



Somerset Strong News 2.12.2021



Somerset Families,

Three important items to highlight this week:

1. District Survey for all 3-5 families regarding Learning Model for Remainder of year

All 3-5 families should have already received a survey from the district asking for your preference for your child's learning model for the final months of school. This survey provides us the important information to prepare bringing students back to in-person learning and ensure we have appropriate staffing across the district to meet your request. **No dates for return have been announced.**

Important Notes:

- Our Somerset staffing will most likely not change.
- **Changing learning models will change your child's teacher.**
- Switching from hybrid to virtual means your child could be assigned a teacher at another Bellevue school for the remainder of the year.
- If you choose to remain in your current learning assignment, your teacher will most likely stay the same.

We value class sizes and will work to ensure our classes across the district meet the target size whether online or in-person to meet the health and safety protocols.

- **In-person learning will follow a half-day schedule, assigned by the school**
- The morning session is 9:05-11:35 and the afternoon session is 1:05-3:35.
- Transportation is provided for families who qualify for bus routes.
- Virtual classrooms will continue with their current schedule 9:05-3:35 with synchronous, live teaching in the morning, an hour for lunch and, afternoon asynchronous learning.

Mrs. Naish and I will host a Principal/Parent connect on Thursday, March 4th at 10:30 to review the health and safety protocols for our in-person learning. A link will be sent to all Somerset 3-5 families prior to the session.

Please email me any questions, I am happy to help you with information. elderc@bsd405.org

2. Mid-winter break & district-wide Quarantine week

- Mid-winter break is next week, February 15-19th. There is no school.
- The week following mid-winter break, February 22-26th will be a district-wide quarantine. **All classes and services, including special education, will take place online in the remote setting during the quarantine week using the remote learning schedule.**



3. Invitation to talk about Race



Our priority is to ensure families feel informed, supported, and empowered to contribute to their student's success. At Somerset we strive to affirm the unique identities of each student and want them to feel they can show up to school each day as their authentic self and be celebrated. We believe this helps students have a stronger sense of belonging and a better school experience. Talking about race is one way we can help students feel more confident in who they are and celebrate the uniqueness of their peers. Race discussion can be difficult for some families for a variety of reasons. Our hope is that we can work with families to help all of our students have a strong cultural competency and be a more prepared global citizen. Below you will find a video link inviting you to talk about race with your child, resources to guide the conversation, and a survey to provide us feedback.



In partnership!

Cathy Eck



Racial Equity and Inclusion



To view this message in another language, please click this link to our [webpage](#) and use the “select language” menu on top of the page.

During our February assembly we played a video featuring inaugural Poet Amanda Gorman, in which she performs a poem she wrote titled *Talking Gets us There* ([click here to watch](#)). Amanda Gorman invites us all to acknowledge and celebrate our diversity and stand together to fight injustice. She says, “Together I know we can tackle racism. But first we have to talk about it.”

Some teachers are engaging students in lessons around Black History Month and Black Lives Matter at School Week. **Here are some dinner table discussion questions:**

What has your class done to celebrate BLM week at school or Black History month?

- Amanda Gorman said, “People of color still experience racism today. So it’s up to all of us to say enough is enough.” What could you do or say if you or a friend experiences racism?
- Have a conversation about your family values:
 - How do we treat people?
 - How do we celebrate diversity and the differences between people?
 - How do we celebrate/respect other cultures and traditions?

Below are some ways your family can continue to celebrate Black History Month:

Shop at a local, black owned business

- Research a famous black person
- Buy or check out a library book from a black author or featuring black characters

[Please complete this short survey](#) so the Racial Equity and Inclusion Team can gain feedback to better support our community.

February School Spirit Day

Earlier this week, our Racial Equity and Inclusion Team had a thoughtful conversation about our next spirit day and made the decision to shift from Crazy Hair and Hat today to Celebrate Hair and Hat day as a way to be more inclusive to all members of our Somerset community and to build more cultural competence for our students.



- The use of the word crazy is disrespectful to those who struggle with mental illness. We are choosing to remove this word from the spirit day or future events.
- “Crazy hair day” promotes and centers whiteness and can shame or ridicule hairstyles we typically see in African or African American culture. What is seen as “crazy” to one student could very well be an “normal” hairstyle for another student.
- “Crazy hair day” is also exclusive toward students who wear religious head coverings.

At Somerset, and in our community, we want all students feel no less than their authentic self. We also want to teach our students that different races and cultures have different kinds of hair, and ALL hair should be celebrated and accepted. Instead of highlighting “crazy hair,” we are shifting our spirit day to “celebrate hair/hat day!” We are encouraging all students to show up as their authentic self.

Students can express their identity and demonstrate their creativity by:

- Wearing a special hat
- Creating a new hairbow, headband, or hat
- Wearing a fancy or special hairstyle they wouldn’t normally wear to school
- Wear a traditional cultural hat or headpiece

We are so fortunate to have such a diverse community and we are hoping that all students feel their identity is affirmed and celebrated on our next spirit day!

Progress Reports



Elementary Progress Reports will be viewable to families on Parent Vue and Student Vue, in our learning management system after 8:00 pm tonight.

Please visit <https://bsd405.org/departments/district-technology/grades-attendance/> to log in or for details on how to activate and set up your account if you have not done so already. Directions for families to access Elementary Progress Reports online: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#)

Principal Birthday lunches – 12:30-1:00



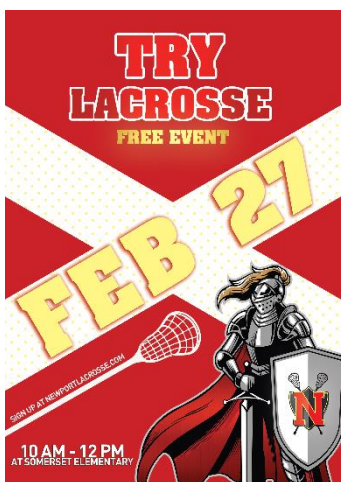
February Birthday lunch celebration will be on February 24th at 12:30. Students with a February birthday will receive a Teams invite through their student email accounts from Ruth Embaye, our office manager on the day prior. If you don't receive an invitation, please reach out to embayer@bsd405.org and she will send the link. Each session includes an opportunity for students to share something exciting about birthdays, a quick art project and a short story. It is a highlight for us to share this time celebrating students. Please note we have moved the birthday lunch celebrations to Wednesday to ensure all students, both virtual and hybrid can attend.

Food Assistance over Break:

If students or families need food assistance over mid-winter break, The Stevenson Family Connection Center will be OPEN February 16 through February 19 from 12-5PM, (Tuesday – Friday). The Lake Hills Family Connection Center will be closed during mid-winter break. The Grab & Go and Pre-order meal programs will also be closed during mid-winter break. Meal service will resume on Monday, February 22.

Hopelink Food Bank will be OPEN for 4 hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please follow this link for location and hours: <https://www.hopelink.org/location/bellevue-food-bank-and-emergency-services>

Renewal Food Bank will be CLOSED Monday, 2/15, but OPEN for a few hours on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Please follow this link for location and hours: <https://www.renewalfoodbank.com/>



Free Sport Event - Sat. 2/27

In cooperation with Newport Lacrosse, the Somerset PTSA is pleased to host a free outdoor activity for K-5 students. Gather your friends, bring a mask, and come enjoy the sport of Lacrosse on Saturday 2/27 from 10am-12pm at the Somerset Soccer Field. No experience or equipment is necessary. Coaches will be on hand to lead the kids in fun and games. Please register through newportlacrosse.com.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

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| Feb 15-19 | Mid-Winter Break-no school |
| Feb 22-26 | All learning is remote for hybrid and virtual learning k-12-District Wide quarantine |
| Feb 24 | February Principal Birthday Lunch |
| Feb 26 | School Spirit Day-Celebrate Hat/Hair day |
| March 4 | Principal Parent Connect topic: grades 3-5 in-person learning Health and Safety Protocols |

For more information and important dates please follow this link to our Somerset PTSA: [Link to Somerset PTSA](#)

