



Somerset PTSA eNews

every Child. one Voice

February 7, 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 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 - "Why Are Class Sizes So Big?" A Discussion on School Funding

Tuesday, 2/8, 7 - 8:30pm - Somerset Library
Will class sizes be even bigger next year? Presented by Scott Allen, WA State PTA President, and Betty Hannaford, Principal, who will explain how WA State funds public education and our current budget climate. Information about the Mardi Gras Auction on March 12th will also be available. Please join us for this important presentation.

Sponsored by the Ph.D. Committee, with free child care for Somerset students. Questions? Contact Sue Ung at sueung@yahoo.com.

[FIND OUT MORE!](#)

FEBRUARY 9: ROCK STAR DAY

Your Somerset Student Council

FEBRUARY 11: PTSA General Meeting

The winter PTSA General Meeting has been scheduled for 5:30-6:00 PM on Friday, February 11th. It will be immediately followed by GAME night so bring the whole family! We will also be introducing the 2011/2012 Executive Committee nominees. Come and meet next year's dynamic PTSA leadership team!

For your convenience, we will have a collection box for procurement forms and donated items, including bottle of wine donations, for the Auction at Game Night.

The 2011 - 2012 Nominees for PTSA Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of officers for the 2011-2012 school year:

President: Francine Wiest

Vice President of Communications: Michael Ketchum

Co-Vice Presidents of Ways & Means: Irene Endow & Verna Yee

Co-Vice Presidents of Programs: Emilie Castle & Kayoko Price

Secretary: Diane Fern

Treasurer: Sandrine Gupta

Francine Wiest will be confirmed as President-Elect for the remainder of this school year. The position of President-Elect for the 2011 - 2012 school year is still OPEN. Please let one of us know if you wish to join our team in the role of President-Elect for the next school year!

FEBRUARY 11: Family Game Night: Cards!!!

Trading Card Games, Classic Card Games, and New Favorites

6-8pm in the cafeteria Free Fabulous Family Fun!

Bring your *Pokemon*, *Yu-Gi-Oh*, or *Magic* collections if you want to trade, buy cards, or battle other *Pokemon*, *Yu-Gi-Oh*, or *Magic* fans.

Play *Classic Card Games* with a standard deck of cards or discover *New Favorites* through demo games including My Word, Set, Quiddler, Fluxx, 7 ATE 9, Great Dalmuti, Aquarius, Lost Cities, You've Been Sentenced, Coloretto and more!

Thank you to our expert friends from Games & Gizmos for the loan of demo games. They will also be on hand with advice and games for purchase.

Contact Francine at SomersetGames@gmail.com with questions or to

assist with this event.

Note: If you bring your own cards you are solely responsible for maintaining them. We strongly recommend labeling your cards and have ground rules set if your child(ren) choose(s) to trade.

FEBRUARY 11th - 17th: Food Drive to Benefit the Somerset Community

We will be collecting non-perishable food and consumables in the school foyer to be distributed to those in need within our Somerset Community.

We will be collecting the following:

- Snacks like granola bars, fruit cups, fruit leather, and crackers
- Meal items like Mac N Cheese, spaghetti noodles & sauce, canned pasta, chili, tuna and chicken
- Hygiene items like toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant, shampoo, Q-tips, Kleenex, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream and razors
- Household items like plastic wrap, foil, food storage bags, hand soap, dish soap, garbage bags

Please consider participating in this drive. Your generosity makes a big difference for Somerset students! Questions? Please contact Care & Share co-chairs Melissa Slater (slaterm@bsd405.org) or Traci Grouws (thegrouws@aol.com)

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.

MARDI GRAS AUCTION NEWS

Fabulous Donations are flowing in for our March 12th Auction, including: an idyllic week-long stay at the Marriott Waiohai Beach Club at Poipu Beach in Kouai, Hawaii; a luxurious Queen for a Day Basket; a private SeaFair Boat Ride to see the Blue Angels; a Chess 4 Life Gift Basket, A condo stay in Jerusalem over the 2011 Christmas holiday, marvelous teacher experiences and original art created by our children's classrooms; and so much more!

It's Wednesday Wine Drive-By Day on February 9th! Every Somerset family is asked to donate a bottle of their favorite wine by Feb. 28th. The wine collected is for a **really fun Mardi Gras Carnival Wine Toss** at the Auction! A wine collection box is in the school office, or ***have a little fun and take advantage of Wednesday Wine Drive-By Day***, when your helpful PTSA Chairs and Executive Committee Officers will **happily grab your wine bottle from you out your car window** as you drop off or pick up your child in front of the school!!

The Procurement Raffle Contest is Underway! The classroom with the highest percentage of donations will earn an Ice Cream Party and the teacher of the winning classroom will receive a \$75 Amazon gift card. Three winning students will be chosen from a random drawing and will each receive an iPod Shuffle. Just **[click here for the special Raffle Procurement Form](#)** and fill out your child's information on the raffle ticket portion. Then bring your form and donation item to the school office and place in the auction donation box. Hurry - the contest ends February 17th!

Don't forget about these little bundles of joy that will be available at the auction. These AKC registered Pugs belong to Hubert Cheng, the husband of our auction chair Mechelle Cheng. They are not from a breeder. They have been lovingly raised by the Cheng family. They will be approximately 12 weeks old at the time of the auction. If you would like to meet them before the auction please contact Mechelle Cheng directly at **auction2011@somersetpts.org**.



Friday, February 11th if Family Game Night at the school. The auction committee will be available to accept donations and to answer any questions that you might have about the auction.

Don't forget to return your RSVPs before February 28th! We already have 142 confirmed tickets sold. Seating is limited. If you have lost your RSVP [click here](#). To pay for your tickets online [click here](#).

For more information, visit the Auction Page at the [Somerset Auction webpage](#) , or contact Mechelle Cheng, Auction Chair, at auction auction2011@somersetpts.org.

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 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.

WINTER FLU SEASON

February 3, 2010

The Bellevue School district appears to be in the midst of the flu season. Students are presenting with sore throats, fever, cough, stomach ache, headache and fatigue. We have had reports from the Health Department that Influenza A has been identified in students attending school in Bellevue. This is a reminder for all our community to use proper health habits such as good hand washing, covering your cough in your elbow, and proper disposal of soiled Kleenex. Get plenty of rest and eat well. This is also a reminder to keep your children at home when they are sick.

- Bringing a child to school with any of the above symptoms puts other children and staff at risk of getting sick.
- If all parents keep their sick children at home, we will have stronger, healthier and happier children.
- Students and staff need to stay home from school 24 hours after a fever subsides.
- While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, in the long run this means fewer lost work days and less illness for parents.

[CLICK HERE](#) for additional information from King County re: the flu.
Chris Houden, Somerset School Nurse

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 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

Spring for Schools - 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.

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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