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Somerset PTSA eNews

every Child. one Voice

March 7, 2011

Quick Links

[Somerset PTSA Website](#)
[Auction 2010-2011](#)
[Somerset Music Video](#)
[Board of Directors](#)
[Programs & Committees](#)
[Washington State PTSA](#)
[Bellevue Schools Foundation](#)

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[Yearbook Order Form](#)

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In This Issue

[SOMERSET PRINCIPAL MESSAGE](#)
[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)
[SOMERSET NIGHT OF COMEDY](#)
[MATH WHIZZ PROGRAM](#)
[EDUCATION UPDATES](#)
[COMMUNITY CORNER](#)

SOMERSET AUCTIONS - MARDI GRAS

Look for the Auction Newsletter coming soon to launch our Online Auction!

SOMERSET STUDENT COUNCIL

March 9th - Sport Team Day

SOMERSET PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Somerset Supporters,

As the Somerset Community prepares for its biennial Auction to be held Saturday, March 12, beginning at 5:00 PM at the Newcastle Golf Club, I want to extend a special invitation to each of you to attend. This event is a wonderful community building experience. It provides the opportunity to view a wide range of extraordinary classroom art projects, visit with Somerset families, friends, and teachers, and raise money to support a myriad of valuable educational experiences at Somerset. It is a wonderful way to spend an evening. If you have not already sent in your RSVP, please consider doing so by emailing today Audrey Scallon, our Seating Coordinator, at ascallon@comcast.net, and she will be happy to assist you.

Our state is facing record budget deficits this year. Budget cuts will greatly affect state allocations to schools for the 2011-2012 school year. In these difficult financial times, your support of our school is more important than ever. In past years money from the PTSA has gone to support math tutorials, literacy support, document cameras, 4th and 5th grade presentations by Peter Donaldson, staff development opportunities, Young Scientist Week, emergency preparedness, and many other programs too numerous to mention.

The ability to maintain and continue the programs sponsored by PTSA dollars makes a major difference in the education of each child at Somerset. For this reason, I encourage you to join me, along with the Somerset staff and parents, at this year's Mardi Gras Auction. It is an honor to celebrate and support Somerset Elementary School. Supporting the educational needs of our school is the most important thing we can do. Our future is in the hands of our children and they need our support now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Betty Hannaford
Principal

Upcoming Events

BREAKFAST AT SOMERSET - WE SAVED A SPOT FOR YOU!

Wednesday March 9th is free coffee day for parents

Enjoy a hot tasty breakfast at school during our trial period for the next 3 weeks anytime from 8:25-8:55am. Imagine having this service at our school every day, available when you need it -- drop off kids early if you have to get to work or a meeting; know that they are getting a balanced

meal to start off the day (research confirms kids who have a good breakfast do better in school); and/or give your kids a chance to see their friends and sit wherever they want.

Breakfast is \$2.00, or free for qualifying students. Everyday there is a choice of turkey ham & cheese bagel sandwich, cereal, yogurt and blueberry muffin, bagel and cream cheese/jam, or hard boiled egg and muffin. There is also a rotating daily special: french toast sticks, breakfast burrito, yogurt parfait, breakfast quesadilla, or pancake pocket, all with milk, fruit or juice, and a biscuit. Click for a detailed menu: <http://www.bsd405.org/portals/0/nutrition/ELEMENTARY%20MARCH%202011.pdf> Yum!

You can also bring younger siblings who can buy on a student's account. And parents can eat for \$3.00. Get together a few friends and have a breakfast social. *On Wed March 9th the PTSA is providing free coffee for parents.* We need 60 people per day participating during our trial period to keep this program going; so far we are only averaging 40. Come check it out! ***Your couple of dollars buying breakfast over the next few weeks will translate into \$18,000 plus of food and services per year coming to Somerset if we secure this program.*** We need your participation -- come join us for breakfast!

SOMERSET FIFTH GRADE PRESENTS:

Please join us for a night of comedy, music, and history as the Somerset 5th grade presents "**13 Colonies: A Musical Play for Kids about Early American History, Sort Of!**"

5th grade actors/singers have been preparing to dazzle your mind with 200 years of American history in just 1 hour! In addition many 5th grade artists have made our set a masterpiece! Please plan on attending and showing your support on THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH AT 6:30pm in the Somerset Multipurpose Room.

Jennifer Seder

Somerset Elementary School

Grade 5 Teacher

425.456.5800

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425.456.5800

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MARCH 1: Young Scientist Week Project Proposals Due

It's time to start thinking about and preparing for Young Scientist Week, held this year the week of April 18-22. Sure, that seems far enough off but there's plenty to do! For more information, [FIND OUR MORE](#) or contact Michael Ketchum, YSW Chair @ ketch18@gmail.com.

MATH WHIZZ PROGRAM @ SOMERSET

Parents of Somerset Community,

Last year, my class piloted this Math Whizz program where each child has his/her own account. The children loved the program and many of them really made excellence advancement in their math ability. Each child can advance at his/her own rate. The activities are interactive with immediate reinforcement. If the child answered incorrectly, the program does an excellent job of dividing the problem into parts to help them understand the problem better.

Some children and their parents purchased the program at home at cost of \$20.00 monthly. Through the school, you can have a year subscription for \$50.00 + tax (\$54.75). Please read the [information](#) over carefully.

Sincerely,
Jean Lorch
Third Grade Teacher
Somerset Elementary

Other News

SOMERSET YEARBOOK

Yearbook ordering has been extended. Please turn in your order form as soon as possible. Please remember it is \$20.00 per book, \$16.00 for siblings. [CLICK HERE](#) for your order form.

EDUCATION UPDATES

WHAT MAKES POWERFUL LEARNING? You are invited to the 5th Annual Education Showcase - "What Makes Powerful Learning" on **March 23rd**. Formerly known as the Education Roadshow, this free annual event provides an opportunity for Bellevue parents, teachers, and the community to learn more about district schools, trends in K-12 education, and concepts related to student learning. This year's event will be at Sammamish High School. The Resource Fair starts at 5:30pm, followed by a keynote presentation and breakout sessions. The Education Showcase is brought to you by the Bellevue School District, Bellevue PTSA Council, BSF, and Bellevue Quality Schools.

SPRING FOR SCHOOL - SAVE THE DATE!

BSF's annual Spring for Schools benefit luncheon is Thursday, **May 26, 2011**. This event raises over \$500,000 to support Bellevue public schools this year. If you'd like to put together a table or know a company with a passion for education who might like to help sponsor this event, please contact the BSF office at 425-456-4199 [begin_of_the_skype_highlighting](#) 425-456-4199 [end_of_the_skype_highlighting](#).

COMMUNITY CORNER

Somerset Parents - Can you help...

Lost item! - Sometimes this Fall, someone has called to office to let us know that they have found a valuable bracelet on the school grounds. The connection was very poor; consequently, the number i've got was incorrect. Later on, a person came to the office to ask me if anyone has turned in a bracelet which is a gift from her mother. I've tried the number and it did not go through. Would you please call the office at **425-456-5800** [begin_of_the_skype_highlighting](#) **425-456-5800** [end_of_the_skype_highlighting](#) to speak to Muriel if you have found the bracelet, so that we can connect it to its owner. This bracelet is a precious keepsake, she will be forever grateful to get it back. Thank you so much,
Muriel Mittlestrass, CEOE
Office Manager
Somerset Elementary School

Somerset Elementary PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) is a self-governing unit of parents and teachers that plans its programs and activities to meet the needs of children and youth at Somerset Elementary School, Bellevue, Washington. Somerset PTSA's focus is to enrich the social, cultural, and academic experience of the students at Somerset.

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