

One Somerset: October Newsletter

September was a wonderful start to our year together. As a principal team, we have visited classes to read aloud and discuss the importance of working together to make Somerset great. Students have all contributed to an amazing Superstar tree to show that we are together as One Somerset. We are committed to helping ensure that each and every child has the skills to be effective with learning and in the future with professions and life.

In this One Somerset monthly news:

- [Tomorrow is our Walkathon! \(Friday, 10/2/15\)](#)
- [Principal Talk and PTSA General Meeting \(Tuesday, 10/6/15\)](#)
- [Curriculum Nights \(BSF info also attached\)](#)
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[Tomorrow is our Walkathon! \(Friday, 10/2/15\)](#)

We are excited for this Friday's Reach for the Stars, Superstar Walkathon! Students will have the chance to exercise together and have fun for a great cause! Thanks to all the parent support, with the amazing leadership of Emilie Castle and Debbie Chiu for making this happen. Please make sure that students are dressed for the weather as we will walk rain or shine. Students will walk during the afternoon in two grade bands (by dividing into two groups we can better supervise and provide for a safer experience for our littlest Superstars).

Our walking schedule is as follows:

- 1:15: kindergarten, first and second grades will go to the back field and walk
- 2:00: k-2 will finish walking and return to the building
- 2:15: third, fourth, and fifth grades will go to the back field and walk
- 3:15: 3-5 will finish walking and return to the building

[Principal Talk and PTSA General Meeting \(Tuesday, 10/6/15\)](#)

Please mark your calendars to join us at Somerset the evening of October 6. At 6:00 I look forward to meeting you, sharing Somerset information (including the draft of our School Improvement Plan), and answering questions. At 7:00 our PTSA general meeting will begin. All are welcome!

[Curriculum Nights](#)

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend our curriculum night presentations. It was great to see so many of you. If you were unable to attend, don't hesitate to reach out to us to learn more. We shared a little bit about Somerset, drop-off and pick-up expectations, and heard from our amazing PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) and BSF (Bellevue Schools Foundation). Let me know if you would like a copy of our presentation. More information about the PTSA and how to sign up is available at <http://somersetptsa.org/Home>, and more information from BSF is available on the attached flyer.

I am also interested in hearing from you how the format worked for your family. By dividing the event into three nights by grade bands, we hoped to be able to reduce the impact on traffic and parking, and provide for a smaller environment where we could be available to answer questions. Teachers have shared that this format worked well for them, and that some parents were able to attend multiple evenings for their different aged students. We tried hard to avoid any holidays, but learned that one of our evenings was a conflict for some families. We have now learned that Eid al-Adha will begin the evening of September 12 and end the evening of September 13, next year, so we can be sure to avoid that date. Please feel free to reply and let me know of other important dates and what else we should consider as we make plans for next year. Our goal is for all families to be able to participate as we value your partnership in helping make sure each and every Somerset student has an exemplary elementary experience.

[BSD Student Awards](#)

Want the district to showcase your student's achievements on the district webpage? Submit information about awards your student has earned to the district's Communications office! Simply write one to two paragraphs answering who, what, when, where and why about your student's accomplishment. If possible, include a photo of your student to be posted with the story. Send award submissions to communityrelations@bsd405.org. Also, take a minute to [view](#) the impressive staff and student awards that are being showcased.

[Note from the Gifted Department regarding Gifted Program Testing](#)

The BSD Gifted Program provides self-contained services for identified gifted students needing academic services at an advanced level and accelerated pace due to their ability to comprehend and process information. Gifted children have an exceptional ability to learn or reason beyond their same-age peers. Their minds are often ahead of their physical growth, and they exhibit an unusual ability to make meaning out of complex concepts or problems.

Parents may apply for testing for possible inclusion in gifted programs for the 2016-17 school year by downloading and completing the application for gifted testing at www.bsd405.org/applyforgifted or by contacting the Gifted Programs Office at gifted.bsd405.org or 425-456-4136. **Applications are due no later than 5:00 PM on November 13, 2015.**

Any student, parent, staff or community member may refer a student to the Gifted Programs Office for gifted testing by providing the student's name, grade, school, and student number (if known) by contacting the Gifted Programs Office via email or phone at gifted@bsd.405.org or 425-456-4136. All students referred to the Gifted Programs Office will be invited to participate in testing.

Washington Administrative Code requires all school districts to implement a referral process by which students may be nominated for testing for highly capable services. Any parent, school staff or community member may refer a child. If you are interested in nominating a student for testing, please send the following information to gifted@bsd405.org no later than October 23, 2015.

- Student name
- Grade
- School

For more information on gifted programs, please visit www.bsd405.org/gifted

[Odds and Ends](#)

- **Picture Days** – This year Somerset's picture days will be on Monday, October 5 and Tuesday, October 6. Teachers have signed up for a time to take their class for the pictures. Check with

your child (or child's teacher) to learn which day is planned for your class.

Be prepared by ordering online at mylifetouch.com Picture Day ID: LS115812Q0

- No need to send cash or flyer back to school when you order online
- See more options [available online](#)
- Use credit card or PayPal on the secure site
- Wednesday, October 7, Somerset is participating in our annual **Walk to School Day**. All students who are able are encouraged to walk to school for the day. Walking to school is a great way to start each day!
- Friday, October 9 is a day of learning for Bellevue School District teachers. We hope you and your family enjoy the **three day weekend**.
- Next month, November 5, will be Somerset's **Family Charter Night** – more info coming soon
- Lost and Found – Our lost and found (just outside the art room) is really filling up. Students often take jackets off during recess as they warm up, and sometimes return to class without them. If your child has lost something, remind him or her to check the lost and found (before school is a good time to do this). Another thing you can do to help is write your child's first and last name, and phone number, on their items.
- Our PTSA **Reflections** program theme this year is "Let your Imagination Fly" – if your child is interested in creating a work of art, please check out information on the [PTSA website](#). This year's deadline is 11/5/15.
- This year Somerset, like most Bellevue School District schools, will no longer be sending home paper advertisements from third party organizations. Last year we found that the cumulative time that this process took from both office staff and teacher time was significant and time that could be better used to support student learning. Flyers that are approved at the BSD central office are still available in our office for parents to pick up. Additionally, our awesome PTSA provides links to community information in their [Superstar eNews](#) (which are linked on the PTSA website: <http://somersetptsa.org/Home>).
- Our **school handbook** contains important information that families are responsible for understanding. It is available on our school website <http://www.bsd405.org/somerset/> (<http://www.bsd405.org/somerset/2015/09/somerset-community-handbook/>). This document is a helpful overview of the school and district expectations. If you have any questions about the content, please feel free to ask.

Tara Gray

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