

Somerset PTSA Newsletter

eNews

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 20-January 2:
NO SCHOOL - Winter
Break

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YEARBOOK PHOTOS

We want your photos! Please send any and all photos you'd like to see in the yearbook [HERE](#).

PTSA Executive Committee

Presidents

Michael & Marrie Ketchum

VP Ways & Means

Mechelle Cheng

VP Programs

Kayoko Price

VP Communication

My-Linh Thai

Treasurer

Sandrine Gupta

Secretary

Colleen Allison

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Volume 4, Issue 15

December 13, 2010

Dear Michael & Marrie,

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS!

Somerset PTSA

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POLICY 1460 UPDATE

School-based private donations advisory

committee: <http://www.bsd405.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5739>

The committee members have been selected and posted on the BSD website. They are in the process of scheduling their first meeting.

At the Board meeting, Board President Chris Marks read the following statement prepared by the Board to provide the public with an update on Policy 1460:

"Earlier this year the School Board took board policy 1460, which disallows the hiring of certificated staff with PTSA or donated funds, under review. The Board has always appreciated the efforts that all parent groups make on behalf of the schools serving their children, but initiated the review when it became aware that a number of schools were not complying with this policy.

The Board has continued to hear information from parents, attend meetings, take phone calls and e-mails and examine information from other districts. A newly formed committee examining private donations may have recommendations the Board will wish to consider. The Board will continue to review the policy and will wait to hear information and any recommendations from the BSD-PTSA Joint Advisory Committee on School-Based Donations before making any decision on the policy. The Boards' direction to the committee is to complete the committee work by April, with a committee report to the Board by May, and a Board decision regarding Policy 1460 by the end of (2010-2011) school year."

The following statement is from State PTA:

The Washington State PTA Board is working on a resolution regarding

subsidizing school staffing. As child advocacy associations, WA State PTA and National PTA have always discouraged PTAs from subsidizing public funds by hiring staff. They hope to create a clear statement on why it is not best practice to fund staffing. This resolution will go to a general membership vote at the State Convention. Being a resolution, this is only a guideline.

SNOW DAYS MAKE-UP

The two snow make-up days have been added to the Bellevue School District calendar. The **first snow make-up day** will occur on:

March 11, 2011 for elementary students

The **second snow make-up day** will occur on **June 17, 2011** for all students. Therefore, June 16, 2011 will be a full day for students and **June 17, 2011** will be the **last day of school**.

Ph.D - Library Lore Delicious Data

**Thursday, January 13th (Please note the date change!)
7:00PM**

Kathy Franzel, Somerset librarian, presents "**Library Lore Delicious Data....** how to help your child be more effective user of the library".

Mrs. Franzel will show many varied, useful databases that are available to all students and parents. She will give tips on helping students locate information that is accurate and reliable. Databases that can be accessed regarding science fair projects will also be included.

Kathy Franzel
Somerset Librarian

Sponsored by the Ph.D. Committee & free child care for Somerset students.

BE INVOLVED!

1. The Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for positions on the 2011- 2012 Somerset PTSA Executive Committee. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Committee, or wish to nominate someone, please contact one of us and let us know: *Danielle Johnston Holmes at dajohn@microsoft.com; Stephanie Kristen at sjkristen@comcast.net; and/or Patricia Magnani at pamagnani@gmail.com.*
2. We are also looking for a volunteer to help us with Boxtops, Campbell soup labels and eScript. These programs have helped funded many valuable programs at Somerset and can be done at home at your own time. Please contact VPWaysandmeans@somersetpts.org.

REFLECTIONS - "TOGETHER WE CAN"

We hope you have had a chance to enjoy the beautiful Arts created by our Somerset Reflections participants. The Arts will be stored away during Winter Break.

Please visit Cross Road Mall during January 5-9 to view the Bellevue District

presentation.

Somerset Reflections

FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

February 11, 2011

We need you to share your talent! We are looking for cultural performances of 5 minutes or less (folk dances, musical instruments, songs, etc.). Somerset students and parents have a wide variety of abilities - please come to perform. We also need volunteers to help set up booths about their native or ancestral countries. They can include displays and information about the country as well as activities such as games or crafts.

Please contact Sonia Misra at Sonia.Batra@enterworks.com or call her at 425-818-4922 `begin_of_the_skype_highlighting` 425-818-4922 `end_of_the_skype_highlighting` to sign up or for more information. **The deadline for signing up is January 14th, 2011.**

WINTER BREAK CHILDCARE

[Winter Break Registration](#) is available. Families can "Brighten Winter Break" by having the children attend one of the district's break programs. They will have the opportunities to be in a planetarium with "Pacific Science Center" staff, add Sparkle with crafts from "Kids are Creative" teachers and light up the New Year with special festivities! Classes for preschool age children will be taught by the Bellevue School District Preschool teachers.

Winter break programs will operate at Clyde Hill, Eastgate, Puesta Del Sol, Stevenson and Woodridge for preschool and school age children. Programs are convenient and flexible. Families may register by day and location of their choice. All centers will be open from 6:30 am until 6:00 pm to accommodate the needs of working families.

Families can also find the registration form on the website at www.bsd405.org/childcare. The completed forms may be completed and submitted online, returned to any Learning Center or to the Early Learning Business Office.

Any question, please contact Wendy Gianini at Bellevue School District - Early Learning Programs

(425) 456-4030 `begin_of_the_skype_highlighting` (425) 456-

4030 `end_of_the_skype_highlighting` - Phone

(425) 456-4176 - Fax

<http://www.bsd405.org/childcare>

AUCTION NEWS

March 12, 2011: The Golf Club at Newcastle

Please contact auction2011@somersetpts.org for ideas and suggestions. Get involved! Here are some useful links:

- www.somersetpts.org
- [ABC's of Procurement](#)
- [Procurement Form](#)



COMMUNITY CORNER

BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

For parents interested in **early admission to kindergarten**:

State law requires that a child must be five years old by August 31 in order to be admitted to kindergarten during a given year. The Bellevue School District's policy for early entrance to kindergarten allows parents to apply for early entrance if their child's fifth birthday falls after the August 31 cut-off, but on or before November 30.

As part of the application process, the district is offering an informational night for parents on **Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 7:00-8:00pm** presented by Dr. Leihua Edstrom, School Psychologist and Coordinator of Early Entrance Admissions. The meeting will be held in the **Rainier Room at the Wilburton Instructional Service Center, 12241 Main St., Bellevue**. Meeting attendance is required for applicants. (A video recording of the event will be available for parents who are unable to attend the meeting.) Please see the district's website for more detail about the Early Entrance to Kindergarten application procedures. Further questions may be addressed to Dr. Edstrom at edstroml@bsd405.org or by calling 425.456.4750.

BELLEVUE - KING COUNTY INFORMATION

If you or someone you know is in need, you are not alone. Help is out there. The following organizations help families right in our area:

- The Overlake Service League connects families to resources and is equipped to deal with emergency situations: 425-451-1175.
- Community Services in King County can help with many situations. They can be reached by dialing 211 (expect a lengthy wait time).
- The Jubilee Reach Center, a local organization that offers many resources including some medical care, can be reached at 425-452-4240.
- The South Bellevue Community Center's Bellevue Boys & Girls Club has a childcare program. The Community Center is located on Newport Way and space is still available in their childcare program. A sliding scale can be used to determine what you can afford to pay for care. You can reach the Community Center by calling 425-452-4240.

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- If you believe your heat is going to be turned off, you can call the Emergency Energy Assistance program at 1-800-348-7144 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting 1-800-348-7144 end_of_the_skype_highlighting. It's open Mon.-Thurs. and the best time to call is 9am (expect a wait time).
- If your heat has already been disconnected, you can call 425-869-6027 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting 425-869-6027 end_of_the_skype_highlighting. Hopelink will work with you to get your heat turned back on.

BELLEVUE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

As of Nov 30th parents, families and friends of BSF (and their employers) committed \$108,558 to the BSF Phonathon!

A gold star goes to the parent and school volunteers who made it possible. Last month, over 125 BSF volunteers invited more than 9,300 families in the district to support students this year with a gift to the Bellevue Schools Foundation.

Three cheers to the BSD Transitions Services Center and the IHS Center Work Training Program students for their hard work over an incredible amount of hours to prepare the pre and post Phonathon mailings. And a huge thank you to the 12 parent volunteers who came in on a Monday morning for our Mailing Party!

Kudos to the local businesses who opened their doors for our volunteer callers - Allied Waste, BioControl Systems, Inc, Washington Society of CPAs and WISC - and to Zeek's Pizza of Kirkland for the fabulous dinner provided in-kind and at a reduced rate.

If you would like the names of your school's volunteers or details about the number of families from your school who supported the campaign, please email Katrina@bsfdn.org or call 425-456-4063

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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. Contact us at President@somersetptsa.org

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