

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – September 21, 2018

## News & Notes

### PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS ENHANCE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AT WSNS

Working in partnership with [City Year](#), nearly 200 [Biogen volunteers](#) spent last Friday at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, working all day to enhance the teaching and learning environment by completing a long list of beautification projects. City Year members worked throughout the week to prep the area for Friday's volunteer effort. The results are stunning and inspiring! From a warm welcome message in multiple languages at the school's entrance, to fun wall paintings and games that will instill a sense of pride and keep students active, the volunteer project ensured that WSNS students and staff have plenty of beautiful and comfortable spaces to gather, explore, and learn. Friday was Biogen's annual Care Deeply Volunteer Day. Thousands of Biogen volunteers around the world were actively involved in making a difference in their communities that day.



### SOMERVILLE HIGH'S SYDNEY DEMASI EARNS CONCUSSION LEGACY FOUNDATION TEAMMATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Concussion Legacy Foundation (CLF) recently announced Somerville High School soccer player Sydney Demasi as the recipient of the 2017 Teammate of the Year Award for her commitment to ensuring the safety of her teammates. Read more about this award in this [recent press announcement](#) by the CLF. The Teammate of the Year Award is part of the CFL's Team Up Speak Up™ program designed to encourage teammates to look out for one another by reporting if they notice concussion signs in a teammate. Learn more about how Sydney helped make sure her teammate got the support she needed by speaking up (<https://concussionfoundation.org/story/teammate-of-the-year-sydney-demasi>).

## KENNEDY KINDERGARTENERS ARE "MAKING FRIENDS WITH NATURE"

Ms. Scrima from the Kennedy Kindergarten has been working with volunteer Ruth Bruening to introduce students to the concept of "Making Friends with Nature". Their adventures began three years ago when they did an extensive unit on "Trees in Somerville." Last year they adopted a local garden to study where students adopted plants and watched the changes over the seasons. This year Ms. Scrima brought her 23 families afterschool to the garden as part of creating a home school connection that would bring parents and children closer to nature and introduce mindfulness.



## BROWN SCHOOL PLAYGROUND PROJECT



With the school year under way, volunteers and community partners are helping ensure that Somerville students have creative learning environments where they can thrive. Volunteers from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, working with SPS Volunteer Coordinator Jen Capuano, recently spent the day painting at the Brown School. Along with painting the art room, the group also painted the school's outdoor space. They painted two four-square courts, a U.S. map, two hopscotch courts (one of the courts with added Mandarin numbers), court lines and kickball bases, a drainpipe snake and manhole cover flower, lizards and a turtle, before the paint ran out! The final product? Pretty spectacular.

# What's Happening

## September Back to School Nights

Back to School nights are wrapping up in the next week. 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

## Free Yoga Classes - Tuesdays in September

You have one more chance to join the fun this month! Some.Yoga.Studio is partnering with Shape Up Somerville and the School Wellness Committee to offer FREE yoga classes every Tuesday in September. Last Tuesday of September is September 25<sup>th</sup>. 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, @shapeupville, for cancellations.)



## SHS Women in STEM Summit – October 1, 2018

Somerville High School hosts its first SHS Women in STEM Summit on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:00-5:30pm at the school Library. SHS students will engage in STEM challenges, discussion, hear from a panel of local STEM professionals, and meet one-on-one with STEM career mentors. Activities include an ice-breaker engineering challenge for students and local STEM professionals, discussion of opportunities and challenges for Women in STEM, breakout discussions by discipline, as well as a keynote speaker and student speaker/emcee.

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

**Monday-Friday, September 24-28: Kennedy School/PTA Book Fair** (5 Cherry St.)

**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.)

## 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. 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.)

**Monday, Oct. 1, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Monday, Oct. 1, 7:00-9:00pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

**Tuesday, Oct. 2, 6:30-8:30pm: Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**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. 24, 7:00-9:00pm: School Committee Long Range Planning Meeting** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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, October 1: Winter Sports Online Registration Opens** for SHS winter sports teams

**Monday, October 1, 3:00-5:30pm: SHS Women in STEM Summit** at Somerville High School Library (81 Highland Ave.)

**Tuesday, October 2, 5:30pm: Brown School PTA Business Meeting** (201 Willow Ave.)

**Tuesday, October 2, 6:00pm: Brown School Heritage Potluck** (201 Willow Ave.)

**Wednesday, October 3, 7:30-8:15am: Winter Hill Walk and Roll to School Day**

**Thursday, October 4: Argenziano Grade 3 Field Trip** to Plimoth Plantation

**Friday, October 5, 8:00am: Cramer Coffee Collab** at the Healey School Library (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.

**What the Fluff? Festival!** Celebrate the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the invention of Fluff at the 2018 What the Fluff? Festival. Event takes place Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> (rain date is 9/23), 3:00-7:00pm at Union Square. The day's events include musical performances, a cooking contest, Fluff-themed games, activities, antics, and fun for every age. Of course, there will also be plenty of Fluff treats! Visit [www.flufffestival.com](http://www.flufffestival.com) to learn more.

**FREE Yoga Classes in the Park in September!** Every Tuesday 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.)

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival.** This annual event will take place Saturday, September 29 (rain date Sept. 30), from 3:00-7:00pm in Union Square Plaza. This free ArtsUnion festival is presented by the City of Somerville and Somerville Arts Council in partnership with The Somerville Line, Oompa, and Pretty Poison. The festival will feature rappers, singers, spoken word poets and dancers from the Somerville community and surrounding cities. Attendees can also enjoy live street art and other visual arts presentations, and visit information tables offered by local groups. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/141967103296389> for the musical lineup and up-to-date information.

**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](mailto: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:

- 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

**Family & Children's Concert Series - Tufts Wind Ensemble.** The Tufts University Wind Ensemble (TUWE) invites you to join them for 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

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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."