

INSIDE SOMERSET & SOMERSET BERKLEY



@Somerset_PS



Family Newsletter

Dear Families,

March is known for exciting college basketball games, the opening of Somerset Creamery, the arrival of Spring, and great musical performances from Somerset, Berkley, and Somerset Berkley students. As part of Somerset's celebration of music in our schools, several concerts took place at SBRHS during the month. Those families who were fortunate to see at least one of the performances were treated to wonderful music and a great demonstration of our students' musical abilities as they progress through our schools.

On Friday, March 29, I was so proud of the community in which I live and work when I attended the comedy show at White's of Westport for the Mason Sterne Memorial Playground Fundraiser. With approximately 1,000 people in attendance and donations of so many raffle baskets and incredible auction items, it was amazing to see the support from our community to remember Mason and help to build a playground at Chace Street School in Mason's name. I have so much admiration and appreciation for the Chace Street School staff and PTO for organizing this event.

Following this event, I witnessed students and staff at North Elementary celebrate the life of Selina Oehmen with the dedication of "Selina's Book Nook" in the North library. This was followed by the SBRHS Student Council's donation of over \$7500 to the Selina Chapter of The Cure Starts Now Foundation to help fight DIPG and all cancers. I am so proud to be the Superintendent of our two school districts when I see our students and staff act so selflessly while performing acts of kindness and giving.

Sincerely,
Jeff Schoonover

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Selina's Book Nook



On March 22, North Elementary School dedicated a section of the school's library in memory of Selina Oehmen. The dedication of *Selina's Book Nook* was attended by all students in fifth grade, teachers and former teachers of Selina, as well as the Oehmen family and friends.

On April 4, members of the SBRHS Student Council presented the Oehmen family with a check in the amount of \$7630 for the Selina Chapter of The Cure Starts Now Foundation to help fight DIPG and all cancers. The money was raised by all SBRHS students during the annual Penny Pounds competition associated with the Case Rally. To support The Cure Starts Now and Selina's chapter, please visit <https://thecurestartsnow.org/get-involved/chapters/massachusetts-somerset/>.



APRIL 24, 2019

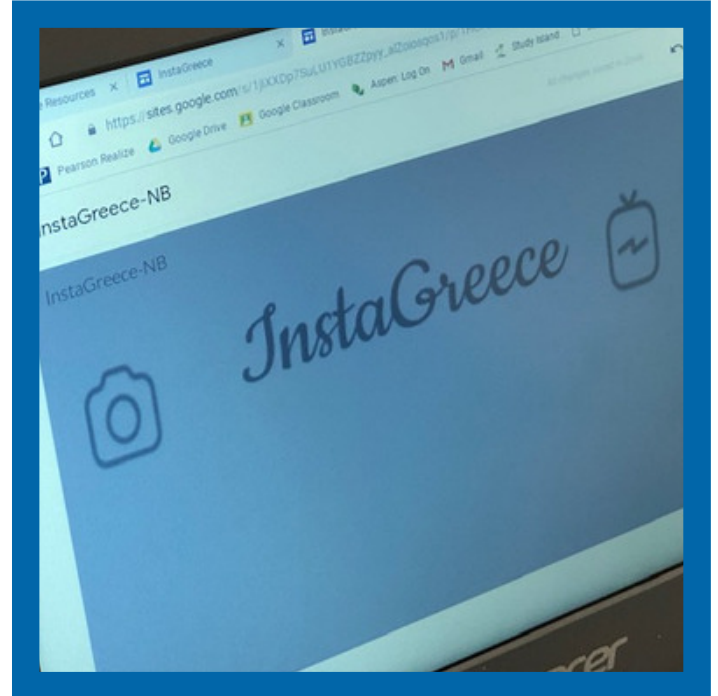
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Technology Integration at SMS

SMS Social Studies Content Coordinator Mr. Redfearn and science teacher/technology integration specialist Ms. Leatherwood recently collaborated on a project called InstaGreece. The project required seventh-grade students to incorporate technology, history, writing, and graphics as they analyzed, discussed and assessed the Peloponnesian Wars of Greece. Students studied two causes for the war and five major aspects of the conflict. With this information, they were required to create an InstaGreece Google Site (a spin-off of Instagram) in which they had to incorporate posts, images (maps and videos were required) and other aspects that would completely discuss and analyze the war as if social media were around at the time.

Students visited the SMS Media Center where Mrs. Leatherwood and Mr. Redfearn co-taught the introductory lesson and expectations before students began designing their own InstaGreece websites. Student engagement exceeded expectation and generated excitement about the project for the students, Mr. Redfearn, and Mrs. Leatherwood.

It is so exciting to see our teachers at Somerset Middle School and in all of our schools collaborating and using technology in new and creative ways every day to enhance student learning.



SBRHS Students Participate in International Affairs Competition

Somerset Berkley Regional High School recently sent three teams of four students each to Bridgewater State University to compete in the Annual Academic WORLDQUEST competition. Academic WorldQuest is a fast-paced, team-oriented global knowledge competition for high school students. Participants are tested in a variety of topics related to international affairs including current international politics, geography, global economics, history, and world cultures. Teams compete by answering questions divided into ten categories. This year's categories included Qatar, North Korea, Global Refugee and Migration Crisis, NATO and 70, Japan-U.S. Relations, Space Policy, the World Trade Organization, Building Peace, Great Decisions, and Current Events. Our three teams independently researched and prepared to compete at the local competition attempting to qualify for the National Competition. SBRHS competitors were:

Abigail Montag
Aidan Montag
Ryan Silverman
David Rausch



Allison Vieira
Joseph Bodner
Rory McCoomb
Grace Dube



Jack Field
Jared Silverman
Saadi Saade
Caitlin Lourenco



SBRHS Students Visit State House on Student Government Day

On April 5, SBRHS Seniors AJ Nascimento and Vanessa Rapoza along with Social Studies Content Coordinator Mrs. Alice Ferris visited the Massachusetts State House for Student Government Day. This program encourages students to learn about the structure of state government and become engaged citizens through active participation in the legislative process. Students assemble at the State

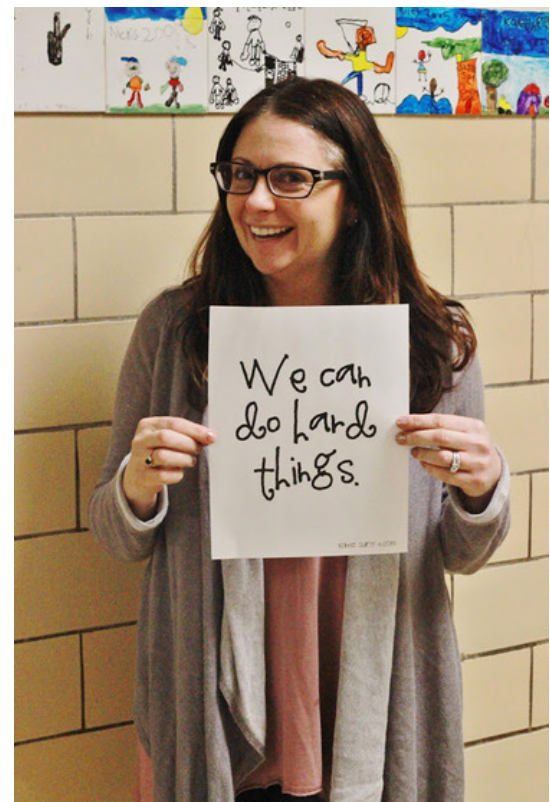


House, where most replicate activities of the Massachusetts State Legislature, while others meet as constitutional officers or as members of the Supreme Judicial Court.

South Elementary School Encourages Motivation and Recognizes Students for Kindness

Each month, South Elementary School focuses on a character trait and then recognizes and celebrates children who were able to put that trait into action. At each monthly celebration, a grade level is responsible for giving a presentation about the character trait of the month and last month's theme. In February, the theme was motivation and the first graders decided to create posters based on motivational words and phrases. They took pictures of staff holding these signs and used those photos to create a slideshow for their presentation.

March's theme was kindness and it was kindergarten's turn to give a presentation at the assembly on March 29. Several students from each grade level received kindness awards with their family members looking on. During April, South is focusing on tolerance and looking for qualities such as acceptance, respect, compassion, and patience.



SBRHS Capstone Project

In the November 2018 family newsletter information about Somerset Berkley Regional High School's new senior capstone project course was shared. Seniors participating in capstone must complete four major components: a research paper, a product/performance, a portfolio, and a presentation. Through the project, students acquire and demonstrate skills in time management, research, problem-solving, organization, public speaking, and self-sufficiency.

The student's learning goal is to choose a topic or profession that interests them and to explore it deeply. Students research and document information related to the subject of their choice while obtaining a mentor to advise them throughout their project. Next, students apply the information they have gained from their research to manufacture a product. The product may be an actual physical product, performance or demonstration, or a service to the community. There must be a clear relationship between the student's research and their product. The culminating activity is a presentation to a panel of judges at which time students share what they did, why they did it, and what they learned through the process while also sharing a portfolio of their work.

In recent weeks, students participating in this course have been fulfilling these requirements. Gwenyth Duclos' capstone project involves improving the transition from middle school to SBRHS. Earlier this month, she attended Berkley Middle School with members of the SBRHS Guidance Department to assist eighth graders in choosing their high school courses for next year. Emma Schoonover recently organized a Bingo Night for families at North Elementary with proceeds going to create a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) library and resources for students, families, and teachers at North Elementary. In all, over \$1200 were raised at the event or donated. Catie Ledwidge's capstone work involved designing a yoga class with the help of my mentor. She then taught the class at Blend Cafe and Yoga in Somerset on April 2nd to a few of my peers. The goal of her project is to show teenagers how yoga can be used as a natural remedy to help relieve the stress they experience in their daily lives. Gwenyth, Emma, and Catie will all be attending college next year while pursuing careers in education.

Pictured below left is Gwen working with a Berkley Middle School student reviewing courses and assisting in the course selection process.

Pictured below center is Catie during her yoga lesson at Blend Cafe and Yoga.

Pictured below right is Emma at the North Family Bingo Night, along with bingo caller Steven Manchester.



Celebrating Music in Our Schools

During the month of March each year, SBRHS hosts numerous festivals and concerts to celebrate music in our schools and to showcase our many students' amazing musical talents. This year was no different. SBRHS hosted a high school jazz festival, a strings festival for our participating students in grades 4-12, a concert band festival for our students in grades 5-12, and a choral festival for students from SBRHS and both Somerset and Berkley Middle Schools. Each show was truly impressive.

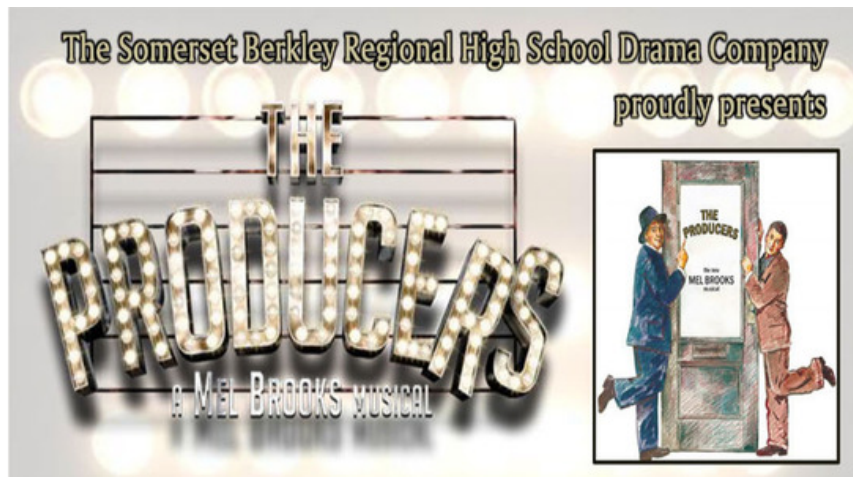


Upcoming Events

Spring marks the time when the Somerset Middle School and SBRHS drama companies present their student productions to the community. SMS will be performing Junie B. Jones Jr: The Musical on April 25-26 at SMS with shows at 7:00 PM each day. SBRHS will be performing The Producers on May 10-12 with several matinee and evening performances.

April is also National Autism Awareness Month. On April 27 at 1:00 PM, the school districts will be hosting an Autism Awareness Walk at SBRHS. Last year, proceeds from the walk provided over 30 classrooms with materials and resources for students and teachers that have benefited hundreds of students in Somerset and Somerset Berkley.

Visit somersetschools.org to find more information on these two productions and the Walk-the-Walk event.



Welcome to our New Somerset School Committee Members

On April 22, the two newest members of the Somerset School Committee attended their first meeting as members of the Committee. Welcome to Mr. Chris Godet and Mr. Michael McDonald. At the first School Committee following the annual town election, it is customary to reorganize the Committee and appoint a new chair and vice-chair. At that time Mr. Andrew Crook was appointed as Chairperson of the Somerset School Committee and Mr. Godet was appointed as vice-chairperson. Additionally, Mr. Victor Machado and Mr. McDonald were appointed to the Somerset Berkley Regional School Committee.

The school department wants to thank Mrs. Lori Rothwell and Mr. Michael Botelho for their service on the School Committee for the past several years. A sincere thank you also goes to Mrs. Melissa Terra who served as the chairperson of the school committee for the past year. At the meeting, members of the school committee were treated to a tour of North Elementary where they visited several classes each and heard from students and teachers about the happenings in the school. Members of the School Committee were great sports when Mrs. Jennifer Ashley and Dr. Paula Manchester asked them to create the first North bedtime story while reading a book in front of a green screen, demonstrating one way in which our students and teachers are utilizing technology in school. Below are newest members Mr. Godet (right) and Mr. McDonald (left) reading Mo Willems' *I Really Like Slop!* in front of the green screen. The URL to the YouTube video of the bedtime story is <https://youtu.be/4I3vmArLEWU>.

