

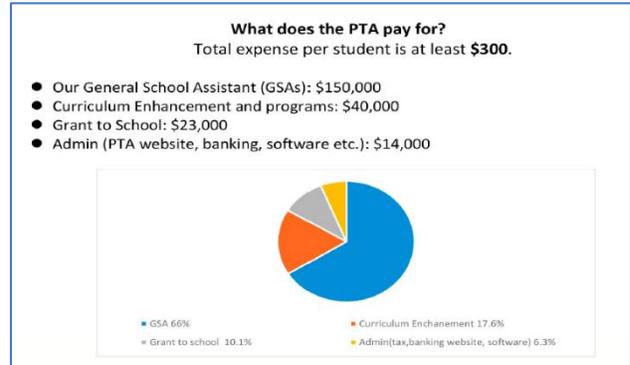
Somerset Strong News 10.23.2020

Somerset Families,

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight and promote the work and support of our Somerset PTSA. Our partnership is a key component to Somerset Strong! PTSA generously grants our school a significant amount of money each year to support the hiring of additional staff to support our classrooms and students. We have an incredibly skilled and devoted team of General School Assistants (GSAs) who support our students in the live virtual classroom and lead small groups in the afternoon. Our GSAs help support social emotional learning and ensure students feel connected.

In addition to classroom support, the PTSA provides a multitude of curriculum enrichment opportunities for each grade level. This week's Tap Root Theater production was provided by our PTSA.

Fall fundraising is happening now! If you have donated, thank you. Your contribution makes a difference. If you haven't donated yet, please consider. The attached flyer has a link to the donation site.



A huge shoutout to Ms. Schuyler and the fifth-grade students who made this year's Unity week extra special. The daily announcements, the video links and the opportunities for students to share their voice were highlights for me. Together, we are united to create a school environment where all students feel accepted and included because of the kindness of all.

As we enter this last week of October, I am truly grateful for our Somerset Staff. They are innovative and caring! They are resilient and dedicated! They are unified and student focused!

In Partnership,



Cathy Elder

Interim Principal

Somerset Elementary

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Bellevue School District Important Information

Annual Family Engagement Report

Thank you to all of the Bellevue School District families who participated in our Family Engagement Survey during the winter of 2019! The results of this survey helped the district establish a starting point for future engagement with our families. Every BSD school has a School Improvement Plan and is incorporating key strategies and targets for family engagement into their 2020-21 plan.

During the survey, families asked for more information about student learning, consistent updates, more opportunities to be active partners and more. Read more about the survey results, the annual targets and goals that have been established, and the next steps for Family Engagement in the [2019-20 Annual Family Engagement Report](#). The district will also be collaborating with families to develop strategies and goals to increase engagement, especially for families who have been furthest from educational justice. [Read the 2019-20 Annual Family Engagement Report](#)

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

A Word about Digital Citizenship from Mrs. Bravenec, Somerset Librarian



As our students spend more time online for school and for fun, it's important to learn how to be safe, responsible, and respectful Digital Citizens when using technology. Check out these tips from Common Sense Media (the organization that created the lessons our BSD teachers are using to teach digital citizenship) so you can support your child in developing good habits online: <https://www.commonsense.org/education/family-tips/k-5-privacy-and-security>

Principal Birthday lunches – 12:30-1:00



October Birthday lunch celebration will be this Tuesday, 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, on Monday. 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.

- * 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

Spirit Day – November 10th

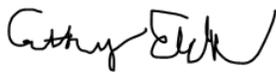
Student council would like to announce our first spirit day of the 20-21 school year. The class with the greatest participation of students wearing red, white, and blue will receive special recognition and win a prize. Our Student council is made up of fourth and fifth grade students that were selected by their classmates and led by Mr. Pelto.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Oct 27	Principal Birthday Lunch
Nov 4	November school-wide assembly
Nov 10	Spirit Day-Wear Red, White & Blue
Nov 11	Veteran's Day, No school
Nov 23-25	Elementary Conference Days
Nov 26-27	Thanksgiving break, no school

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



Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice be heard.

@LIZ AND MOLLIE