**HSA Meeting**

**September 16th 2022, 9am**

**Attendees: 24 in person, 20 online**

**Updates from Dr. Oates**

**Fablevision -** This year the HSA and Dads Night has sponsored a partnership with an amazing company, FableVision, founded by the Reynolds Family. Peter Reynolds is a renowned writer known for his children's books that focus on themes such as creativity, empathy, and perseverance. All year, in their classes and through library, art, and STEAM lessons, the students will be exploring his different books and using software and activities to broaden their creativity, explore what is special and unique about them and use their voice to stand up for what they believe.Somerville staff, parents and students will be invited to attend workshops on October 3rd and 4th.

**Parent Book Group** - The first book the parent book group will be reading is *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. The Ridgewood Library is holding several copies for parents to check out. Participants can join a meeting on either October 14th or 28th.

**Back to School Night** - Back to School night was a big success and this year Somerville welcomes 368 students and 240 families. Thank you to Chrissy McCormack for organizing a great new parents dinner attended by 70 people.

**NJSLA Testing** - Last year's results will be mailed out to families from Friday, September 23rd for students who were in 3rd through 5th grade last year.

**Emergency Drills** - Every month the school will run 2 drills - one for fire and one for safety (evacuation or lockdown). Parents are notified by email when these drills take place.

**Start Strong Testing** - The 4th and 5th grade will have testing Wednesday September 21st and Thursday September 22nd. These tests provide immediate results to allow teachers to adapt their lessons accordingly.

**Past Events**

* **Team Somerville Student Assembly** - September 6th.
* **Bobby Beetcut Assembly** - September 8th. Bobby is a musician whose fun and uplifting music empowers children to be artists creating the life of their dreams.
* **Back to School Night -** September 8th.
* **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast -** September 9th - Thank you to Liz Mazzurco, Suzanne Wert and the 4th and 5th grade families that volunteered.
* **Back to School Picnic -** September 16th. Over 150 families attended and enjoyed a photobooth, popcorn, games, music and an appearance by Leo the Leopard. Thank you to Kelly Morgan, Emily Peroni, Elizabeth Kaplanis and all the volunteers for making this a wonderful family event.

**Upcoming Events**

* **Charleston Wrap Fundraiser -** Begins September 19th. Information has been sent home with your youngest child. Each Somerville family that spends $50 or more will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win lunch with Dr Oates!
* **Picture Day -**  Tuesday, September 20 with a rain date of Wednesday, September 21st. Please register your students online so you will receive a notification when your child's pictures are available in the online gallery.
* **Start Strong Testing** - For 4th and 5th grades Wednesday September 21st and Thursday, September 22nd.
* **Rosh Hashanah** September 26th - Schools will be closed.
* **Somerville Children's Theater (SCT) Parent Meeting** - Thursday, September 29th at 7pm in the Gym.
* **Frosty Fridays are back!** on September 16, 23 & 30. Ice pops are $1.
* **Progressive Porch** - Friday, September 30th. You can still register to host or attend and host assignments will be given out the week of the event.
* **National Custodian Appreciation Day** - October 2nd. Somerville has an excellent custodial staff led by Corey Manning. We encourage students to write him a note or draw a picture to express their appreciation.
* **FableVision Parent Workshop** - Monday ,October 3rd, 7pm.
* **FableVision Student Workshops** - Tuesday, October 4th.
* **Yom Kippur** Wednesday, October 5th -Schools will be closed.
* **Indigenous Peoples Day** - October 10th - Schools will be closed and it will be a professional development day for staff.
* **Book Fair -** October 12th & 13th. Information will come home with students including their classes shopping times. You can send cash to school for your child to shop and the younger grade will have the help of their teachers, aides and 4th and 5th grade book buddies to help them make selections to suit their budget.
* **Team Somerville Assembly** - Thursday, October 13th
* **HSA Meeting** - Friday, October 14th, 9am
* **Parent Book Group Meeting** - Friday, October 14th or Friday, October 28th - *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch .
* **Art Docent Day -** October 19th.
* **Author Visit -** Friday, October 21st. Award winning Graphic Novelist Jason Patterson will visit the students to discuss his graphic novel series and his creative process. Autographed copies of his books are available to purchase online at the HSA website.
* **Brandon White**- During Respect Week, Brandon White will be visiting all 6 elementary schools and will talk to the children about inclusion, tolerance and developing empathy.

**HSA Updates**

* **HVAC System for the Gym -** Previous HSA and Dad’s night fundraising efforts have made it possible to install an HVAC system in the gym! Work is due to begin in November/December.
* **Spirit Wear:** To date spirit wear has netted just under $2400. Items were very popular and restocked for the Back to School Picnic.
* **HSA Dues:**  So far over 90 families have paid their HSA Dues. HSA dues not only support activities, socials, assemblies and more, they also give you access to a directory of students and parents. The new directory is due to go live around the 1st of October.
* **Birthday Book Gifting** - This opportunity will be live starting the week of September 19th. For a donation of $18 students will be able to pick a book, during their birthday month, and have their name placed on the nameplate inside.
* **Art Docent Days -** Throughout the school year there will be 3 Art Docent Days - October 19, January 11 & April 26th. On these days a parent volunteers to teach their child's class about an artist or artistic style and leads the class in a project. The online Tic Toc (To Introduce Culture To Our Children) website is full of great ideas. https://tictoc.org/
* **Fifth Grade Updates** - The student artist t-shirt contest is underway and down to the final 3. A yearbook contract has been signed and information will be coming shortly for parents to start contributing pictures.

Thank you to all who attended today’s meeting in person and those who joined us on our Zoom call. Thank you Dr. Oates for meeting with us today!

Please keep an eye on the Tuesday E-News to stay up to date on all the latest information and announcements.

**Next HSA Meeting will be October 14th at 9am.**