



*Our mission is to support the education, health, and welfare of each and every child at Somerset Elementary School. As part of the Washington State PTA, we are a nonprofit membership association bringing together the home, school, and community on behalf of our children.*

## PTSA NEWS

### PTSA / School Calendar - Upcoming Dates and Events

- Tuesday, Oct 27th 12:30 pm - Principal Birthday Lunch (October Birthday)
- Thursday, Nov 5th 9:00 am - Virtual Principal/ Parents Connect
- Tuesday, Nov 10th - School Spirit Day/ Wear " Red, White, and Blue"
- Wednesday, Nov 11th - Veterans Day No School
- Monday, Nov 30th - Sunday, Dec 13th - Virtual Book Fair



### Fall Fundraising Drive 2020 - Latest Update

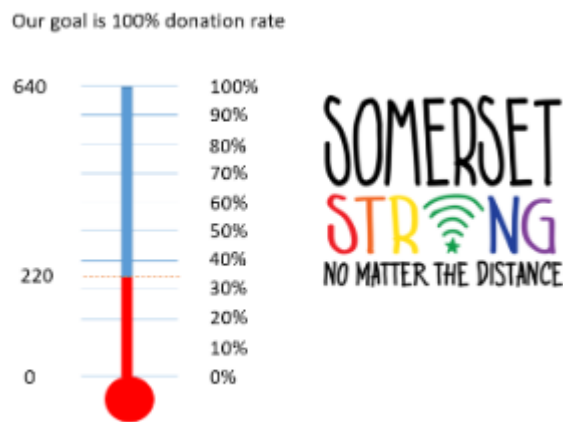
Thank you to all Somerset families who have already donated to the Fall Fundraising Drive. **We have already raised \$48,650 with 220 donations as of today.** We really appreciate all the donations have done but still encourage more donations, because your contribution – no matter the amount – makes a big difference to our children especially this year!

Your donations help to continue enabling Somerset Elementary a highly ranked public school that provides a rich education and supportive learning environment for all its students! Thank you for supporting your Somerset PTSA!



**Our principal will schedule a special assembly with the students in the grade that has the highest fundraising participation rate.**

Questions? For more information about our Fall Fundraising Drive please check out [here](#) or email us at [somersetpts@gmail.com](mailto:somersetpts@gmail.com)



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## Fall Fundraising Drive Donor List

Somerset ranks #1 elementary school in the Puget Sound region according to Puget Sound Business Journal. These achievements are attributed significantly to those generous families. We are collecting information of all families who participated in our 2020 Annual Fall Fundraising Drive and we would like to publicize a full donor list (adult names only) shortly. If you donated and wish to remain anonymous, please let us know: [somersetpts@gmail.com](mailto:somersetpts@gmail.com)

If you donated through your employer's internal donation link and wish to include your name in the list, please also let us know: [somersetpts@gmail.com](mailto:somersetpts@gmail.com). Please let us know your wish by Fri Nov 20th. The list of donors will be included in the eNews during the week of Nov 28th.

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Nov 18, 2020 | 7:00-8:15pm | Zoom Webinar

## *How to Raise Successful Kids Without Overparenting*

Julie Lythcott-Haims

### **Lecture from ParentWiser**

ParentWiser is hosting a lecture series for our student families to support parents in raising thriving individuals in Issaquah School District. They will be hosting a speech on **Nov 18, 2020 7:00- 8:15 pm**. The topic is about "How to Raise Successful Kids Without Overparenting". There are 15 seats for available for Somerset families. Tickets are available on [Eventbrite](#). \$10 donation is suggested for speech. Please visit <https://www.parentwiser.org/> for more information.

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### **Culture Exchange Program**

#### **Chinese Classical Dance Seminar**

Chinese classical dance schools can be roughly divided into three schools: the traditional opera body rhyme school, the Han-Tang dance school, and the Dunhuang dance school. We are honored to invite Chinese classical dancer Ju, Hao to give us a seminar introducing and performing "Thirty-six poses of the Dunhuang dance".

"Dunhuang Dance" was derived from the Dunhuang murals. It was the outcome of civilization integration between Central China and Western China at ancient Silk Road times. It integrates the dancing styles of Central China, Western China, and Dunhuang local area. The dance genre is charming, unique, classical, and beautiful.

Please check [Here](#) for dancer Ju, Hao's introduction.

Welcome to join us via zoom meeting at 11/7 11:00-11:30 am.

Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88122778655?>

[pwd=N1g4WVVVRcVh2THN0TVlWk05DNkROZz09](https://www.zoom.us/j/91982122000?pwd=N1g4WVVVRcVh2THN0TVlWk05DNkROZz09)

Meeting ID: 881 2277 8655

Passcode: 581215



## Reflections Program

Reflections is a National PTA arts recognition program that helps students explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful not only in school but in life. Somerset PTSA is proud to hold this reflection program for our Somerset students.

The theme for the 2020-2021 program year is **I Matter Because...** Students in kindergarten through grade 5 can submit their completed works of art in one, or all, of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts. This year because of COVID-19 we will have a virtual reflection submission for all arts.

For more information please click [Reflection Information for all Participants](#). The entries are due on **Nov 16th, 2020**.

Please do not register on the reflection website. Submit your students work with the [application form](#). For questions please contact Garima Agarwal at [somersetreflection2020@gmail.com](mailto:somersetreflection2020@gmail.com)



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## Picture Wanted

Calling all Somerset families, as Halloween is approaching, we invite all Somerset students to show us your creative costumes, from frightful to delightful or your pumpkin patch pics or anything you did recently and want to share with us! If you'd like to participate in Somerset autumn celebration, there are two ways to share with us your photos:

1. Email your photos to [communications.somersetpta@gmail.com](mailto:communications.somersetpta@gmail.com). We will accept photo submissions through **Monday, Nov 2nd**.
2. Post your photos on your school Facebook group.

We hope you join in the fun, and look forward to seeing your photos!



## PTSA Co-Treasurer Recruit

Somerset families, we are looking for someone that can take the co-treasurer role in our PTSA executive committee. This is a great way to stay connected with your student, fellow families, and the school. If you are interested and want to serve PTSA and the whole Somerset families, please shoot us an email at [somersetpta@gmail.com](mailto:somersetpta@gmail.com). No experience is necessary.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Principal Birthday Lunches



October Birthday lunch celebration will be on Oct 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, the Monday prior. If you don't receive an invitation, please reach out to [embayer@bsd405.org](mailto:embayer@bsd405.org). Each session includes an opportunity for students to share something exciting about birthdays, a quick art project and a short story. You may refer to the table below for specific dates.



Oct 27 - October  
Nov 24 - November  
Dec 15 - December  
Jan 26 - January  
Feb 23 - February  
Mar 30 - March  
Apr 27 - April  
May 25 - May  
Jun 15 - June & July

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## Virtual Principal/Parent Connect

Our principal is planning opportunities for parents, in grade level bands, to meet. These sessions will occur the first Thursday of each month beginning in October. This is an opportunity for a live interaction and to strengthen our family partnerships. **They will send a Teams invite link prior to the scheduled dates and hope you can join them!**

**First Thursday of each month thru Teams**

**November 5, December 3**

**9:00 – 9:45     Grades 4 & 5**

**10:00 – 10:45   Grades K and 1**

**11:00 – 11:45   Grades 2 and 3**

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## School Spirit Day



Somerset's first school spirit day is coming soon! [Tuesday, November 10](#), is "Red, White, and Blue Day" at Somerset.

Students, don't forget to wear your patriotic colors to honor our nation's veterans. The class that has the greatest percentage of participants wearing red, white, and blue will win a prize and be featured in the assembly announcements.

## BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

### Bellevue Schools Foundation Fall Campaign Update

The Bellevue Schools Foundation's Annual Clickathon event will be held October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. All donations over \$100 made on these two days will be matched 1:1. Our goal is to raise \$350,000 from parents like YOU. Public funding is not enough to fund the exceptional programming that makes Bellevue Schools the best in the Nation. Donate [Here](#) or at [BellevueSchoolsFoundation.org](#) to fund the following programs in our schools:

- Training for 40+ additional counselors to address student stress, anxiety and depression;
- Training for teachers to integrate cutting-edge Computer Science curriculum in every classroom;
- Libraries in our 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms with characters and narratives that reflect our District's global culture;
- Family Connection Centers, currently serving over 600 families and 2600 students a week;



- And more!

Donations of any size from \$5 to \$5000 are greatly appreciated! YOU can make a difference for students in all 29 Bellevue Schools.

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## **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](#).

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## **Broad In-person Learning Delayed Until January**

In this week's health trends update, BSD is announcing the postponement of our broader return to in-person learning for both our elementary and secondary students until January.

- Elementary students will only be brought back for broad in-person learning in January, following Winter Break. Any decision at that time will be subject to review of the health data conditions for King County.
- Secondary students will only be brought back for broad in-person learning for the second semester of the school year. Any decision at that time will be subject to review of the health data conditions for King County.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **International School POINSETTIA & WREATH SALE**

The Class of 2021 of the International School in Bellevue is holding their traditional annual fundraiser by selling beautiful Poinsettias and Wreaths to fund their graduation activities in June 2021. These are lovely plants for Squak Mountain Nursery in Issaquah and are a nice décor – especially this year, when most of us will stay at home for the holidays.

**Poinsettias (Red, Pink, White) are \$15**



**Wreaths (24" Mixed Noble) are \$25**



**Order Poinsettias and Wreaths please use this [order form](#)**

**Deadline for orders: Thursday, November 5**

**Plant Pickup: Tuesday, November 24 at International School (pickup will be organized as a save drive-through, morning and late afternoon pickup times to be announced)**

**[The International School Class of 2021 thanks you for your support!](#)**

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## **Eyesight Protection for Kids**

Rest assured that the screen itself isn't causing eye damage, but holding any object too close to your face, whether a tablet or a book, has been linked to an increase in myopia or nearsightedness. To reduce the risk, have your kid keep their device at least 18 to 24 inches away and stick to the 20-20-20 rule. "This means that every 20 minutes, you take a 20-second break to look 20 feet away," This resets the eyes' focusing muscles and helps ward off fatigue and strain. Then get outside. It's been shown as one of the most helpful

ways to slow nearsightedness in kids as young as 5, so take a trip to the playground or simply stare up at the clouds.

And remind your kid to blink! Eyes rely on this motion to pump out tears, which lubricate their surface. But when looking at a screen, our blink rate decreases from about 40 blinks a minute to only about eight. You can try to have your kids use artificial-tear eye drops before a distance-learning session.

Information above is taken from <https://www.parents.com/health/eyes/could-more-screen-time-be-causing-more-vision-problems-in-kids/>.

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## Directory / Links

### Executive Committee

President: Sandhiya Kalyanasundaram

Secretary: Sandy Zhang

VP Programs: Andrea Wohlan

Co-VP Ways&Means: Yan Zhou & Yuki Yang

Co-VP Communications: Demi Wang & Peggy Wang

Treasurer: Xiaohong Quan

Somerset PTSA

Email: [Somersetpta@gmail.com](mailto:Somersetpta@gmail.com)

Newsletter

Submission: [Somersetpta@gmail.com](mailto:Somersetpta@gmail.com)

[Somerset PTSA Website](#)

[Somerset PTSA BOD Meeting Minutes](#)

[Somerset Elementary School Website](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)



Shop at Amazon log in [HERE](#) and select 'Somerset Elementary PTSA' and Amazon Smile donates to Somerset PTSA. Or click <https://smile.amazon.com> for your purchase.

Or install the Amazon app onto your phone. In the main menu of app(=), find 'Settings'. tap on 'Amazon Smile' and follow the instructions to turn on Amazon Smile

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our PTSA. Thank you very much for supporting our school and PTSA.



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**Our mailing address is:**

14100 Somerset Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

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