

Somerset Families,

This week Dr. Ivan Duran announced that he would be stepping away from the role of Superintendent of the Bellevue School District. [Read Dr. Ivan Duran's full message to families](#). As a school leader, I have appreciated Dr. Duran's integrity, service, and equity focused leadership. Under his leadership our BSD vision, mission and values were crafted and more importantly embraced at Somerset Elementary. Aligned with the school district vision, Somerset will continue to "Affirm and inspire each and every student to learn and thrive as creators of their future world." Dr. Eva Collins, current Deputy Superintendent, will step into the role of acting superintendent during the search for an interim and new superintendent takes place. More information can be found on the district's website.

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration Month Continues at Somerset

Excited to share the following events from this week's Asian American Pacific Islander Celebration

- Somerset Students will be exposed to a new text each week highlighting a different culture and theme from the AAPI region. This week's text is *Always Anjali* by Sheetal Sheth.



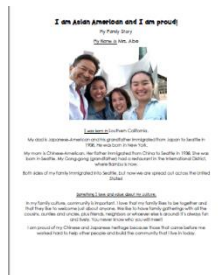
Author and actress Sheetal Sheth visited all Somerset classes today, virtually.

In addition, she will host a Family Engagement Event, virtually on Thursday, May 20th. This live event will be hosted on MS Teams. Your child's teacher will post the link for you and your child to join. The focus will be on writing and sharing stories.

- Session for k-2 families will be from 5:00-5:45
- Session for grades 3-5 will be 7:00-7:45.

ACTION ITEMS

- Share your story:** We have invited all families who identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander to share their story. We have provided a template (attached to email) to guide you and a Flip grid link if you prefer <https://flipgrid.com/1c704f3e>. Please submit either or both to your child's teacher, by May 20th so we can display at our school wide event on May 26th. You can also send it directly to me at elderc@bsd405.org

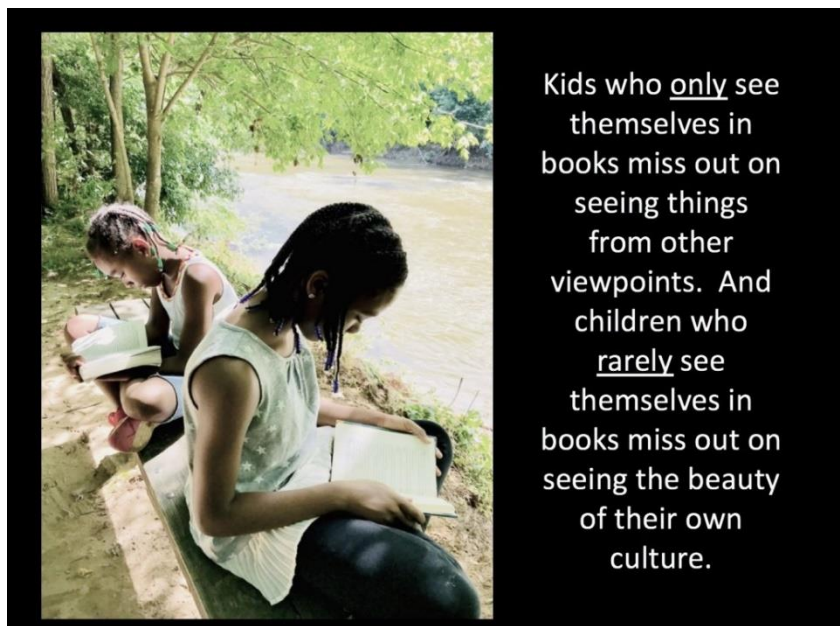
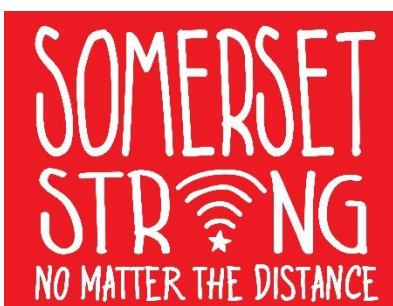


- Sign up to attend the AAIP Heritage Festival At Somerset**

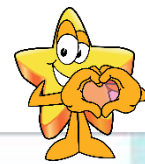
This Outdoor, School-wide Event is for all families on May 26th from 4:30-7:00. To ensure we are following safety guidelines and providing a socially distanced safe event, we are asking families to register for a 30-minute time slot using the Sign-Up Genius link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4CAFA922A0F94-asian>

This month of celebration is for *all* students. Students are discovering their place in school and the world through the text we share. Sometimes books are a mirror, reflecting their own lives, and others a window, giving them a peek into someone else's. Our hope is that our celebration will be an enlightening and memorable experience for all superstars as they are affirmed in their unique identity and learn about the beautiful diversity within our community.

In partnership!



Kids who only see themselves in books miss out on seeing things from other viewpoints. And children who rarely see themselves in books miss out on seeing the beauty of their own culture.



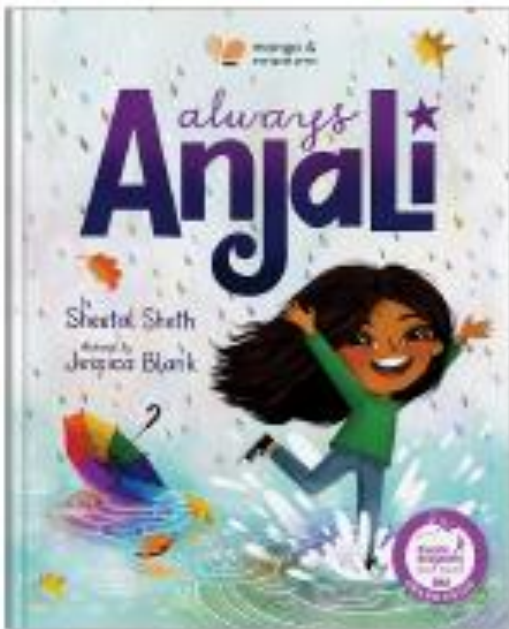
always Anjali

SPEND AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR/ACTRESS

SHEETAL SHETH

PERFECT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

DATE: MAY 20TH



A timeless story about appreciating what makes us special and honoring our differences.



"Always Anjali gives young readers a lesson that I only learned much later in life: that our backgrounds don't make us weird or "exotic," but are instead something to be celebrated."

— Today's Parent

"...a lovely story about owning what makes you different. Anjali is such a winning character – when the bully again teases her, she shuts him up and moves on as "She had places to go and no time for foolishness."

— The Aerogram

"Always Anjali is the picture book I needed when I was growing up. It is the picture book I needed to give me the strength to embrace my differences instead of hiding them."

— Utopia State of Mind

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2021-22

If you know of a family who has an upcoming kindergarten student, please remind them that kindergarten registration is open now and they need to complete the “New Student Enrollment Packet”. The more we know about our upcoming enrollment, the better we can staff our classrooms. **New Student Enrollment Packet:** [English \(PDF\)](#) / [Spanish \(PDF\)](#) / [Simplified Chinese \(PDF\)](#)

5th Grade Promotion Celebrations

This year, we are pleased to announce that the following activities have been planned to celebrate our 5th graders' promotion.

1. Walk-by Promotion Ceremony - Wednesday, June 16th (assigned time by class between 1pm-3:45pm)

Students will gather by classroom at an assigned time in front of the school (details will follow in a separate class email). Your student's classroom teacher will lead the class through a procession to receive his/her graduation certificate from the Principal at a station to be set up by the school's front door. We kindly ask parents/guardians to remain at a designated area and refrain from approaching the Principal's station to take pictures due to Covid safety measurements. We will have a professional photographer standing by to take a picture of each student with the Principal and teacher to capture this memorable moment for families. The promotion picture will be made available for download at no cost.

2. Outdoor Carnival Celebration - Wednesday, June 16th (assigned time by class between 2pm-5pm)

Each class will move to the back of the school for an Outdoor Carnival Celebration. Before starting the carnival activities, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to take family pictures at a photo booth to be set up under the covered area of the playground. Following the photo session, students will participate with their class/cohort in planned fun activities on the field for 45 minutes. At the end of each class' carnival session, each student will receive a Somerset promotion keepsake and an ice cream coupon. Students will be directed to an ice cream truck to receive their treats. We ask that families leave the school campus immediately after receiving and consuming their ice creams to avoid undue crowd gatherings.

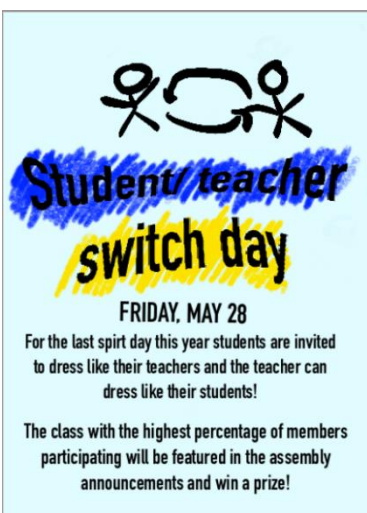
3. Virtual Promotion Ceremony on Teams - Monday, June 21st (6-7pm)

Parents, students and extended family are welcome to join the virtual promotion ceremony on Monday, June 21st at 6pm. A link will be sent out to all families. Principal's and teachers' words of wisdom along with a slideshow of our 5th graders will be shown. You can also watch the recording of the event any time at your convenience.

Feel free to contact our 5th Grade Promotion Committee at somersetgraduation2021@gmail.com with any questions or to volunteer to assist with the activity preparation.

May Spirit Day

May's student council spirit day will be “Student/Teacher Switch Day.” It's scheduled for Friday, May 28th. The class that has the greatest percentage of students wearing teacher outfits (and teachers dressing like students) will be recognized in the assembly announcements and receive a small prize.



Principal Birthday Lunches – 12:30-1:00



May's Birthday lunch celebration will be Wednesday the 26th at 12:30. Students with a May 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.

Somerset Library Wednesday Check-out Dates-Only Three More Weeks

Librarian Mrs. Bravenec would like to remind families that students may reserve and check out books from our Somerset library! Books may be picked up by all families on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-5:30pm at the front doors of Somerset. Masks and social distancing required.

For hybrid students attending in person, Mrs. Bravenec will deliver books to your child's classroom teacher if you are not able to pick them up. For virtual students attending remotely, please contact Mrs. Bravenec to make alternate pick up arrangements if that Wednesday time is not convenient for you.

Check-out Wednesdays: May 19th, May 26th (last day for checkout)

Student Safety at Drop off and Dismissal

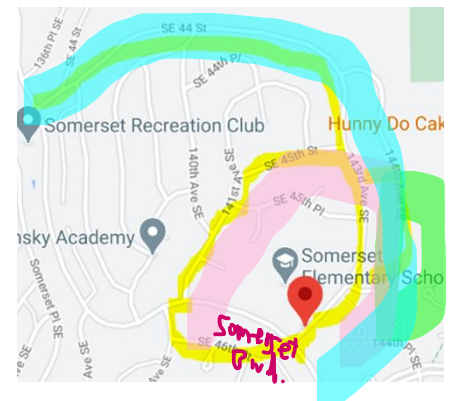
Students arriving late to school (after 9:05 and after 1:05)

- If your child(ren) is arriving to school late, please bring them to the main office doors and use the window to inform the office that students have arrived. We will ensure health check is complete and welcome them in the building.
- If your child(ren) is arriving to school late without an adult, remind them to use the main doors by the office. Please call the school office to inform us that your child(ren) is arriving late, so we know to expect them. Please note, crossing guard supervision ends shortly after the tardy bell.

We currently have 16 adults supporting arrival for each session to ensure students arrive safely and have their health check complete. Adults remain at the crosswalk and at each drop off point for a few minutes after the tardy bell rings. If children arrive after the start of the school bell (9:05 or 12:05) we need parents to help support the safe arrival of their child. In addition, we call all families who have not notified us an absence when a student does not show up for a class session.

No U-turns in the drop off zone on 143rd Ave.

- U-turns in the drop off zone during our pick-up and drop-off times are extremely dangerous.
- There are at least 3 loops that will allow you to return in the direction you wish to go without making a U-turn. The U-turn blocks traffic when congested and significantly decreases our visibility of students in the sidewalks on both sides of street.
- Please be considerate of neighbors and leave the entrance to their driveways open while you wait.

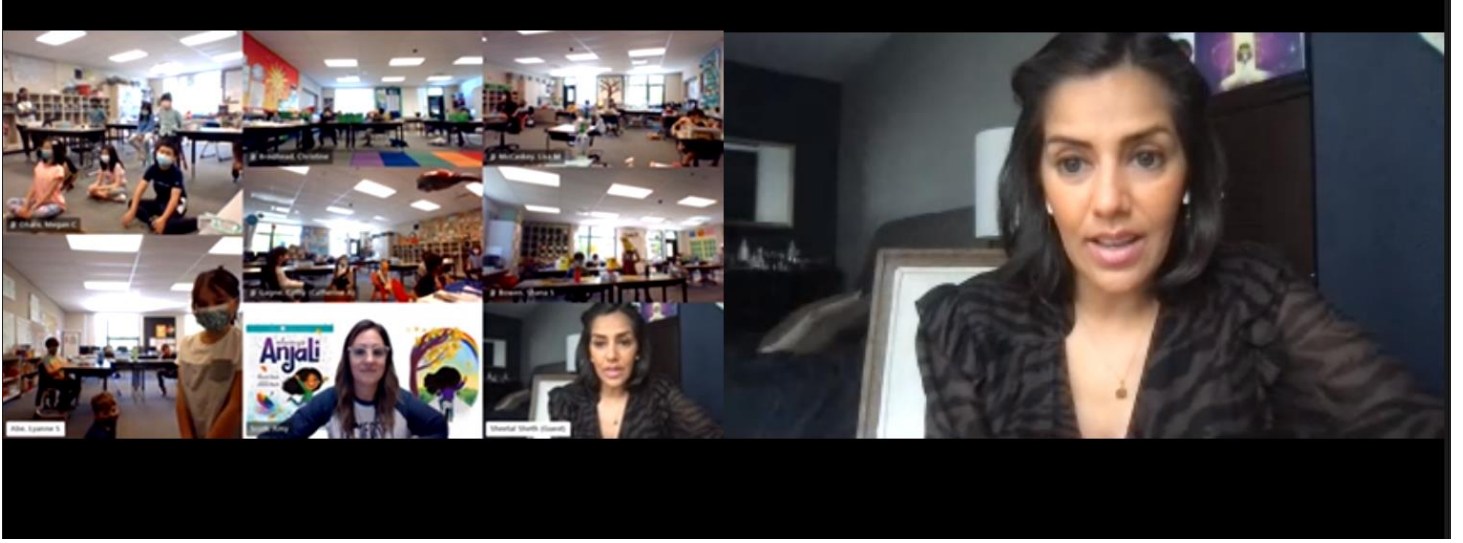


UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

May	Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month
May 19	BSD Mathematics Community Event 6:30-7:45 Zoom event
May 20	Author family night via Teams, 5:00-5:45 K-2 and 7:00-7:45 3-5
May 20	New to Advanced Learning Program-Information session via Teams 6-7 pm
May 26	Somerset School-Wide, In-person, Outdoor Event 4:30-7:00 (Five 30-minute sessions) <i>Sharing the Pages of Asian Stories: past, present, & future! (please sign up today)</i>
May 29	School Spirit Day-student teacher switch day
May 31	No School-Memorial Day

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

Photo (s) of Week-



Live from NYC, author, Sheetal Sheth visits all virtual and hybrid students today in six different sessions!

After Ms. Sheth read her story to the students, they had an opportunity to ask the author questions and learn more about her and the process for writing a published book.

