchez: Women in the Cuban Revolution*. Writing entries were judged by a team of National Writing Jurors which included literary agents, editors, professors, screenwriters, award-winning poets, executives from non-profit organizations, and others. Among the criteria the jurors looked for were originality, technical skills, and the emergence of a personal voice in the entry.

What's Happening

Bridge Closures to Support Green Line Extension Begin Friday, March 22

Bridge closures throughout Somerville to support the Green Line Extension are scheduled to begin on Friday, March 22nd. 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. Somerville residents are also encouraged to enroll in the City's alert system at www.somervillema.gov/alerts to ensure they are notified prior to major detours or disruptive construction activity in their neighborhood.

Highlander Theatre Company Presents Second Production of *Silent Sky*, Friday, March 22

The Highlander Theatre Company presents *Silent Sky* on Friday evening, March 22nd, 7:00pm at the Somerville High School Centennial Auditorium. *Silent Sky* is an amazing story of pioneering astronomer Henrietta Leavitt and the women who chartered the stars at the Harvard Observatory in the early 20th century. This powerful production is appropriate for all ages, and will also feature a post-show dialogue with the creative team and special guest astronomers from Harvard and MIT. Tickets are \$8 for Students/Seniors and \$10 for General Public, and can be purchased at <https://shsma.booktix.com/view/8/95475566855773fa/>. Read more about *Silent Sky* in [this recent news article](#).

Somerville Parks & Recreation NFL Flag Football League

Registration is open for Somerville's NFL Flag Football League. The season runs April 7th through June 16th and games are played Sundays at Dilboy Stadium. Open to boys and girls in Grades 1-8, NFL FLAG powered by USA Football, is the NFL's official youth flag football program. It is a fun and exciting, non-contact sport that can be played year-round. Cost is \$75 for Somerville residents and \$100 for non-residents. Four divisions are available:

- Freshman Division: Grades 1-2, 1:00-2:30pm
- Jr. Varsity Division: Grades 3-4, 1:00-2:30pm
- Varsity Division: Grades 5-6, 2:30-4:00pm
- NCAA Division: Grades 7-8, 2:30-4:00pm

Register online at http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30072.

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, March 25, 6:30-8:30pm: Somerville SEPAC Anti-Bullying Presentation by Massachusetts Advocates for Children, at the East Somerville Community School cafeteria (50 Cross St.)

Wednesday, March 27: WSNS 5th Grade Trip to Museum of Science

Wednesday, March 27, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting at the Somerville High School library (81 Highland Ave.)

Friday, March 29, 9:00-10:00am: Malian Drum and Dance Concert with Joh Camara at the Argenziano School Cafetorium (290 Washington St.)

Friday, March 29, 1:45-2:30pm: WSNS Kindergarten Math in the Café event at the West Somerville Neighborhood School Cafeteria (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Friday, March 29, 6:00-8:00pm: Literacy Night at the Argenziano, hosted by the Argenziano PTA in the AFAS Cafeteria (290 Washington St.). Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2166872380087286/> for more information.

Saturday, March 30, 5:00-7:00pm: Healey School Annual Porter Square Books School Library Fundraiser at Porter Square Books in the Porter Square Shopping Center (25 White Street, Cambridge)

Wednesday, April 3: Half-Day Wednesday for PK-8 (pre-K dismissal at 11:30am; K-8 dismissal at noon)

Wednesday, April 3, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Thursday, April 4, 6:00pm: National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Friday, April 5: Brown School PTA Museum of Science Overnight off-site learning experience

Friday, April 5, 8:00am: Cramer Coffee Collab at the Healey School (5 Meacham 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, March 25, 6:30pm: Finance & Facilities Meeting of the Whole, at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Wednesday, March 27, 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.

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 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, April 9, 5:30-7:00pm: Argenziano School Site Council Meeting (290 Washington St.)

Tuesday, April 9, 6:00-7:30pm: Next Wave/Full Circle Parent-Teacher Conferences (8 Bonair St.)

Wednesday, April 10, 4:00-5:30pm: Healey School Site Council Meeting at the Healey School Library (5 Meacham St.)

Wednesday, April 10, 6:00-7:30pm: Healey Parent-Teacher Conferences (5 Meacham St.)

Thursday, April 11, 6:00-7:30pm: Winter Hill Parent-Teacher Conferences (115 Sycamore St.)

Thursday, April 11, 6:30-9:00pm: Somerville High School Spring Concert at the SHS Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, April 11, 7:00-8:30pm: SFLC Sharing our Stories meeting at the Cummings Bldg. (42 Prescott St.)

Friday, April 12: WSNS Middle School Band Trip

Monday-Friday, April 15-19: April Vacation (includes Patriots Day and Good Friday)

Community News & Events

Healey School Fundraiser. The Healey School Annual Porter Square Books School Library Fundraiser takes place

Saturday, March 30th. Drop by Porter Square Books (Porter Square Shopping Center, 25 White St., Cambridge) anytime between 5:00pm and 7:00pm for a fun night of friendship, books, and shopping. 20% of all in-store purchases during that time will go directly to fund the Healey School library collection. Gift cards count! Be that shopper you always wanted to be and plan ahead for birthdays and holidays! A donation table will be set for anyone interested in purchasing a book and donating it directly to the Healey Library. School librarian Emily Rocha will have a wish list of books to choose from. Not able to attend the event? No problem! You can either place an order online at www.portersquarebooks.com/online-ordering or call in an order between 5:00pm and 7:00pm, and 20% of your purchase will still support this fundraising event. Questions? Contact Debbie Leopold at schmidtopold@yahoo.com

ESCS Debate Team PTA Fundraiser. The East Somerville Community School middle grades debate team earned a spot at the Urban Debate League Middle School National Tournament in Washington, DC. The tournament takes place the first weekend of April break. Interested in supporting the ESCS team on this exciting journey? You can do so at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/send-the-escs-debate-team-to-nationals-in-dc?member=1903696>.

DEI Annual Pancake Breakfast. The Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI) hosts its 23rd Annual Pancake Breakfast spring fundraiser on Saturday, March 30, from 8:30-10:30am at the First Church Somerville (89 College Avenue). Funds from this annual fun family event support drop-out prevention as well as new and innovative programs in the Somerville Public Schools. Join the fun and enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast prepared and served by members of the Somerville School Committee. Suggested donation is \$10 for adults, \$9 for senior citizens, \$5 for children, or \$25 for a family. Reservations are not necessary. In case of questionable weather, contact Doris McDaniel (857-205-8374) or Larry Siraco (617) 447-1529 to confirm that the breakfast will be taking place.

Amazing Archaeology Fair at Harvard. Join Harvard archaeology students on Sunday, March 31, from 12:00-4:00pm in the museum galleries as they share their experience from excavations around the world and across time. Examine artifacts and see what archaeologists do. Try launching a spear with a spear thrower (weather permitting), carve cuneiform writing on clay, and experience up-to-the-minute technologies such as 3D printing and augmented reality. Test your listening skills in the World Music Challenge game hosted by colleagues from the social anthropology department. Activities will be spread across both the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology and the Harvard

Semitic Museum. Special event; regular museum admission rates apply. Enter at the Peabody Museum before 12:00pm for free admission. (11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge) Free event parking at the 52 Oxford St. Garage.

Lead Paint Safe Somerville. Renters! Funding is available to make your home lead-paint safe. Lead paint can be dangerous, especially for kids. Landlords may receive a three year, forgivable loan to address lead-paint hazards in their rental units. Income restrictions apply. City staff can help discuss the program with your landlord. Learn how the City can help make your home lead-paint safe by visiting www.somervillema.gov/lead or calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2584. Translation services are available.

National Grid Community Initiative. The Mass Save Program can help Somerville property owners and tenants save on energy and maintenance costs, increase the home's comfort and value, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Offers include at least 75% off approved insulation improvements, rebates up to \$1,600 per ton for qualifying air source heat pumps, and 0% interest financing through the Mass Save HEAT Loan. If 230 households complete no-cost Home Energy Assessments, the City can receive a grant for future energy initiatives. Eversource and National Grid customers may call 855-891-9899 or visit www.somervillema.gov/seen to get started. Translation available.

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. Register today for a variety of programs including:

- Girls Spring Softball. Home games played at Trum Field and Foss Park. For more information and to register, visit http://somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30069.
- Babysitting Program. For boys and girls ages 11-14. Your child will learn to care for infants to school-aged children. Participants will receive a Somerville Parks & Recreation Babysitting Certificate. Classes will be held on Mondays, dates and times to be determined based on enrollment. To receive updates, register now at https://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=25983, or contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (617) 625-6600, ext. 2980 to indicate your interest.
- Somerville NFL Flag Football League. Season runs April 7th through June 16th and games are played Sundays at Dilboy Stadium. Open to boys and girls in grades 1-8. \$75 for Somerville residents; \$100 for non-residents. Register at http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30072.

March is Write Poetry Month. Writer's Den and Happening publications including Kid!, sps7.8, 12!, and the AFAS Journal are sponsoring the annual online Poetry Wall in April, which features students' original poetry. Students are invited to write poetry, or gather poems together that they have written this year and submit them to kid@12zine.com for posting on the April Poetry Wall. Further publication in print is possible for poems selected by Writer's Den poetry editors. Name, school, and grade should be on all submissions. Contact Alan Ball at kid@12zine.com for inquiries. To learn more, visit 12zine.com.

City & District Employment Opportunities

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

- [Water and Sewer Engineer](#), Water and Sewer Dept., City of Somerville
- [SHMEO Catch Basin Cleaner](#), Water and Sewer Dept., City of Somerville
- [Director of Parks & Recreation Operations](#), Parks & Recreation Department, City of Somerville

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

- [Temporary Grades 7/8 Special Education Inclusion Specialist/Resource Room Teacher](#), Special Education Dept.
- [2019 Summer Adventure Camp Positions](#), Somerville Community Schools Afterschool Program
- [2019 Special Education Summer School Program](#), Special Education Department

Visit <https://www.schoolspring.com/jobs/?employer=16902> for 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."

