

CALENDAR

November 2, 8-9 AM

MAP Parents Info Session & "Tep Talk" (Coffee w/ the Principal

November 11

Veterans Day - NO SCHOOL

November 15, 6-8PM

Game Night

November 18

School Picture Retakes

PTSA BOD Meeting,
 9:15-11AM

November 24-25

Thanksgiving Break

November 30

Book Fair Begins

December 1

Cookie Dough Arrives

Movie Night starts 6PM
 PIXAR SHORTS

Book Fair shopping during
 movie

December 2

Book Fair ends

December 19-January 2

Winter Break

Community, Communication & Collaboration

The 3 goals of the Somerset PTSA for 2011-2012 can be summed up as the 3 C's: Community, Communication, & Collaboration. We are working hard to build community, improve communication, and enhance collaboration. To start with, we will be doing that through the PTSA Website where we've made it easy to find out what's happening, locate all the documents you need, and discover what's going on in the community. We also have regularly scheduled "Tep Talks" (Coffee with the Principal)" and Coffee Hour and Talk Time

(CHATT) meetings. Check out the calendar on the PTSA website to find out when! If you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to let us know!

MAP Parent Info Session & "Tep Talk" (Coffee w/ Principal Teppner)

Parents are cordially invited to the MAP Parent Information Session and "Tep Talk" (Coffee with Principal Teppner) on November 2, 8-9 AM. The

majority of time will be with Somerset's ITCLs - Randi Peterson and Stephanie Wright, providing an overview of the K-5 MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Assessment that all students took in Sept.

Principal Teppner will also be available to hear your thoughts on how to make Somerset a better school, and to answer questions. Coffee/tea and light refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by the Ph.D. (Parenthood Development) Committee

Breakfast @ Somerset Elementary School

This year, Somerset offers breakfast from 8:25 - 8:55 AM every day in the school cafeteria for only \$2.25! Parents can join us as well for only \$3.25. Now, for a limited engagement, please join us for breakfast with your child's teacher!

Monday, Oct 31:
 Jean Lorch and Linda Myrick
Tuesday, Nov 1:
 Homa Hassan
Friday, Nov 4:
 Nathaniel Olson and Christine Ayers
Wednesday, Nov 9:
 Kay Rice

Breakfast is an important meal and several studies appear to link the consumption of nutritious breakfasts to improved dietary status and school performance. "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It gets children off to a good start whether they're in school or at home," said Edith Howard Hogan, R.D., L.D., of The American Dietetic Association. Parents, breakfast is simple and easy and ensuring that Somerset children eat a nutritious breakfast every day - whether in school or at home

-- is one of the most important contributions that you can make to your children's health, well-being and academic success, according to Karen Kafer, R.D., director of communications, Kellogg USA. With gluten-free and other healthful options available, what are you waiting for?!

To continue this valuable program, we need about 60 children and/or parents eating with us every day. Come join us! We need you!



Your PTSA Working For You

We thought we'd take a few minutes to "toot our own horn" as October rolls to a close. Somerset PTSA volunteers have been busy providing invaluable support to our students and community. Our thanks to everyone who has worked tirelessly to help enrich the educational and social growth of our Somerset students! Here's what we've been busy doing so far...

Community Building – The PTSA held its annual "Back to School" coffee on the first day, providing fancy beverages to parents and teachers alike. We've sponsored "Meet the Principal" events and parent coffee talks, as well as held our first general meeting in September. We also helped organize potluck dinners for each of the kindergarten and first grade classes, and provided childcare at Curriculum Night so that everyone could attend.

Emergency Preparedness – In the event of an emergency situation, Somerset students could possibly need to be at the school for some time. One of our biggest priorities this year has been to make sure that Somerset is prepared to respond to and recover from such a crisis situation. The PTSA recently updated the supplies in each classroom backpack, and have purchased other supplies to be kept on site in preparation for such a possibility.

Classroom Support – Did you know that teachers spend an average of \$40/month of their own money on their classroom supplies? Our Somerset PTSA provides \$300 to each classroom teacher in the hope of avoiding this at our school. Additionally, the PTSA offers \$1,500 to each grade level to support events or curriculum enhancements. The second grade classes have already used some of this money to pay for a visit from the popular and much-loved "Toymaker."

Fundraising – The PTSA can't do anything without funds to support us, so we've been busy making some money. The annual Walkathon/Fall Festival held this month was a rousing success, and we were able to raise over \$30,000 at the event. The sale of Spiritwear is popular with the kids and has so far brought in about \$2,300. A Cookie Dough Sale is just winding down and will hopefully help bolster our budget as well.

Volunteers Coordination – The PTSA helps channel volunteers to where the work is needed! So far, we've held training sessions for the "Walkabout" (playground monitor) program, organized the Health Room volunteers, and coordinated the set up of this year's busy group of Room Parents.

Communication – We hope that you are getting the information that you need from us! The PTSA provides weekly delivery of the "eNews" to all parents who have provided email addresses, sends out an occasional "eBlast" of breaking news, and maintains a website at www.somersetptsa.org which is full of forms, news, contacts and information for parents.

We thank each and every PTSA member and volunteer who helped support our cause and make these events a success. If you haven't yet joined or donated, please do so today!

Veterans Day

Somerset will be having our annual Veterans Day Assembly on Wednesday, November 9th. A part of this event will include a media presentation during the program. What we need from all of you, are photos of the Veterans you know and have known. These will be shown accompanied in song by our students. Our goal this year is to put a face on *who* our veterans are for our students.

Please make sure that all pictures are turned in by Wednesday, November 2nd to ensure that they are included in the media presentation. Photos can be brought in digital format, as pictures to be scanned or emailed to peterosnr@bsd405.org. Please make sure you indicate your child's name and let us know how your child is related to the person in the picture.

DRIVE SAFELY!

In the rush to get our kids to and from school, it's easy to get careless with our driving. Rolling through stop signs, driving too fast or being distracted by cell phones are just a few of the bad habits that can have deadly consequences--for our children, us or others. Please remember to drive responsibly, especially around our schools, respect our safety patrols, and protect our kids on and around our school.

eNEWS

We genuinely hope you are enjoying our quarterly special print edition eNews. To receive our weekly eNews in your inbox, sign up today! Simply visit us @ <http://somersetptsa.org> and enter your email in the box at the bottom right!

COMMUNITY CORNER

There are many events & activities going on in our vibrant community! From sports camps to cheer clinics, there are too many to print here so please check them out on our community page on the PTSA website!