

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 / School Calendar - Important Dates and Events

Sunday, Mar 7 - PTSA Goodwill Drive 2-5pm

Tuesday, Mar 9 - Lifetouch Picture Picking up 9:30-10am & 1:30-2pm

Tuesday, Mar 9 - Indian Classical Music Seminar 5:30-6:30pm

Wednesday, Mar 10, Mar 17 & Mar 24 - Library Books Pick-up

Thursday, Mar 11 - Lifetouch Picture Picking up 9:30-10am & 1:30-2pm

Friday, Mar 19 - School Day/Make up day from January 25th

Wednesday, Mar 24 - March Birthday with Principals 12:30-1pm

Wednesday, Mar 24 - Parenthood Development Talk 6-7pm

Friday, Mar 26 - School Spirit Day/Sport's Day

Wednesday, Mar 31 - Picture Retake 12-4pm

View PTSA Full Calendar

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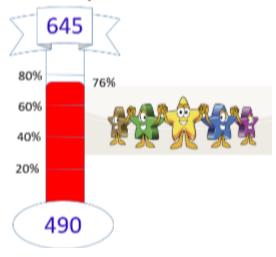
## **PTSA NEWS**

# Help Needed for Our PTSA to Retain Award

PTSA membership is an investment in your child's future. The more members we have, the louder our PTSA voice will be in advocating for our children with local and state legislature. As a PTSA member you have access to many membership benefits, click <a href="Here">Here</a> for benefits detail.

We are an award winning PTSA and have earned the 100% membership award from WSPTA three years in a row. Your participation is vital to retain this award. There are currently 490 members this year, which are 76% of our total families. We need your help to reach our 100% membership goal. Please <u>Join</u> or <u>Renew</u> your membership now!

# **Membership Goal**



Congratulations to Somerset Elementary PTSA for earning the 100% Staff Membership Award for 2020-2021!





## **PTSA Goodwill Drive**

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. If you have any question please email to <a href="mailto:somersetptsa@gmail.com">somersetptsa@gmail.com</a>



**Indian Classical Music Seminar** 

The roots of Indian classical music are found in the ancient Vedic literature in Sanskrit language (Samaveda-C1000BCE).

The 7 notes (Saptaswaras) Sa,Ri,Ga,Ma,Pa,Da,Ni of the octave is the ancient Indian concept about the complete dimension of musical pitch. These are also equivalent of Do,Re,Mi,Fa,So,La,Ti.

Indian classical music has 2 fundamental elements, raga & tala. Raga (mode) is the melodic structure of the notes/swaras. Tala (Rhythm) is the time cycle measure.

Out of 2 major traditions of Indian classical music, the South Indian expression is called Carnatic, the performances of which are tend to be short composition based.

One variety of these short compositions are Nottuswarams, composed with Sanskrit lyrics by Muthuswami Dikshitar (18th century), who is celebrated as one among the Trinity of carnatic music. Nottuswarams are notable as an interaction between the East & the West, being based on western sources, mostly simple melodies, like Rhymes.

Our Indian classical music seminar will be hosted by <u>Srivalli Garimella</u>. <u>Srivalli Garimella</u>. <u>Srivalli Garimella</u> ompleted her undergrad in Indian classical music-carnatic music vocal, and is currently perusing her Master degree. She also teaches music online.

Time: Tuesday, 3/9 at 5:30 pm-6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/

Meeting ID: 843 5162 6203

Passcode: 387208

# **Lifetouch Pictures Pick Up**

If you pre-ordered pictures, your Lifetouch pictures packets are ready for pick up.

Please come to school and pick them up on Tuesday, March 9th and Thursday, March 11thbetween 9:30-10am and 1:30-2pm. Please drive up through the school drop off zone and stay in your car. Your pictures will be handed to you.

Pictures of students in the hybrid classes in Kindergarten through 2nd grade will be sent home with your students. Should you have another student in grades 3-5, his/her packet will be added to the younger sibling's packet. In case we missed any siblings, please come by to pick up.

Retake picture day is scheduled for March 31st. If you are not satisfied with your student's picture please make sure to return the complete picture packet on retake day. If you didn't have your student's picture taken on picture day you are welcome to come to retake day.

Please email somersetptsa@gmail.com for any questions.

# **Picture Retake Day**

Picture Retake Day with Lifetouch is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

Registration: Please sign up for a slot using the sign up genius link <u>HERE</u> Please be certain to put your child's name/teacher/grade in the comments.

Ordering: We encourage families to pre-order pictures online https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch using code EVTZC2T6G .

Location: Somerset Elementary School (under the covered basketball area outside, in the back of the school)

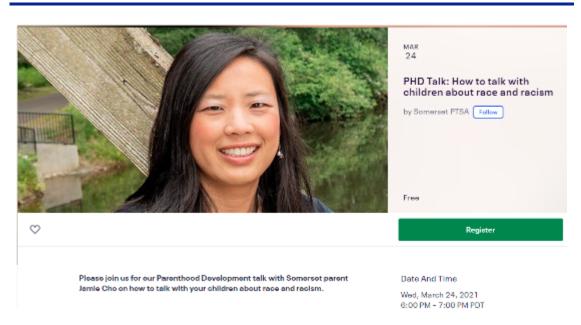
Safety Protocols: We thank you in advance for following these:

- This will be an outside event. Dress for the weather.
- Students may be accompanied by 1 parent only. We ask that students go straight to
  the picture-taking area near the playground in the back of the school, following
  physical/social distancing guidelines. Staff will be available to assist students
  through the line. When your student has taken their picture, we ask that you do not
  stay on the school grounds/playground.
- All students and staff will be masked at all times—except for the short time that the student removes the mask to take a picture.
- · Physical distancing is required.

Please note that students are not required to attend/participate. For any families that do not feel comfortable participating, 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 15<sup>th</sup>.



# **Parenthood Development Talk**

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.

This event will be held online Mar 24th 6-7 pm. Please register <u>HERE</u> if you want to join this event.



# **Passport Club**

Thank you to all the wonderful students who participated in the February passport check. If you didn't get a chance, the material for February is still available on our website. The maps and instructions for March have been posted. Please click <a href="here">here</a> for more information. Try to complete it before the end of the month!

Thank you for supporting Passport Club!

# **Reflection Update**

The Somerset PTSA is proud to announce that two of our outstanding students have been awarded at the council .

**Daniel Chang** received outstanding interpretation for Flowers and Birds in Visual arts **Hanhui Mei** received outstanding interpretations for I matter because I am a kind person.

Outstanding Interpretation award winners will be moving up to state. Good luck on the further journey!!!



This year WSPTA council is not having a reflection show. They were coming out with a YouTube video for all the kids who won the awards and moved up to state.

# **Questions/Answers Regarding Transition to Middle School**

To help the fourth and fifth grade students transition to middle schools, we collected questions from Somerset parents and students. Below is our collective answers for those questions. We hope you can get useful information from those answers.

Questions/Answers Regarding Transition to Middle School



- Builds camaraderie and lifelong friendships
- Develops leadership skills through cooperation and teamwork
- Creates a sense of belonging through social interaction
- Helps with discipline, patience, persistence and self-esteem
- Provides an opportunity for parents and children to bond together

non-profit organization committed to enriching the lives of our boys and girls and fostering a love of the game by providing a fun and safe environment in which to play competitive baseball and soft bull, regardless of a claver's ability.

www.BellevueThunderbird.com or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bellevuethunderbird

## Play & Compete. Grow & Connect. Building tomorrow's future one inning at a time.

The Believes School District does not oppose not recidence this exect and/or information, not does the district assume responsibility for it. In consideration of the privilege to destinate involves, the beddesse school Destrict III to the other involves assume of open in a seaso of option their name of open involves assumed to send option option of the distriction of these materials in backets open accurate his and addresses or present.

# Registration for Thunderbird Little League and Giving back Last Week!!

Bellevue Thunderbird Little League is a long standing community based program that offers softball and baseball. The league focuses on providing equal playing time for our kids, allowing them to enjoy the sport and move around all the positions. Typically, there are 2 games a week and locations are nearly by.

Thunderbird little league offers programs for ages 5-14. We have a great opportunity to work with Thunderbird Little League. This is last week for registration. Click <u>Registration Link</u> for registration. Somerset PTSA will receive give back from Little League for each registration from Somerset student.

Click <u>Here</u> for detail registration information and COVID Safety Program Points. More information can be found on their <u>Website</u>. If you any question please send questions to:<u>info@bellevuethunderbird.com</u>.



# **March Spirit Day - Sports Day**

Somerset's March spirit day will be Sports Day! It will take place on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Wear gear from your favorite sport, club, or activity. The Somerset class that has the greatest percentage of participants dressed in sports gear will be featured in the assembly announcements and win a fun prize. Have fun and show your school spirit!

# **Somerset Superstar Mid-Winter Break Story**



This video shows how Somerset superstars spend their mid-winter break. Enjoy!



## **Back to School Kids Mask Drive**

Somerset families, with school buildings open to more students, students' safety and health are our top priorities. We ask parents to put extra masks in the backpacks of their children in case of a replacement is needed.

In addition, we welcome families to donate kids size masks and hand sanitizer to our school. You can drop them off at the front office during school hours. Thank you for your help.

## **SCHOOL NEWS**



**Jubilee Reach Donation Drive** 

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused untold suffering for millions of families across America. Right here in our own Bellevue community, many families have struggled to make ends meet. The financial toll of the pandemic shutdown has made securing food and essential hygiene items increasingly difficult for many families in Bellevue. As a result, more families face food insecurity and a lack of needed household items each day. We can make a difference here at Somerset. All through the month of March (March 3rd-30th), the Somerset Student Council will sponsor a drive to collect donations of groceries and hygiene items to help Jubilee REACH assist Bellevue families in need. Please consider donating the following items to help needy families in our community.

- Diapers, size newborn & size 1 to 6
- Paper Towels
- Cooking oil (large size only)
- Bulk rice
- Bulk pinto beans
- Quart size zip-lock bags & Gallon size zip-lock bags
- Laundry soap, pods
- Dish soap
- Cat food & Cat litter
- Dog food

You can bring your donation in to the Somerset office during school hours on Wednesday or Friday. You can also drop donations from 9:30 - 11:00 or 1:30 - 3:00 on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday. Thank you so much for your support!

## Free and Reduced-Price Lunch

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: <a href="https://bsd405.org/services/nutrition-services/free-reduced/">https://bsd405.org/services/nutrition-services/free-reduced/</a>

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.

#### 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: <a href="https://bsd405.org/services/nutrition-services/free-reduced/">https://bsd405.org/services/nutrition-services/free-reduced/</a>

¿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.

#### 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)

Please feel free to reach out to Shannon Gregory at <u>gregorys@bsd405.org</u> if you would like me to health with either the application or an address change.

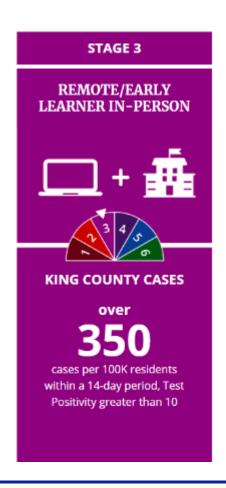
## BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

## **Back to Buildings Update**

Bellevue School District has a plan to have students and staff safely return to buildings over the course of <u>six stages</u>. These stages are based on public health guidelines. We are currently in <u>Stage 3</u>: <u>Remote Learning</u>. Families will receive at least two weeks' notice of progression to a new stage.

As of March 1, there are <u>89 positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people in King County in the past 14 days</u>. This represents a significant decline since the peak of 460 cases per 100,000 in mid-December.

Learn more at https://bsd405.org/BacktoBuildings





# **Spring for School Fundraising**

Please join Bellevue Schools Foundation's first virtual <u>Spring for Schools</u> event on Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. <u>Spring for Schools</u> is the Foundation's largest fundraiser and our students need your support now more than ever.

Bellevue Schools Foundation provides critical resources for our district and students, positioning BSD at the forefront of education with new tools including but not limited to:

- · Lightbox eBooks subscriptions for all Elementary students
- Digital Makers for all Middle School students to create engaging web content
- Music software apps designed to help all Secondary students practice independently during remote learning
- Emergency Covid-19 support of food and hygiene items for our students and families through the Family Connection Centers.

Our theme this year is *Engaging Hearts, Enriching Minds*. Our 30-minute engaging *Spring for Schools* program will showcase initiatives that help students with social/emotional health and wellness and programs that interject joy into the online learning process.

Please join us and our special keynote speaker and local celebrity, Duff McKagan, founding member and bassist from Guns 'N Roses, who will be sharing, through personal stories, why your support is so vital to our students.

We appreciate your continued support of our students.

## 2021-2022 BSD Enrollment Information

#### New Student Enrollment

BSD will begin new student enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year on March 1 and will enroll new students through the spring and summer. If you have a student who will be new to the district, please visit our <u>enrollment webpage</u> after March 1.

For more information about kindergarten, please visit our kindergarten webpage.

#### Change of Addresses

All families are required to update the District of a new address within 5 days of moving. It is important that the district have correct addresses for all students so that families receive mailings from the district and in the event of an emergency. To update your address, please download and complete a <u>Change of Address form</u> and send it, along with residency documents, to <u>SPResidency@bsd405.org</u>.

For students currently enrolled in a BSD school, they will be automatically enrolled in the next grade level and no action is needed.



## **Family Engagement Survey**

The Bellevue School District is conducting a <u>survey on family engagement</u> in order to strengthen relationships between schools and families.

The survey opened on February 23, 2021. Families will receive an email and a unique survey link for each school where they have a student enrolled, which means they may receive multiple surveys. The survey is available in multiple languages. To ensure your participation there are only twelve (12) brief questions on the survey. please visit our frequently asked questions page for your questions.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**



# **Red Cross Training Hosted by Bennett PTSA**

Join us on March 9 at 7 pm for a free Emergency Preparedness Online Workshop presented by the Red Cross and hosted by Bennett PTSA.

Join millions across the country who feel safe because they can say, "I am Red Cross Ready". Being Red Cross Ready means you knowing what to do and how to stay safe in the event of an emergency. It's important to prepare for possible emergencies because they can strike suddenly and violently at any time and any place.

In this presentation, trained Red Cross subject matter experts present basic preparedness information including how to make or build a preparedness kit, make an emergency plan with your family and learn what to do before, during, and after disasters of all kinds, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Register for FREE here



## **Interlake Key Club Free Art Program**

Interlake Key Club Project Committee is offering a virtual fun and creative art session called Krafts for Kids for students ages 7-10. They will learn to make 3 unique crafts over a period of 3 consecutive Fridays (March 19th, March 26th, and April 2nd). We will be handing out Kraft Kits with some craft materials prior to the first session. This program is free but registration is required. Registration will be first come first serve so sign up soon! The link to register is <a href="https://forms.gle/">https://forms.gle/</a>

## **Tales of Quarantine**

Mission InspirEd's upcoming event is the Tales of Quarantine, a free nationwide initiative challenging students ages 6-18 to showcase COVID's impact through a wide variety of artistic expressions. The competition will span from February 22nd through March 21st and cover three categories of art: Media, Visual, and Writing. Students are encouraged to submit an original piece of artwork that showcases their creativity and skills, and can win up to \$1,000 and be featured on Learn more the news. atmissioninspired.org/toq! View attached flyer for more information.



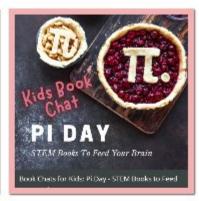


## **Free Weekend Chess Lessons**

<u>425 Kids Chess</u>, a WA non-profit run by BSD high school and middle school students, is providing weekly free chess lessons starting <u>March 21st</u>. Chess is a fun, creative activity that teaches patience and critical thinking skills. These lessons are for beginners of all ages, teaching them openings, endgames, tactics, and more!

Learn more and register at: <u>425kidschess.com</u>. Feel free to contact us at: <u>425kidschess@gmail.com</u>









## **Book Talks for kids**

Free Library online event series for kids. Join Children's librarians from King County to celebrate books! Talk about your favorite books and do fun activities. Leave with a screen-free activity to do after the session. Registration is required. Please use this <u>Link</u> to sign up.

- March 11: Pi Day-STEM Books to Feed Your Brain
- March 18: Resilient and Resourceful During Wartime
- March 25: The Verse is Yet to Come

#### **WSPTA & National PTA NEWS**

# Remake Learning Parent Webinar Series

Join Learning Heroes and Remake Learning Days Across America on March 16, 2021, at 7pm for "Finding Balance: Ideas and Resources for Working Parents During Virtual Learning". This webinar will showcase parents and parent advocates coming together to share what new strategies families can incorporate into their daily routines to continue surviving and thriving during the pandemic and beyond.





- 2021 Focus on Advocacy March 1 Report blog post.
- The issue handouts can be found on the <u>Advocacy webpage</u>. These are great to use when speaking with your legislators, school board members, etc.
- Short education videos on the issues are also being created and can be found in the <u>Advocacy 2021 Session YouTube playlist</u> and under the specific issue dropdowns on the Advocacy page.
- Check out the <u>Focus on Advocacy webpage</u> for special resources available for your advocacy efforts, including a new infographic encapsulating the WSPTA legislative priorities into one terrific visual.

## **Directory / Links**

#### **Executive Committee**

President: Harry(Qinghui) Liu & Yuki

Yang

Secretary: Sandy Zhang

VP Programs: Andrea Wohlan

Ways&Means: Yan Zhou

Co-VP Communications: Demi Wang

& Peggy Wang

Treasurer: Xiaohong Quan & Lily Zhu

#### Somerset PTSA

Email:Somersetptsa@gmail.com

Newsletter

Submission: Somersetptsa@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 <a href="https://smile.amazon.com">https://smile.amazon.com</a> 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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