

Superstar Newsletter

Somerset Elementary School
Mr. Teppner — Principal

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 18th, 2011



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Thanks for all of the warm welcomes and participation in the first Coffee with the Principal on September 13th.

Hopefully your children got plenty of sleep over the weekend. Did you know that children of elementary age should get about 10 hours of sleep each night to be ready for school and able to focus on learning?

Be sure to put Curriculum Night on your calendar for Tuesday, September 27th. This is an important opportunity to learn about classroom expectations and structure. This year we have quite a bit of new curriculum so there is a lot to share! Grades K-2 will meet in their classrooms from 6-6:45pm. We will then have a brief whole school meeting in the cafeteria. The 3rd-5th grades will then meet from 7:15-8pm. PTSA will be providing FREE childcare in the gym from 5:45-8pm.

I am enjoying getting to know your children.

Mr. Teppner



Quotes of the Week

...on community

Each of us is a being in himself and a being in society, each of us needs to understand himself and understand others, take care of others and be taken care of himself. Haniel Long

...on collaboration

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." Mattie Stepanek

...on communication

The most important things are the hardest to say, because words diminish them. Stephen King



In this issue...

Principal's Corner

CCC Quotes of the Week

Somerset Safety

MAP TESTING

Enrichment - AEP

Virtue of the Month

Meet the Staff

Somerset Safety Issues...

A couple of actions will help us keep students safe and support more efficient flow of traffic here at Somerset.

Please make every effort to drop your child off no earlier than 8:50 unless they are coming to eat breakfast which starts at 8:30. At the end of the day, punctuality limits the amount of supervision required. Please help us keep costs down by arriving as close to 3:30 as possible. We are working hard to keep the flow of traffic moving as swiftly as possible. Students arriving early or staying late will need to call home for transportation or supervision.

Please be careful in the morning and afternoon to not block driveways of our community neighbors. We deeply appreciate their patience with our high volume of traffic before and after school.

We have adjusted the parking lot in the morning so that walking traffic can safely go around to the rear of the building to line up.

When walking to and from your cars, please model safe behavior by NOT walking between busses. Walking between busses gives students the false impression that doing so is safe.

Speeding and U-turns put everyone at risk. Thanks in advance for being punctual, patient and driving safely.

RESPECT!

The virtue of the month of September is "Respect". At our first assembly we challenged students to show respect for each other, for the school, and for those adults that they interact with here at Somerset. Teachers will be providing lessons on Respect as part of our Virtues curriculum. Please join us in emphasizing respectful attributes when they are displayed at home. Please help make the home to school connection with Virtues by asking your child in the car, at dinner, on a walk, etc. what it means to show respect to your parents, friends, teachers... We'd love to hear how Virtues are being used at home too!

Planning Ahead: As you plan your trips or other events during the school year, we ask that you email the classroom teacher and somersetattendance@bsd405.org as far in advance as possible of your absence. We will no longer be asking you to complete the "Request for Excused Absence" forms. As educators we do not endorse missing school and while we hope you will choose not to miss school it is ultimately up to the family. Therefore, the forms are no longer necessary. Please remember that most of our curriculum is not textbook or workbook based so teachers may not be able to provide materials to make up all the work that has been missed. Additionally, teachers tailor their instruction each day to the level of proficiency demonstrated in a previous lesson which also makes it more challenging for a teacher to send work for the time you are gone.

Shift in 2nd grade Enrichment model...

The Academic Extension Literacy Program will be piloted in ALL 16 elementary schools this year, specifically to identified 2nd grade gifted readers. This shifts enrichment to an inclusion model taught by the classroom teachers. Somerset's 2nd grade teachers have had an initial training in 'best practices' and instructional strategies for gifted students. They will implement a hybrid curriculum, combining the skills and text from the standard literacy curriculum, Journey's, and the supplemental curriculum, Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program. This curriculum is a framework which will be used to introduce readers to higher levels of thinking, in small discussion groups. Students will be asked to think critically about ideas presented in text and learn how to respond, question and reflect on each other's ideas. Teachers will continue to be provided training to support this pilot model of enrichment. Please look for the AEP – Literacy News as these Newsletters will help to explain the program throughout the year.

Electron Boy

The Somerset Staff would like to take this time to recognize the passing of Erik Martin, a heroic child that recently lost his battle with cancer. He will be remembered by all those that came in contact with him. If you or your family needs support in regards to this or any other issue, please contact Jen Frohlich, the school counselor. She can provide support, offer ways to talk about this with your child or put you in contact with resources. (425) 456-5862 or frohlichj@bsd405.org Somerset will have additional counselors available on Monday to support students. Here is a link for the Seattle Times obituary for Erik. http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2016228224_electronboy17m.html?syndication=rss





Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Wright



This is Mrs. Randi Peterson's second year at Somerset. she will be job sharing the Elementary Instructional Technology Curriculum Leader role with Stephanie. She is a product of the Bellevue School District. She attended Lake Hills Elementary School, Odle Middle School and graduated from Sammamish High School. After graduating from Sammamish, Mrs. Peterson went to Western Washington University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Communication. She moved home to Bellevue and earned her Masters of Teaching from City University; student teaching with her former 4th grade teacher at Spiritridge in 3rd grade. For the next seven years, she taught 2nd grade at Spiritridge. Mrs. Peterson is passionate about student leadership and spent her 13th year on staff this summer at Mt. Olympus Leadership Camp. She is also actively involved with the Freedom Writers Foundation. Mrs. Peterson; her husband, Rick; son, Derrick (who will be two in December); basset hound, Daisy and newest edition, a bunny named, Hop live in Bellevue.



Mrs. Stephanie Wright is thrilled to be back at Somerset Elementary, where she taught for five years before taking leave for the birth of her daughter, Aubrey, in Feb. 2010. Stephanie spent last year as the Technology and Curriculum Coach at Phantom Lake Elementary and is elated to be sharing the Instructional Technology Curriculum Leader role with Mrs. Peterson at Somerset Elementary. Stephanie grew up in Sammamish where she met and married her high school sweetheart, Evan. After graduating from Eastlake High School, Stephanie (a loyal Dawg fan) pursued her studies at the University of Washington where she earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology and her Masters in Teaching. A passion of Stephanie's is finding ways to help the environment and she was the Founder of Somerset's Green Team, which helped Somerset become one of the few schools in Bellevue that has reached King County's Level 3 status. Along with Mrs. Shana Bowen, Stephanie helped co-found Math Imagination, an after-school math program for Somerset students. Basketball, spicy food, documentaries and a good book are among some of Stephanie's favorite things. Stephanie looks forward to reconnecting with former Somerset students, teachers and families this year.

MAP Testing

Between Tuesday, September 20th and Wednesday, September 28th students at Somerset will experience the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) test. This year 3rd-5th graders will take the reading portion of the test and all students (K-5) will take the math portion of the test. We will also test again in the spring.

Here's some additional information about MAP for you: MAP tests are taken on a computer, time needed is about an hour, and each test *adapts* based on the student's correct or incorrect responses. The tests are aligned with current state standards, and results are reported as RIT scores, along with national percentile rankings and Lexile levels for reading.

As data becomes available we will share it with you.

Please direct any MAP related questions to Somerset's Instructional Technology Curriculum Leaders: Randi Peterson (petersonr@bsd405.org) and Stephanie Wright (wrightst@bsd405.org).

Please note some minor changes to recess schedules intended to support quality instruction.

Daily Schedule for 2011-2012

9:00 first bell rings
9:05 final bell rings

Lunch and Recesses

11:20-12:05 1, 4
11:45-12:30 K, 3
12:15-1:00 2, 5

Afternoon Recesses

1:35-1:50 K, 1, 3
1:55-2:10 2, 4, 5
3:30 Dismissal

Wednesday dismissal is @ 1:10PM.