



*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

Wednesday, Sep 23th - Curriculum Night Presentation

Wednesday, Sep 23th 5:30-6:30 pm - Family Forum for Multilingual Learners

Thursday, Sep 24th 7:30-8:30 pm - Math Circle Orientation

Friday, Sep 25th 12:30-1:00 pm - Principal Birthday Lunch (August Birthday)

Friday, Sep 25th 4:00-6:00 pm - Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, Sep 29th 12:30-1:00 pm - Principal Birthday Lunch (September Birthday)

Thursday, Oct 1st 9:00-11:00 am Virtual Principal/Parent Connect

### Welcome Back-to-School Ice Cream Social Walk-by

Friday, September 25th from 4:00 - 6:00pm

Please come to our PTSA "Welcome Back-to-School Ice Cream Social walk-by" at Somerset Elementary. We will give out ice cream to everyone who presents an ice cream ticket. Please print your ice cream ticket at home following this [LINK](#) or this [LINK](#), depending on the number of tickets you need.

The ice cream will be handed out in the teacher parking lot. Look out for the Fun Times Ice Cream Truck. For safety purposes we're asking families to stop by at their designated time, based on the student's last name. Please wear a mask. We are excited to see you



again!

**A-F 4:00 - 4:30pm**

**G-L 4:30 - 5:00pm**

**M-S 5:00 - 5:30pm**

**T-Z 5:30 - 6:00pm**

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## **Fall Fundraising Drive 2020 - Latest Update**

We officially started the Fall Fundraising Drive 2020 on 09/10/2020. After only one week of fundraising, we have already raised **\$31085**. Thank you to all Somerset families who have already donated to the Fall Fundraising Drive. Please keep giving to make us reach the goal for 100% donation rate and make our community stronger.

We invite all families to participate in this campaign, because your contribution—no matter the amount—makes a big difference to our children especially this year!

**OUR CHILDREN ARE COUNTING ON US.**



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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## Join Somerset PTSA

A 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. Our kids are worth the investment and a strong PTSA illustrates our community support to our school and children. Additionally your Memberships ensures that you will receive our PTSA eNews weekly. Certain PTSA activities, such as Chess Club requires a PTSA membership. 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. *Join us now!*

Please click [here](#) to join or renew your membership!

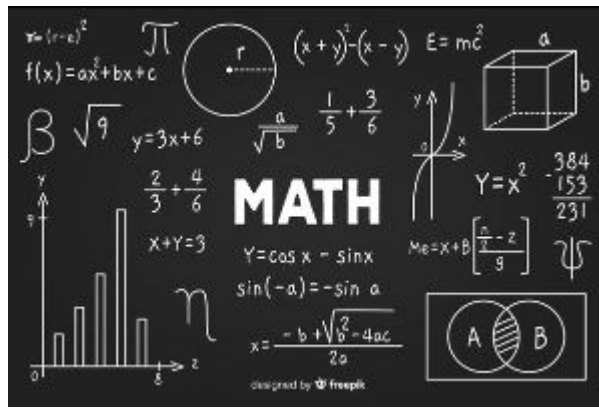
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## After School Activity Information

Following up on our last week's information about after school programs we wanted to highlight that the **after-school programs in the Community News** section are run by outside vendors and are NOT sponsored by the PTSA. As a service to the community, the PTSA publicizes these programs in the eNews. In addition to these outside vendor-run programs, Somerset Elementary School will run some clubs after school.

This school year there are two types of after-school activities:

1. Those run by our PTSA: **Chess Club and Math Circle**. These clubs are heavily dependent on parent volunteers and PTSA membership is required to register. These activities will be announced in the PTSA News section.
  2. Those run by outside vendors: **Debate and Drama**. All registrations and payments are handled by the vendor directly. They are not covered by our insurance. These after school activities will run virtual for the foreseeable future.
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# 2020 Math Circle Orientation

Greetings from the Math Circle Club at Somerset and welcome back to school! We are excited to announce that MC is kicking off this year's activities with the upcoming orientation and club registration. Please join us to hear our plan for the year, ask questions, share your thoughts, and meet our wonderful team of volunteers. We look forward to seeing you!

Topic: Math Circle Orientation

Time: Thursday Sep 24, 2020 07:30 - 08:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/8406972884>

Meeting ID: 840 697 2884

## One tap mobile

+12063379723,,8406972884# US (Seattle)

+12532158782,,8406972884# US (Tacoma)

**Math circle registration will be open on Sep 25th 2020 10:00 am.**

**Registration link:** <http://somerseptsa.org/Page/Events/Math%20Circle>



## Somerset Chess Club Registration

Chess is excellent at teaching kids mental discipline, to look at all their options, to compete under time pressure, to play fair, to learn that mistakes have consequences, to not give up when behind, and to learn many more important life lessons.

Somerset's Chess Club has consistently performed well in state tournaments, this year tying for first place in Washington State! Students in grades K through 5 are invited to join the online club, conducted by returning Coaches Brad and Tim.

On Mondays, Session I with Coach Brad will be a Beginner class, and Session II with Coach Tim will be an Advanced class. On Tuesdays, Session I and II will both be for Intermediate players.

All sessions are scheduled from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Depending on demand, a third session may be added at 5:10pm to accommodate the overflow.

The tuition rate is \$320 (reduced due to online format), which includes: 25 chess club sessions and a Gold membership for the ChessKid website. PTSA membership is required for registration.

Registered students will be divided into Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced classes by the coaches. If your child is not an absolute beginner, the coaches are happy to do a short 1:1 video call with parents to assess ability before enrollment, they can be contacted directly at the [theallaboutschoool@gmail.com](mailto:theallaboutschoool@gmail.com).

For more information on meeting dates, class format, chess coaches and registration information, please click here: [Chess Club](#).

**General registration opens at 10:00am on September 22nd, 2020 at <https://somerseptschoolpages.com/Package/2020ChessClub>**

**The registration link will not be accessible until registration opens.**

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## Passport Club

Do you know that in middle school, the students will get tested on over 100 countries? Let's get them prepared by familiarizing them with some of these countries early! You can help your child by having them participate in Passport Club.



This year, we will be posting all materials online: study maps, videos, online resources and monthly quizzes. Students will be encouraged to complete the quiz and/or special itinerary every month. To encourage students to

participate, they can record their best quiz results, and the country they have researched. We will commend those with high participation rates at the end of the school year.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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## Art Club Co-chair Needed

We are looking for an interested parent to volunteer as the art club co-chair. We have a wonderful and talented parent who has a teaching degree in art who would like to bring art to our students but would need a co-chair to run the program.

Please email [somersetpta@gmail.com](mailto:somersetpta@gmail.com) if you are interested and/or have questions about this co-chair position.

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## Principal Birthday Lunches

Mrs. Bowlby and Mrs. Elder plan to continue our tradition of honoring and celebrating Somerset students during their birthday month. Please encourage your child to attend and join them during lunch time. Principal will be sending a Teams invite link prior to schedule dates. Sessions will be held from **12:30-1:00 PM** and you may refer to the table below for specific dates.

Sep 25 - August  
Sep 29 - September  
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

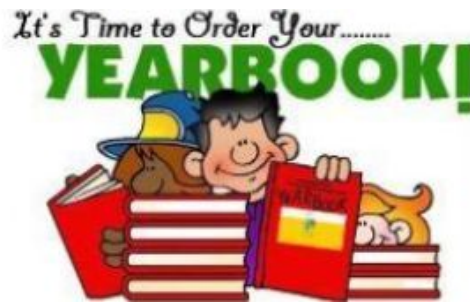
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## Yearbook Purchase Update

Yearbook is [on sale](#) on our website. For those who have already purchased yearbooks online, please note that the personalization for yearbook only has student's first and last name, but no personalized message. If you are not okay with such personalization, you can email

to [yearbooks.somerset@gmail.com](mailto:yearbooks.somerset@gmail.com) for refund the penalization.

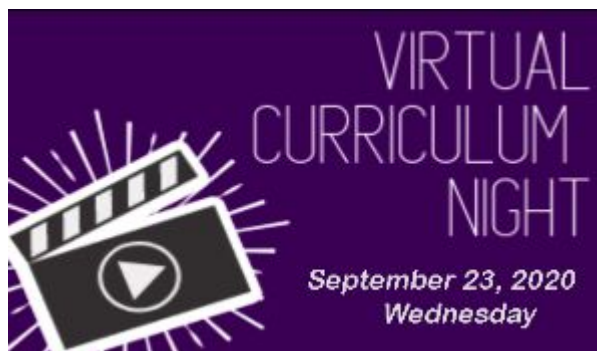
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## SPIRIT WEAR

Show your pride as a Somerset Superstar and wear your Somerset spirit wear to school! Our online store opens August 30th and will stay open for your purchase until October. Order online at [www.somersetptsa.org](http://www.somersetptsa.org).

## SCHOOL NEWS



## Curriculum Night

This year, Somerset is providing a virtual curriculum night that will be pre-recorded for you to view at a convenient time. Classroom teachers will send their presentation to families the **afternoon of Wednesday, September 23, 2020.**

Mrs. Bowlby and Mrs. Elder will also provide a pre-recorded presentation to all families highlighting important information about our school year ahead.



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## Hidden Talent Show on Future Assembly

On Wednesday students and staff enjoyed our first Welcome Assembly! If you would like to view the assembly again, or if you were unable to attend, it is on our Somerset webpage: [Welcome Assembly](#). **Assemblies will take place the first Wednesday of every month at 9:40 AM.**



We invite your child to share their own hidden talent with our Somerset community. Simply click on the following link to record a video of \*your\* talent and a chance to see yourself featured in a future assembly: [Hidden Talents Flipgrid](#)

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## Virtual Principal/Parent Connect

Mrs. Bowlby and Mrs. Elder are 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**

**October 1, 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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*These next four sections of information are from Somerset Family Engagement Specialist,*

*Shannon Gregory.*



## Free & Reduced Priced Meals Program

All families must reapply annually for the **Free & Reduced Priced Meals Program**. Frequently, to qualify for some programs, community partners request that students be on Free & Reduced to participate. Also, please be sure to complete the FEE WAIVER portion of the application and to check the box giving permission to the Family Connections Centers so we can continue sharing program information with your family. Click [Free & Reduced](#) to begin the application.

Please email Shannon at [gregorys@bsd405.org](mailto:gregorys@bsd405.org) once you have completed the application, so we can check on the status.

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### Meals2Go

Similar to the Grab&Go Meals Program of the Spring and Summer, USDA has extended free meals for kids through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Nutrition Services is offering **Meals2Go** at seven Bellevue locations. This program offers a lunch and breakfast meal for the **following** day, Monday through Friday. Thankfully, **Tyee Middle School (4-5pm)** is one of the locations. Please pick up meals at the main entry of the schools. Click [Meals2Go](#) for more information.

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## Breaktime Mealtime Food Vouchers

We are most grateful that Bellevue LifeSpring has continued to support our families during the Pandemic through its Breaktime Mealtime Food Voucher Program. Bellevue LifeSpring has consistently provided Breaktime Mealtime Safeway vouchers since March and is getting ready to distribute a September round of vouchers at the end of next week and into the following week. If you could benefit from food vouchers please email Shannon



Gregory at [gregorys@bsd405.org](mailto:gregorys@bsd405.org). Reminder, you will need to apply and qualify for Free and reduced lunch so we can get you added to this list.

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## Supplies & More Available

Somerset has provided every student with school supplies. However, if you find you are needing additional supplies please let Shannon know as she may be able to get you extra supplies.

If your family is in need, please contact Shannon at [gregorys@bsd405.org](mailto:gregorys@bsd405.org) so we can help.

## BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

### Family Forum for Multilingual Learners

BSD is offering a family forum for our families of multilingual learners on **Wednesday, September 23, 2020**. You will have the opportunity to meet our BSD directors, learn about the MLL model, learn how to support students at home, and more. Please follow the link below to learn more about the forum and for a link to attend the event. Sessions will be recorded for families unable to attend.

[Multilingual Family Forum](#)

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### Update on Transition to Hybrid

At the September 15 School Board meeting, the Bellevue School District shared [a draft road map for our transition to Hybrid Learning](#). Once we see a consistent downward trend in infection rates, we will bring students back in gradual waves for in-person instruction. Our top priorities for the start of in-person learning include getting our health protocols right, minimizing learning loss and delays, and supporting students both academically and emotionally. Starting September 21st, we are serving some students receiving special education services, multi-language learners and students who received an incomplete last spring in our buildings. As we move forward, we plan to increase the in-person services to the before mentioned groups as well as welcome additional students back in person as follows:

1. Pre-K – 2nd grade for 5 days per week
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students for 2-3 days per week

3. Middle and high school (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) for 1 day per week
4. Middle and high school moving to 2-3 days per week

Please check out more information on [BSD](#) website.

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## Top 5 Remote Learning Tech Tips

Supporting student technology needs during remote learning is important to the Bellevue School District. The following are the top five questions families have and their solutions:

1. [What is my ParentVUE activation key?](#)
2. [How do I monitor my student's online behavior?](#)
3. [My student's device is constantly freezing in Teams. What do I do?](#)
4. [My student is unable to access content that should be available. What do I do?](#)
5. [Where do I find my student's Teams meeting links?](#)

Technology Support is also available online, by phone, and in-person. [Learn more.](#)

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## NATIONAL PTA & WSPTA NEWS



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### WSPTA Legislative Assembly

Please mark your calendar for the 42nd Annual Legislative Assembly. The assembly will take place in a virtual format on [October 24-25, 2020](#). More info can be found [HERE](#).

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## Language Access Survey

WSPTA has been participating in OSPI's Language Access Workgroup, researching and preparing a report for the legislature on the language access needs for students and families from across the state. An important step in this process is to hear from families about their needs. [Please complete this survey for your organization](#) with information about the language needs of families in your PTA and school. The deadline for completing the form is September 29.

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## WSPTA Training and Event Calendar

- [Sep 21 Region 3 and 4 Conference Series](#)
  - [Sep 22 PTA and the Law Webinar](#)
  - [Sep 23 Region 2 Fall Conference](#)
  - [Sep 24 Region 2 Fall Conference](#)
  - [Sep 24 Region 3 and 4 Conference Series](#)
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## National PTA Quick Links

- [Increasing Family Engagement in Diverse Schools](#)
- [Use Healthy Habits All Year Long](#)
- [Learning Heroes - Back to School Webinar](#)
- [Notes from the Backpack Podcast Episodes](#)

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Afterschool Elementary Debate Program

Jump-start your children into the world of debating. This online program is great for students of all kinds in 4th and 5th graders who like to talk, but also shy students seeking to communicate or gain more self-confidence; students who like to argue, talk, research issues, challenge themselves, want to communicate better, and show interest in bettering their community. Our curriculum is not lecture-based; students will learn by doing. We will

teach and engage you to debate effectively. We'll help you prepare cases and responses. You will put that into practice in a supportive atmosphere where you will learn to communicate clearly, persuasively and with self-confidence. Cost is \$95 for seven classes and includes all instruction and materials. We waive or lower fees to address family financial needs.

#### **MONDAY PROGRAM**

**Mondays from 4 to 5pm**

**Dates: October 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7**

#### **WEDNESDAY PROGRAM**

**Wednesdays from 4 to 5pm**

**Dates: October 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18, Dec. 2, 9**

Registration will open Monday, September, 28th at 10am. The registration link will be published in the eNews on 09-26-2020



### **Studio East - Drama Classes**

Studio East has provided high-quality theater classes, workshops, and productions to local schools since 1992. Our drama classes give students a safe environment to learn: Confidence, Self-esteem, Team-building, Responsibility, Time Management, Literacy, Public Speaking, Perseverance, and, 21st Century Skills!

**Class Description:** In Drama: Play Creation students learn how to create a play from scratch in this interactive, creative, and energetic online drama class! We'll create characters, imagine a story, write lines, and use acting skills to bring our original story to life. We'll record the final performance and send it out after class.

**Days & Time: Thursdays 3:45 – 5:15pm**

**Dates: October 22<sup>nd</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup> (no class on November 26<sup>th</sup>)**

**Price: \$175**

Registration will open Monday, September, 28th at 10am. The registration link will be published in the eNews on 09-26-2020

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## COVID-19 Information

Working together, our community has slowed the spread of COVID-19. Now, King County is working to gradually and carefully reopen the local economy and other aspects of daily living.

Free testing is available in King County regardless of immigration status.

[Free COVID-19 testing locations](#)

<https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/covid-response/safe-start.aspx>

**COVID-19 Information Compile by BSD**

<https://bsd405.org/services/health/covid-19-information/>

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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

Co-Treasurer: Na Li & Xiaohong Quan

Somerset PTSA

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

Newsletter

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

[Somerset PTSA Website](#)

[Somerset Elementary School Website](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

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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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