

Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

Serving Gratitude and Appreciation to Veterans



Veterans and their families were served by Somers High School students on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day at the annual Veterans Lunch.

Members of the Somers High School Student Council, as well as volunteers from the National Honor Society, held their third annual Veteran's Luncheon on December 7, also Pearl Harbor Day.

"We wanted an opportunity to bring the community into our school," said Student Body President, Sebastian Wissa, "and an opportunity for our students to meet people in our

community. What better people than the veterans, of course.”

Luncheon invitations were sent to local veterans and their families to join students at the high school for a light lunch, including coffee, tea, and desserts, where they could mingle with other servicemen and women from the community.

Mr. Kriedberg said, “I’ve been here every time. It’s such a wonderful event, getting children involved. It’s nice to look around and find other veterans I can talk with.”

“I like seeing the other vets, meeting them, and finding out where they were when they served,” said Mr. Nazzaro.

Students contributed to the event’s success in many ways. They baked the desserts, decorated the cafeteria, took orders, prepared meals, served food and drinks, and chatted with the veterans about their time in the military.

“I’m so honored to do this for them after everything they’ve done for us,” said Scotty Evans.

“To be able to talk to veterans, to hear their experiences, and to help them out and serve them is a special thing to do,” said Akosua Adobea-Wiredu.

Sam Moschides added, “Considering the impact they made to our country and our community, we have to share that with everyone and try to help them in all the ways they’ve helped us.”

This year’s luncheon was held on Pearl Harbor Day, which also happened to be World War II veteran Mr. Lee’s 97th birthday. Staff, students, and other attendees sang Happy Birthday to Mr. Lee and recognized the occasion with a birthday cupcake.

“I think it’s a great honor,” said Mr. Lee. “I’m awestruck with how much work everyone does to appreciate the veterans. It’s a great thing. I hope they keep it going.”

This event allows students to give back to their community and earn community service hours, but most importantly, it provides students with a venue to show appreciation and gratitude for the service and sacrifice of local veterans.

“I love that we get the opportunity to serve the veterans,” said Sebastian. “The most amazing part of this event is getting to talk to them. It’s what I look forward to every year.”

Sounds of the Season



Middle school students in the Bell Choir, led by Rachel Malara, and the Advanced Choir, led by Marie Williams, spread the sounds of the season all over town. The two groups brought sparkling sounds of the handbells and a soulful mix of holiday tunes to many local places, including the Somers Library, Town Hall, Primrose, and SIS.

□ Seen Around Somers □



Students at SIS celebrated Inclusive Schools Week with many activities, including a door decorating contest to demonstrate that even though they are individuals, they come together as a class to make something new and unique that is more than the sum of its parts.



Second graders at Primrose were treated to an assembly with songwriter Kevin Briody. He explained how he gets his ideas by looking at the small, but powerful, moments in his life to convey a message and then turns those stories into music. The event was sponsored by the Primrose PTA.



The talented cast and crew of the Somers High School Drama Club presented "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." The hilarious musical included SHS Principal (and brave soul) Mark Bayer playing the role of Vice Principal Panch. Congratulations to all!

"Draw Me In" to Inclusive Schools Week



Students in the art club at the middle school took turns sharing information at their table during the Inclusive Schools Week Club Fair.

Students at Somers Middle School participated in a half-day Inclusive Schools Week Celebration. Together, they discussed what it means to be inclusive, focusing on the theme of “Draw Me In”.

Throughout the day, small groups of students had the opportunity to attend a club fair in the library. Each group had time to explore club tables, talk to representatives of the clubs, and learn more about the ones that sounded interesting.

“If you want to join a club, that’s a way to be inclusive,” said Tara Goodwin. “You include people in your club.”

Students were also involved in the creation of a whole-school mural. Each student decorated an individual square with complex patterns, simple shapes, or abstract images that represented an aspect of themselves.

“Being inclusive means including all your friends and not leaving people out,” Colin Evers said.

Bryce Penzo added, “If people are alone, invite them to the group too.”

The mural will reflect inclusion by demonstrating the wide range of talent, character, culture, and backgrounds present in the students of SMS. While these squares are all unique, they create an intricate and interesting design together, embodying the spirit of collaboration and inclusion.

“Everyone is unique, but that doesn’t mean we can’t work together or be friends,” said Amelia Marcus.

Students learned that participating in art provides a pathway to self-discovery and that sharing art can open doors to understanding and respecting differences in others.



Jack Morando, a fifth grader at SIS, demonstrates his Rube Goldberg machine, created with wood, a baseball, a paint roller, and a tin can.

Fifth graders at Somers Intermediate School have been studying Rube Goldberg, an American cartoonist known for creating complicated chain-reaction contraptions that were designed to complete a simple task.

“He was famous for making machines with simple machines inside of them and chain reactions, which is when one thing makes another thing happen,” said Victoria Vincentz.

After watching videos and reading books about Rube Goldberg machines, students had to design their version of a chain-reaction contraption using what they’d studied as inspiration.

Nicholas Chiappetta said, “I took some inspiration from videos I saw online. My favorite part was shooting my video and being excited when it worked.”

All chain-reaction projects needed to include one simple machine, such as a lever, pulley, or inclined plane. Projects also had to complete a simple task, like rolling a ball into a

container.

“We drew a blueprint of what we imagined it to be, and as we went on, some stuff didn’t go as we wanted it to, so we had to adjust everything or change our ideas to make it possible,” said Jack Morando. “I used some stuff I’d learned in STEM after school to make mine.”

Students were challenged to take risks to see what worked, and then use their problem-solving skills to find new ways to complete their projects when things didn’t work out as planned. Once students had working chain-reaction projects, they presented them to their classmates either in person or by taking a video of their project at home.

The most challenging part was figuring out how it all went together because some things wouldn’t work,” said Victoria. “It was challenging to figure out how to keep it going and how to put all the puzzle pieces together.”

Wee Deliver Develops Key Skills



Every year at Primrose Elementary School, interested second-grade students are invited to apply to the Wee Deliver Post Office for positions such as sorter, carrier, clerk, and Postmaster. The Wee Deliver Post Office allows students to write, send, and receive letters from their peers and teachers.

The process begins with students filling out a job application and selecting their top choices.

“First, we had to say what we wanted to do and then we had to write why we wanted to do it,” said Layla LaFevre. “The other test says all the jobs and you have to say what they do.”

Students also had job interviews with family members and faculty, answering questions about what they would do in certain situations to demonstrate responsibility.

“We were interviewed by a parent,” said Sean Martinez, “and they would ask us questions, like ‘If you were carrying mail around the school and your friend asked if they could see the mail, what would you do?’”

Finally, students had a postal exam to show appropriate knowledge of postal rules, such as which mail is ready to be sorted and what letters need more information to be mailed.

“The test was letters, and you had to figure out if it could be mailed or not,” said Antonio Battista.

Hired students were sworn in as official Wee Deliver Post Office workers and were given the Wee Deliver oath by School Resource Officer Brian Pavletich. Students are broken into groups and work for the post office in two-week shifts during their recess. Each student has a chance to try each position, and after their shift is over, a new set of Wee Deliver workers take over the job.

“We do different jobs. We get the mail from the mailboxes. Then we take them out and deliver them,” said Layla.

At the beginning of the year, most of the mail is written by second-grade students, with the younger grades becoming more active as the year goes on.

“I liked delivering the mail to first grade,” said Gabriella Pinto. “We deliver to everyone, except pre-k because they don’t have mailboxes, and they can’t write.”



The Primrose PTA welcomed back author Katie Petruzzello during Inclusive Schools Week. The author read her award-winning children’s book, “Mighty Mila,” to our kindergarteners. The PTA took also advantage of the half-day schedule to show their appreciation to the teachers and staff with sweets, snacks, and coffee.

The SIS Green Committee is hosting its second annual wreath-cycle contest. Students create beautiful winter wreaths using recycled or upcycled materials. Visit the SIS library to see the festive creations.

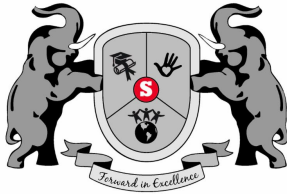
SEPTA organized a fun, family bowling afternoon. Refresh Recess continues to grow in

popularity. In January, guest speaker Dr. Bertin will speak about resilience and ADHD.

The SHS PTSA Education Committee will host a book club in January: "Growing up in Public: Coming of Age in a Digital World."

The SMS PTA is so close to winning the Savvy Membership award. Please consider joining today!

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