

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – October 26, 2018

News & Notes

CELEBRATING LITERACY THROUGH STORYWALKS™

November is Family Literacy Month and that means that additional opportunities for families to connect through reading will be coming to a park near you! There are many ways to encourage literacy as a family event – share a new adventure by reading a book together, or visit a library or bookstore. Throughout November you can also read a story while you take a walk and enjoy an outdoor activity at various parks around Somerville. We invite you to **celebrate literacy** with a StoryWalk™ at the following locations:

- *This is the Way We Go to School* – Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen Street)
- *Wild About Books* – Central Hill Park (79 Highland Avenue)
- *My Mother's Sari* – Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen Street)
- *Whoever You Are* – Foss Park Playground (Broadway/McGrath Highway)
- *From Head to Toe* – Cummings School (42 Prescott Street)
- *Nuestro Autobus* – Hodgins-Curtin Park (Holland Street)

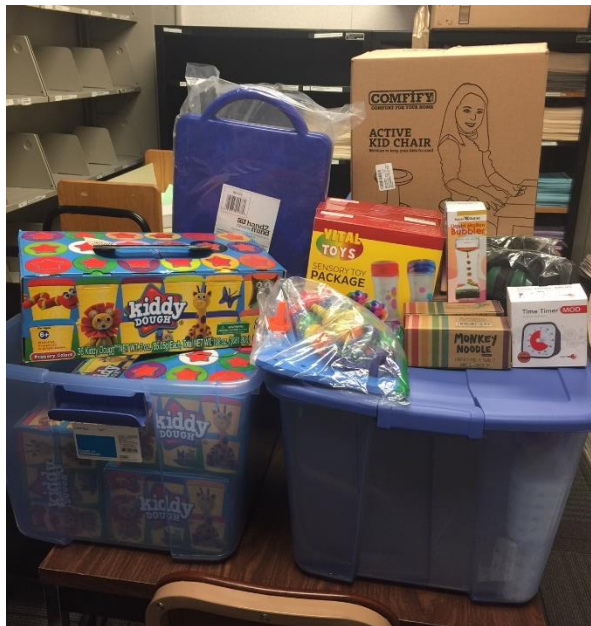
AT&T, UNRULY STUDIOS HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF STEM EDUCATION DURING MA STEM WEEK 2018

As schools and cities across the Commonwealth celebrated the first Massachusetts STEM Week October 22-26, students and staff members at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School were busy learning how fun science, technology, engineering, and math can be thanks to AT&T and Unruly Studios. Earlier this week, Unruly Studios and AT&T hosted a demonstration of Splats, an innovative technology developed by Unruly Studios which helps students learn how to code while enjoying some physical activity. Also getting a first-hand look and try at the technology were Mayor Curtatone and Superintendent Skipper. Thanks to AT&T's generosity, students across the



district can expect to get in on the coding fun, as AT&T will be working with Unruly Studios to donate splats to other schools in the district. Learn more about Unruly Studios and their innovative technology at www.unrulysplats.com.

LYRICS CHAMPS DONATES BACK TO SCHOOL ITEMS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



The Somerville Special Education Department recently received a generous donation of back to school items to support special education students in the district, thanks to the generosity and hard work of Lyrics Champs, a local non-profit whose mission is to promote Autism awareness, acceptance, and education in the community. Lyrics Champs held their first-ever donation drive for items that could specifically support special education students. They consulted with special education teachers and other professionals to identify items that would be particularly helpful in supporting students with special needs. [Lyrics Champs](#) donated the first \$1,000 toward the supplies drive, and reached out to the community for additional donations. Earlier this month, they delivered several boxes of supplies for classrooms throughout the district. Thanks to Lyrics Champs and the Somerville community for their steadfast support of Somerville students.

HIGHLANDER THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 SEASON

The Somerville High School Highlander Theatre Company (HTC) has four productions slated for the 2018-2019 season that reflect the creativity, talent, and diversity of the Somerville High School community. This year's productions include the hit musical *RENT: School Edition* with book, music, and lyrics by Jonathan Larson on December 6-8. Also on slate are the one-act play *Holy Broth* by Pulitzer-finalist Quiara Alegria Hudes scheduled for February 8th, the full-length play *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson on March 21-22, and the first annual Highlander Fringe Festival which will take place on May 16-17. Learn more about this year's exciting HTC production schedule, where to purchase tickets, and ways in which you can support theatre education at Somerville High School in [this recent press release](#), or by visiting the HTC website (www.highlandertheatre.org). Buy your tickets now and plan to enjoy an exciting Highlander Theatre Company season!

What's Happening

Somerville School Committee Hosts Office Hours Starting this Weekend

The Somerville School Committee invites you to share your thoughts about Somerville Public Schools during any of the office hours hosted throughout the city from October 27th through November 3rd. Join the one that best fits your schedule.

- **Saturday October 27, 4:00-5:30 pm**, Carrie Normand with Ald. Katjana Ballantyne, Sen. Pat Jehlan, and Rep. Christine Barber at Angelina's Pizza (230 Holland St.)
- **Sunday October 28, 12:30-2:00 pm**, Laura Pitone with Ald. Mark Niedergang, Armory Café (191 Highland Ave.)
- **Monday October 29, 7:45-8:45 am**, Andre Green, Winter Hill Community Innovation School drop-off
- **Monday October 29, 7:00-8:00 pm**, Dan Futrell, Gracie's Ice Cream (22 Union Square)
- **Tuesday October 30, 7:45-8:45 am**, Carrie Normand, West Somerville Community School drop-off
- **Tuesday October 30, 8:30-10:00 am**, Laura Pitone with Ald. Mark Niedergang, Armory Café (191 Highland Ave.)

- **Wednesday October 31, 7:45-8:45 am**, Laura Pitone and Paula O'Sullivan with Ald. Mark Niedergang and Ald. Lance Davis, Kennedy School drop-off
- **Thursday November 1, 7:45-8:45 am**, Paula O'Sullivan and Laura Pitone with Ald. Lance Davis, Brown School drop-off
- **Thursday November 1, 7:45-8:45 am**, Andre Green, Healey School drop-off
- **Friday November 2, 7:30-8:30 am**, Dan Futrell, Bloc Cafe, 11 Bow St.
- **Friday November 2, 1:30- 3:00 pm**, Emily Ackman with Ald. Matt McLaughlin and Rep. Mike Connolly, Dunkins (220 Broadway)
- **Saturday November 3, 3:00-4:00 pm**, Lee Erica Palmer with Ald. Ben Ewen-Campen, Rep. Denise Provost, and Sen. Pat Jehlen, 17 Pitman St.
- **Saturday November 3, 10:00 am-12:00 pm**, Andre Green with Ald. Clingan and Rep. Christine Barber, Winter Hill Brewing, 328 Broadway

Introduction to College Basics – Thursday, November 1, 7:00-8:30pm

Families of Somerville High School 11th graders are invited to an “Introduction to College Basics” information session on Thursday, November 1st, 7-8:30pm in the SHS Auditorium. We will introduce the basics of the college process and families will have time to talk to their student’s counselors individually to discuss any questions they have. This is a great event to help families understand how to start preparing for college!

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.

Friday, October 26, 6:00-8:00pm: Argenziano Fall Ball (grades PreK-4) at the Argenziano Cafetorium (290 Washington St.)

Saturday, October 27: ACT Testing at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Tuesday, October 30, 3:00-4:00pm: Capuano School Improvement Council Meeting at the Capuano Conference Room (150 Glen St.)

Tuesday, October 30: WSNS SMILE PreK Trip to Wilson Farm

Wednesday, October 31: Half Day Wednesday (PreK dismissed at 11:30am; K-8 dismissed at noon)

Wednesday, October 31: WSNS Spirit Day – Character Day

Wednesday, October 31, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting at the Somerville High School library (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, November 1, 7:00-8:30pm: Introduction to College Basics for 11th grade families at the Somerville High School auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Friday, November 2, 8:00am: Cramer Coffee Collab at the Healey School (5 Meacham St.)

Friday, November 2, 1:00-2:30pm: ESCS Harvest Parade to Pearl Street Senior Housing

Saturday, November 3: SAT Testing at 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, October 29, 7:00-8:00pm: Special Committee of the Whole meeting at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Monday, November 5, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Monday, November 5, 7:00-9:00pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Tuesday, November 6, 6:30-8:30pm: Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Monday, November 19, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Monday, November 19, 7:00-9:00pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, November 28, 7:00-9:00pm: School Committee Long Range Planning at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Upcoming Somerville Family Learning Collaborative Workshops and Events:

Find a complete list of SFLC events and workshops at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families.

Family Literacy Month – Celebrate with a StoryWalk™. There are lots of ways to encourage literacy with children. Read a book together, visit the library, or go on a StoryWalk™! Storywalks will be available in outdoor locations across the city from November 1st through November 30th. Take a walk, read a story, and talk with your child about what you read – a fun way for families, caregivers, and educators to encourage outdoor activity as well as literacy. Visit a StoryWalk™ at the following locations and enjoy!

- *This is the Way We Go to School* – Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen Street)
- *Wild About Books* – Central Hill Park (79 Highland Avenue)
- *My Mother's Sari* – Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen Street)
- *Whoever You Are* – Foss Park Playground (Broadway/McGrath Highway)
- *From Head to Toe* – Cummings School (42 Prescott Street)
- *Nuestro Autobus* – Hodgins-Curtin Park (Holland Street)

Math Information Workshop for Parents and Guardians. Learn how math is taught in grades K-5 in Somerville, and strategies you can use to help support your child's success. Join us for a workshop on Wednesday, November 7, 6:00-7:30pm at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore Street), presented by the Somerville Public Schools' Math Coaches and Uri Harel, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator for the district. The workshop will also be offered on Thursday, November 15, 8:30-10:00am at the Brown School.

PreK and Kindergarten Registration Information Sessions. Prospective PreK and Kindergarten families are invited to learn about registration for the 2019-2020 school year. Sessions are Tuesday, November 13, 9:00-10:00am and Wednesday, November 14, 5:30-6:30pm at the Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen St.). You'll learn about:

- Open Houses for Somerville Public Schools
- PreK and K registration process and required documentation
- Notification dates for school or program assignments
- Afterschool program and enrollment process

Special Education Roundtable Discussion. Join the Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SSEAPAC) on Thursday, November 15 for a roundtable discussion with Christine Trevisone, Special Education Director for the district. The roundtable takes place at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.) from 6:30-8:30pm.

SFLC Playgroup Family Talk Story Time. Celebrate Family Literacy Month at our drop-in Playgroup with a special story time featuring children's author Ellen Mayer. Join the SFLC Family Talk Campaign -- learn ways to make reading fun and how to engage your child in conversations about books. Wednesday, November 28, 10:00-10:30am at the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.)

SFLC Resource, Jobs and Legal Services Clinic. On Thursday, November 29, 5:00-7:00pm at the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.), meet representatives from the SFLC, city departments and Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) for information and resources, or make an appointment for a free legal consultation with representatives from Greater Boston Legal Services and the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program (HIRC). Call (617) 625-6600 x6994 or email freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us for a legal consultation appointment. The SFLC Clothing Closet, a resource for free clothing for families in need, will be open.

Looking Ahead:

Tuesday, November 6: Election and Professional Development Day (No School for Students)

Wednesday, November 7: WSNS 6th Grade (Macrokanis) Field Trip to Biogen

Wednesday, November 7: WSNS Kindergarten Field Trip to Fire Station

Wednesday, November 7, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Thursday, November 8: WSNS 6th Grade (Whitney) Field Trip to Biogen

Thursday, November 8, 5:45-7:30pm: Kennedy School Literacy-Maker Night at the Kennedy School Makerspace (5 Cherry St.)

Monday, November 12: Veteran's Day – All Schools and District Office Closed

Tuesday, November 13, 9:00-10:00am: PreK and Kindergarten Registration Information Session at the Capuano Early Childhood Center Library and Cafeteria (150 Glen St.)

Wednesday, November 14, 5:30-6:30pm: PreK and Kindergarten Registration Information Session at the Capuano Early Childhood Center Library and Cafeteria (150 Glen St.)

Thursday, November 15, 6:00-7:30pm: SHS Parent-Teacher Conferences (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, November 15, 6:00-7:30pm: Winter Hill Parent-Teacher Conferences (115 Sycamore St.)

Thursday, November 15, 6:30-8:30pm: SSEPAC Roundtable Discussion with Christine Trevisone at the West Somerville Neighborhood School Cafeteria (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Community News & Events

Girl Scouts Troop Formation Meeting on October 29th. The Girl Scouts is hosting a Troop Formation Meeting on Monday, October 29th, 6:00-7:00pm at the Somerville Public Library Main Branch (79 Highland Ave.). The meeting is open to all families interested in joining Girl Scouts, those who have already registered and those looking for a troop. Questions? Contact Stephanie Vernot at (617) 352-0160 or svernot@gsema.org.

Somerville Museum Exhibits and Programs. Stop by the Somerville Museum (1 Westwood Road, Somerville MA) to enjoy a variety of programs that explore urban environmental issues of Somerville (then, now, and future). Museum Curator, Pennie Taylor, presents Triple Decker Ecology, an interdisciplinary installation by artist David Buckley Borden and collaborators that includes both local artifacts and new works inspired by the Somerville Museum's historic collection. The exhibit will be on view from October 11 through December 9, 2018. To learn more about upcoming events, visit: <http://somervillemuseum.org/>.

SYHA Learn to Skate/Learn to Play Hockey Clinic. Clinic begins on Saturday morning, October 27th, with rolling registration throughout the Fall / Winter. Clinic details and registration information can be found at www.somervilleyouthhockey.org.

SYHA Somerville High School Alumni Hockey Game. Please join the SYHA community at the **Somerville High School Alumni Hockey Game** to benefit Somerville High School Hockey. **Saturday, November 24th at 5pm** at the Veterans Memorial Rink, 570 Somerville Ave. Raffles, silent auction, food and fun for the whole family. \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Contact JLHickey71@gmail.com for tickets and details.

Somerville Parks & Recreation. Visit <http://www.somerville.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities> to learn all about the Somerville Parks & Recreation Department's current programming.

Somerville Tradition 4th-8th Grade Boys Travel Basketball Tryouts. Tryouts for the Somerville Tradition 4th – 8th grade Boys Travel Basketball program are coming up. Players should arrive 15 minutes prior to their tryout time wearing shorts and sneakers. Tryouts will be held at the Somerville High School Field House (81 Highland Ave.) on the dates noted below. There is no fee to try out for a team. If a player is selected for a team, there is a fee of \$100 for returning players who have a uniform, and \$120 for 4th graders and any new or returning 5th-8th grader in need of a uniform. Team registration will be through the Somerville Parks and Recreation website. More information about registration will be provided at a later date. Please note that there may be cuts depending on the number of players trying out for each grade and league roster restrictions. Any player who does not make a team will have an opportunity to play in the Saturday morning Somerville Youth League program that starts on 12/1/2018. The Somerville Tradition Boys Basketball Program competes in the Metrowest Youth Travel Basketball League. A majority of the games will be played on Sundays (times to be determined by the Metrowest League). Somerville's Sunday home games are played at the Healey School. There will be a few non-league games for some grade levels played on other days of the week. For more information about Somerville Tradition Boys Travel Basketball, email Timminscuse@gmail.com or mantonelli@k12.somerville.ma.us.

	Monday, 10/29	Friday, 11/2	Monday, 11/5	Wednesday, 11/7
4th Grade	No Tryout	6:00-7:30pm	7:15-8:45pm	6:00-7:30pm
5th Grade	7:00-8:30pm	7:30-8:45pm	6:00-7:15pm	6:00-7:30pm
6th Grade	7:00-8:30pm	7:30-9:00pm	6:00-7:15pm	6:00-7:30pm
7th Grade	7:00-8:45pm	7:30-9:00pm	7:15-8:45pm	7:30-9:00pm
8th Grade	No Tryout	6:00-7:30pm	7:15-8:45pm	7:30-9:00pm

After-school Acting at the Armory. After-school acting is returning to Arts at the Armory in October! This FREE afterschool program for children ages 7-10 and 11-14 will be held in the Armory's Performance Hall from 4:00-5:30pm on Tuesdays. The program goes through December 4th. For more information and to register, visit: <http://artsatthearmory.org/learn/after-school-acting/>.

Free Family Flu Clinics. The Somerville Health and Human Services Department is continuing to offer free flu shots for those ages 3 and up, with or without health insurance. If you have health insurance, please bring your Health Insurance Card (includes Medicare). Both Standard Dose and the High Dose for Seniors 65+ are available. Clinics are subject to vaccine availability. Email sharris@somervillema.gov or call (617) 625-6600, x4320 to find out if there will be shots available for all clinics. Schedule of upcoming Family Flu Clinics:

- Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018 @ St. Anthony's Church (12 Properzi Way), 10:00am-2:00pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018 @ East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.), 4:00-7:00pm
- Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 @ City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), 5:00-7:00pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018 @ City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 10:00am-6:00pm

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."