

Somerset PTSA eNews

everyChild. oneVoice.

January 30, 2011

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Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 1: Young Scientist Week Kicks Off!

It's the beginning of February and 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.

FEBRUARY 3: PhD - Anti-bullying Seminar

Join us at Somerset Elementary from 9:15-10:15 AM as the PTSA Parenthood Development Program (PhD) with Kristen DeAlteriis and Principal Betty Hannaford discuss bullying and what it means to you and your child.
[FIND OUT MORE!](#)

FEBRUARY 7: Breakfast Pilot Program

Beginning on February 7th, Somerset will take part in a 1-month pilot program for Breakfast Service. Breakfast times will be from 8:25 - 8:55 am. The price is \$2:00. Milk is \$.50 Free and Reduced breakfasts are FREE.

FEBRUARY 8: PhD - School Funding

Join us at Somerset Elementary from 7-8:30 PM as the PTSA

Parenthood Development Program (PhD) with WA State PTSA President, Scott Allen and Principal Betty Hannaford, as we discuss School Funding and impacts over the next year.

[FIND OUT MORE!](#)

FEBRUARY 9: ROCK STAR DAY

Your Somerset Student Council

FEBRUARY 11: PTSA General Meeting & Family Game Night

On February 11th, from 5:30-6:00 PM, we will conduct our PTSA General Meeting as well as vote in next year's PTSA Executive Committee! This will be followed by our very popular Family Game Night from 6-8PM! Come find out what's happening and then enjoy a great night of games with family and friends!

FEBRUARY 21: Legislative Focus Day

We need you again this year to help shape 2011 legislative priorities in what will again be a very difficult economic climate. Join us for Focus Day as we march and rally on the Capitol steps and meet with legislators and staff, leave notes, receive updates from policy-makers on key issues and network with other PTA advocates. PTA volunteer advocates can make a difference when they come to the Capitol in large numbers. Bring your kids! There will be button making, face painting, and more! For more information including the free chartered bus, [FIND OUT MORE](#) or contact Ruth Raskind, Legislative Affairs Chair at ruthraskind@yahoo.com.

AUCTION NEWS

We are in the midst of a **WINE FRENZY!** In addition to requesting each family donate 2 - 3 items, we are asking every Somerset family to donate a bottle of their favorite wine by **February 14th!** A collection box is set up in the school office.

We need volunteers to help in a number of ways, including storing items, set up the night before the auction and on auction night, among other things. Please contact Mechelle Cheng, Auction Chair, with how you can help out. Mechelle's email is auction2011@somersetpts.org.

Look for the Auction Newsletter coming out Tuesday with

exciting new information! Thank you for your support of our school!

Other News

SOMERSET BREAKFAST PILOT & SURVEY

Beginning on February 7th, Somerset will take part in a 1-month pilot program for Breakfast Service. Breakfast times will be from 8:25 - 8:55 am. The price is \$2:00. Milk is \$.50 Free and Reduced breakfasts are FREE. If you would be interested in a long-term morning breakfast program at Somerset, please reply to our quick mini-survey at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/2b845gt>

SOMERSET ELEMENTARY CHOIR

Attention all 4th and 5th grade students who love to sing! Mrs. Markee will be offering an after-school choir for interested 4th and 5th grade students in the months of February, March, and April with a performance in May. There is no cost to participate, and auditions are not necessary; students must attend Somerset and be in the 4th or 5th grade in order to qualify. Choir rehearsals will be held in the music room (115) from 3:35-4:25 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays (beginning Feb. 17th, and excluding mid winter and spring break dates). In early may the choir will perform at Somerset Elementary School (date and time to be announced). Space is limited to the first 40 students who return a signed permission slip to Mrs. Markee (via her mailbox in the office or to her personally). Permission slips will go home with 4th and 5th grade students on Wednesday February 2nd. Questions? Please contact Mrs. Markee at andersenj@bsd405.org or (425) 456-5854.

EDUCATION UPDATES

THE FUTURE OF GIFTED EDUCATION: What do you want to know about the future of gifted education in Bellevue? Randy Stocker, Executive Director of Exemplary Programs, and Superintendent, Amalia Cudeiro will help us understand what to expect and explain how their vision for differentiated instruction might look for a gifted or highly gifted student. Monday, February 7th, 6:45 - 8:15PM. ESC 12111 NE 1st Street, Bellevue 98005. [MAP IT](#)

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COFFEE HOUR

February 3rd, 630-8PM, Sammamish High School

February 9th, 630-8PM, Newport High School

The Bellevue School District is exploring the possibility of opening a **Chinese dual language program**

at Ardmore Elementary and is seeking feedback from the community. While specifics are yet to be determined, the program would be similar to the Spanish Immersion program; students will spend approximately half of their day learning content in Mandarin Chinese and the rest of their day learning content in English. Students would continue to learn the same material as any other school in the district, simply in English and Mandarin Chinese. Take part in this exploratory process by participating in a survey, in English (PDF) or Chinese (PDF), by February 4, 2011.

If you have any problems with the links above, try the links posted on our homepage: www.bsd405.org

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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