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| **Somerville School**  **Ridgewood Public Schools**  **Dr. Lorna Oates-Santos, Principal** |
| **January 2, 2018 E-News**  *"Happy New Year Somerville!"*  Dear Parents,  Welcome Back!  I hope you enjoyed wonderful family time over the December Break and recharged to start 2018 off right.  We were excited to welcome back your children today and get back into the swing of things here at Somerville.  January always provides us all with the opportunity to start over in a way.  Recommitting to positive habits is a common practice at this time of year.  In that spirit, here are the Top Ten Reminders To Keep Somerville Running Smoothly and Positively:  10.  This Friday we will have our One School, One Book Assembly to launch the 2018 selection. Each family will receive their own copy of a book (thank you to the HSA for this purchase) to read at home with their children.  Please participate according to the schedule you will find in the book so that your child is part of the fun and you experience the joy of sharing literature as a family.  Also, please send in a photo of your family reading to [loates@ridgewood.k12.nj.us](mailto:loates@ridgewood.k12.nj.us) by Friday, January 19th for our closing assembly.  9.   Please remember the drop-off and pick-up procedures.  Most importantly, stop and drop if you are in that zone, do not K-turn in front of the school (or anywhere in NJ with a double line!) and use the cross walk!  Student safety trumps EVERYTHING.  8.  Mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 24th as the Wellbeing Speaker Series continues in 2018.  The next speaker will be Katie Hurley, **"Tackling Childhood Stess:  How to Raise Happy Kids in a Stressful World"**.  As always, the location is GW Middle school auditorium from 7:00-9:00 PM.  7.  5th grade parents:  Mark your calendar for the concert on Friday, January 26th at 9:15 AM!  6.  Read Enews each week.  Alexa and I try to keep it short and sweet - full of important nuggets of information that help you get the most out of being a part of the Somerville Community.  5.  Remind your children about the value of a **healthy breakfast and snack**!  What we put in our body is the gas that gets us through the day and I often see students petering out because their fuel is not cutting the mustard.  I also see, in equal measure, students with incredibly powerful food choices such as bananas, cheese sticks, veggies and hummus and bento boxes full of fruits, protein and veggies.  Make 2018 a year of healthy school food!  4.  Please remember to call the absence verification line before 9 AM if your child is absent.  We want to make sure all students are accounted for each day!  201-670-2750 - Press 1  3.  Participate in our monthly food drives!!!  This month the drive is for oatmeal, coordinated by the 4th grade. Your children love to put something in the bucket and get a high 5 from Dr. Oates:)  2.  Promote independence by not delivering forgotten items (except lunch!) to school.  Once your child feels what it is like to leave that trombone at home, (s)he is less likely to do it again!  1.  Choose to Be Nice.  Somerville is known for being a welcoming community with kind students that demonstrate excellent manners.  Our grown up modelling is what sets the tone.  Thank you for being such a great partner in this work.  Welcome 2018!  Let's make it a great one.  Fondly,  Dr. Oates  **HOME AND SCHOOL**  **HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION!**  **Happy New Year** to the kids and caregivers of Somerville! My wish for Somerville in 2018 is that we continue to “make new friends and keep the old” and strengthen our connections here at one of Ridgewood’s best-loved institutions.   How privileged we are to be part of this constantly renewing community, and how quickly our years here fly by…  … Which leads me to a new development I am happy to share with you: at the December HSA meeting, the board agreed to proceed with the necessary steps to create **two new chair positions**: a volunteer coordinator and a “new families” chair. Our goals in creating these new roles is twofold: to serve the Somerville community better, and to promote participation in the HSA. The board will still be relatively streamlined compared to HSAs at other Ridgewood schools. I am sure many of you have great ideas about how to improve the volunteering process and how we onboard new families: please share them by e-mail ([somervilleschoolhsa@gmail.com](mailto:somervilleschoolhsa@gmail.com)) or at an upcoming HSA meeting – and consider taking on one of these new roles yourself for next year.  **January’s HSA meeting is on Friday, January 19th**, from 2:00 – 3:00. Please join us if you can! We would love to see you.  The **HARLEM WIZARDS** will be performing at the Ridgewood High School gym on January 26th! They will play against Ridgewood’s finest teachers and school administrators, including Dr. Oates! This is a super-popular annual event that sells out quickly. **Ticket sales open today, January 2nd, at 8:00 p.m.** First-come first-served! The tickets ($15) are sold online only. Look for an e-mail from the district on January 2nd, or this link will be activated at that time: <https://www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets/>.  Would you like to volunteer to help out at the **Harlem Wizards** basketball game on January 26th? There are still two slots available for Somerville volunteers. Volunteers get free admission and will receive a "volunteer" lanyard for entry.  Please e-mail me at [somervilleschoolhsa@gmail.com](mailto:somervilleschoolhsa@gmail.com) if you’re interested.  Keep warm!  Alexa Wagschal |