

Mar 13th, 2021

Unit # 020573

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*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

Wednesday, Mar 17 & Mar 24 - Library Books Pick-up  
Friday, Mar 19 - School Day/Make up day from January 25th  
Monday, Mar 22 - 4th Grade Back to School  
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  
Monday, Mar 29 - 3rd Grade Back to School  
Wednesday, Mar 31 - Picture Retake 12- 4pm  
Monday, Apr 5 - 5th Grade Back to School

[View PTSA Full Calendar](#)

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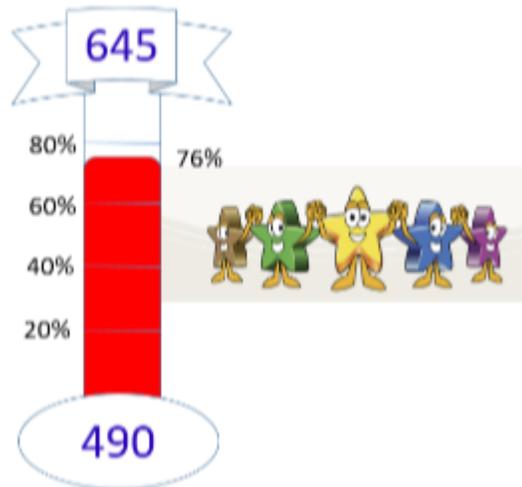
## PTSA NEWS

### 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 [Here](#) 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 [Join](#) or [Renew](#) your membership now!

## Membership Goal



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

**Thank you for making membership a priority in 2020-2021!**

**Each member adds strength to the voices advocating for every child.**

**Congratulations on your membership growth award!**

Washington State  
**PTA**

Washington State  
**PTA**



MAR 24

**PHD Talk: How to talk with children about race and racism**

by Somerset PTSA [Follow](#)

Free

[Register](#)

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

Date And Time  
Wed, March 24, 2021  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PDT

## 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 [HERE](#) if you want to join this event.

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## Lifetouch Pictures Pick up

After last week's picture picking up, we still have some picture packages left. For the left picture packages:

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade photos will be sent home on [Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>](#)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade photos will be sent home on the [Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>](#)
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes and all virtual classes can stop by the office window for photos.

Sibling photos will be sent home with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders on the [22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>](#).

The office will be available to hand out photos on [Mon, Tue, Thurs or Friday @ 9:15-11AM or 1:15-3PM](#)

We will **not** have 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade photos available at the window as they have already been distributed to the teachers.

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## 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 [HERE](#) 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](mailto:yearbooks.somerset@gmail.com) by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## Indian Classical Music Seminar Recap

It was wonderful to see many students and families attending this event as we learned about the roots of Indian classical music. Srivalli Garimella, a Somerset resident and disciple of Mrs. Haripriya of the legendary Lalitha/Haripriya duo, and her talented students from near and far lead us through an hour of Indian classical music as we learned about the ancient Indian concept of the complete dimension of the musical pitch. If you have any question or you would like to know more about Indian classic music, feel free to contact Srivalli via [sharadacarnaticvocal@gmail.com](mailto:sharadacarnaticvocal@gmail.com).

Families who missed the Indian Classical Music event are invited to watch the recording [here](#)

With this event we conclude our program of "building community through cultural exchange" for this school year. If you would like to showcase your culture and talent, please email [somersetpts@gmail.com](mailto:somersetpts@gmail.com).



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## PTSA Goodwill Drive Recap

Our first Somerset PTSA Goodwill Drive was a huge success. We are so grateful to have so many donations from our Somerset families and communities. We are also very grateful to our hard-working volunteers. You all made this successful event happen.

Our two Goodwill trucks were full of donations in 1.5 hours. We did not expect such a huge volume of donations. We are very proud of our Somerset families and communities. The trucks were filled so quickly that some families did not get a chance to drop off their donation items. Thanks to those families' patience and understanding. Next time we will definitely make it better.

Big thanks to our Somerset families from your PTSA! Please continuously support Somerset PTSA. Thanks to our Goodwill Drive volunteers:

Liliana Castle  
 Jackson Castle  
 Matthew Zhuo  
 Jerry Li  
 Irene Cai  
 Renee Fang  
 Claire Fang  
 Jasmine Liu  
 Justin He

Jonathan Zheng  
 Yan He  
 Claire Wang  
 William Dai  
 Sydney Guo  
 Sylvia Wang  
 Lisa Liu  
 Andrea Wohlan  
 Harry Liu

Min Chen  
 Justin Liu  
 Austin Liu  
 Huan Guo  
 Sandy Zhang  
 Edward Huang  
 Dengyao Mo  
 Yan Zhou  
 Peggy Wang

## 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](#)

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### **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!

### **SCHOOL NEWS**

#### **3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Back to School Date**

We are excited to welcome students and staff for in-person learning in a half day cohort model with the following staggered start dates:

- 4th Grade: [Monday, March 22](#)
- 3rd Grade: [Monday March 29](#)
- 5th Grade: [Monday, April 5](#)

To provide time for teachers to prepare their classrooms and lessons, the Thursday and Friday prior to a grade band start date, students will receive asynchronous learning plans from their teacher. Important information about our health and safety protocols and school procedures will follow. Families will be notified of their child's am/pm assignment within the next week.

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## 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.

- *Baby wipes*
- *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!

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## 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: <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.

### 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.

### **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 [gregorys@bsd405.org](mailto:gregorys@bsd405.org) if you would like me to health with either the application or an address change.

## BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

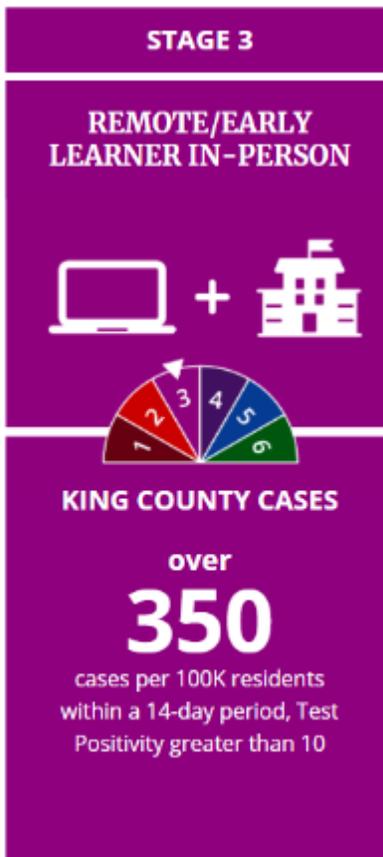
### Back to Buildings Update

Bellevue School District has a plan to have students and staff safely return to buildings over the course of [six stages](#). These stages are based on public health guidelines.

Infection rates have continued to drop over this past week reaching 90 cases for the last 14 days per 100,000 people in King County. A rate not seen since early last October. King County peaked at 460 cases for the last 14 days per 100,000 people in mid-December. Since then, the rates have consistently declined.

[We are currently in Stage 3: Remote Learning.](#)

As of March 9, there are [84 positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people in King County in the past 14 days.](#)



**Spring for School Fundraising**

Please join Bellevue Schools Foundation's first virtual [Spring for Schools](#) event on **Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 12pm**. [Spring for Schools](#) 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.

Please register online at [www.SpringForSchools.com](http://www.SpringForSchools.com). Since our event is virtual this year, you can join us from wherever you happen to be. If you are not able to make it to [Spring for Schools](#), please consider [making a donation online](#).

We appreciate your continued support of our students.

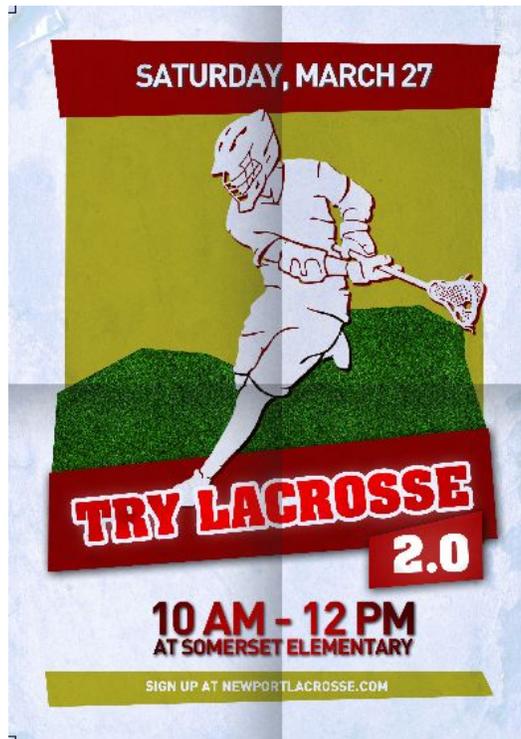
## COMMUNITY NEWS

### BACK BY POPULAR

### DEMAND ... Somerset's Free Sport Event on Sat. 3/27

Over 50 families came out to enjoy the sport of Lacrosse on Feb. 27th. The Somerset PTSA is pleased to host another free outdoor activity for K-5 students in cooperation with Newport Lacrosse. Gather your friends, bring a mask, and come play Lacrosse on [Saturday Mar. 27th from 10am-12pm](#) at

the Somerset Soccer Field. No experience or equipment is necessary. Coaches will be on hand to lead the kids in fun and games. Please register through [newportlacrosse.com](http://newportlacrosse.com).





UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

## UW Summer Youth Programs

### UW Summer Registration is Open

UW Summer Youth Programs is excited to announce remote enrichment courses for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who want to keep learning over summer break.

- Debate for Kids
- Explore the Ecosystems of Washington State

Visit UW [website](#) for registration information and course details!



### Seeking Tye PTSA Elected Officers for 2021-22

The PTSA Nominating Committee is actively seeking candidates for the positions of Elected PTSA Officers for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. We are looking for volunteers to build a great team at Tye for next year!

The elected officer positions that comprise our Tye PTSA Executive Committee are as follows: (Most positions may be filled by 1-2 candidates). The job descriptions for each position can be found [Here](#).

- President
- Co-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Vice President – Ways & Means (Fundraising)
- Vice-President – Programs (Clubs/Activities)
- Vice President – Communications

If you know of anyone who is interested and is willing to dedicate some of their time for a great cause... our students, staff & community, we would love to know! Or if you would like to be considered yourself, please take the time to share your name with us through the [online form](#).



## 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 <https://forms.gle/>

## 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 the news. Learn more at [missioninspired.org/toq](https://missioninspired.org/toq)! View attached flyer for more information.

The flyer is purple with white and yellow text. At the top, it says 'TALES OF QUARANTINE' in large white letters, followed by 'A CREATIVE INITIATIVE FOR AGES 6-18' in yellow. Below that, it says 'Showcase COVID's impact through a variety of artistic expressions, from poetry to film to →' in white. To the right, it says 'WIN \$1000+' in white, with 'Get featured in a 360 interactive gallery, the news, &amp; more!' in yellow below it. At the bottom, it says 'SUBMIT YOUR TALES FROM 2/22-3/21. VISIT: missioninspired.org/toq' in white. The illustration shows three people wearing face masks: a woman on the left holding a paintbrush, a woman in the middle with her hands raised, and a man on the right with a camera on a tripod.



## Free Weekend Chess Lessons

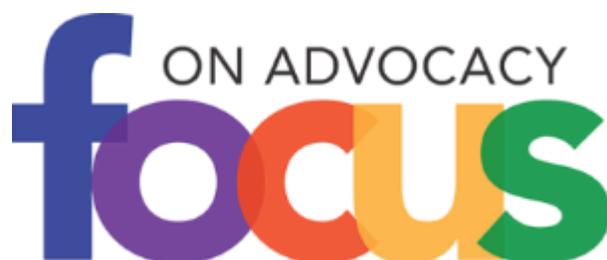
[425 Kids Chess](https://www.425kidschess.com), a WA non-profit run by BSD high school and middle school students, is providing weekly free chess lessons starting **March 21st**. Chess is a fun, creative activity that teaches patience and critical thinking skills. These lessons are for beginners of all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

Learn more and register at: [425kidschess.com](https://www.425kidschess.com). Feel free to contact us at: [425kidschess@gmail.com](mailto:425kidschess@gmail.com)

## 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 8 Report blog post.](#)
- The issue handouts can be found on the [Advocacy webpage](#). 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 [Advocacy 2021 Session YouTube playlist](#) and under the specific issue dropdowns on the Advocacy page.
- Check out the [Focus on Advocacy webpage](#) for special resources available for your advocacy efforts, including a new infographic encapsulating the WSPTA legislative priorities into one terrific visual.

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## Current and Timely WSPTA Discounts

Membership Take advantage of these discount offers:

- Great Wolf Lodge - 30% off. Learn about the health and safety policy.
- TrophyCentral.com - 10% off.
- The Real Leather Company - save \$15 off any bag.
- Obscure Belts - 10% off any leather belt.
- Tickets at Work - new discounts for staying at home or working from home.
- LEGO® Bag - 20% discount on LEGO® Bag products.
- FedEx Office - special rates for printing.
- CanvasDiscount.com - save up to 15% on your order.
- Office Depot/Office Max - savings on school supplies, office products, technology, furniture, and print.

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### 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



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

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

Newsletter

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

[Somerset PTSA Website](#)

[Somerset PTSA BOD Meeting Minutes](#)

[Somerset Elementary School Website](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

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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BELLEVUE  
PTSA COUNCIL

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**Our mailing address is:**

14100 Somerset Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

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