

Somerset Strong News 11.13.2020

Somerset Families,



Over the course of the next two weeks, our grade level teachers will be meeting with our Student Support Team to review student data collected over the first quarter to ensure that we are serving the needs of each individual student at Somerset. During the two-hour session, we collaboratively look at student data, identify patterns of unfinished learning, and strategize intentional focus for intervention or extension. It is possible that your child's teacher may need to adjust their small group meetings on their scheduled day in order to make time for this important work. In the past, teachers were released from teaching for a half day and substitute teacher would cover the classroom. This year we have condensed the time and are using the asynchronous afternoons for many of these sessions.

Please note that starting on Wednesday, November 18, elementary students will now have up to 90 minutes of Wednesdays for learning time available for synchronous instructional time, with the remainder staying as asynchronous time. Your child's teacher will communicate any changes to their schedules with you.



This weekend many Indians in our community and around the world will celebrate one of the most important Hindu festivals known as Diwali. This five-day festival is often called "the festival of lights" and is considered to be the start of the new year for those celebrating. This holiday symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness and good over evil. During this time the houses are illuminated with small oil lamps called "diyas" and strings of lights, families decorate colorful design patterns called "rangoli" to welcome good luck & prosperity into their homes and lives. It is also marked by celebrations with friends and family with feasts and festivities galore. We do hope you will share your photos for our upcoming assembly. *To members of our school community celebrating this festival – we wish you and your families a very Happy Diwali!*

Learning about our classmates enhances the self-awareness of all students. The benefit is greater understanding and greater empathy for a diverse community of learners. Affirming our students in their cultural identities and elevating their personal narratives makes us *Somerset Strong*.

In Partnership,

Cathy Elder

Somerset Elementary

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Action Items...more information below:

- 1. Submit a photo of your child celebrating winter traditions for the upcoming assembly. Please see below for the details.**
- 2. Mark your calendars for the December Family Math Night for your child's class.**



Bellevue School District Important Information

Board Forum Announcement

Dear Bellevue School District Community,

The Bellevue School Board welcomes you to join a virtual community forum on Thursday December 3rd to discuss Family Engagement. Board directors want to hear what is important and needed for you to support your child(ren)'s learning and well-being.

- **When:** 5.00-6.15 pm., December 3rd, 2020.
- **Where:** Virtual Forum, information to register and join the forum online at <https://bsd405.org/about/school-board/>

BSD Community Forums on Mental Health

The Bellevue School District strives to support our parent community. Mental health continues to be a primary concern for families as we all face unprecedented times and unexpected hardships. In partnership with the district counseling program, social-emotional curriculum developers, family engagement team and community mental health partners, the district is developing another series of forums to inform, support and empower families on issues surrounding mental health. **Please see attached flyer** for the list of courses and language offerings.

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 Winter Traditions-Send Photos for December Assembly



Families are invited to submit a photo of their students celebrating a winter tradition/holiday and a short sentence describing a favorite part of that winter tradition/holiday. Please only send in ONE photo (pick your favorite!). We are looking for a variety of traditions/holidays to include! Photos will be shared in our assembly on December 2nd.

Please submit your photo and description to Mrs. Bravenec by Nov 18th at the latest. Please put the subject line 'Winter Traditions' in the email and send your submission to bravenecs@bsd405.org . Thank you!

Principal Birthday lunches – 12:30-1:00



November Birthday lunch celebration will be on November 24th at 12:30. with a November birthday will receive a Teams invite through their email accounts from Ruth Embaye, our office manager on the Monday don't receive an invitation, please reach out to embayer@bsd405.org send the link. Each session includes an opportunity for students to share exciting about birthdays, a quick art project and a short story. It is a us to share this time celebrating students.

- ★ November 24 – November Students
- ★ December 15 – December student
- ★ January 26 – January prior. If you
- ★ February 23 – February and she will
- ★ March 30 – March something
- ★ April 27 – April highlight for
- ★ May 25 – May
- ★ June 15 – June and July

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

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|-----------|---|
| Nov 23-25 | Elementary Conference Days |
| Nov 26-27 | Thanksgiving break, no school |
| Dec 2 | December School-Wide Assembly |
| Dec 2-3 | Math Night material Pick up |
| Dec 7-10 | Math Nights see above table for grade level times |
| Dec 18 | Spirit Day-Cozy Day-wear pajamas |



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

Family Math Nights Coming in December! Mark your calendars, you will not want to miss!

Special night for kids and adults to learn and play fun math games! Jane and John *Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks* will lead a variety of games that will build on each grade standards. Please see attached flier for more information.

The games are designed to develop mathematical fluency and build problem solving Games will require use of regular and really cool multi-sided dice, deck of cards and materials have been purchased in partnership with Somerset PTSA for EACH and EVERY Somerset student so all you have to do is swing thru the drive-thru pick up line.



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Drive-thru material pick-up at Somerset on December 2nd from 11-2 or December 3rd from 2-4:30.

Date?	Who is in this Session?	TEAMS Sign on Link
Monday, December 7 th	*K: Grade Family Math Night Session <i>5:30-6:15 Ayers, Wilbert and Lin (K's only from Min's class)</i>	Click here to join the meeting
	**K: Grade Family Math Night Session <i>6:30-7:15 Song and Shriver</i>	Click here to join the meeting
	3 rd Family Math Night Session <i>6:00-7:00 PM</i>	Click here to join the meeting
Tuesday December 8 th	1 st Grade Family Math Night Session <i>5:30-6:15 Serafin and Maxwell</i>	Click here to join the meeting
	1 st Grade Family Math Night Session <i>6:30-7:15 Min (1st graders) Brown and Rastetter</i>	Click here to join the meeting
	4 th Family Math Night Session <i>6:00-7:00 PM</i>	Click here to join the meeting
Wednesday December 9 th	Staff Training All Teachers from K-1-2 <i>1:00-2:30</i>	
	Staff Training All Teachers From 3-4-5 (include Karen Jackson in this group) <i>1:00-2:30</i>	
	2 nd Family Math Night Session <i>6:00-7:00 PM</i>	Click here to join the meeting
	5 th Family Math Night Session <i>6:00-7:00 PM</i>	Click here to join the meeting
Thursday December 10 th	AL Grade 2-3 Family Math Night Session <i>6:00-7:00 PM</i>	Click here to join the meeting
	AL Grades 4-5 Family Math Night Session <i>6:00-7:00 PM</i>	Click here to join the meeting

Have a great weekend,

