SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BIDS FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD RECIPIENTS .................. 3-7
ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS .................. 8
MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS .................. 9
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR .......... 10-11
SUMMER READING .................. 13
SOAKING WET, SOMERVILLE’S CLASS OF 2012 RECEIVES DIPLOMAS

Not even the rain could “dampen” the spirits of the class of 2012!
**SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL 2012 SCHOLARSHIP & AWARD RECIPIENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Spencer Colditz Memorial Music Award</td>
<td>Garrett, Amanda</td>
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<td>Ashley Farms President's Award</td>
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<td>Conforti, Kevin</td>
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<td>Sneadowski, John Cory</td>
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<td>John Phillip Sousa Award</td>
<td>Light, Shannon</td>
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<td>Jules Balogh Memorial Award</td>
<td>Kolodney, Carolyn</td>
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<td>Katie Gayeski Memorial Award</td>
<td>Light, Shannon</td>
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<td>Kiwanis Club Academic Scholarship</td>
<td>Bryden, Katie</td>
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<td>Wynn, Olivia</td>
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**Somerville Aerie #2137 Fraternal Order of Eagles**
- Lynch, Kathleen

**Somerville Civic League Scholarship**
- Daley, Tabitha
- Gallagher, Brian
- LaCosta, Erin

**Somerset County 4-H Prep Scholarship**
- Frank, Elizabeth

**Somerset County 4-H Association Scholarship**
- Frank, Elizabeth

**Somerset County 4-H Association Scholarship**
- Fox, Lauren

**Somerville Education Association Award**
- Eckardt, Brendan

**Somerville Education Association Award**
- Deutsch, Ryan

**Somerville Education Association Award**
- Gallagher, Brian

**Somerville Education Association Award**
- Davis, Jaclyn

**Somerville Education Association Award**
- DePace, Elizabeth

**Somerville Girls Lacrosse Team**
- Peterson, Jamie

**Somerville High Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship**
- Nolte, Abigail

**Somerville High Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship**
- Kirchner, Paul

**Somerville High Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship**
- Bender, Katherine

**Somerville High Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship**
- DeMarco, Michael

**Somerville High Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship**
- Mehnert, Kristen

**Somerville High Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship**
- Thexton, Tanner

**Somerville High School Boys Soccer Booster Club Award**
- Ambros, Ryan

**Somerville High School Boys Soccer Booster Club Award**
- Lynch, Derek

**Somerville High School Boys Soccer Booster Club Award**
- Mulrooney, Patrick

**Somerville High School Soccer Booster Club Award**
- Werner, David

**Somerville High School Boys Lacrosse Booster Club Award**
- Lieb, Kyle

**Somerville High School Choral Music Booster Award**
- Sarles, Laura

**Somerville High School Choral Music Booster Award**
- Caprio, Anthony

**Somerville High School Color Guard Booster Award**
- Butynes, Kaylyn

**Somerville High School Color Guard Booster Award**
- Moditz, Rachel

**Somerville High School Color Guard Booster Award**
- Viana, Jessica

**Somerville High School Color Guard Booster Award**
- Young, Sarah
Somerville High School French Club Award ———— Echevarria, Alexa
Somerville High School French Language Award ———— Bishop, Brianne
Somerville High School French Language Award ———— Fox, Lauren
Somerville High School French Language Award ———— Rehe, Lindsey
Somerville Girls Lacrosse Team ———— Peterson, Jaimie
Somerville High School Girls Soccer Booster Club Award ———— Bender, Katherine
Somerville High School Girls Basketball Booster Scholar ——— Jones, Rachel
Somerville High School Girls Basketball Booster Scholar ——— Bender, Katherine
Somerville High School Instrumental Music Booster Award ——— Manz, Alexander
Somerville High School Instrumental Music Booster Award ——— DePace, Elizabeth
Somerville High School Key Club Award ———— Bryden, Katie
Somerville High School Media Center Award ———— Ilgou, Munachsio
Somerville High School Most Improved Choral Award ——— Gallicchio, Marisa
Somerville High School Most Improved Instrumental Award ——— Sikka, Neha
Somerville High School Music Council Award of Distinction ——— Litts, Parker
Somerville High School Music Council Award of Distinction ——— Bassano, Veronica

Somerville High School PTO Award ———— Davis, Brendan
Somerville High School PTO Award ———— Dzwonczyk, Christina
Somerville High School PTO Award ———— Fraser, Evan
Somerville High School PTO Award ——— Grimm, Tyler
Somerville High School PTO Award ———— Hardy, Alec

Somerville High School PTO Award ———— McHenry, Amanda
Somerville High School PTO Award ———— Sanchez, Briana
Somerville High School Robotics Team Award ———— Werner, Ryan
Somerville High School Softball Booster Club Award ——— Petrone, Brianna
Somerville High School Softball Booster Club Award ——— Murphy, Corinne
Somerville High School Spanish Club Award ——— Honasoge, Harsha
Somerville High School Student Council Award ——— Agarwal, Nikhil
Somerville High School Student Council Award ——— Litts, Parker
Somerville High School Student Council Award ——— Jones, Rachel
Somerville High School Student Council Award ——— Mehnert, Kristen
Somerville High School Student Council Award ——— Johnson, Lydia
Somerville High School Thespian Troupe #659 ———— Caprio, Anthony
Somerville High School Thespian Troupe #659 ——— Carra, Barbara
Somerville High School Thespian Troupe #659 ——— Litts, Parker
Somerville High School Thespian Troupe #659 ——— Mamone, Raymond
Somerville High School Yearbook Award ———— McHenry, Amanda
Somerville High School Yearbook Award ———— Chuisano, Megan
Somerville High School Yearbook Award ———— Lieb, Brittany
Somerville High School Yearbook Award ——— Cohn, Abigail
Somerville High School Yearbook Award ———— Kackle, Emily

Somerville High School Yearbook Award ———— Litts, Parker
Somerville High School Yearbook Award ———— Petrone, Brianna
Somerville High School Yearbook Award ———— Petrone, Brianna
Somerville History Club Award-------------------------------Shah, Shivani
Somerville Metro Lions Club Scholarship Award---------------Hess, Gillian
Somerville Principals and Supervisors Association Award-------------------------------------------Honasoge, Harsha
Somerville Principals and Supervisors Association Award-------------------------------------------Agarwal, Nikhil
Swim Team Booster Andrew Colditz Memorial Award----------Bishop, Brianne
Swim Team Booster Andrew Colditz Memorial Award-----------Honasoge, Harsha
Swim Team Booster Andrew Colditz Memorial Award----------Lane, Nigel
Swim Team Booster Andrew Colditz Memorial Award-----------Rehe, Taylor

Terrell Williams Award--------------------------------------Schwartz, William
The Alison M. Rodecker Memorial Scholarship-------------Doslik, Jeanine
The Officer Claude Racine Memorial Scholarship-----------Paun, Anthony
The Dessert Plate Scholarship-------------------------------Soto, Taylor
The Jessica Melore Student Achievement Award-------------Johnson, Lydia
The Joanne Vargas Commemorative Scholarship--------------Manna, Patrick
The Meghan Rose Bradley Scholarship---------------------------------Collins, Shannon
The Meghan Rose Bradley Scholarship--------------------------------Sacchi, Maria
The Meghan Rose Bradley Scholarship--------------------------------Nolan, Mackenzie
The National Girls and Women in Sports Day Award----------Jones, Rachel
The Patrick Michael Rubin Memorial Baseball Award--------Laub, Benjamin
The Patrick Michael Rubin Memorial Soccer Award-----------Kavanaugh, Keith
The Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser Service Scholarship----------Lane, Nigel
The Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser Service Scholarship----------Snearowski, John Cory
The Thomas and Gary Wilson Memorial Award----------------Kelly, Mary
The Valkyrie Award-----------------------------------------Moore, Megan
The Valkyrie Award------------------------------------------Morelli, Gianna
The Virgia Akins Memorial Scholarship----------------------Wynn, Olivia

The Wilma B. Matysek - Branchburg Education Foundation Scholarship---------------------------------------Cowan, Taylor
Theodore & Revell V. Wright Mem. Trust Scholarship---------Murray, Maya
Theodore & Revell V. Wright Mem. Trust Scholarship---------Perry Ashley
Visual Art Award--------------------------------------------Klewsaat, Corinne
The following students were on the High Honor Roll/Honor Roll for 2010-2011.

**Grade 9**
- Luger, Michael Thomas
- Breznak, Matthew
- Brezneck, Matthew
- Cardone, Matthew
- Carman, Danielle
- Cunane, Catherine
- Coelho, Evan Michael
- Costa, Katherine
- Di Amico, Alexa
- De Jode, Kathryn
- Delsu, Marah
- Luzi, Garrett
- Macaulay, Todd
- Barney, Mark
- Graham, Thomas
- Maron, Michael
- Liddle, Jaiden
- Vandeberg, Thomas
- Zylberman, Adam Lee

**Grade 10**
- Kepert, Sarah
- Bierwisch, Dominic Karl
- Anto, Katelyn
- Barlow, Andrew
- Esteves, Stephanie
- Avila, Michael
- Gore, Joseph
- Karkon, Michael
- Mulhan, John
- Cohn, Benjamin Max
- Gauthier, Konni Marie
- Septon, Christopher
- Strope, Ava
- O'Boyle, Cailin
- Van Heusden, Thomas
- Diolazo, Denyce Rizza Cortado
- Rees, Vivian
- Mazzocchi, Christopher
- Mcguire, Jack
- DeJong, lights
- Veysey, Benjamin
- Lark, Ashley
- Czarnicki, Samantha
- Hunter, Jennifer
- Hest, Nicholas
- Cartwright, John
- Zylberman, Adam Lee
- Brown, Evan James
- Berardi, Michelle
- Abell, Lauren
- Delahunt, Andrew
- Lee, Daniel
- Regimbal, Andre Joseph
- Ferrier, David
- Pizzelanti, Joseph Michael
- Rorabaugh, Sienna
- Perez, Michael
- Geers, Jonathan
- Bratcher, Joseph
- Pizzelanti, Joseph Michael
- DePace, Elizabeth Brogan
- Almy, Matthew
- Cha, Sarah
- Gardner, Jennifer
- Castronova, Jennifer
- Linder, Emily
- Pellegrino, Daniel
- Jaffe, Justin
- York, William
- Mcnamara, John
- Mont, Jordan
- Velez, Russell
- De Pace, Elizabeth Brogan
- Almy, Matthew
- Castronova, Jennifer
- Linder, Emily
- Pellegrino, Daniel
- Jaffe, Justin
- York, William
- Mcnamara, John
- Mont, Jordan
- Velez, Russell

**Grade 11**
- Zylberman, Adam Lee
- Tomasko, Emily Rose
- Magliulo, Jenna Elaine
- Benitez, Michelle
- Della Torre, Victoria
- DeSanto, Daniel
- Tonks, Katarina Elizabeth
- Tonks, Katarina Elizabeth

**Grade 12**
- Zylberman, Adam Lee
- Tomasko, Emily Rose
- Magliulo, Jenna Elaine
- Benitez, Michelle
- Della Torre, Victoria
- DeSanto, Daniel
- Tonks, Katarina Elizabeth
- Tonks, Katarina Elizabeth

Klewansat, Francis
- Murfine, Corinne
- Naramock, Kenneth
- Noile, Agnus
- Bolander, Freddick
- Johns, Isabella
- Scillia, Anthony
- Shahl, Shivani

Klewansat, Francis
- Murfine, Corinne
- Naramock, Kenneth
- Noile, Agnus
- Bolander, Freddick
- Johns, Isabella
- Scillia, Anthony
- Shahl, Shivani
ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

FALL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Abby Nolte wins the Somerset County All-Around Title
Abby Nolte named the Star-Ledger Athlete of the Week
Billy Schwartz named the Courier News Athlete of the Week
Coach Mike Schmelz named the 2010-11 Coach of the Year by the state association for girls tennis.
The girls soccer team advances to the county and state sectional semi-finals.

FALL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Boys Soccer
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Derek Lynch, Frankie Lazauskas

Girls Soccer
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Katie Bender, Maxine Blackwood, Christy Czarneczki

Field Hockey
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Brie Petrone
All North Jersey
Brie Petrone, Jess Hopf

Football
All Skyland Conference
(Valley Division)
1st Team – Tanner Thexton, Matt Bruskin, John Betz, Ben Canache
All Somerset County
1st Team – Tanner Thexton
Nike Super 100
Tanner Thexton

Gymnastics
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Abby Nolte

Cheerleading
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Brianna Sanchez

Boys Cross Country
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Noel Vega, Tyler Grimm

WINTER TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Girls Basketball
seeded second in the Somerset County Tournament and were Skyland Conference Raritan Division Champions

Caroline Barberi named Somerset County Player of the Week during the season

Caroline Barberi reaches the 1,000 point milestone in her career at Somerville High School
Paul Kirchner wins a district and region title in wrestling and places 8th overall in the state tournament

WINTER INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Swimming
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Nigel Lane -200 yard freestyle;
Joanna Kostin -500 yard freestyle; Kyanna Pastore, Taylor Rehe, Dakota Pastore, Joanna Kostin -200 yard freestyle relay

Boys Basketball
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Randy Maroney
All North Jersey

Girls Basketball
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Caroline Barberi
All Area

1st Team – Caroline Barberi
All County
1st Team – Caroline Barberi

Wrestling
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Paul Kirchner, Anthony Paun

SOMERVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT REVIEW | SUMMER 2012

SPRING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Boys Tennis – won the Valley Division of the Skyland Conference
Boys Track – won the Delaware West Division of the Skyland Conference
Boys Lacrosse – won the Raritan Division of the Skyland Conference and the Curcio Division of the NJIIHL
Boys Lacrosse earned a ranking of 10th in the state. The team advanced all the way to the Group II finals.

Connor Grunwald, Abby Nolte, and Olivia Wynn all break school records in Track and Field

Connor Grunwald and Abigail Nolte both were crowned Group II Sectional and All Group Championships in the Pole Vault

Pat Mulrooney was crowned with a Sectional Championship on the Javelin

Matthew Fertig places in four events at the Meet of Champions in Track and Field

SPRING INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Baseball
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Chris Rubin, Alec Hardy, Brandon Sheh

Girls Lacrosse
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Jaime Peterson, Dakota Pastore, Kyanna Pastore

Academic All-Americans
Caitlin Kober, Kyanna Pastore, Tara Rose Cassidy, Kirsten Breidebruch, Katy Loughlin

Girls Track
All Skyland Conference
(Delaware West Division)
1st Team – Alexsis Knowles, Bridget Douglas, Mary Kelly, Olivia Wynn

Boys Track
All Skyland Conference
(Delaware West Division)
1st Team – Connor

Grunwald, Juwan Petites-Jackson, Pat Mulrooney, Anthony Flora, Collin Litts

All Area
1st Team – Connor
Grunwald, Pat Mulrooney
Meet of Champion Results
Pat Mulrooney – 5th place in the Javelin
Connor Grunwald – 3rd Place in the Pole Vault
Meet of Champion
Wheelchair Events
Matthew Fertig – 6th place in the 100 Meter Dash, 3rd Place in Shot Put, 3rd Place in Discus, and 2nd Place in the Javelin

Softball
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Amanda Carisone, Tori Troizzi, Jenna Schwartz, Collen Murphy, Corinne Murphy

Courier News All Area
1st Team – Amanda Carisone
All County
1st Team – Amanda Carisone, Corinne Murphy, Jenna Schwartz

Boys Tennis
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Harsha Honasoge, Austin Rose, Jimmy Rick, Mike Finlan, Drew Brenn, Jeremy Coy, Keshav Reddy

Boys Lacrosse
All Skyland Conference
(Raritan Division)
1st Team – Matt Raposo, Casey McAdam, Mike Waterfield, Logan LeBlond, Chris Contino, Kyle Lieb, Alex Karlis

All Group Division
1st Team – Matt Raposo, Casey McAdam, Mike Waterfield, Kyle Lieb, Chris Contino
All State Group II
1st Team – Matt Raposo, Chris Contino
MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS - GRADE 8

Academic Achievement & Recognition Awards

A $25 Barnes & Noble gift card offered to the boy and girl in eighth grade who have demonstrated superior ability in Language Arts Literacy—— Suraj Patel; Angelica Borja

A $25 Barnes & Noble gift card offered to the boy and girl in eighth grade who have shown the greatest keenness, most worthwhile interest, and who has the highest average in American History—— Suraj Patel; Jordan Mehlan

A $25 Barnes & Noble gift card offered to the boy and girl in eighth grade who have excelled in mathematics during the year—— M. Sheehan Azhar; Dylan Van Allen; Michael Trombadore; Barbie Kania

A $25 Barnes & Noble gift card offered to the boy and girl in eighth grade who have shown the greatest improvement in language arts literacy during the year—— Zakee Jones; Kara Ksenzakovic

A $25 Barnes & Noble gift card offered to the boy and girl in eighth grade who have excelled in the study of science during the year—— M. Sheehan Azhar; Lauren Swet; Suraj Patel; Darshak Sanyal; Angelica Borja; Hanna Ahlert

A $50 Barnes & Noble gift card offered by the Somerville Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society to the eighth grade students who have demonstrated superior ability in their studies—— M. Sheehan Azhar; Darshak Sanyal

A $25 Barnes & Noble gift card presented by a Friend of Elondah Kaliah Stewart to the eighth grade student who exemplifies an outstanding achievement in the area of fine arts—— Darshak Sanyal

A $25 Barnes & Noble gift card presented in memory of Victoria J Garcia, to the eighth grade boy and girl who have demonstrated a superior understanding of the concepts of fine arts and considering this area as a possible future vocation—— John Delgado; Mahogany Hayes

A $50 Barnes & Noble gift card, donated in memory of Michael G. Ryan, to the eighth grade boy and girl who have excelled in volunteer work to help others—— Angela Dela Cruz; Brianna Morales

A $25 Barnes & Noble gift card, donated in memory of Michael G. Ryan, to the eighth grade boy and girl who have excelled in volunteer work to help others—— John Delgado; Mahogany Hayes

A $25 Barnes & Noble gift card, donated in memory of William McIver, to the students who have been outstanding in the choral program—— Hannah Ahlert; Brianna Morales

Band Boosters Award

The Band Booster Award, in memory of Bob Peake, is a $100 gift presented to two Middle School Band students who display an exceptional positive, encouraging, and helpful attitude toward all the ensembles and facets of the band program—— Emily Fabiano; Abigail Fabiano

Somerville Education Association Awards

Lucy Stump Award—— Maricah Agustin
Christopher Wildgen Courage Award—— Destiny Murdock
Alfred Spilatro Award—— Jordan Mehlan
Stewart Thomas Oakley Award—— Angela Dela Cruz

Somerville Middle School gratefully acknowledges the donors who contributed to the Grade 8 Awards Celebration.
Ms. Nancy Kishbaugh teaches grade kindergarten students at Van Derveer Elementary School. This is her twelfth year as a member of the Van Derveer Elementary School faculty.

Ms. Nancy Kishbaugh is a committed and dedicated teacher who establishes a strong foundation for success in her young learners. Ms. Kishbaugh employs best practice strategies and research-based techniques to meet the various needs of her kindergarten students. Ms. Kishbaugh has made significant contributions to the entire school community, including chairing the Helen Doherty Science Fair and securing grants to expand the outdoor classroom. Her valued expertise and unwavering commitment benefits the entire community of Somerville. Ms. Kishbaugh is an educator who has touched the lives of countless students providing them a strong foundation for their academic and social success. She is an educator worthy of emulation.

Ms. Kishbaugh states, “I believe children learn in many different ways. I try to see each child as an individual and utilize their learning styles to make their kindergarten experience specific to their needs. Over the years, I have observed my students excel when learning has been presented in a way they can identify with. They view it positively and have found success in their education, despite their varied abilities. I continue to teach because of the intrinsic reward it provides me. I am honored to have been selected, by my peers, as the teacher of the year.”

Mrs. Sandy Catenaro teaches sixth grade special education students in the areas of mathematics and science at Somerville Middle School. This is her eleventh year as a member of the Somerville Middle School faculty. She is a graduate of Kean University and received her master’s degree and certification as a reading specialist from the university as well.

Mrs. Catenaro is a dedicated member of the Somerville Middle School community. She is an innovative teacher whose professional commitment is valued by students, colleagues, administration, and parents alike. The creativity of her lessons taps into each child’s learning style. She encourages her students to embrace both mathematics and science and to apply the concepts that are being taught in the classroom to the world around them. Her students are consistently engaged and active in the learning process and she encourages them to achieve and to flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. Mrs. Catenaro provides a classroom that is nurturing, supportive, and child-centered. The students in her charge subsequently develop the confidence to strive and succeed. She also takes an active role as a contributing member of the sixth grade teaching team and supports her colleagues and shares her insights so that they can all meet their students’ needs. She has contributed to the school community by serving as the co-advisor of the Somerville Middle School Peer Leaders since 2005. She has also assisted in coordinating the activities of Camp SMS Sixth Grade Transition Camp. Currently, Mrs. Catenaro serves on the Somerville Middle School Summer Reading Committee.

Mrs. Catenaro states, “All children are capable of learning and each have their special talents. My life’s work is to continue to help them meet their academic needs and to encourage them to move forward in life happy, healthy, and secure so that they can be positive contributing members of society.”
Dr. Tanya McDonald, School Psychologist at Somerville High School, has been a valued member of the Somerville community for the past ten years. Dr. McDonald has worked in the Somerville Public School district for the past decade at both Van Derveer Elementary School and Somerville High School, where she has provided innovative services to children and families to promote social/emotional well-being and academic success. Dr. McDonald feels honored to work in a district that recognizes the important role that mental health plays in meeting the needs of the whole child. Somerville High School is fortunate to have Dr. McDonald as a part of its staff. She has consistently provided valuable insight regarding effective interventions for students with specific needs beyond academic instruction. In addition to her role as school psychologist, Dr. McDonald serves the school community as an assistant to the anti-bullying specialist, a member of the Intervention and Referral Services Team, the Character Education Committee, and the Discipline Focus Group. Beyond her professional obligations at Somerville High School, she is a contributing faculty member at the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University, a published author, and has a small private practice that serves children and adolescents. Her research and practice interests include social and emotional learning programming, crisis prevention and intervention, and school-based counseling. It is with great honor that Somerville High School presents Dr. Tanya McDonald as the 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year.

Dr. McDonald states, "As an educator I truly believe it is our role to help prepare all of our students for responsible and effective citizenship. We need to create a learning environment that fosters knowledge and skills in areas above and beyond the purely academic realm. To help our children navigate the challenges of adolescence we need to teach them to be divergent thinkers and effective problem solvers. I feel so fortunate to have a position within the schools that allows me to work with such a diverse group of students to help promote the development of the interpersonal and intra-personal tools they need to successfully negotiate the complex demands of growth and development."

On May 29, 2012, Van Derveer students enjoyed the Rocks, Fossils, and Minerals Show. Students learned about various rocks, minerals, and fossils and were even able to examine the skull of a Tyrannosaurus Rex! Students felt that the highlight of the program was when they split into small groups and worked collaboratively to uncover and identify real fossils. We have future paleontologists indeed!

On May 30, 2012, the Van Derveer Elementary School’s band and chorus performed for a “packed house” in the Somerville Middle School auditorium. The annual Spring Concert was a standing room only event and was a fantastic evening for the whole community. Ms. Christine Cerone led the band while Mrs. Patricia Helwig led the chorus. Be sure to watch the Spring Concert trailer on Van Derveer’s website. To view the concert in its entirety, tune in to VilleTV.
STUDENTS EXPLORE ENGINEERING AT THE 2012 SUMMER GATEWAY ACADEMY

On June 7, 2012, Van Derveer hosted its annual Strawberry Festival. Over 1,000 Somerville community members attended this great community event! Those who attended were able to sample strawberry-covered pound cake dessert, enjoy music and dancing, win prizes, and much more. Highlights of the evening were live musical performances by Van Derveer students. It was a great night for all!
Why a Summer Reading Program?

In 2012, university of Tennessee, Knoxville, faculty members Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen conducted a study to show a significantly higher level of reading achievement in students who received books for summer reading at home. “Every two or three years the kids who don’t read in the summer fall a year behind the kids who do.” (July 22, 2010)

Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer (White, 1906; Heyns, 1978; Entwisle & Alexander 1992; Cooper, 1996; Downey et al, 2004).

Students who read more, read better; they also write better, spell better, have larger vocabularies, and have better control of complex grammatical constructions (Krashen, 2009).

Experts agree that children who read during the summer gain reading skills, while those who do not often slide backward. "A conservative estimate of lost instructional time is approximately two months or roughly 22 percent of the school year... teachers spend at least a month re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer, that could have been spent on teaching new information and skills” (November 2002 report, Johns Hopkins Center for Summer Learning)

A district-wide committee was established to include all stakeholders:

> Board of Education members
> District-wide administrators
> Building-based administrators
> Teachers
> Parents

A Summer Reading Program Framework was established to guide each school in designing the program that aligned with the students’ grade level.

The following criteria were developed based on the committee’s analysis of data collected from student, teacher, and parent surveys, as well as discussion of the former summer reading programs.

Summer Reading Program Framework:

- Design a mandatory Summer Reading Program that differentiates program requirements and activities by grade-level clusters (K, 1-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12).
- Include Kindergarten in the Summer Reading Program.
- Provide students with choices of books and alternative reading selections.
- Include a minimum of two books to be read during the summer and incorporate at least one required reading.
- Link the Summer Reading Program requirements to the curriculum through assignments and/or activities that are meaningful for students.
- Provide students and parents/guardians with clear and specific program descriptions, which include recommendations of strategies to be used in preparation for related assignments.
- Include incentive programs in the Summer Reading Program design.
- Communicate details about the program requirements and activities to students and parents/guardians using a variety of communication methods and tools.
- Provide students who are new to the district with information about the Summer Reading Program.
- Inform the community about the district’s Summer Reading Program.

K-12 Summer Reading Program Goals:

- Develop a love of reading by promoting reading as a pleasurable experience.
- Experience a sense of accomplishment by demonstrating independence and responsibility.
- Ignite imagination by reading a variety of materials.
- Develop the habit of reading independently by increasing the frequency of reading.
- Improve reading ability and expand vocabulary.
FIELD DAY FUN AT VDV

On May 17, 2012, fifth grade students from Van Derveer Elementary School participated in Field Day 2012. Events included the long jump, the triple jump, the javelin and shot put throw, a 50-meter dash, and relay races. Students from Somerville High School assisted in making this a successful event for all. Special thanks to physical education teachers, Mr. David Vaughn and Mr. Allen Warner, for all of their hard work. Be sure to check out the video podcast of the 5th grade Field Day on Van Derveer’s website.

District Policies Available on the Website

Parents/guardians can access district policies on the district website at www.somervillenjk12.org.

Amendments to the district’s policies are subject to periodic changes required by the State of New Jersey and will be posted on the district’s website.