



August 2023

Dear Somerset Elementary Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break.

The Somerset PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) is an independent, nonprofit association run by parent volunteers who partner with Somerset Elementary to enrich our school community. We strive to engage and connect families, support teachers, and create opportunities for students to grow and succeed. This year our school theme is "Somerset Speaks!"

Some of the contributions that the PTSA makes to the school:

- **Funding for General School Assistants (GSAs)**

GSAs are integral to our school and fulfill a wide variety of roles. They work with teachers in the classroom to improve the adult-to-student ratio, help with small-group work, and provide 1-on-1 academic and/or social-emotional support to students. They also help keep our students safe by facilitating traffic during drop-off/pick-up and monitoring recess and lunchroom periods.

- **Curriculum Enrichment**

After-school activities (e.g. Chess Club, Math Club, Soccer, Drama, Art), in-school presentations (e.g. ToyMaker, Pacific Science Center, Library Author Talks), STEM events (e.g. Egg Drop), Field Trips, and Yearbook.

- **Events and activities**

The PTSA hosts many fun events throughout the year to engage our school community, including Back-to-School events, Trunk or Treat, Field Day, Fifth Grade Activities, and more!

The PTSA is only made possible through the generosity of our community. Please consider the following ways to support the PTSA and our school:

- **Join!**

Become a PTSA member by joining online at [www.somersetptsa.org](http://www.somersetptsa.org). Your Somerset PTSA membership includes membership to the Washington State PTA and access to their numerous benefits. Please note that memberships must be renewed each year.

- **Donate!**

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to our Fall Fundraiser ([somersetptsa.org/Page/Fundraising/2023%20Fall%20Fundraising](http://somersetptsa.org/Page/Fundraising/2023%20Fall%20Fundraising)). Our suggested donation is \$250/student, but any amount you can give makes a difference. **Please note that many companies match donations;** remember to check with your employer to ensure that your donations are maximized.

- **Volunteer!**

Volunteers are essential to the success of our events. Volunteering is also a great way to connect with other families and get a glimpse into school life. For information on upcoming volunteer opportunities, subscribe to our eNews, check our website, or send an email to [SomersetPTSA.VPP@gmail.com](mailto:SomersetPTSA.VPP@gmail.com). All volunteers are required to first

complete a background check, which costs \$15 and is valid for 3 years. Please note that some companies (e.g. Microsoft, Boeing) will match an employee's volunteering time with a financial gift to the nonprofit, which further benefits our students!

- **Connect!**

Visit our website at [www.somersetpta.org](http://www.somersetpta.org) (under Contact/eNews) to subscribe to our weekly eNews for event updates, volunteer & event Chair opportunities, and other helpful content. Also join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SomersetPTSA](http://www.facebook.com/SomersetPTSA) to connect with other families. Please note that returning families may need to re-subscribe to eNews.

We are excited to meet you and are looking forward to a year of fun, growth, and learning. We genuinely thank you for your support; you are the heart of our organization! As always, please feel free to reach out to us at [SomersetPTSA@gmail.com](mailto:SomersetPTSA@gmail.com) with any questions or comments. We wish you all the best this coming school year.

Best Regards,

The 2023-24 Somerset PTSA Executive Committee

**President:** Anqi Wang

**Secretary:** Xi Chen

**Treasurer:** Yuan Li & Qianqian Li

**VP Communications:** Susan Su & Yingqi Zhao

**VP Programs:** Qing Guo & Ying Zhang

**VP Ways & Means:** Tucky Wongpaka

Please scan the following QR codes for easy access to the websites mentioned above:



## Join/Give

<https://sites.google.com/view/somerset-pta/joingive>

- Join the PTSA
- Fall Fundraising Drive
- Membership benefits
- Corporate gift matching



## Volunteer

<https://sites.google.com/view/somerset-pta/volunteer>

- Volunteer background check
- Corporate volunteer time matching



## Connect

<https://sites.google.com/view/somerset-pta/connect>

- Website
- eNews
- Facebook