

Somerset Strong News 10.16.2020

Somerset Families,



I am truly grateful for this school community's support of one another. On Tuesday when the power went out for a majority of our families and several of our staff, people rallied to support one another with communication, showed flexibility and resiliency when the routine was interrupted, and provided grace for those who were not able to connect for scheduled afternoon conferences. It is this support and partnership that makes Somerset Strong!

Yesterday Bellevue School District announced the postponement of our broader return to in-person learning for both our elementary and secondary students until January. Please read the complete announcement [here](#). This means that students at Somerset in both the hybrid and virtual learning programs will remain remote until at least the end of this calendar year. Teachers will continue to collaborate to design engaging and high-quality instruction, use small group instruction to provide additional supports, and use multiple methods to gauge student understanding of grade level standards.



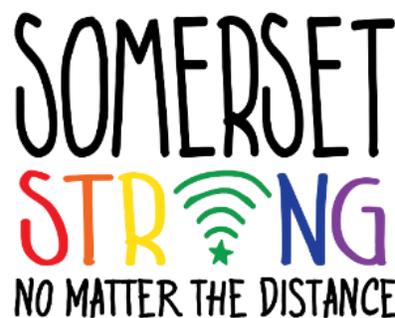
This coming week we will celebrate **Unity Day** with fun daily announcements, afternoon activities and a special assembly provided by our PTSA. I would love to have photos of students participating in the activities and dressed in orange, so please send them to elderc@bsd405.org and consider posting them to the Somerset PTSA Facebook page.

In Unity,

Cathy Elder

Interim Principal

Somerset Elementary



Bellevue School District Important Information

Elementary Conferences

To be responsive to our staff's needs at this time, for the 2020-21 school year elementary educators have the option of conducting conferences on six dedicated days instead of three. Conferences may have been conducted on the afternoons of October 12, 13 and 14, 2020 as scheduled AND/OR November 23, 24 and 25, 2020 if those dates work better for the teacher. Communication from your child's teacher should address the dates for your conference time.

During conference afternoons, students are expected to engage in independent asynchronous learning as coordinated by teachers; teachers are not expected to lead small groups on these dates so that they can focus on this important work. Educators in roles that are not directly participating in parent conferences may continue to schedule their contacts with students as needed during these times.

Advanced Learning Applications for Winter 2020-21

Applications for winter 2020-21 advanced learning testing for students in grades 1 through 11 are now available. District families planning to apply for testing should apply before Monday, November 30, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. More information on the application process and a link to the application form are on the [Advanced Learning webpage](#).

What is advanced learning? Students identified as in need of advanced learning services typically view the world in non-traditional ways; they are divergent thinkers who approach tasks in a more abstract and complex. Instruction is designed to move learning beyond the knowledge and procedural levels and students gain a more conceptual understanding of subject matter. [Learn More](#)

Parents of BSD 5th grade students DO NOT need to complete this application.

The identification process for 5th grade students is changing to include screening and then testing, with an anticipated test date of March 20, 2021. Families of students who meet the screening requirements will be notified and invited for testing. ***There is no need for parents of BSD 5th graders to apply as all BSD 5th graders will be screened for testing.***

Complete details here:

<https://bsd405.org/services/advanced-learning/testing-process/screening-process-for-grade-5/>

Somerset Elementary News

Unity Day Assembly-This Wednesday, October 21st!

Unity Week is here! October is National Bullying Prevention Month, and Unity Day, a day we all wear orange to signify being united against bullying, typically falls mid-month. This year we will be celebrating kindness, inclusion, and standing up against bullying for an entire week - October 19th-23rd. Each day will have a short video and meaningful activity that students can do during the afternoon asynchronous time. Students will be encouraged to wear orange on Wednesday October 21st, the official Unity Day designated by the National Bullying Prevention Center. More information can be found at [Pacer's website](#).



Principal Birthday lunches – 12:30-1:00



October Birthday lunch celebration will be on October 27th at 12:30. Students with an October birthday will receive a Teams invite through their student email accounts from Ruth Embaye, our office manager, the Monday 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.

- ★ Sept. 25 – August
- ★ Sept. 29 – September
- ★ October 27 – October
- ★ November 24 – November
- ★ December 15 – December
- ★ January 26 – January
- ★ February 23 – February
- ★ March 30 – March
- ★ April 27 – April
- ★ May 25 – May
- ★ June 15 – June and July

Preparing for In-Person Learning

Even with the recent announcement that elementary students will return to In-Person learning no earlier than January, Somerset staff will continue to develop plans for a safe school environment that will follow the health and safety protocols guidelines. The plans will be communicated clearly in *Principal Connects* and in this weekly news as we near the opening of buildings.

OCTOBER IMPORTANT DATES

21st Unity Day Assembly Wear Orange

27th Principal Birthday Lunch

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

Cathy Eldk

