Highlander Robotics Places in Top 10 at Recent FIRST Robotics Competition

The Somerville High School Highlander Robotics Team, led by SHS Science teacher Michael Friedman, had a great weekend at the FIRST Robotics Greater Boston District Event at Revere High School. SHS Robot “FRC 6201” ended qualifications in 8th place out of 28 teams. The team also took home the Team Spirit Award for their strong community outreach program, which included demonstrations at elementary schools, local community events and supporting the first SHS Women in STEM Summit. Robotics programs develop science and technology leadership and innovation in young people by engaging them in exciting projects that develop team skills, relationships with mentors, confidence and communication skills. Congratulations #SHSHighlanders!

- Watch the highlight reel from the weekend: https://tinyurl.com/yy8ryqq2
- Learn more about the challenges the Robots faced during the competition: https://youtu.be/Mew6G_ogPI
- Watch a pre-competition demonstration of SHS Robot FRC 6201: https://tinyurl.com/y29loxcd

Brown School Fourth Graders Research and Report on Endangered Species

Students in the fourth grade at the Brown School recently completed their research unit on endangered species. Mrs. Cliggott and Mrs. Jasper helped their students through each step of the research process, from how to take quality notes, how to verify and combine information from multiple sources, and how to build their reports from topic sentences to full paragraphs. Once their research was complete, students turned their paragraphs on endangered species such as ocelots, African forest elephants, fennec foxes, and sea turtles into Google slideshows. In addition to the slideshows, students designed and built miniature dioramas for their chosen species. Parents then visited to view and celebrate the students’ presentations and work.
Story Pirates Land at the Healey School

The Story Pirates, a professional sketch comedy group based in New York City, performed two live shows for Healey School students in preK through grade 5 on Friday, March 22. The performances took place in the school library. Story Pirate actors and musicians brought their Greatest Hits show, with skits such as “Fish versus My Brother” and “The Snake That Wanted to Dance,” in which they took kids’ stories, set them to music, and acted them out live.

As Healey PTA co-secretary Nancy O’Connor explains, “The Story Pirates’ performance was highly entertaining, but it also showed our students that kids can write their own stories, that their words and ideas matter, and that creative writing and literacy can be fun and engaging.”

Students enjoyed being active participants in the show, and the Pirates even surprised Assistant Principal Chris Glynn, physical education teacher Selam Woldemariam, and fourth grade teacher Julia Hermann with cameo impersonations. The Pirates stayed in the library after the show to answer questions and talk more about the stories. They also left signed copies of their books, Digging Up Danger and Stuck in the Stone Age, that can be checked out of the Healey School library.

The Story Pirates performance was supported in part by the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more information about Story Pirates, visit www.storypirates.com/.

What’s Happening

Youth Voting Rights Public Hearings – Thursday, April 4 @ City Council Chambers, City Hall
The Somerville Legislative Matters Committee is hold two public hearings on Thursday, April 4th, at 3:00pm and 6:00pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) on a Home Rule Petition to the State Legislature requesting that 16- and 17-year-old Somerville citizens be granted legal voting rights for municipal elections. Students and other members of the public are invited to attend and speak. Public testimony is generally limited to two minutes per person and may be extended at the discretion of the Chair. Written testimony for the public record may also be submitted to
2019 Week of the Young Child Celebration – Wednesday, April 10 @ Somerville City Hall

Celebrate Somerville’s youngest learners with Mayor Joe Curtatone, Somerville’s Early Education and Care community, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Hear this year’s social story: I Live Here in Somerville, and continue to explore what it means to be kind and fair in our community. To read the SFLC social story, Somerville, A Kind and Fair City, visit “Resources for Parents/Guardians” at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families. For more information about the Somerville Week of the Young Child Celebration, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/woyc.

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.

**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,** 8:30-9:30am: Muffins with Maguire at the Brown School Teacher’s Lounge (201 Willow Ave.)

**Thursday, April 4,** 6:00pm: National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at the SHS 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.)

**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,** 10:00-11:00am: **Week of the Young Child Celebration** at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**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:** West Somerville Middle Grades Band Trip to Somerville High School (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.

**Monday, April 1,** 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Monday, April 1,** 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Wednesday, April 3,** 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole at Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

**Wednesday, April 10,** 7:00-8:00pm: Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

**Monday, April 22,** 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Monday, April 22,** 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Wednesday, April 24,** 6:00-7:00pm: Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

**Wednesday, April 24,** 7:00-8:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

**Thursday, April 25,** 6:00-7:00pm: FY20 City Council and School Committee Joint Budget Meeting at the City Council 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.

Week of the Young Child Celebration – Wednesday, April 10, 10:00-11:00am @ Somerville City Hall
Celebrate Somerville’s youngest learners during the Week of the Young Child with a special event at Somerville City Hall on Wednesday, April 10, 10:00-11:00am. Join us as we hear from young members of our community what it means to be kind and fair in our community. Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/woyc to learn more about this event.

Sharing Our Stories – Thursday, April 11, 7:00-8:30pm @ Cummings School building
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.

SFLC Community Resource and Legal Services Clinic – Thursday, April 25, 5:00-7:00pm @ ESCS
Do you have questions about community resources? Interested in legal consultation around immigration issues? Meet representatives from the SFLC, City of Somerville Health and Human Services, and SomerViva for information and resources, and make an appointment for a free legal consultation with representatives from the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program (HIRC). For a legal consultation appointment, please call (617) 625-6600, x6994 or email freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us. Clinic will be at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.).

Ceiling Your Soul: Raising Kids in a Digital Age – Thursday, April 25, 5:30-7:30pm @ Connexion (149 Broadway)
Get ready for Screen-Free Week by hearing from the first “digitally socialized” generation in the film Ceiling Your Soul, an examination of our love/hate relationship with our digital devices. Hear from the students themselves about how a digital lifestyle has changed how we connect with each other. For more information, visit www.noappforlife.com. Event co-sponsored by Shape Up Somerville, Cambridge Health Alliance, and the SFLC.

Film Screening: No Small Matter – Wednesday, May 1, 6:00-8:00pm @ Lesley’s University Hall, 2nd floor auditorium
Join us for a reception, screening and panel discussion of the documentary film No Small Matter, which explores the power of early childhood education and the challenges of families and early childhood educators in finding and providing high quality care for our children. Screening takes place at Lesley University, University Hall, 2nd floor auditorium (1815 Mass. Ave., Cambridge). This event is sponsored by the Somerville Partnership for Young Children, Cambridge B-3rd Grade, and Lesley University.

Looking Ahead:
Monday-Friday, April 15-19: April Vacation (includes Patriots Day and Good Friday)
Tuesday, April 23: WNSN K and 1st Grade Trip to Wheelock Family Theatre
Tuesday, April 23, 5:30-7:00pm: ESCS School Council Meeting (50 Cross St.)
Wednesday, April 24, 9:30-11:30am: 6th Annual Band Festival at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
Wednesday, April 24, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting at the Somerville High School Library (81 Highland Ave.)
Thursday, April 25, 6:00-7:30pm: Somerville High School Parent-Teacher Conferences (81 Highland Ave.)
Thursday, April 25, 6:00-7:30pm: Argenziano Parent-Teacher Conferences (290 Washington St.)
Monday, April 29, 5:00-7:00pm: WNSN PTA Book Fair, Ice Cream Social, and PTA Meeting (177 Powder House Blvd.)
Tuesday, April 30, 6:00-7:30pm: East Somerville Community School Parent-Teacher Conferences (50 Cross St.)

Community News & Events
Healey School Fundraiser. Drop by Porter Square Books (Porter Square Shopping Center, 25 White St., Cambridge) anytime between 5:00pm and 7:00pm on Saturday, March 30th, for a fun night of friendship, books, and shopping during the Healey School’s annual Porter Square Books School Library Fundraiser. 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

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

- National Grid Community Initiative.
- Somerville Parks & Recreation.
- Amazing Archaeology Fair at Harvard!

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. Meanwhile, 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.somerville.gov/seen to get started.

Translation services are available.

Amazing Archaeology Fair at Harvard! Join Harvard archaeology students in the museum galleries on Sunday, March 31st, 12:00-4:00pm, 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. Regular museum admission rates apply. Enter at the Peabody Museum before 12:00 pm for free admission. (11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.) Free event parking at the 52 Oxford Street Garage.

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:

- Toddler Yoga Program. Children ages 1-5 years old will be taken on a “yoga adventure” using their imaginations to take them to faraway lands as they’re guided through poses to represent all they encounter on their journeys – a lion, a bear, a scarecrow, a storm, a shark, a big boat! Program will take place on Tuesday, April 2-May21 at the Cummings School building. To learn more and register for this program, visit: http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29991
- 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. 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 at http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30072.
- April Vacation Program. This fun-filled program will fill up FAST, so register today! Kids ages 5-13 years old will enjoy a wide range of sports games, board games, arts and crafts, and field trips. Program takes place at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.), Tue.-Fri., April 16-19, 8:30am-4:30pm. Register at: http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30071.

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.somervilllema.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. Meanwhile, 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.somerville.gov/seen to get started. Translation services are available.

City & District Employment Opportunities
Consider joining a winning team! Current city and district opportunities include:

- Housing Compliance Program Coordinator, OSPCD-Housing, City of Somerville
• **Kitchen Manager**, Arts Council, City of Somerville
• **Pool Manager**, Parks & Recreation Department, City of Somerville
• **Deputy Director of Libraries**, Somerville Public Libraries, City of Somerville

Visit [https://www.somervillema.gov/jobs](https://www.somervillema.gov/jobs) for a complete listing of current open positions in the City of Somerville.

• **Temporary Special Education Paraprofessional**, Somerville High School, Somerville Public Schools
• **2019 Summer Explore Kindergarten Transition and Special Education Early Childhood Summer Programs Director**, Capuano Early Childhood Center, Somerville Public Schools
• **2019 Summer Adventure Camp Positions**, Community Schools Afterschool Program, Somerville Public Schools
• **Temporary Grade 4 Sheltered English Immersion Paraprofessional**, Argenziano School, Somerville Public Schools

Visit [https://www.schoolspring.com/jobs/?employer=16902](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](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/calendar/submit).

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**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.”