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| **Somerville School****Ridgewood Public Schools****Dr. Lorna Oates-Santos, Principal** |
| **March 13, 2018 E-News**Dear Parents,Tomorrow, March 14, is a day that students, schools and universities are utilizing as way to bring continued attention to the issue of gun violence in our world. As elementary principals, our goal is to use the power of this national conversation as an opportunity to teach our students the importance of compassion and inclusion at a developmentally appropriate level.  Although we address character education and the value of kindness all year long, the recent tragedy in Florida presents as a teachable moment to gather the attention of our whole school community all at once and explore what it means to be a community that takes care of one another.Every elementary school is going to take some time on March 14th to explore what it means to reach out to those who may feel alone or isolated. Students will gather together in large or small groups, varying by school, to read the book *I’m Here* by Peter Reynolds and watch a brief video of the story. You can also view the video [here](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/eJ9Nzn1iqOrKbL-ptpgmGQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRciSBsP0QcaHR0cHM6Ly95b3V0dS5iZS9ielNyNUY4Z3Qzb1cHc2Nob29sbVgEAAAAAUIKAALs7KdaadiJilIcY2FuZWJiaWFAcmlkZ2V3b29kLmsxMi5uai51cw~~).  Guiding questions for discussion may include:* Do you ever take time during recess to look around and see who might be feeling left out or lonely?
* What does this quote mean for the boy in the book and for us? *To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world.*
* What are things we all have in common?  How can you find out about these things?  Can you always tell what you have in common with someone by looking at them from the outside?
* What can we do to make sure everyone in school is included?  How do we show each other we care?

I invite you to continue this conversation at home when your children come home tomorrow afternoon. The book is a great jumping off point for students (and grown ups) of all ages. Somerville has always been a community that demonstrates inclusion, compassion and care for one another. It is not lost on me that just this weekend hundreds of dads came together to raise money for our school. Their work, however, is not just in putting on a show. Rather, it is to build fellowship among one another and model for their own children how powerful being an active part of an inclusive community to everyone involved; it is a gift. It takes work by all of us and I am always honored and pleased to be part of that work with all of you.Fondly,Dr. Oates**REMINDERS**Thursday, March 15 - Author Visit Grace Lin visits SomervilleFriday, March 16 - HSA Meeting @ 1:15 in Room 209Please be on the lookout  today for a handout in your son/daughter's backpack from the **International Day** committee. Please have your child complete the form and return to the main office by March 26, 2018 so it can be included on the bulletin board for International Day. Click [here](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/ISNpfDlHaFuNQGjRgysl8Q~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRciSBsP0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPWlreWVjSFpSN1JrJm1hbD0xM2ZkYTFhZjM3OWZkYWJiZWQyNTRkYWY2MjMwMjIxYTE3MzRlNTE0OTU1MmRiNzViMDJlMmM0OWJmZjgyNzQwVwdzY2hvb2xtWAQAAAABQgoAAuzsp1pp2ImKUhxjYW5lYmJpYUByaWRnZXdvb2QuazEyLm5qLnVz) for the form as well.**COMMUNITY**Please see the attached letter from Ridgewood Social Services thanking Somerville School for our generous donations from last month.  Our monthly food donations are greatly valued and appreciated.  Way to go Somerville!  Let's continue our generosity for this worthy cause.  This month we are collecting pancake mix and syrup.  Click [here](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/V5Cy0Q-gsvK8dIH6pWCvrQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRciSBsP0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPWlreWVjSFpSN1JrJm1hbD0zOTZhNmRlYzM2YTQ2ZDNjYzg1YWQ2MWE0NTIxNTcyYTkzMzAxOTRhMjhiNzM3MzI1OWQyMGNmYzBlMDFjNzY1VwdzY2hvb2xtWAQAAAABQgoAAuzsp1pp2ImKUhxjYW5lYmJpYUByaWRnZXdvb2QuazEyLm5qLnVz)  to view the letter.**CLUB UPDATE****Spring Green Thumbs Club*****(Grades 3-5 Only)***The Spring Green Thumbs will be embarking on an ambitious project to foster a love and understanding of planting, maintaining and harvesting a vegetable garden.  One of the club's goals is to plant vegetables in the spring that can be harvested before the end of the school year. We will have a plant sale and we will end the spring session with a salad party.**Wednesday & Friday (8:05am-8:35am) Start Date: Wed. 3/21 End Date: Fri 6/8**Sign-ups will open on Tuesday, March 13th.  Please email slupia@ridgewood.k12.nj.us or rsabatino@ridgewood.k12.nj.us to join.  First come, first serve.  Students who were locked out of the Fall club will be added first.**Name of Advisors: Mr. Lupia & Mr. Sabatino****Location of meetings:** **Science Lab****Continental Math League**Attention 4th and 5th grade students:This Thursday, March 815, is the **last**Continental Math League Meet.  Come and give it a try! Bring a pencil and begin at 8:05 am.4th grade to room 2085th grade to room 109(Second and Third grade students will take the CML in their classrooms during the school day.**HSA E-NEWS****FROM THE PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION***“When I decided to create children's books as my profession, I remembered my own childhood. I remembered the books I wished I had had when I was a child. Books that would have made me feel like I belonged, that there was someone else like me out there, and that who I was, was actually something great.”*   – Grace Lin**AUTHOR GRACE LIN THIS THURSDAY**The HSA is honored to present **NY Times bestselling author/illustrator** **Grace Lin**! Thank you to Somerville’s librarian, **Elizabeth Drennan**, for coordinating this visit! (And thank you, Somerville parents, for contributing funds so the HSA can sponsor events like this!) ALL students will participate in one of three grade-appropriate assemblies with Ms. Lin, as follows: grades K-1: “How a Book Is Made”; grades 2-3: “The Lunar New Year”; grades 4-5: “Behind ‘Where The Mountain Meets The Moon’”. Many parents have already enjoyed Ms. Lin’s wonderful books with their children. If you have yet to discover these beautifully illustrated stories, or if you are curious to know more about Ms. Lin, here is a brief biography:Before Grace Lin was an award-winning and NY Times bestselling author/illustrator of picture books, early readers and middle grade novels, she was the only Asian girl (except for her sisters) going to her elementary school in Upstate NY. That experience, good and bad, has influenced her books—including her Newbery Honor WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON, her Geisel Honor LING & TING, and her National Book Finalist WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER. But, it also causes Grace to persevere for diversity as a New England Public Radio commentator and when she gave her TEDx talk “The Windows and Mirrors of Your Child’s Bookshelf,” as well as her PBSNewHour video essay “What to do when you realize classic books from your childhood are racist?.” In 2016, Grace’s art was displayed at the White House and Grace, herself, was recognized by President Obama’s office as a Champion of Change for Asian American and Pacific Islander Art and Storytelling.**THIS MONTH’S HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  MEETING …**is **this Friday, March 16th from 1:15 to 2:00**. Just to mix things up and have fun, and to get parents acquainted with all our wonderful nooks and crannies, this year we’ve held HSA meetings at different locations around the school. Last meeting was at the ga-ga pit – this month we’ll be in a classroom! **All are warmly welcomed to attend**.**CATCHY CATERER FUNDRAISER !** Last week, **21** families ordered from Catchy Caterer in Ho-Ho-Kus for our Somerville fundraiser for a total donation of **$167.50**to the HSA. Thank you to all who enjoyed Catchy’s healthy, fresh specialties!  We’ll have one more Catchy fundraiser in the Spring – don’t miss it! Thank you, **Michelle Tzoulafis** and **Celine Spiro**, for organizing.**ONLY TWO WEEKS UNTIL SOMERVILLE CHILDREN’S THEATRE PRESENTS THE WIZ !** The Wiz tickets are FLYING!   As a reminder, these are first-come, first-serve so do not wait to purchase yours!   Hop on over to community pass and get your tickets today.    Show dates: Friday evening March 23rd @ 8pm (Cast A) and 3 performances on Sat March 24th 12pm (Cast B), 4pm (Cast A) and 7:30pm (Cast B).   Tickets will be on sale through Community Pass until March 20th for $12 per seat, after school on the Somerville School front lawn March 21-22 and at the ticket sales table 30 minutes prior to showtimes.  Tickets purchased in advance will be sent home in the oldest Somerville child's backpack. Any questions regarding tickets should be directed to  SCTtickets2018@gmail.com.**BAMBI IS FROM GERMANY, CINDERELLA IS FROM FRANCE International Day**is **April 5th**. This year’s theme is **Folklore and Fairytales**. Watch your backpacks for a questionnaire about your family’s heritage, also attached with this e-news. Return by March 26th. Results will be collated and incorporated into the traditional International Day bulletin board display.  If you would like to help with this uplifting event, contact co-chairs **Mayumi Harada** mayumiharada@mac.com or **Anthony Fasano** anthony@engineeredcontent.com.**SHAKE SHACK FUNDRAISER**is coming March 22nd! Need I say more?? Nom nom nom!**GET READY FOR SPRING! SEND YOUR WINTER CLOTHES OUT FOR CLEANING AT** **RIDGEWOOD DRY CLEANERS**. For every $100 you purchase, you will be credited $110, and Ridgewood Dry Cleaners will donate $20 (that is, 20%) to Somerville’s HSA. Ridgewood Dry Cleaners is on Broad Street, across from Super Cellars and Sook.  **Please get your checks in by this Friday, March 16th**, at the school office or drop off at our Chair **Whitney** **Klein**’s house at [218 South Van Dien Ave](https://maps.google.com/?q=218+South+Van+Dien+Ave&entry=gmail&source=g). Contact whitneyaklein@yahoo.com with any questions.**FAIRWAY SHOPPERS!**Make sure your food dollars are generating cash for your school. No cost at all to you! **Pick up a key fob from the Somerville office** and get it scanned every time you buy something at Fairway. Fairway will donate a percentage of all food purchases by Somerville friends.Alexa Wagschal                                       President, Somerville HSAsomervilleschoolhsa@gmail.com. |
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