

December 8, 2019

Unit # 020520

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Our mission is to support the education, health, and welfare of each and every child at Somerset Elementary School. As part of the Washington State PTA, we are a nonprofit membership association bringing together the home, school, and community on behalf of our children.

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PTSA NEWS

PTSA / School Calendar - Upcoming Dates and Events

THIS WEEK

- Thursday, December 12th - 6:30pm - Somerset Maker Mall

UPCOMING

- Wednesday, December 18th - Staff Appreciation - Cookie Blizzard
- Friday, December 20th - Passport Check Day
- Monday, December 23rd through Friday, January 3rd - No School - Winter Break

LOOKING AHEAD

- Friday, January 10th - Birthday Lunch with Principals
- Thursday, January 16th - Bellevue School Board Visit
- Friday, January 10th - 6.30pm - Movie Night

- Friday, January 17th - Staff Appreciation Lunch
- Monday, January 20th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

[**VIEW THE COMPLETE SOMERSET PTSA CALENDAR**](#)



Bellevue School Board Is Coming To Somerset

Thursday, January 16th

Mark your calendars: the Bellevue School Board is coming to visit Somerset Elementary to meet with our school staff, students and parents. The parent part of the board visit is scheduled for 9 - 9.30am. All parents are welcome to meet the school board in our school library.

Somerset Maker Mall

Thursday, December 12th at 6:30pm in school cafeteria/gym

Join us at the Somerset Maker Mall for holiday shopping, tasty treats, and festive fun! You will find creative and tasty handmade items for sale, made by Somerset students, families, and staff. Homemade items being sold this year include holiday decorations, cat toys, baked goods,

jewelry, sugar scrubs, and dream catchers! Invite your friends, neighbors, and family to join the event – it is open to the entire community. This is a cash event (with real money).

We still need volunteers to help make this event possible! Please sign up [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, email somersetmakermall@gmail.com.



Annual Cookie Blizzard Day!

Wednesday, December 18th

Here comes the Staff Appreciation Annual Cookie Blizzard event! This is the most favorite event from all our teachers and staff! Also, a fun event for you and your kids to show talents in baking!

Homemade, holiday-themed fresh baked cookies are encouraged. Brownies, bars, fudge, toffee, truffles or special foreign pastries are also welcomed. **NO CRACKERS PLEASE**. If you don't want to bake, fresh baked cookies purchased from stores are also acceptable.

This event will require class room support from all grades. **Each Class please bring in at least three dozens (36) of cookies** for the event.

We also welcome **Individual** volunteers to show their talent and gratefulness. Please check your class slot [HERE](#) first, if it is not filled yet, please sign up under your class. If the slots for your class have been filled out, please sign up for the individual volunteer's slots.

We would appreciate your effort to note the ingredients in your cookies for the allergic staff

members. Please print out the [INFO TAG](#) and attach it to your cookie container.

We welcome you to use beautiful containers to display the cookie. We will wash them and put them back in PTSA office after the event for you to pick up.

The cookies will be collected in the school lobby on Tuesday, December 17th, between 3:15 - 3:35pm and Wednesday, December 18th between 8:40-9:40 am. You may come either time. There will be a table with the sign of "Cookie Blizzard!" in the lobby.

If you have further questions please contact Angela Qu (angelaquxin@gmail.com) or Qiong He (hufefamily@gmail.com)

Thank you very much for your continued support!

Staff Appreciation Committee

Join the Somerset PTSA

There is still time to become a Somerset Elementary PTSA member. To re-new your membership or to sign up for the first time go to our website www.somersetptsa.org or pick up a membership flyer from the school office, fill out, attach payment and return to the PTSA mail box in the school office.



The Somerset PTSA is the dynamic link between parents, teachers and students which creates the stimulating and intellectual environment that is so characteristic of our school. Be part of the academic and extra-curricular journey of the Superstars. Contribute to the future of your child! Become a member now!

MIC 5th Grade Team Recruiting 3 Players

We are recruiting up to three 5th graders to form our 8th team for the upcoming Math Is Cool (MIC) competition on February 28th, 2020. If your student is interested in joining this team, please register [HERE](#).

The team registration fee is \$50 and will be divided among team members. All spots are on a first

come, first serve basis. All 8 teams from 4th grade have been formed. Go Superstars!

Passport Club

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help with the November Passport Club session and the wonderful students who came by to test their knowledge. Our next check will be on **Friday, December 20th**. [HERE](#) is the link to sign-up or to view the testing dates and times.

Please visit our [website](#) to learn interesting facts about featured countries for the month of December.



Thank you for supporting Passport Club!

Somerset Holiday Gift Drive For Our Families In Need

It has been a tradition for Somerset PTSA to host a Holiday Gift Drive for families in need at our school to fulfill their wishes for their children. Each carefully chosen gift will let them know that we care and we are “One Somerset”. We have set up a giving tree at the school front entrance. Please consider helping with one or more of the wishes and bring it back to the front office (new and unwrapped, please) by Friday, December 13th. Please also include the wish card along with the gift so it's easier for us to keep track and match the gift to the child. Thank you!



Upcoming School Bond 2020

On November 19th the Bellevue School Board approved a resolution asking the community to

consider a capital bond in the February 11, 2020 election to ensure that our students have enough room in high-quality learning spaces, improve the safety of our schools, and plan for the future.

The February 11th bond provides students high-quality learning spaces by replacing aging school buildings and adding classrooms and student support spaces. Increases safety and security for students and schools. Replaces the aging education service centers. Designates funding to purchase property for future school locations to plan for growth.

School districts rely on voter-approved funding measures to cover costs that are not funded by the state, including major construction projects. If approved in February, the local tax rate for our schools will increase by 3 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of less than 1 percent.

The school board plans to spend the next couple of months discussing the capital bond and what it means for our schools, students, and community. In the meantime, for more information, visit www.bsd405.org/2020bond.

WASHINGTON STATE PTA

Focus Day

Grassroots Advocacy

Focus Day is a day where Washington State PTA (WSPTA) members travel to Olympia for a day full of engagement around our mission. Members meet with legislators, tour the capitol, and demonstrate advocacy in action.

WSPTA members have adopted a robust legislative platform that is focused on student safety and success. Now we need you to advocate for it.

Plan to come to Olympia for [Focus Day](#) on Monday, January 20th, and meet with your legislators. More details about the agenda and how to schedule legislator meetings will be available soon.

To learn more about the legislative platform, check out the [legislative assembly recap blog post](#) and the [advocacy webpage](#).

Gifted Graduates on College Student Panel

December 19th from 6:30 - 8:00pm

Current college students and graduates of BSD's Gifted High School Program (now Advanced Learning) discuss how to choose a college. This is a POPULAR event and Free to BSD students and staff with BSD Card. We ask for a suggested donation of \$5 for parents and \$10 for non-Bellevue residents.

The panel will be joined by:

*Tina Neville, Yale graduate and CEO of Transcend Academy, on college entrance success factors

*Dr. Richard Repass, Psychiatrist and expert on student mental health and stress management.

*Moderated by Melissa Lloyd, Bellevue Gifted Alliance

*Panelists include students from Columbia, University of Washington, USC, Stanford, Louisiana State University, UC-San Diego, Harvard, and University of Chicago.

Event location: Bellevue High School Performing Arts Center, 10416 SE Wolverine Way

High School Student Panel

January 8th from 6:30 - 8:00pm

High school students who attended BSD's Advanced Learning (previously the gifted) program discuss how to choose a high school.

Event location: Sammamish High School Performing Arts Center, 100 140th Ave SE, Bellevue

(All News in this section are NOT sponsored by the Somerset PTSA. As a service to the community, the PTSA helps to publicize these programs in the eNews.)

Afterschool Activities Are Continuing Into Winter Session!

Please read the following information closely as details may have changed.
Registration starts December 16th at 10 am.

Afterschool Elementary Debate Program

Jump-start your children into the world of debating. This program is great for students of all kinds in 4th and 5th graders who like to talk, but also shy students seeking to communicate or gain more self-confidence; students who like to argue, talk, research issues, challenge themselves, want to communicate better, and show interest in bettering their community. Our curriculum is not lecture-based; students will learn by doing. We will teach and engage you to debate effectively. We'll help you prepare cases and responses. You will put that into practice in a supportive atmosphere where you will learn to communicate clearly, persuasively and with self-confidence.

Cost is \$85 for seven classes and includes all instruction and materials.

We waive or lower fees to address family financial needs.

Time: 3:40 to 4:40pm

Mondays: Jan 6, 13, Feb 3, 10, 24, Mar 1, and 8

(note—jan 20th, jan 27th, and feb 17th, the school is closed for classes like ours)

Registration is open on December 16th at 10 a.m. Register [HERE](#).

Afterschool Drama Program

Studio East has provided high-quality theater classes, workshops, and productions to local schools since 1992. Our drama classes give students a safe environment to learn: Confidence,

Self-esteem, Team-building, Responsibility, Time Management, Literacy, Public Speaking, Perseverance, and, 21st Century Skills!

Class Information:

Drama: Intro to Broadway (K-2 Gr.)

Act, sing, and dance in the fun after-school drama class! Students will learn songs and dances from famous Broadway musicals. This class will focus on building creativity through vocal and physical exploration of music. We will end our class with a fabulous musical theater extravaganza!

Drama: Broadway Review (3rd - 5th Gr.)

Become a triple threat in this musical theater drama class! Students will sing songs, act out scenes and learn choreography from great Broadway musicals. This class will focus on building a character, stage presence, and acting a song. We will end the class with a fabulous musical theater extravaganza!

Cost: \$150 for 8 classes

Time: 1:25 to 2:40 p.m.

Wednesdays: Jan 8, Jan 15, Jan 22, Jan 29, Feb 5, Feb 12, (no class Feb 19), Feb 26, Mar 4

Registration is open on December 16th at 10a.m. Register [HERE](#).

Afterschool Local Hoops Basketball

Our goal for this 8 week program is to teach the fundamentals of basketball through a structured learning environment. Athletes will be trained on ball handling, proper shooting technique, footwork into a right hand & left hand layup, initiating contact offensively and defensively, and general basketball IQ. Our Academy emphasizes respect, discipline and hard work. We ask that all athletes come ready to listen and learn, we will handle the rest!

Cost: \$160 for 8 classes

Time: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Jan 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 27, March 5 (no class on Feb 20)

Register [HERE](#).

MOD Pizza Fundraiser for Tyee PTSA

Come out and support Tyee PTSA on Wednesday, December 18th at MOD Pizza in Factoria (3622 Factoria Blvd SE). MOD will donate 20% of your meal purchase to Tyee PTSA. The fundraiser lasts ALL DAY, so you can eat LUNCH and DINNER and show your support. Please register [HERE](#) in advance here to allow your order to be credited to Tyee.



Somerset Elementary FUNdraising Opportunity

Mention "Somerset" for each paid admission and a \$3 donation will be made to your PTSA during the 2019-2020 season.

Bellevue Downtown Park
100 100th Ave NE, Bellevue
(south of Bellevue Square)

FUNDRAISING DATES
Nov 29, 2019 - Jan 20, 2020

Visit bellevueicerink.com for hours, admission pricing and special events.

Directory / Links

Executive Committee

Co-President: Bonnie Lau and Christine Lee
Secretary: Sandhiya Kalyanasundaram
Co-VP Programs: Edith Ng and Yuki Yang

A teal-colored rectangular graphic with two hanging Christmas ornaments on the left: one with white and blue stripes and one with a white snowflake pattern. To the right of the ornaments, the text reads "#1 holiday hack: When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates." Below this text is the Amazon Smile logo, which consists of the word "amazon" in its signature font followed by "smile" in a smaller, rounded font with a curved line underneath it.

#1 holiday hack:
When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.
amazonsmile

Shop at Amazon log in [HERE](#) and select 'SomersetElementary PTSA' and

Co-VP Ways and Means: Emilie Castle
Co-Treasurers: Grace Yu and Yan Zhou
VP Communications: Andrea Wohlan

Somerset PTSA Email:

Somersetpts@gmail.com

Newsletter Submission:

Somersetpts@gmail.com

[Somerset PTSA Website](#)

[Somerset Elementary School Website](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

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Or click <https://smile.amazon.com> for your purchase. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our PTSA. Thank you very much for supporting our school and PTSA.



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