



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

- Monday, September 28th 10:00am - Afterschool Program Registration, Opens for Debate Club and Drama Club ([find more info below in Community News](#))
- Tuesday, Sep 29th 12:30-1:00 pm - Principal Birthday Lunch (September Birthday)
- Wednesday, Sep 30th 3:00-5:00 pm - Ice Cream Social ([New Date Due to Rain](#))
- Thursday, Oct 1st 9:00-11:00 am - Virtual Principal/Parent Connect
- Wednesday, Oct 7th 9:40 am - Somerset October Assembly
- Friday, Oct 9th - Professional Development Day No School



Fall Fundraising Drive 2020 - Latest Update

Thank you to all Somerset families who have already donated to the Fall Fundraising Drive. The Fall Fundraising Drive 2020 started on 09/10/2020. After three weeks of fundraising, we have already raised **\$40,825**. 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 somersetptsa@gmail.com



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 and Math Circle require 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. **Note that PTSA memberships must be renewed annually.** Join us now!

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

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

Due to the rainy forecast we are rescheduling the PTSA "Welcome Back-to-School Ice Cream Social walk-by" at Somerset Elementary to Wednesday, September 30th from 3:00-5:00pm! We will be giving 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 can't wait to see you again!

If you take some photos during this event and would like to share with us, please send your photos to communications.somersetpts@gmail.com

A-F 3:00 - 3:30 pm
G-L 3:30 - 4:00 pm
M-S 4:00 - 4:30 pm
T-Z 4:30 - 5:00 pm



Somerset Chess Club

What is chess, do you think? Those who play for fun or not at all dismiss it as a game. The ones who devote their lives to it for the most part insist that it's a science. It's neither. Bobby Fischer got underneath it like no one before and found at its center: art - From Searching for Bobby Fischer.

The 1993 film Searching for Bobby Fischer dramatizes the true story of prodigy Josh Waitzkin, but like a great chess game, teaches a different lesson than the surface story about the game itself. A lesson about parenthood. Watch it today with your kids, and you'll begin to understand why Chess is such a beloved art form around the world.

At Somerset, the Chess club has been growing in size and accomplishment every year, with the school team tying for first place on total points in last year's

Washington State Championship!

Chess Club starts on October 5th, and registrations are open now! Your child will join local coaches Tim and Brad after school, along with other Somerset kids in their range of ability, and enjoy a fun workout for their brain. And at a cost of less than \$10/hr (25 classes, 1.5 hr each), Chess Club is an incredible investment!

Here are just a few of the MANY benefits of playing Chess:

- It can raise your IQ.
- It helps prevent Alzheimer's.
- It exercises both sides of the brain.
- It increases your creativity.
- It improves your memory.
- It increases problem-solving skills.
- It improves reading skills.
- It improves concentration.
- It grows dendrites (the nervous system's antennas that pick up signals from other brain cells).
- It teaches planning and foresight (promotes development of the prefrontal cortex, the area of the brain responsible for planning, judgement, and self-control).

If you've ever considered signing your child up for Chess Club, now is the time to do it! Chess is an excellent workout for the brain, stretching it in ways that enhance traditional academic learning. This is so important now as our kids are forced to be more independent in their learning and to self-motivate. Playing chess gives kids the confidence to make this leap, and also provides a social network outside the classroom. Kids can bond with other Somerset students and set up chess playdates!

Never played before? No problem! Coaches Brad and Tim are excellent at introducing kids to chess for the first time. They also teach Intermediate and Advanced level classes and are happy to do a quick assessment to know where to place your child.

Here are some quick points, but please see our information page for more details! [CLICK HERE](#)

- Students in K-5 can participate
 - Online format using [ChessKid](#)
 - Classes meet Monday or Tuesday 3:30-5:00 October-May
 - Cost: \$320
-

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](#).

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 if you are interested and/or have questions about this co-chair position.

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.

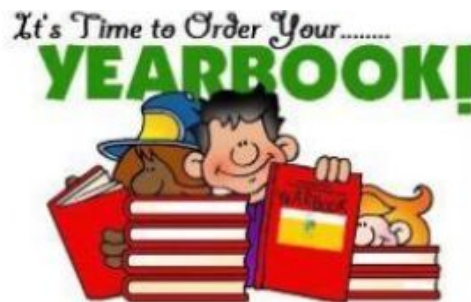


Sep 25 - August
Sep 29 - September
Oct 27 - October
Nov 24 - November
Dec 15 - December
Jan 26 - January
Feb 23 - February
Mar 30 - March
Apr 27 - April
May 25 - May
Jun 15 - June & July

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 for refund the penalization.



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 10th](#). Order online at www.somersetpta.org.

Hidden Talent Show on Future Assembly

On Sep 16th 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](#)

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 [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

10:00 – 10:45 Grades K & 1 [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

11:00 – 11:45 Grades 2 & 3 [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

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 once you have completed the application, so we can check on the status.

Meals2Go

Similar to the Grab&Go Meals Program of the Spring and Summer, USDA has extended free meals for kids through December 31st. 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.

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. Reminder, you will need to apply and qualify for Free and reduced lunch so we can get you added to this list.



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 so we can help.

BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Update on Transition to Hybrid Learning

In our message to families last week we announced the developing plan of our return to Hybrid Learning, outlining the order in which we plan to welcome student groups back.

While some limited in-person learning is occurring, we will welcome student groups back as follows:

1. Pre-K – 2nd grade for 5 days per week
2. 3rd– 5th grade students for 2-3 days per week
3. Middle and high school (6th– 12th grades) begin with 1 day per week
4. Middle and high school moving to 2-3 days per week

The transition will be gradual, more like turning a dial than flipping a switch. Once we see a consistent downward trend in infection rates, we will bring students back in gradual waves for in-person instruction. The plan is start with our younger students and move to our older students due to more limited social interaction at lower grades and ensuring that health and safety plans and protocols are systematically put in place.

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

Advance Learning Testing

Applications for winter 2020-21 advanced learning testing for **students in grades 1 – 11** will be available online starting **Monday, October 12, 2020**. District families interested in applying for testing must apply before the **Monday, November 30, 2020 deadline at 4:30 pm**.

To learn more about advance learning services, please visit [BSD Advance Learning](#)

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.](#)

WSPTA NEWS



WSPTA Legislative Assembly

Legislative Assembly Update

Grassroots Advocacy. Powered by PTA.

Newsletter: To receive the legislative assembly newsletter, we encourage you to [register for the event](#) as soon as possible or to update your profile using the link at the bottom of this email.

Delegate Request: The second request for your PTA's delegates to participate in the debate and voting portion of the legislative assembly was sent on September 22. Submit your delegate names by 11:59 pm, October 6.

Member Survey: Find out what's important to your members. We've made it easy for PTA leaders to share this [survey](#) with your members. Learn more about the survey on the [website](#). The survey closes on October 9.

Caucusing: Begins on September 29. The schedule is posted on the [website](#).

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.

Current and Timely WSPTA Benefits

Washington State PTA members can take advantage of these benefit offers:

- Great Wolf Lodge - 30% off. Learn about the health and safety policy.
- TrophyCentral.com - 10% off.
- Silverwood Theme Park - newly reduced pricing.
- The Real Leather Company - save \$15 off any bag.
- 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.

Keep checking the [benefits and discounts page](#) as more opportunities continue to be added. Member benefits and discounts are available to all WSPTA members. To access them, log in to [Benefits & Discount Codes](#). Check the promotion codes listed for each provider in the main body of the page and the file list for time-sensitive offers. Please share information about benefits with members, but do not share the codes with non-members.

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 opens Monday, September 28 at 10:00am.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/somerset-timberlake-regs>



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 22nd – December 17th (no class on November 26th)

Price: \$175

Registration opens Monday, September 28 at 10:00am.

Register at: <https://www.homerom.com/sites/somerset-elementary-school-bellevue>

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/>

COVID National PTA Resources

<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/coronavirus-information>

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: Somersetpta@gmail.com

Newsletter

Submission: Somersetpta@gmail.com



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

[Somerset PTSA Website](#)

[Somerset Elementary School Website](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

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Our mailing address is:

14100 Somerset Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

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