

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – September 14, 2018

## News & Notes

### SHS TEACHER CYNTHIA MASILLON A 2018 LAWRENCE W. O'TOOLE AWARD WINNER

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation recently announced the winners of its 2018 Lawrence W. O'Toole Teacher Leadership Award. Somerville High School social studies teacher Cynthia Masillon was among 13 winners to receive a \$15,000 award for student-centered approaches with a focus on equity. Learn more about Ms. Masillon's and other recipients' projects in this [recent notice announcing the 2018 award winners](#).

### CITY YEAR AND BIOGEN TEAM UP FOR DAY OF SERVICE AT WEST SOMERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

[City Year](#) and [Biogen Care Deeply](#) volunteers teamed up to support students at the West Somerville Neighborhood School this week. Nearly 200 Biogen Care Deeply volunteers spent all day today (Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>), completing beautification projects at the school, further enhancing the teaching and learning environment for WSNS teachers and students. With preliminary prep work completed earlier in the week by the City Year team, Biogen volunteers arrived ready to roll their sleeves up and get to work! The day's events kicked off with a rally and a little stretching to get ready for a day of work, led by the City Year team. Volunteers who arrived by the busloads and guests received a surprise welcome from an energetic group of students who cheered them on and handed out high-fives as they walked in. Stay tuned for more information and photos from the day's work in next week's edition of *Connections*.



### SHS STUDENTS RECEIVE SPARK SUMMER OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS



Seven Somerville High School students received Spark Summer Opportunity scholarships, a new program launched this year and generously funded by renowned author and collector Kenneth Rendell. The program offers students the opportunity to take part in innovative learning experiences at colleges and universities in the area to spark learning and growth during the summer.

Eric Lemus and Florisha Bastien learned how to develop and market a product at Harvard Business School. Fanta Diawara and Kemissa Osit learned strategies for "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" at Wellesley College. Diane Pierre gained a deeper understanding of national security and counter-intelligence at a program at Georgetown University. Leslie Nava Sanchez gained insights into navigating the college admission process through a program at Smith College. Nelema Basith explored "Race, Gender, and Belonging in the Digital

Age” at Barnard College. Students shared how these programs expanded their horizons and built their confidence, at a recent luncheon with the program donor, held on September 10th.

Mr. Rendell is the founder of The International Museum of World War II in Natick, and an American dealer and expert in historical documents. He was born and raised in Somerville, Massachusetts. We are pleased to share that this program will be continued and expanded for summer 2019. Students in grades 10 and 11 should look for announcements at the high school next January.

# What’s Happening

## September Back to School Nights

Back to School nights are wrapping up in the next 2 weeks. Here’s a list of upcoming Back to School events:

- Capuano Early Childhood Center: Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:00-7:30pm
- Healey School: Thursday, September 27, 6:00-7:30pm
- West Somerville Neighborhood School: Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:00-7:00pm
- Winter Hill Community Innovation School: Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:00-7:30pm

## Free Yoga Classes - Tuesdays in September

You have 2 weeks left to join the fun! Some.Yoga.Studio is partnering with Shape Up Somerville and the School Wellness Committee to offer FREE yoga classes every Tuesday in September. Bring a mat or towel and join the adventure from 4:00-5:00pm at Prospect Park, 68 Munroe St. @ Greenville St. (to the right of the tower). Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yoga-at-prospect-hill-park-tickets-49382963774>. Classes will be cancelled in case of rain. (Check out Shape Up Twitter, @shapeupsville, for cancellations.)

## 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.

**Monday, Sept. 17: Class Picture Day and Kindergarten Picture Day** at the Brown School (201 Willow Ave.)

**Tuesday, Sept. 18, 8:15-9:30am: UNIDOS Coordinator and ESCS Liaison Coffee Hour** at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)

**Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:00-7:00pm: Back to School Night** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

**Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:00-7:30pm: Back to School Night** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)

**Thursday, Sept. 20, 7:00-8:30pm: Seniors Post-High School Planning Night** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

**Saturday, Sept. 22, 7:30pm: ESCS Night at the New England Revolution game**, at Gillette Stadium

## 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).

**Monday, Sept. 17, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Monday, Sept. 17, 7:00pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Monday, Sept. 24, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting** at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Monday, Sept. 24, 7:00-9:00pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7:00-9:00pm: School Committee Long Range Planning** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St.)

## Upcoming Somerville Family Learning Collaborative Workshops and Events:

Find a complete list of SFLC events and workshops at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families).

**Community Resource and Legal Services Clinic: Thursday, September 27, 5:00-7:00pm** in Room 12 of the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.). Do you have questions about community resources? Housing? Childcare? Do you need legal consultation around immigration issues, TPS or DACA? Meet representatives from the SFLC, from the City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Department and SomerViva for information and resources, or make an appointment for a 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](mailto:freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us). The SFLC Community Clothing Closet, offering free clothing for those 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.

**SFLC Parent/Guardian English Classes.** Parents/guardians of Somerville students can practice and strengthen their English language skills while learning about and becoming more involved with their child's education. SFLC works in collaboration with The Welcome Project to provide classes held in the morning, afternoon and evening. Parents/Guardians can register for classes by calling 617-625-6600 ext. 6702.

**SFLC Playgroups.** Parents and caregivers with infants, toddlers and preschool children in Somerville meet and play in age and language-based groups that gather weekly at the Cummings School. Registration is ongoing throughout each session. Drop-in groups are also available. For more information, contact Michelle Laskey, Playgroup Coordinator, at [sfn@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:sfn@k12.somerville.ma.us) or (617) 625-6600, x6990.

## Looking Ahead:

**Monday-Friday, September 24-28: Scholastic Book Fair** at the Brown School (201 Willow Ave.)

**Wednesday, Sept. 26: Half-Day Wednesday** for PK-8 (PK dismissal at 11:30am; K-8 dismissal at noon)

**Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting** at the Somerville High School Library (81 Highland Ave.)

**Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:00-7:30pm: Back to School Night** at the Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen St.)

**Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:00-7:30pm: Back to School Night** at the Healey School (5 Meacham St.)

## Community News & Events

**Somerville Parks & Recreation.** Visit <http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities> to learn all about current programming offered by Somerville Parks & Recreation.

**FREE Yoga Classes in the Park!** Every Tuesday afternoon in September, from 4:00-5:00pm, Some.Yoga.Studio is partnering with Shape Up Somerville and the School Wellness Committee to offer FREE yoga classes at Prospect Park, 68 Munroe St. @ Greenville St. (to the right of the tower). Bring a mat or towel and join the adventure. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yoga-at-prospect-hill-park-tickets-49382963774>. Classes will be cancelled in case of rain. (Check out Shape Up Twitter, @shapeupsville, for cancellations.)

**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 do have health insurance, please bring your Health Insurance Card (this includes Medicare). Both Standard Dose and the High Dose for Seniors 65+ are available. Clinics are subject to vaccine availability. Please call (617) 625-6600, x4320 or email [sharris@somervillema.gov](mailto:sharris@somervillema.gov) to find out if there will be shots available for all clinics. Here's a schedule of upcoming Family Flu Clinics:

- Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018 @ City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 10:00am-6:00pm
- Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018 @ City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 10:00am-6:00pm
- 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

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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."