

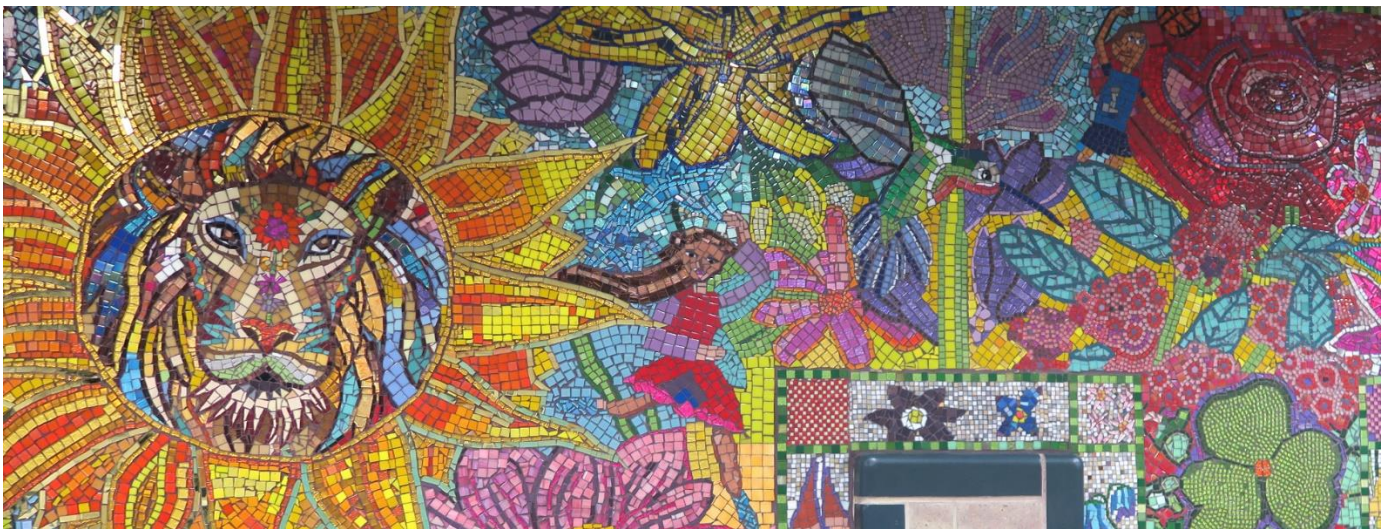
# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – September 7, 2018

## News & Notes

### WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to school! Don't miss some of the wonderful, student-created mosaic murals at several schools around our district. Students and staff worked with a well-known local artist. Learn more about these collaborative art projects by reading an earlier blog post describing the process used in creating the Healey mosaic: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/healey-mosaic](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/healey-mosaic).



### BACKPACK DONATIONS HELP SPS STUDENTS GET OFF TO A GOOD SCHOOL YEAR

Thanks to generous donations of backpacks and school supplies by long-time community partners [Cradles to Crayons](#) and the [Kiwanis Club of Somerville](#), Somerville Public Schools students are getting off to a great start this school year. Community partners are critical to the work we do in supporting the whole child and connecting them to the world around them. Visit the links provided to learn more about what each of these outstanding organizations does to support youth, and their local communities.

### ENGAGE NEW ENGLAND: DOING HIGH SCHOOL DIFFERENTLY

In late June, the Barr Foundation announced its second cohort of schools that will be taking part in redesign planning work as part of their "[Engage New England: Doing High School Differently](#)" initiative. In partnership with the Center for Collaborative Education (CCE), SPS and Next Wave/Full Circle will be working on the redesign of the school model at Next Wave/Full Circle, with a student-centered focus on personalized education that provides more young people opportunities to thrive. CCE and Somerville were one of five grantees to be awarded a \$150,000 one-year planning grant by the Barr Foundation to engage in this work and receive technical assistance throughout the process. Read more about this effort [here](#).

# What's Happening

## September Back to School Nights

Schools across the district are hosting Back to School nights throughout the month as students get settled into their new routines. Here's a list of upcoming Back to School events:

- Capuano Early Childhood Center: Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:00-7:30pm
- Healey School: Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:00-7:30pm
- Kennedy School: Thursday, Sept. 13, 5:30-7:30pm (*please note start time correction from last week's newsletter*)
- Next Wave/Full Circle School: Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00-7:30pm
- Somerville High School: Thursday, Sept. 13, 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

## Join the fun! Free Yoga Classes in September

You still have 3 weeks 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). *Please note that this is a change in location.* 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.)

## 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.

**Tuesday, Sept. 11: Mass Insight Kick-off Assembly** during X-Block at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

**Tuesday, Sept. 11, 8:15-9:30am: ESCS Parent Liaison Coffee Hour** at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)

**Tuesday, Sept. 11, 8:00am-4:00pm: SFLC Playgroup Registration** online at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups), by phone at (617) 625-6600, x6990, or in person at the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.)

**Tuesday, Sept. 11, 3:00-6:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company Auditions for RENT** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

**Tuesday, Sept. 11, 3:00-8:00pm: Instrument Rental Night (district-wide)** at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

**Wednesday, Sept. 12: Half-Day Wednesday** for students in PK-8 (PK students dismissed at 11:30am; K-8 students dismissed at noon)

**Wednesday, Sept. 12, 8:00am-4:00pm: SFLC Playgroup Registration** online at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups), by phone at (617) 625-6600, x6990, or in person at the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.)

**Wednesday, Sept. 12, 12:00pm: Brown School PTA 'Popsicles in the Schoolyard'** (201 Willow Ave.)

**Wednesday, Sept. 12, 3:00-6:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company Auditions for RENT** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

**Wednesday, Sept. 12, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting** (177 Powder House Blvd.)

**Thursday, Sept. 13, 3:00-8:00pm: Instrument Loan Night (for eligible students district-wide)** at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

**Thursday, Sept. 13, 5:30-7:30pm: Kennedy Back to School Night** (5 Cherry St.)

**Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00-7:30pm: Next Wave/Full Circle Back to School Night** (8 Bonair St.)

**Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00-7:30pm: Somerville High School Back to School Night** (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).

- Wednesday, Sept. 12, 6:30-7:30pm: School Committee Long Range Planning** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St.)
- Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7:30pm: School Committee Meeting for Executive Session** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St.)
- 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.)

## 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).

- SFLC Playgroup Registration: Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 11 and 12, 8:00am-4:00pm** @ the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.). Somerville families with children birth-5 years old can register on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> online at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups) or via phone at (617) 625-6600, x6990.
- 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:

- 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

## 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.

**Puppet Palooza 2018 – New Works.** The Somerville Arts Council & Puppet Showplace Theater with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, present Puppet Palooza 2018! Puppet Palooza is a collaborative event series designed to bring the art of puppetry to East Somerville in unexpected places. This year's lineup includes the following original new works designed for outdoor settings. FREE!

**Tuesday, September 11, 6:00pm (rain date 9/12) @ Chuckie Harris Park, 3-17 Cross Street E:**

*Judy Punches Back!* By Sarah Nolen – After being pushed around for over 200 years, Judy has had enough! Now, audiences can cheer on this hilarious hand puppet hero as she goes on a quest for respect, justice, and a well-deserved nap. This feisty, modern, feminist adaptation of the traditional *Punch and Judy* puppet show is appropriate for all ages.

*The Swishy Fishies* by Honey Goodenough, Good Hearted Entertainment – The enchantment of the sea swims to life on a summer landscape in this spectacular aquatic pageant. Audiences of all ages will enjoy bubble kisses from a school of swishy fishies!

**Thursday, September 13, 6:00pm (rain date 9/14) @ Chuckie Harris Park, 3-17 Cross Street E**

*The Magnificent Monster Circus* by CactusHead Puppets – CactusHead Puppets presents a Circus like no other. Enjoy the Thrills of Clarissa the Crested Cannon! Experience the Chills of Eustace the Uni-Browed, Uni-cycling, Uni-monster as he tackles the Sinister Snake Slack rope! All this and more.

*Mama Light Fisher* by Faye Dupras, Foreign Landscapes – Mama Light Fisher is renowned for conjuring up enchanting tales. By using objects she fishes out of a magical stream, bits of her traveling cart that come to life with help from the audience, Mama Light weaves together fantastical stories about love and loss. Told through live music, puppetry, and a sprinkle of magic.

**SomerStreets Festival: Strike Up the Band.** Join the fun at the SomerStreets Festival on Sunday, September 16, 2:00-6:00pm on Highland Avenue between School St. and Lowell St. Through SomerStreets, the City and its community partners aim to promote and encourage easy access to physical activity, and reconnecting with the neighborhoods and business and their unique cultural elements in a thriving urban environment. Learn more about this event at <https://www.somervillema.gov/events/2018/09/16/strike-band-somerstreets>.

**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.)

---

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."