

Somerset Families,



I have enjoyed the cool crisp air, colorful leaves and blue skies this week. I have always loved the changing from one season to another. Each one comes with its own beauty and traditions. Through the years my family has enjoyed visits to the pumpkin patch, trick or treating and pumpkin scones. This year, due to COVID, some of our family traditions have been put on hold, yet the yearly raking, walks through the neighborhood and drives down favorite tree-lined street remains a highlight and reminder that time does not stand still.

Somerset is proud to be a community where students of different races, cultures and abilities benefit from learning together. Sixteen different language groups are represented in our Multi Language Learning program and our school of 639 students has over 50 different racial groups. We view this diversity as an asset that directly benefits our school's learning community. Our staff believes that it is our responsibility to affirm student's cultural identity and eliminate institutional racism at our school. *Unity Week* was a perfect opportunity to provide each of our students a voice to express their feelings and thoughts on how to be kind, accepting and inclusive. It is one small step in preparing them to be stronger advocates for justice, deeper critical thinkers and more empathetic problem solvers as creators of their future world.



I am pleased to share that this year all Bellevue Schools, including Somerset, have a Racial Equity and Inclusion team made up of administrators, teachers and classified staff. The focus of this team will be to elevate diverse student voices, increase opportunities for celebrating racial and cultural identity, and ensuring that access to high quality instruction for every student is maximized. This team will also critically look at the systems we have in place within our Somerset school community to ensure we dismantle practices that marginalize students or exclude them from educational justice. In addition, this team will review information from focus group sessions with our student council. The focus group will listen to the student voice, seek to understand their experiences, and honor their ideas for making Somerset better.

UNITED FOR

Kindness
ACCEPTANCE
INCLUSION

I am honored to lead a school community that believes the heart of a strong educational program is kindness, acceptance and inclusiveness. When we acknowledge our differences and truly examine with multiple perspectives what our unified vision for student's academic, social and emotional growth we find we have so much in common. I appreciate Tony Evan's quote, "Unity is oneness of purpose, not sameness of persons."

This unified belief helps makes us **Somerset Strong**.

In Partnership,

Cathy Elder

Interim Principal

Somerset Elementary

SOMERSET
STRONG
NO MATTER THE DISTANCE



Bellevue School District Important Information

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/>

Meals2Go Changes

For the safety of our families, students and staff, BSD Nutrition Services will be adjusting meal pick-up times earlier as of November 2 due to the end of daylight savings time. Schedule updates will be posted to the BSD website by Monday, November 2. Please double-check the times associated with your preferred pick up location for both Meals2Go and Pre-Order meals. More information is on our website: www.bsd405.org/Meals2Go

Bellevue Schools Foundation

BSF Arts, Enrichment Innovation Grants 2020-21

Grant #	Grant Name	Grade	# Kids	Description	Shared With	Total Awarded
E-1	Lightbox eBooks K-5	K - 5	8,900	BSF grant funds will be used to purchase 18 subscriptions to the interactive ebooks from Lightbox. These books are simultaneous use, multiuser ebooks with interactive comments such as videos, curriculum connects games and more that engages students in learning.	All Elementary Schools	\$19,800.00
E-2	Award eBooks K-5	K - 5	8,900	BSF grant funds will be used to purchase additional ebook copies of popular award nominated books including OTTER Award, Sasquatch Award and Young Reader's Choice Award books.	All Elementary Schools	\$1,200.00
E-3	Art Kits K-5	K - 5	8,900	These funds will supplement building budget funds to provide basic individual art kits, or parts of art kits, to K-5 art students in the second semester of 2020-21.	All Elementary Schools	\$6,400.00
E-4	Island of Hope - 3rd	3	1,500	Through a theatrical performance, students will learn why people immigrated to America through Ellis Island and endured the hardships of leaving their homeland for the dreams of a new life in the United States of America.	All Elementary 3rd graders	\$1,800.00
E-5	Northwest Passage - 4th	4	1,500	Through a virtual performance, students will learn about the expansion of the railroad, discovery of gold and labor struggles as a recent Swedish immigrant witness racial discrimination African American, Chinese American and Native American neighbors experience.	All Elementary 4th graders	\$1,800.00
E-6	Our Revolution - 5th	5	1,500	Through a virtual, theatrical performance, students will learn about a black soldier's narrative of what it was like to fight with the Continental Army during the American Revolution while struggling with the question "Whose liberty am I fighting for?"	All Elementary 5th graders	\$1,800.00
E-7	Music Software - 5th	5	2,275 total	We wish to pilot using music software apps designed to help students practice independently during remote learning. Smart Music with all of our 5th graders in their beginning band and orchestra classes	All Elementary 5th graders	\$17,468.00
Total Elementary Schools:						\$50,268.00

YOU can make a difference for students in all 29 Bellevue Schools. Help the Bellevue Schools Foundation raise \$350,000 to invest in distance learning technology, provide on-line mental health services to students feeling depressed and isolated, fund Family Connection Centers to provide food, rent assistance guidance and technology support needed for every child to thrive. Make YOUR gift today. [Donate HERE](#).

Bellevue School's Foundation is delighted to announce the award of our Arts, Enrichment & Innovation grants to all twenty-nine Bellevue School District schools. See the chart to the left for the Innovation Grants.



Principal Birthday lunches – 12:30-1:00



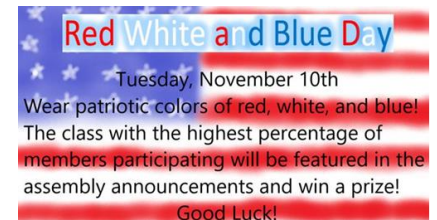
November Birthday lunch celebration will be on November 24th at 12:30.

Students with a November birthday will receive a Teams invite through their student email accounts from Ruth Embaye, our office manager on 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.

- ★ 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.



Election Day...Did You Know?



- US General Election Day is held the Tuesday, after the first Monday, in November.
- This day is set aside to elect federal public offices (President, Vice-president, and members of congress) and many state governors.
- In 1792, a November election was chosen because it was convenient. The harvest would have been completed but the most severe winter weather, impeding transportation, would not have arrived.

This Election Day many important state and national issues and offices are on the ballot. With the current contentious political environment, we expect many diverse opinions and big feelings. Our students will inherently pick up on these emotions. Our virtual classrooms are a natural space for kids to ask questions, share concerns and express their voice. Somerset teachers may facilitate and/or redirect conversations in response to student curiosity and awareness of the election and its results.

Bellevue School District is committed to ensuring a safe and productive learning environment, in which all students and staff are provided every opportunity to learn and work that is free from harassment, intimidation and bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment. Please know, students will be provided an opportunity to opt out of any conversations regarding this year's election and results. Ms. Schuyler, our school counselor, will be available for any student needing additional support to understand their feelings during this time.

Student Interest Groups Led by Ms. Schuyler

<p>Lego Club:</p> <p>Students can bring their Legos, Duplo, or any building blocks and join for some fun connection and play time. Students will have a chance to show off what they are building, try some building challenges, and talk all things Legos!</p>	<p>Lego Club meets Monday mornings at 8:30 AM</p> <p>Join on your computer or mobile app Click here to join the meeting Or call in (audio only) +1 206-800-4133,,211461031# United States, Seattle Phone Conference ID: 211 461 031#</p>
<p>Art club:</p> <p>At art club, students can work on any art or medium of their choice. Students can show each other what they are working on, share ideas and techniques, and hopefully make some new friends in the process!</p>	<p>Art Club meets Wednesdays at 12:30 PM</p> <p>Join on your computer or mobile app Click here to join the meeting Or call in (audio only) +1 206-800-4133,,686557189# United States, Seattle Phone Conference ID: 686 557 189#</p>
<p>Pokemon Club</p> <p>Pokemon club will be about all things Pokemon! Students can socialize about their favorite characters, game play, and more!</p>	<p>Pokemon Club meets Mondays at 12:30 PM</p> <p>Join on your computer or mobile app Click here to join the meeting Or call in (audio only) +1 206-800-4133,,376688828# United States, Seattle Phone Conference ID: 376 688 828#</p>
<p>Animal Club:</p> <p>In this group, students will have the opportunity to socialize with each other about their favorite animals and their pets! (You do not have to have a pet to join!) Students will be able to share interesting facts they know about certain animals, share what kind of pet they hope to have one day, or even talk about how to take care of animals and the environments they live in!</p>	<p>Animal Club meets Thursday mornings at 8:30 AM</p> <p>The link to join the meeting is: Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 206-800-4133 United States, Seattle (Toll) Conference ID: 534 793 897#</p>
<p>Minecraft Club:</p> <p>Does your student love playing Minecraft? Then this is the group for them! Students can chat about their latest creations in their Minecraft world and share ideas with each other. This group is also open to anyone who may have never played Minecraft but is interested in learning more about it!</p>	<p>Minecraft Club meets Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 PM</p> <p>The link to join the meeting is: Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 206-800-4133 United States, Seattle (Toll) Conference ID: 502 442 496#</p>

5th Grade Choir



Somerset's 5th Grade Choir will begin Tuesday, November 18th. Students who are in the choir will have the opportunity to perform as a virtual choir by recording themselves singing. To create a virtual choir, students will learn a song, and then record themselves in Flipgrid singing the song. Choir members will need to record using headphones to listen to the music so that when recorded, none of the music can be heard, only the choir member singing. If your child would like to be a part of the Somerset Choir, please fill out this Form by November 10th: [Choir Registration Form](#). Registration forms must be completed by student and parent/guardian. You will also need to use student email to login to the Form.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 3	Election Day
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