

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – March 8, 2019

News & Notes

HEALEY SCHOOL PTA HOSTS MAKERNIGHT COMMUNITY EVENT



More than 100 students and their families explored hands-on activities together late last month at the Healey School during the Healey MakerNight Community Event. The first floor was transformed into a pop-up maker-space complete with nine stations. At these stations, 7th and 8th grade students guided families on activities such as how to build their own mini-journals, construct pompom catapults out of craft sticks and rubber bands, and race the clock to build free-standing towers out of marshmallows and dried spaghetti. As Selam Woldemariam, Healey's physical education teacher said, "I was impressed as I usually am with the students who ran each station. They were knowledgeable and eager to help any student at any given time."

The event was coordinated by the Healey School PTA and also included maker stations from organizations such as Boston's Circuit Lab where families could make mini-flashlights and Somerville's own Beautiful Stuff where treasure boxes could be decorated. Vanessa Templeman, a Healey Kindergarten parent and professional jewelry maker, showed budding designers how a 3D printer worked and then helped families turn their beads into bracelets and key chains to take home.

Hannah French, Healey's PTA President, explained what she enjoyed most. "It was so great to watch the older students really running the show with such poise and maturity," she commented. "I was also so pleased to collaborate and brainstorm with Healey School librarian Emily Rocha on a community event that had such a high turnout. We can't wait to do it again."

If families were hungry for dinner, the 5th graders ran a pizza and juice table to raise funds for their spring trip to Nature's Classroom. The event was also made possible with help from the National PTA Take Your Family to School Week Grant, sponsored by Office Depot OfficeMax.

ONE-TO-ONE PLUS DOG!

by Jen Capuano, SPS Volunteer Coordinator

Every week, therapy dog team Jenny Zoghbi and Hector visit the East Somerville Community School to work individually with students, bringing joyful wags, prompting interesting conversations and serving as reading and therapy partners.

“Jenny and Hector are great and are a big part of our school's community,” says ESCS teacher Kirsten Spence. “[One of our fourth grade students] has been working with Jenny and Hector for two years and she absolutely loves it.” Every other week, Jenny and Hector also work with a second grader at the school for individual reading.

Jenny and Hector are in good company as the East Somerville Community School is also the site for two of Somerville’s longest serving therapy dog teams, Kim McLanahan and Monty, and Kate Castle and Ripley. This is the fifth year at the school for both teams, who have served in multiple ways—as reading partners, as classroom wellness aides, accompanying counselors during sessions with students, serving at school events, and serving as health and wellness supports for educators at the school.

[Somerville Public Schools’ Volunteer Program](#) recruits and meets with trained and certified therapy dog teams who are matched with school educators and counselors by request. Teams with Somerville schools typically serve once a week or bi-monthly. Most SPS therapy dog teams receive their training and certification through [Dog B.O.N.E.S.](#), a statewide nonprofit training and support organization.

TWO SHS EDUCATORS SELECTED AS 2019 WGBH EDUCATOR AMBASSADORS

Somerville High School teachers Sol Rheem and Andrew St. Pierre are among 16 educators from across the Commonwealth recently selected to participate in the 2019 WGBH Educator Ambassador program. Rheem and Pierre and their fellow ambassadors will work with WGBH from February through December to better understand the role of public media in K-12 education, and specifically the value of [PBS LearningMedia™](#), a free PBS digital learning service for PK-12 educators and students. Working with WGBH, ambassadors will collaborate using various resources including in-district sessions, webinars, conferences, and social media. They will also be called upon to advise and serve as a sounding board as WGBH works to improve and expand their impact in supporting K-12 education.

LOVE + MATH = SOMERVILLE MATHEMATICS FUND

Whether it’s supporting school Math nights, Pi Night events, the Scrapheap Showdown, or through teacher grants and student scholarships, the Somerville Mathematics Fund combines a love for all things math and a commitment to celebrating and encouraging Math achievement in Somerville to make a positive impact for Somerville youth. Thanks to that commitment and the generosity of the Math Fund’s supporters, Somerville teachers will be able to turn their great ideas into action as they continue to encourage math achievement through engaging math curriculum and activities in their classrooms and schools. The Somerville Math Fund has awarded nearly \$122,000 in teacher grants since the organization was chartered in 2000. Find out about this year’s teacher grant recipients in a recent Somerville Math Fund blog post: <https://somervillemathematics.blogspot.com/2019/01/have-great-idea-on-how-to-teach-math.html>

What’s Happening

SHS Career and Technical Education (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 Seeking Youth Members for City’s Urban Forestry Committee

Somerville teens with an interest in environmental issues, gardening, agriculture, ecology, and other related fields are encouraged to apply for two open positions on the City’s Urban Forestry Committee. Applicants must be a Somerville resident between the ages of 14 and 17. Members of the Urban Forestry Committee work with City staff on a variety of issues related to the City’s more than 12,000 public trees and shrubs, including maintenance, protecting existing trees and shrubs, updating the City’s tree inventory, and teaching the public about urban forestry. The committee meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. To apply, send a letter or email explaining why you would like to volunteer for the Urban Forestry Committee to Senior Urban Forestry and Landscape Planner Dr. Vanessa Boukili

(vboukili@somervillema.gov or 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143) by Tuesday, March 26. Please also include your contact information. For more information, please contact Dr. Boukili at vboukili@somervillema.gov.

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 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.

DEI Annual Pancake Breakfast – Saturday, March 30, 8:30-10:30am

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. The entire family is invited to 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; just come by to enjoy good food and wonderful camaraderie while at the same time supporting a great cause. In case of questionable weather, please contact Doris McDaniel (857-205-8374) or Larry Siraco (617) 447-1529 to confirm that the breakfast will be taking place. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a contribution, a check made payable to "The Duhamel Education Initiative" may be sent to: The Duhamel Education Initiative; P.O. Box 440113; Somerville, MA 02144.

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.

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

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 8th 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 2nd grade Maple Syrup trip

Friday, March 15, 6:30pm: Healey PTA Movie Night for 3rd-5th 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.)

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 11, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Wednesday, March 13, 7:00-8:00pm: Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd 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 (93 Highland Ave.)

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.

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.

Serve and Inspire Volunteer Orientation – Thursday, March 21, 6:00-8:00pm @ the Cummings Bldg. (42 Prescott St.)

Join us to learn how you can connect, engage and inspire student engagement, learning and enrichment in Somerville Public Schools.

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:

Monday, March 18: First day of Spring Sports at Somerville High School

Monday, March 18, 6:00-6:30pm: Healey School Improvement Plan Presentation to the School Committee, at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Monday, March 18, 6:30-7:00pm: Argenziano School Improvement Plan Presentation to the School Committee, at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Tuesday, March 19, 5:30-7:00pm: ESCS School Council Meeting (50 Cross St.)

Wednesday, March 20: Half-Day Wednesday for PK-8 (pre-K dismissal at 11:30am; K-8 dismissal at noon)

Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company production of *Silent Sky*, at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Friday, March 22: Story Pirates performances for grades PK-5 in the Healey School Library (5 Meacham St.)

Friday, March 22, 7:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company production of *Silent Sky*, at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Monday, March 25, 6:30-9:00pm: Somerville SEPAC Anti-Bullying Presentation by Massachusetts Advocates for Children

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

Community News & Events

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 to register. Call 978-338-4108 or

email 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 to learn more.

Somerville Parks & Recreation. Registration for Girls Spring Softball is now open. Home games played at Trum Field and Foss Park. Visit http://somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30069 for more information and to register. 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.

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."