

 **Somerset Strong News 1.22.2021**

Somerset Families,

This is a hard Somerset Strong News for me to write on this Friday evening. It has been a bittersweet week for me as the principal of this very fine school. I was delighted and thrilled to see our hybrid second grade students return to school this week. They arrived in masks, wearing their backpacks and showing a solid understanding of what it means to socially distance. They arrived at a school that was ready to welcome them with layers of health and safety protocols in place. In their small half day cohorts, they laughed, they drew self-portraits, measured objects around the room and heard their teachers share stories read 6 feet in front of them. All four classrooms were greeted with highly qualified certificated teachers. Our classified staff supported our arrival and dismissal protocols to create a smooth entry and exit. They supervised our playground with small cohorts in four different zones. Our second graders were able to experience the brand-new playground structures installed this summer. When asked what they thought of the new playground, three students screamed with excitement, "It's awesome! I love it!" These were the highlights and joyous moments of my week and they were important moments.

The rest of the week has been challenging for me personally. I know this has been challenging for many of you as well. I wish I had an update to report, but at this time I do not.

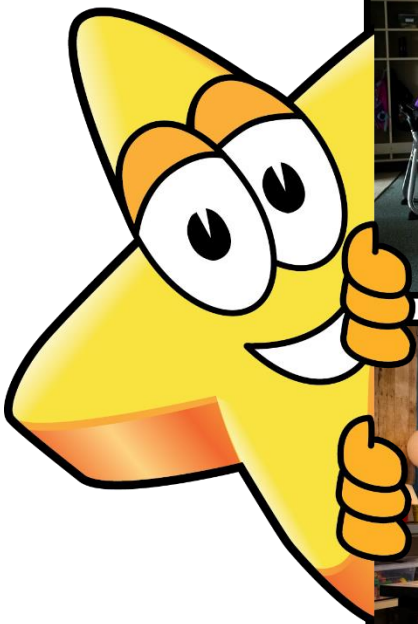
To this Somerset Strong community, please know that the school district will provide communication as soon as it is available. I will keep you informed of the changes that impact Somerset.

In partnership!

Cathy Elden



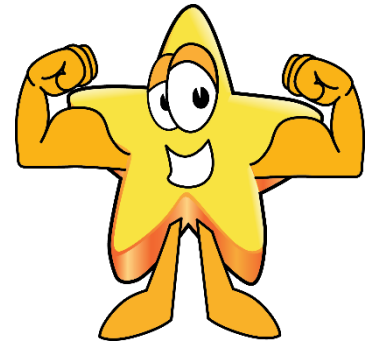
**SOMERSET
STRONG**
NO MATTER THE DISTANCE





Somerset Elementary Important Information

Hidden Talents



Hello Superstars!

You're invited to share your own hidden talent with our Somerset community. We'd love to see what you can do! Click on this link to record a video of ***your*** talent for a chance to see yourself featured in a future assembly (depending on how many clips are submitted, it may not be in the very next assembly): <https://flipgrid.com/05ed50df>

School Pictures



Lifetouch will be taking Somerset School Pictures following Safety Protocols. All Somerset students are welcome to come by the covered area on the playground to get their photo taken at their scheduled time. Students can have their photo taken even if they do not plan to purchase the prints. The picture will be included in the yearbook, student identification cards. In addition the pictures are uploaded in our Synergy data program and are extremely helpful to staff as they provide photo identification on our in-house data base.

Dates and Hours:

- Wednesday, January 27, 12pm - 4pm
- Wednesday, February 3rd, 12pm - 4pm

Registration: Please sign up for a slot using the sign up genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B48AEAA2AA46-somerset>. Please be certain to put your child's name/teacher/grade in the comments.

Ordering: If you would like to order pictures, please see the [Lifetouch flyer](#) for information.. We encourage all to pre-order pictures online [HERE](#) using code **EVTZC2T6G**.

Location: Somerset Elementary School (*under the covered basketball area **outside, in the back of the school***)

Safety Protocols: We thank you in advance for following these:

- This will be an outside event. Dress for the weather.
- Students may be accompanied by 1 parent only. We ask that students go straight to the picture-taking area near the playground in the back of the school, following physical/social distancing guidelines. Staff will be available to assist students through the line. When your student has taken their picture, we ask that you do not stay on the school grounds/playground.
- All students and staff will be masked at all times—except for the short time that the student removes the mask to take a picture.
- Physical distancing is required.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 25	1 st Grade In-person Learning starts for Hybrid Model
Jan 26	January Virtual Birthday Lunch
Jan 27	School Picture Day 12pm - 4pm
January 29 th	Non-Student Day
Feb 1	Kindergarten In-person Learning Starts for Hybrid Model
Feb 3	School Picture Day 12pm - 4pm

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



Bellevue School District Important Information

Playgrounds Update: Closed to the Public During School Hours

With schools reopening, playgrounds will be closed to the public during school hours and be used exclusively. Signs are posted at each playground. We ask that families respect these closures to help keep our students and our community safe and healthy.