

CALENDAR

January 13

Reflections Ceremony, 6PM

January 16

MLK JR Day - NO SCHOOL
WA Junior Chess Tournament

January 18

PhD Presentation: Reading &
Writing Strategies / MAP
Information Session, 6:30-8PM,

January 20

PTSA BOD Meeting, 9:15-11AM
Pizza & Bingo Night, 6PM

January 26

Staff Appreciation Mini-Lunch

February 3

Family Juggling Night, 630 PM

February 6

CHATT, 9-11AM

February 7

"TEPP" Talk, 7-8 PM. w/childcare

February 10

Variety / Talent Show, 7PM

February 15

PTSA General Mtg w/movie night

March 2

Math Adventures

March 5

CHATT, 9-11AM

March 8

"TEPP" Talk, 9:30-10:15AM

March 9

Family Movie Night

March 16

Professional Day --NO SCHOOL:

March 19-23

Young Scientist Week

March 23

Science Fair & Carnival, 5:30-8PM

Your PTSA Working for You

Somerset PTSA volunteers have continued to provide invaluable support to our students and school. We've been busy planning fun events for the kids and channeling PTSA funds into programs that best support our school community. Many thanks to everyone who has participated in organizing, administering and supervising these events and programs! In addition to the past few months of fun Game and Movie Nights, CHATT, Staff Appreciation, PhD, Principal 'Tepp Talks', Reflections, Art Imagination, Yearbook, Destination Imagination, Walk-About, Math Olympiad, Chess, Young Authors, Roots of Empathy, School Pictures, and many meetings, here are a few program budget highlights:

Breakfast Program – This year, Somerset has been offering a before-school breakfast daily. Benefits of this program include offering a healthy, hot breakfast to those kids whose families qualify for assistance from the School District, a place where students can come to school early, and a social opportunity to meet teachers. Unfortunately, the program has been running at a loss due to low attendance. The PTSA has budgeted up to \$3,500 to underwrite this program and has been supporting it financially since school began in September. If you have been meaning to give it a try, now is the time!

Green Team – The PTSA continues to support the teacher-led Green Team that has made Somerset Elementary one of the leading 'Green' schools in the District. The Green Team models to students what it means to be good citizens for our planet. One major initiative is the \$2900 funding of compostable trays for the cafeteria as an alternative to Styrofoam. Students learn to sort their remains into recycling, food waste, and compost with very little for trash. Ask your child to see if there are things you can do at home to reduce what goes in the trash.

Fundraising – Our major fundraiser recently was the Cookie Dough sale, which brought in about \$3,800 for the PTSA. Additionally, a side sale associated with the annual Library Book Fair netted about \$500 by selling wrapping paper, SpiritWear, Brown Bear car wash coupons and repurposing the last remaining auction items. Thanks to everyone who put on and supported all events!

Literacy Support – The PTSA recently granted almost \$10,000 to support Somerset's new "Journeys" literacy program. The money, as requested in a proposal prepared by Principal Teppner, will be used to purchase literacy notebooks, support targeted teacher "Learning Walks", and fund a Tier II Literacy Intervention Plan (the STAR Reading Support Program) for students who need additional support. In this new program, students identified by their teachers will be pulled from class and work one-on-one with a VIBES volunteer tutor on a weekly basis. The teachers and administration are excited about this new program and the assistance it will offer in improving our student fluency.

Directories – All PTSA members received a copy of the new directory, chock full of information, including class lists, addresses and telephone numbers, schedules, etc. If you haven't yet joined the PTSA, it's not too late! Membership forms are available on the SomersetPTSA.org website and should be submitted by January 20th. Your membership will include a copy of this invaluable resource.

We thank each and every PTSA member and volunteer who support our kids and make these events a success.

If you have not yet joined or donated, ***please do so today!***

Key Events

JANUARY 13, 6PM – REFLECTIONS CELEBRATION

Come celebrate our young artists at Somerset Elementary School! Reflections artwork will be on display and refreshments served on the mezzanine level, with the award ceremony to follow in the library. Vote for your favorite art piece, relax to beautiful music and be enchanted by descriptive narratives. Everyone is welcome!

JANUARY 16 – WA JUNIOR OPEN & RESERVE CHESS TOURNAMENT (registration required)

JANUARY 20, 6PM – PIZZA & BINGO NIGHT

Somerset Families, are you looking for a fun-filled evening to break up the dark and wet winter? Please bring the whole family and join us at 6:00 pm on Friday, January 20th in the Somerset gym for this event that is fun for all ages. Your pre-purchased dinner will include pizza, salad and a cookie, or you can just come for the bingo at \$1 a card (includes three games). We will have great prizes for players of any age!

http://somerseptsa.org/content/documents/pizza_bingo_order_form.pdf

JANUARY 18. 6:30 – 8PM – PhD: Reading and Writing Strategies and MAP Information Session

JANUARY 26 – STAFF APPRECIATION MINI-LUNCH

A light luncheon for our staff and teachers with contributions from the 2nd and 3rd grade classes.

FEBRUARY 3, 6:30PM – FAMILY JUGGLING NIGHT

Come try your hand at juggling! Lots of equipment and a professional juggler to guide you.

FEBRUARY 10, 7PM – TALENT/VARIETY SHOW

Somerset Elementary is excited to announce our First Annual School Variety / Talent Show. We are looking for acts NOW! Singing, dancing, skits, piano, violin, jokes and more! Apply now before January 20th! You must submit an application to participate in the variety show - no late entries will be accepted. Visit SomersetPTSA.org to download an application. Fill it out completely and leave in the PTSA box in the main office. Questions, contact Michael Ketchum at ketch18@gmail.com.

MARCH 19-23 – YOUNG SCIENTIST WEEK

Young Scientist Week is an annual event provided for by the Somerset Elementary PTSA encouraging all Somerset students to get excited about learning and participating in science and engineering activities. Activities include a Pacific Science Center demonstration, student science projects, in-class science activities, and culminating in the Family Science Night Carnival.

MARCH 29 – STAFF APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Breakfast for our staff and teachers with contributions from kindergarten and 1st grades classes.

PhD: Reading & Writing Strategies / MAP Information Session

Please attend an important parent education opportunity on Wed, January 18 from 6:30 – 8PM in the Somerset Library. Melissa Slater, 2nd Grade Teacher, will discuss *Reading & Writing Strategies: How to Support Your Child's Literacy Development at Home*. Additionally, Randi Peterson, Curriculum Leader, will provide information about the MAP Assessment (Measures of Academic Progress). Melissa will highlight the latest research on literacy development and reading strategies that will help build a love for reading. In addition, she will briefly share writing strategies that will support your child's reading development. Randi will answer questions you may have about the MAP reading and math scores you received from your child's teacher at conference time.

FREE CHILDCARE for school-aged children by a Somerset teacher while parents attend. Children can bring homework or a book to read. We hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Tanya Franzen, Ph.D. Chair, at tanyafranzen@windermere.com.

FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

We are looking for someone to chair the Festival of Cultures. This is an awesome event at Somerset that showcases our diverse heritage. If we don't find anyone to chair the event, it will unfortunately not happen this year. Please help us continue this tradition.

eNEWS

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

PTSA General Meeting & Election of New Officers

Join us **Wednesday February 15th** at 7:00pm for the winter PTSA General Meeting. At this meeting we plan to elect new officers for the next school year. An agenda and slate will be posted on the website Feb 1st. We need your participation and input! We will also update the budget and provide information on happenings at the school and district. Childcare provided in conjunction with Movie Night.

Nominations

Interested in providing the direction for the coming year? We are looking for candidates for officer positions. This is a fulfilling way to contribute to your child's Somerset experience! Descriptions are available in the Standing Rules on the website Leadership tab, and more information from DianeFern@hotmail.com

Awards

Coming soon in eNews: Information on nominations for Teacher of the Year and Outstanding Volunteers.