



Somerset Strong News 3.5.2021

Somerset Families,

BSD Family Engagement Survey-Your voice is important to us! Please complete.

As of yesterday, 125 surveys have been completed for Somerset (20%) which is a good start. I am asking, if you have not completed it, please dig back in your email, and find the link sent from **Panorama Education Team** on February 23rd. My goal is for at least a 60% of our families complete the survey before March 30th. Your feedback provides our school team direction in planning. It allows us to know what is working well and how we can improve. Below is a chart with our school-wide strategies for this school year in the areas of family engagement.

2020-21 Somerset Strategies for Family Engagement

Families feel informed	Families feel supported	Families feel empowered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Somerset Strong News • ELL Facilitator host information session for new immigrant families • Family Math Night: December grade level event to teach engaging math games to build fluency and problem-solving strategies. • Use “Talking Points” app and “Language Line” to create enhanced opportunities for two-way communication • Teachers consistently use “Big 3” on MS Teams; announcements, assignments, calendar • Curriculum Night with parent response survey • Fall 1:1 conference • Progress Reports 2x/year • Somerset Website, updated weekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our strong PTSA partnership provides us with the opportunity to collaboratively support all subgroups through curriculum enhancement and instructional support grants. • Monthly Principal Connects provide two-way communication for families to express questions and needs • Bi-monthly counselor newsletter providing key strategies for supporting the SEL of students during the pandemic. • Camp Kindness, weekly family participation with focus on Virtues building. • Guidance Team meetings for families and staff to work together to support individual student needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Math Night allowing families to learn strategies for engaging with math in a fun way • Use technology, “Talking Points” to create enhanced opportunities for two-way communication • PTSA Parenthood Development • Invitation to Talk about Race with resources provided by Racial, Equity and Inclusion Team

It is our partnership and your feedback that will continue to make us Somerset Strong!


Return to In-person Learning Health and Safety Protocol Updates

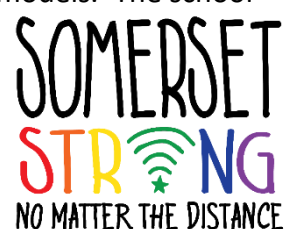
Thank you to the 60 parents who joined us Thursday morning to learn about our Health and Safety Protocols for in person learning. I attached the Powerpoint presentation to this email and providing a recording so if you were unable to attend, you can preview the important information. [Somerset Principal Connect - 3-5 Return to In Person Learning - March 4, 2021](#)

A few important highlights:

1. A daily health check must be complete for each student daily before they can enter their classroom.
2. Drop off and pick up for students in grade 3-5 will occur at the gate/crosswalk on 143rd Ave, not the school parking lot.
3. Each classroom has been assigned a designated door to enter each day to reduce crowding and provide physical distancing.
4. We are arranging small group tours for our students brand new to Somerset, stay tuned for details.

We are currently working to adjust classes at grades 3-5 for the return to in-person learning. As dates for return are announced, so will the class placements for students who are changing learning models. The school will be assigning am/pm cohorts and will inform you of your section within the next week.

In partnership!






k-2 In Person Learning Schedule

March				
1	2	3	4	5
Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	K-2 Virtual	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	K-2 Virtual
8	9	10	11	12
Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	K-2 Virtual	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	K-2 Virtual
15	16	17	18	19
Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	K-2 Virtual	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person
22	23	24	25	26
Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	K-2 Virtual	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person
29	30	31		
Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	Gr 2 In-Person Gr 1 In-Person Gr K In-Person	K-2 Virtual		

Principal Birthday lunches – 12:30-1:00



March Birthday lunch celebration will be on March 24th at 12:30. Students with a March birthday will receive a Teams invite through their student email accounts from Ruth Embaye, our office manager on the day 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. Please note we have moved the birthday lunch celebrations to Wednesday to ensure all students, both virtual and hybrid can attend.

Services and Supports for Families who Qualify

Now is an Ideal Time to Sign up for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL). If you think you might be eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, but haven't yet signed up, here is the application: <https://bsd405.org/services/nutrition-services/free-reduced/>

Why the urgency now? There will likely be some government funds made available to families that have FRL status. These funds will be passed on to families to cover the cost of meals they have had to purchase while school has been conducted remotely. In addition, students with FRL status will have their ASB card and other fees waived.

If you aren't sure if you have signed up for FRL, please call BSD's **Nutrition Services** office at **425-456-4507** to confirm.

Please feel free to reach out to Shannon Gregory, 456-5800 if you would like help with either the application or an address change.

Have you recently moved?

If you have recently moved and have not yet updated your address change with the district, you can do so by completing the **Change of Residency Verification Form** online at the following the following links:

- ❖ [English \(PDF\)](#)
- ❖ [Chinese \(PDF\)](#)
- ❖ [Japanese \(PDF\)](#)
- ❖ [Korean \(PDF\)](#)
- ❖ [Russian \(PDF\)](#)
- ❖ [Spanish \(PDF\)](#)
- ❖ [Vietnamese \(PDF\)](#)

School Picture Distribution



Photos will be distributed to k-2 Hybrid students on Monday. Please check their backpacks. I will have older siblings' pictures sent home with k-2 hybrid students. All other photos will be distributed on Tuesday, March 9th and Thursday, March 11th at 9:30-10am and 1:30-2pm in front of the school.

Picture Retake Day

Picture Retake Day with Lifetouch is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31st from 12-4pm. This is also an opportunity for Somerset students who haven't taken their picture yet to come by to get their photo taken, even if you are not planning to purchase the prints. Their picture will also be used for the yearbook and student identification cards.

Students who want to have their picture retaken are asked to bring the complete Lifetouch picture packet back to retake day.

Everyone Included in the Yearbook-Here's How

For families that do not feel comfortable participating in school pictures, please submit your student's picture for the yearbook following these guidelines:

- Take a headshot of your student in front of a white background
- Take the picture from the waist up
- Use lighting from the front, no backlighting
- Add the following information when sending the picture: first name and last name of your student, grade and teacher name

Please send your picture to our yearbook chair Ana Howard at yearbooks.somerset@gmail.com by April 15th.



PTSA March Events

Fundraising: Saturday, Mar 7th - PTSA Goodwill Drive 2-5pm

Goodwill will bring a truck to Somerset Elementary School on **Sunday, March 7th, from 2 – 5 pm** to accept donations of used goods.

Please help us fill the truck to support our PTSA fundraising program and to help with cleaning out your house.

You can bring almost everything to the donation drive including clothes, shoes, books, household items, linens, small electronics, exercise equipment, rugs, bed frames, toys, lamps, and small furniture (No bigger than a side table). As part of the E-cycle Washington program, Goodwill collects televisions, computer monitors, desktop computers, laptops, and other electronics that are still in working condition.



Parenthood Development: March 24th 6-7pm

How to Talk to children about Race and Racism

Please join us for our Parenthood Development talk with Somerset parent Jamie Cho on how to talk with your children about race and racism.

This conversation will center race and how to talk with children and answer their questions about racial differences and racism. Children's understanding of racial categories develop early and are influenced by the narratives offered by the adults in their lives. It is vital that adults are having conversations with children as they try to make sense of what they are observing in their family, neighborhoods, schools, and communities. Through these conversations, families have the power to raise a generation of critical thinkers who strive for social justice and equity.

Jamie Cho is a parent educator at two cooperative preschools through Seattle Central College and Bellevue College. She holds a Ph.D. in special education from U.C. Berkeley and her research has focused on cultural beliefs around parenting. Jamie has worked previously as an early interventionist with young children with autism spectrum disorders as well as served as an educational researcher at UCLA and teacher educator at California State Universities.

Please register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/phd-talk-how-to-talk-with-children-about-race-and-racism-tickets-143390947183>

5th grade Information for Welcome Incoming Tyee Families and Students!

We are excited that you will be starting your middle school journey at Tyee. Our Tyee counselors will be visiting your class the weeks of 3/8 & 3/15 to answer any questions about registration for next year. Please take the opportunity to review the following PowerPoint materials together and submit any questions you may have on the Forms survey (see link below) before we visit your class. Counselors will review the questions you submitted and answer them when they visit.

Please note that your student's online registration for classes is due on March 19th.

General Middle School PowerPoint Presentation and Video Link	Includes information about middle school requirements and general information about course catalog. Watch it on YouTube Download the PowerPoint Presentation
Link to Video about Tyee Specific Information	Details procedures, dates and contact information specific to Tyee. https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/90ba0447-3e87-4663-b4f8-ecffe7b6c77b
Forms Survey Link to ask Questions	https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OUFKmQZ8HkmAmHkAbVdd4FjOr52pF9FAr8V0IVSfa4dUMFdUTEZEME01MFQ4VldYQVI1Sk5aUEhTMC4u
Virtual Family Registration Information Night for Incoming 6th graders	March 15, 6:30-7:30pm on Microsoft Teams Click on this link: 6th Grade registration Q&A session
Tyee Registration Central Website	Check here for all the information, presentations, resources that are related to registration. https://bsd405.org/tyee/2021/02/welcome-to-tyee-registration-central/

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

March 7- PTSA fundraiser-Goodwill Drive

March 19-Regular Scheduled School Day-Make up day from January 25th.

March 24-March Birthday with Principals/Parenthood Development Talk 6-7 pm

March 26-School Spirit Day-Sport's Day

March 31st-Picture Retake Day

April 12-16-Spring Break, no school

April 19-23-All students remote

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



Free and Reduced Lunch

免費和減價午餐

現在是申請免費和減價午餐（FRL）的理想時機。如果您認為您可能有資格享受免費和減價午餐，但尚未申請，請經此網站申請：<https://bsd405.org/services/nutrition-services/free-reduced/>

為什麼目前有緊迫性？可能會有一些政府資金提供給具有減免餐身份的家庭。這些資金將轉交給家庭以支付他們在學校網路上課期間必須購買的膳食費用。此外，具有減免餐身份的學生將免收 ASB 卡級其他費用。

如果您不確定是否已申請減免餐，請致電學區營養服務辦公室 425-456-4507 確認。

Almuerzo gratis y a precio reducido

Ahora es el momento ideal para inscribirse en el almuerzo gratuito y a precio reducido (siglas FRL en inglés). Si cree que puede ser elegible para el programa de almuerzo gratuito o a precio reducido, pero aún no se ha inscrito, aquí está la solicitud: <https://bsd405.org/services/nutrition-services/free-reduced/>

¿Por qué la urgencia ahora? Es probable que se pongan a disposición algunos fondos del gobierno para las familias que tienen el estatus de FRL. Estos fondos se entregarán a las familias para cubrir el costo de las comidas que hayan tenido que comprar mientras la escuela se realiza de forma remota. Además, a los estudiantes con estatus FRL se les eximirá su tarjeta ASB y otras tarifas.

Si no está seguro de haberse inscrito en FRL, llame a la oficina de **Servicios de Nutrición** de BSD al **425-456-4507** para confirmar.

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