

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – May 2, 2019

## News & Notes

### BioBus Mobile Laboratory Enhances Science Education

A state-of-the-art science laboratory on wheels, BioBus, recently visited five elementary schools across Somerville. Hundreds of middle grade students climbed aboard and participated in hands-on science experiments. Two BioBus scientists helped students navigate the lab and its instruments, and then get started. One group of students worked with daphnia, a freshwater crustacean, using microscopes to make close observations through its transparent exoskeleton. The other student group explored pond ecosystems. They made slides and looked at the cell structures of plant material and other microorganisms, including bacteria, and shared their discoveries with one another on a large screen. As Healey science teacher Peadar Dooley explained, “Both activities connected to classroom learning this year. Eighth graders learned about cell parts earlier in the year, and they were able to identify chloroplasts and cell walls in the algae cells. Seventh graders are currently learning about interactions in ecosystems.” The BioBus scientists and their traveling lab brought real-life science education to students in their own backyard. For more information about BioBus, please visit <http://www.biobus.org/>.



### Early Childhood Programming in Somerville is Focus of “Our Schools, Our City”

The most recent production of “Our Schools, Our City” highlights Somerville’s work in early childhood education. Somerville Public Schools Director of Early Education, Dr. Lisa Kuh, outlines how the Department of Early Education and Care’s *Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI)* grant will support Somerville’s local early education system through strategic partnerships between the school district and EEC-licensed early education programs in the Somerville community. In the show, Kretcha Roldan, the Executive Director of the Elizabeth Peabody House, discusses how her program and others like it will collaborate in the wider framework of this work. Alyssa Corrigan, the Somerville Partnership for Young Children Coordinator helping lead the CPPI work, explains her new role. You can watch the show and learn more about this current work at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w52MmmUZx5A>.

## **SPS Music Department Earns Berklee College of Music Urban Service Award**

Somerville Public School's Music Director Rick Saunders and Jacob Gabriszeski, SHS Drumline, percussion, and band teacher, accepted an Urban Service Award from Berklee College of Music on behalf of the entire SPS Music Department. The SPS Music Department was among several awardees recognized at a recent ceremony at Berklee's David Friend Recital Hall. The Berklee Urban Service Award honors individuals and organizations who work for social change and make a positive impact in their community. This honor also recognizes and celebrates outstanding commitment to music education. This is the second year of the Music Department's formal partnership with the Berklee City Music Program. The Berklee City Music Program has awarded five scholarships that will allow SHS students to expand their music education through classes and study at Berklee this summer.

# What's Happening

## **Unplug during Screen-Free Week, April 29 to May 5**

Celebrate National Screen-Free Week by putting down electronic devices in exchange for adventures and experiences with family, friends, and peers. Each student, staff member, and community member is invited to participate in a way that is best for them. Visit <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/sfw> to find some background on Screen-Free Week, and for City of Somerville events as well as inexpensive local activities and projects.

## **SPS FY20 Budget Hearing and Presentation – Thursday, May 2**

Somerville Public Schools hosts its FY20 Budget Hearing and presentation to the School Committee on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00pm at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium (50 Cross St.). This is a public hearing. Somerville community members are invited to join us and learn about the district's proposed budget for the upcoming school year.

## **Somerville Youth Conference to be held Saturday, May 11**

The Center for Teen Empowerment and the City of Somerville present the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Peace Conference, "The Lies We Live, The Truth We Tell: A Youth Perspective" on Saturday, May 11. The event takes place at the Somerville High School Auditorium from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. More than 300 Somerville youth and adults are expected to attend. The conference features an all-original show with theater, spoken word, music, and speeches. Topics such as school walk-outs, mental health, discrimination, gentrification, immigration, relationships, violence, substance abuse, and more will be examined. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Contact Danielle at [danielle@teenempowerment.org](mailto:danielle@teenempowerment.org) or (617) 625-6600, x2254 for tickets and more information. Learn more about Teen Empowerment at <https://teenempowerment.org/>.

## **Graduates of SHS Class of 1969 Invited to Participate in 2019 Class Day Festivities**

Somerville High School is looking for 50 graduates from the Class of 1969 to participate in this year's Class Day festivities. Class Day is a traditional celebration that honors graduates from 50 years past, this year's graduating class, and the rising freshmen and senior classes. If you would like to participate in the Class of 2019 Class Day activities, please email Barbara Favaloro, SHS Main Office, Head Clerk ([bfavaloro@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:bfavaloro@k12.somerville.ma.us)), or call 617-625-6600 x6110. Class Day will take place on Friday, May 31 beginning at 8:00am at Somerville High School.

## **98<sup>th</sup> Annual Parks & Recreation City-wide Track Meet Slated for June 7**

Students in grades 3-8 are welcome to participate in this year's annual city track meet at Dilboy Stadium. The event begins at 6:00 pm on Friday, June 7. Transportation for participants can be provided to and from the stadium. Students who are interested in participating can get a sign-up sheet from their physical education teacher. For more information, please visit [www.somervillerec.com](http://www.somervillerec.com).

## **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.

**Thursday, May 2, 6:00pm: SPS Budget Hearing** at East Somerville Community School auditorium (50 Cross St.)  
**Thursday, May 2, 6:30-8:00pm: Spring String Fling** at the SHS Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)  
**Friday, May 3, 7:30-9:00am: Brown School Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast** (201 Willow Ave.)  
**Friday, May 3, 8:00am: Cramer Coffee Collab** at the Healey School Library (5 Meacham St.)  
**Wednesday, May 8: Half-Day Wednesday for PK-8 Students** (PK dismissal at 11:30am; K-8 dismissal at noon)  
**Wednesday, May 8, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting** (177 Powder House Blvd.)  
**Wednesday, May 8, 6:00pm: CTE Senior Awards** at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)  
**Thursday, May 9, 6:30-8:30pm: All-City Middle Grades Concert** at the SHS Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)  
**Thursday, May 9, 7:00-8:30pm: Sharing Our Stories SFLC Support Group meeting** at the Cummings School Building (42 Prescott St.)  
**Friday, May 10, 7:00-11:00pm: Somerville High School Senior Prom** at the Cambridge Marriott  
**Tuesday, May 14, 6:30-8:00pm: SHS Chamber Music Concert** at Somerville High School Library (81 Highland Ave.)  
**Wednesday, May 15, 6:00-9:00pm: SSEPAC Business Meeting including Vote**  
**Thursday, May 16 and Friday May 17, 7:00pm: Highlander Theater Co. Spring Play Festival** at the SHS Auditorium (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).

**Thursday, May 2, 6:00-8:00pm: School Committee Budget Hearing** at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)  
**Tuesday, May 7, 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)  
**Monday, May 13, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules and Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)  
**Monday, May 13, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)  
**Wednesday, May 15, 6:00-7:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Executive Session** at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
**Wednesday, May 15, 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).

**Film Screening: *No Small Matter* – Wednesday, May 1, 6:00-8:00pm @ Lesley's University Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor auditorium (1815 Mass. Ave., Cambridge). This event is sponsored by the Somerville Partnership for Young Children, Cambridge B-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, and Lesley University.

**Sharing Our Stories – Thursday, May 9, 7:00-8:30pm @ the Cummings School Building, 42 Prescott St.**

Sharing our Stories is 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. Conversation in English; interpretation available upon request.

## Looking Ahead:

**Sunday, May 19, 2:00-5:00pm: City of Somerville Music Day Parade** from City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) to Teele Square  
**Monday, May 20, 6:00-9:00pm: SHS Music Department Awards Ceremony** at the Somerville High School Cafeteria (81 Highland Ave.)  
**Tuesday, May 21, 5:30-7:00pm: ESCS School Council Meeting** (50 Cross St.)  
**Tuesday, May 21, 7:00pm: Highlander Awards Night** at SHS Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)  
**Wednesday, May 22: Half-Day Wednesday for PK-8 Students** (PK dismissal at 11:30am; 1-8 dismissal at noon)

**Wednesday, May 22, 9:00-11:00am: Kindergarten Transition Day (no school for current K students)**

**Wednesday, May 22, 7:00-9:00pm: SHS Class of 2019 Scholarship Awards Night** at SHS Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

**Thursday, May 23, 6:30-8:30pm: SHS Evening of Song** (Chorus and Guitar) at SHS Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

**Monday, May 27: Memorial Day** (all schools and district offices are closed)

## Community News & Events

**Summer HONK 2019 and Somerville String Fest Registration Now Open.** Students who want to continue making music over the summer can do so with Summer Honk 2019 and the Somerville String Fest. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/summermusic>.

**Girls Leadership Development Summit.** Cambridge YWCA is hosting Beyond All Limits: GOLD Summit, a girls' leadership conference on May 4, 10:00am-5:00pm. The event is free and open to all students who identify as girls in grades 7-9 in Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston. Visit <https://ywcacam.org/gold/> for more information and 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. Register today for a variety of programs including:

- *Toddler Soccer Summer Sessions.* Children ages 2-5 years old will be introduced to soccer principles such as using your feet, dribbling, shooting, and receiving. Through fun games, positive reinforcement, respect, teamwork, and fitness, this high-energy program will provide fundamental soccer skills. This program is run by Instructor Coach John Teves. Programs will run on Wednesdays and Thursdays from July 10 to August 15 at Founders Memorial Skating Rink Turf Facility. To learn more and to register for this program, visit: [http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=30090](http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30090).
- *Kids Capoeira Angola.* This program introduces 5-7 year olds to the movements and music of Capoeira Angola, an Afro-Brazilian martial art disguised as dance. Over seven weeks, children will focus on learning basic movements, music, and moving with a partner. The emphasis is on coordination, rhythm, cooperation, and having fun. The class runs on Saturdays 2:00-2:45pm at the Argenziano School playground from May 11 to June 22. For more information, visit [http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=30107](http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30107).

## City & District Employment Opportunities

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

- [Electrician](#), Department of Public Works (DPW), City of Somerville
- [Chief Information Officer](#), Information Technology Dept., City of Somerville
- [Temporary Market Manager](#), Shape Up Somerville, City of Somerville
- [Director of Finance and Administration](#), Department of Public Works (DPW), City of Somerville

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

- [Payroll Manager](#), District Administrative Office, Somerville Public Schools
- [Somerville High School Summer School Director](#), Somerville High School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Assistant Director of Special Education](#), Special Education Department, Somerville Public Schools
- [2019 SPELL High School Summer Programs](#), Somerville High School, 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](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."