

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – October 5, 2018

News & Notes

SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL HOLDS FIRST WOMEN IN STEM SUMMIT



On Monday, October 1st, Somerville High School held its first Women in STEM Summit, offering students a look at STEM opportunities available in an ever-growing field, and a glimpse at the journeys of women in a variety of STEM fields. The idea for the event was sparked by SHS senior Kenia Arbaiza's experience in [SET in the City](#) offered by the [Boston Area Girls STEM Collaborative](#). Kenia worked to plan the event with SHS junior Laura Clervil, Physics Teacher Michael Friedman, Science Student Teacher Claire Mahoney, and the [SPS Volunteer program](#). Students participated in an engineering ice-breaker challenge at the start of the event, and heard from

inspiring keynote speaker Donna Levin, Executive Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), social entrepreneur and co-founder of Care.com, and Senior Lecturer at MIT Sloan School of Management. Read all about this outstanding inaugural event in this [recent write-up](#). Plans are under way to keep the Women in STEM momentum alive at SHS and throughout the community. If you are interested in promoting Women in STEM or helping to raise funds for the SHS Robotics Team, SHS is selling STEMInist and Empower t-shirts. Click on [this order form](#) to see pictures of the t-shirt designs, along with ordering and payment information.

SOMERVILLE LEARNING 2030 – SHARE YOUR HOPES AND PRIORITIES WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS IN SOMERVILLE

The City of Somerville, SPS, and community partners have launched a visioning campaign called **Somerville Learning 2030** to learn about our community's dreams, hopes, and priorities when it comes to learning experiences for youth. We want to hear about the kinds of learning experiences and opportunities you want for children and teens in our city throughout the day and across the city. What should Somerville prioritize over the next 10-15 years? We invite you to share what's important to **you** by taking a brief survey (<http://bit.ly/sl2030survey>). You can also visit <http://bit.ly/somervillelearning2030> for the most recent information about **Somerville Learning 2030** or to download a hard copy of the survey or other resources.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING, COMPOSTING, EQUITY, AND MORE ON *OUR SCHOOLS, OUR CITY*

Learn the latest about composting in schools, project-based learning, and building systemic equity in the latest production of *Our Schools, Our City*. In this episode, meet seasoned staff who are new to our district or who have taken on new leadership roles in SPS and find out some interesting facts along the way. (Did you know that the schools recycle more than two tons of paper materials per week?). <https://youtu.be/HzF3CrkXaS4>.

KENNEDY SCHOOL HOSTS HEALTH AND WELLNESS WEEK

The Kennedy School promoted and celebrated healthy lifestyle habits from October 1-5! During their Health and Wellness Week, students and staff were encouraged to wear workout attire to participate in activities. Special attention was paid to healthful snacks, mindfulness and healthy movement and exercise. Events included a Mindfulness Walk, a K-5 Obstacle Course and a School-Wide Fitness Challenge for interested students and staff members. Stay tuned for images of this fantastic school-wide event in next week's edition of *Connections*.

What's Happening

'The State of Latino Education' Town Hall Event with Commissioner Riley

Join Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Jeffrey Riley for a conversation on 'The State of Latino Education' in Massachusetts, in a town hall event open to all community members, at the East Somerville Community School, 6:30-8:30pm on Wednesday, October 10, 2018. Join the conversation to learn more, ask questions, and share your ideas. Interpretation will be available.

Free Boys Basketball Clinics for Grades 4-8

Somerville Parks & Recreation is offering boys' basketball clinics through the end of October for students in grades 4-8. All clinics are FREE and will be held in the Somerville High School Field House from 7:00-8:30pm. Clinics will be conducted by the SHS basketball coaching staff and the Somerville Tradition basketball coaches. Clinics started Monday, September 24th and will run into late October. Remaining clinics are scheduled for:

- *Monday, October 8 – Holiday – NO CLINIC*
- Wednesday, October 10, 7:00-8:30pm
- Monday, October 15, 7:00-8:30pm
- Wednesday, October 17, 7:00-8:30pm
- Monday, October 22, 7:00-8:30pm
- Wednesday, October 24, 7:00-8:30pm

SCAP Hiring for Somerville Positive Forces

SCAP (Somerville Cares about Prevention) is currently hiring middle and high school youth leaders for their Somerville Positive Forces (SPF Jr and SPF100) Programs to work as part of a team to promote student wellness through fun campaigns and positive peer messaging; and to address issues related to underage drinking, substance abuse, and tobacco use, including bullying and mental health wellness. Applications are being accepted through October 10, 2018.

- **Middle School Youth Leaders** will meet every Half Day Wednesday from 1:00-3:00pm, October 31-June 12 and will receive 25 volunteer hours and \$100 for their full participation.
- **High School Youth Leaders** will meet every Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm, November-April and will receive 60 volunteer hours and \$600 for their full participation.

Please visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/somerville-cares-about-prevention-scap> for applications and job descriptions. Return completed applications to Lovelee Heller-Bottari, SCAP, 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville MA 02145, or lheller@somervillema.gov. For more information, please contact Lovelee Heller, Somerville Cares About Prevention Program Director, Somerville Health and Human Services Department, at (617) 625-6600 x4322 or lheller@somervillema.gov.

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, October 8: School Holiday – Indigenous Peoples' Day;** all schools and district offices CLOSED
- Tuesday, October 9, 8:45-9:15am: WSNS Student of the Month celebration** (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- Wednesday, October 10 (new date), 7:30-8:15am: Winter Hill Walk and Roll to School**
- Wednesday, October 10: Post-Secondary/PSAT Day** at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)
- Wednesday, October 10, 5:30-7:00pm: Clothing Swap and Story Time** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- Wednesday, October 10, 6:30-8:30pm: The State of Latino Education Town Hall with Commissioner Riley** at the East Somerville Community School auditorium (50 Cross St.)
- Thursday, October 11, 7:00-8:30pm: SFLC Sharing our Stories Support Group** at the Cummings School Building (42 Prescott St.)
- Friday, October 12, 10:00am-1:00pm: WSNS 7th Grade Field Trip** to Google

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, Oct. 15, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting** at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- Monday, Oct. 15, 7:00-9:00pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7:00-9:00pm: Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)
- Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7:00-8:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the Special Education Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)
- Wednesday, Oct. 24, 7:00-9:00pm: School Committee Long Range Planning Meeting** at the Central Office 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.

- The State of Latino Education Town Hall.** Students, families, teachers, education leaders and community members are invited to participate in a dialogue with DESE Commissioner Jeffrey Riley on Wednesday, October 10, 6:30-8:30pm at the East Somerville Community School. Interpretation will be provided.
- Sharing Our Stories Support Group.** Join SFLC and fellow Somerville parents for a support group for families with young children who have special needs. 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. Thursday, October 11th, 7:00-8:30pm at the Cummings School building (42 Prescott St.)
- SFLC SomerLearning 2030 Night at the Cummings.** Join SFLC on Tuesday, October 16th, 6:00-8:00pm to talk about growing up and learning in Somerville. Somerville Learning 2030 is a community visioning process to identify shared priorities around raising kids and teens in Somerville. Be part of the conversation and think big about the type of learning experiences we want for kids and teens in Somerville. A light dinner will be provided. Please register for the event, childcare, and/or interpretation by calling (617) 625-6600 x6990 or emailing mlaskey@k12.somerville.ma.us by October 11th. Event will take place at the Cummings School, 42 Prescott.
- Serve and Inspire Volunteer Orientation.** Join us Thursday, Oct. 18, 6:00-8:00pm at the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.) to learn about district schools and how SPS volunteers serve, inspire and support student learning. For more information, contact your school-based Volunteer Coordinator or Jen Capuano at (617) 629-5475 or jcapuano@k12.somerville.ma.us.
- SFLC Community Resource and Legal Services Clinic** - Thursday, Oct. 25th, 5:00-7:00pm, Cummings School, room 12 (42 Prescott St.). Meet representatives from the SFLC, City of Somerville Health and Human Services, and SomerViva 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). For a legal consultation appointment, call (617) 625-6600 x6994 or email freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us. The SFLC Community Clothing Closet, a resource of free clothing for families in need, will be open.

Basic Needs Resource and Referral. Clothing and food resources are available at the SFLC offices for families in need. The SFLC Clothing Closet is open weekly, Thursdays, 12:00 - 3:00 pm and also once a month during SFLC Community Clinics, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Food resources and referrals available by request.

Looking Ahead:

Monday-Friday, October 15-19: Homecoming Week Celebration at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Tuesday, October 16: Kennedy School Picture Day (5 Cherry St.)

Tuesday, October 16, 6:00-7:30pm: Healey School PTA Literacy Night (PreK-2) at the Healey School Library (5 Meacham St.)

Tuesday, October 16, 1:00-3:30pm: SHS Post-Secondary Fair at the Somerville High School Field House (81 Highland Ave.)

Tuesday, October 16, 6:00-8:00pm: SFLC SomerLearning 2030 Night at the Cummings (42 Prescott St.)

Wednesday, October 17: WSNS PTA Spirit Day – Crazy Hair/Crazy Hat day (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Wednesday, October 17, 10:15-11:15am: WSNS 6th Grade Nature's Classroom Student Visit

Wednesday, October 17, 4:00pm: SHS Cross Country vs. Gloucester at Blessing of the Bay Boathouse (32 Shore Drive, Somerville)

Wednesday, October 17, 4:00pm: SHS Girls Soccer vs. Marblehead at Dilboy Stadium (300 Alewife Brook Pkwy.)

Thursday, October 18, 6:00-8:00pm: Serve & Inspire Volunteer Orientation at the Cummings (42 Prescott St.)

Friday, October 19, 7:00pm: Somerville High School Homecoming Football Game vs. Revere at Dilboy Stadium (300 Alewife Brook Pkwy., Somerville)

Community News & Events

Somerville Cares About Prevention Hiring Middle/High School Students. SCAP is currently hiring middle and high school youth leaders for their Somerville Positive Forces (SPF Jr and SPF100) Programs to work as part of a team to promote student wellness through fun campaigns and positive peer messaging; and to address issues related to underage drinking, substance abuse, and tobacco use, including bullying and mental health wellness. Applications are being accepted through October 10, 2018.

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Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/somerville-cares-about-prevention-scap> for applications and job descriptions. Return completed applications to Lovelee Heller-Bottari, Somerville Cares About Prevention Program Director, Somerville Health and Human Services Dept., 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville MA 02145, or lheller@somervillema.gov.

Monster Mashed Up. The last SomerStreets festival of the year, "Monster Mashed-up" will take place Sunday, October 14, 2:00-6:00pm on Somerville Ave. between Union Square and Park St. Activities will include live music on three stages, a costume parade (kicking off at the corner of Hawkins St. at 3:00pm), doggy costume contest at River Dog (321 Somerville Ave.), giant chainsaw pumpkin carving with Artisan's Asylum, Parkour with Parkour Generations Boston, plenty of activities and fun with Somerville Recreation, Story Time with the Somerville Public Library at 3:00pm, and much more! Additionally, "Ghosts of Milk Row Cemetery" tours will be offered from 2:00-3:30pm at the historic Milk Row Cemetery, 400 Somerville Ave. (suggested donation of \$5 for the tour). Rain date is October 28. For more information, visit www.somervilleartscouncil.org.

Somerville Parks & Recreation – Free Boys Basketball Clinics. Visit the Somerville Parks & Recreation website at <http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities> to learn all about their current programming. Somerville Recreation is currently offering FREE Boys Basketball Clinics for students in Grades 4-8. Clinics will be held at the Somerville High School Field house on the following upcoming dates:

- Wednesday, October 10, 7:00-8:30pm

- Monday, October 15, 7:00-8:30pm
- Wednesday, October 17, 7:00-8:30pm
- Monday, October 22, 7:00-8:30pm
- Wednesday, October 24, 7:00-8:30pm

Free Family Flu Clinics. The Somerville Health and Human Services Department is offering 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:

- Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018 @ City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 10:00am-2:00pm
- Thursday, Oct. 25, 2018 @ Holland Street Senior Center – Council on Aging (167 Holland St.), 10:00am-2:00pm
- Thursday, Oct. 25, 2018 @ City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 4:00-7:00pm
- 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

Family & Children’s Concert Series - Tufts Wind Ensemble. The Tufts University Wind Ensemble is holding a free family concert on Saturday, October 13, 1:00-2:00pm at the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center (20 Talbot Avenue, Medford). TUWE celebrates Disney with songs from across the decades as well as games, dances, and more! John McCann, director

Honk! Festival. The 13th Honk! Festival, a festival of activist street bands, takes place October 5-7th. Visit <http://honkfest.org/2018-festival/> to learn more about this energizing and revolutionary street band movement, and plan to join the fun!

Transportation YOU Summit. Do you know any female identifying students interested in the fields of architecture, planning, and/or engineering? The [WTS](#) Boston Outreach Committee is partnering with MassDOT and MBTA to host this year’s Transportation YOU Summit on Saturday, October 27th, 9:00am-2:00pm. The event, open to girls ages 12-18, offers hands-on workshops to introduce participants to a wide variety of transportation careers. There will also be a student panel, mini-activity tables between workshops, and opening and closing remarks by industry leaders. The event is FREE and lunch will be provided. Registration limited to the first 100. 10 Park Plaza, 2nd floor, Boston. Visit <https://www.wtsinternational.org/events/2018-transportation-you-boston-summit/> for more information and to register.

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.”