

Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES



The Peer Leaders at the high school collected donations and created Thanksgiving baskets for the annual drive St. Luke's food pantry.

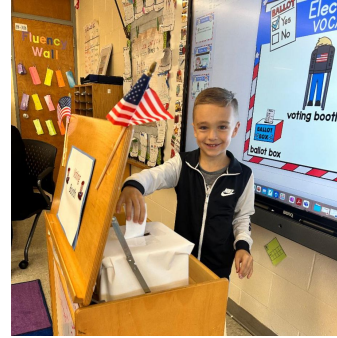
During the month of November, High school Peer Leaders, middle school Service Club members, and students from all grades throughout the district collected non-perishable food items and gift cards for donation to St. Luke's food pantry. Parent volunteers and staff members assisted students in decorating the Thanksgiving baskets with messages, colorful paper, ribbons, and student artwork. Somers Central School District is thankful for the generosity of the community, students, staff, faculty, and family volunteers who made this annual tradition a success.



Students at Somers Intermediate School harvested the dahlia bulbs that were planted in the garden last spring and packed the bulbs for storage through the winter.



Congratulations to these seniors for signing letters of intent to play their sport at the Division 1 level in college: Nick Newman (Iona University/lacrosse), Molly Fink (Holy Cross/lacrosse), Chloe Monachelli (Ryder University/tennis), Annie Maguire (Fordham University/soccer), Julia Wilkinson (Cornell/diving), Isabella Milojevic (Marist College/track), and Mac Sullivan (Towson University/lacrosse).



Primrose students learned a lot about democracy on Election Day. Some classes headed to the ballot box with their tummies in mind, voting on the most popular lunch, snack, candy, or cookie. Other classes voted for their favorite recess games, favorite books, or a class reward.

Finding Solutions for Food Scarcity



Eating salad with hydroponic lettuce they grew themselves, students learn about food insecurity and creative solutions to growing food.

Seventh-grade students at Somers Middle School are studying food scarcity and insecurity by learning about different growing methods and growing their own food in class.

“I feel more grateful for everything we have,” said Johnna Klein. “I usually throw away a lot of food, but now I’ve limited myself.”

Ariana Cicciarella added, “It shows us how to appreciate what we already have because some people have less.”

One of the methods students studied was hydroponic growing systems. They utilized this style of gardening to plant their own lettuce and grow it in their classroom. They have been taking measurements of the lettuce’s growth for the last seven weeks.

“We learned they use LED lights to grow plants,” said Madyson Diaz. “They help grow a lot of food. They might start using this method instead of growing plants on actual farms.”

While waiting for their lettuce to grow, students also learned about vertical planting and how it can be used to grow more food in smaller spaces to help feed more people, and in some cases combat food scarcity and insecurity.

“It takes less room when you plant things vertically,” said Scarlet Labella.

Andrew Wuenth added, “It’s more space efficient. Even if you have big farmland, you can add more if you vertically plant.”

When the lettuce was finally fully grown and ready to eat, students harvested their plants and celebrated with a salad party, using their school-grown lettuce as a base, and then adding carrots, croutons, and dressing.

“I think it would be nice,” said Madyson when asked about the possibility of growing her own food at home in a similar way, “because in the store they put pesticides in it. You could just have it at home—you don’t have to buy it, and it’s healthy.”

Stitching Together a Fashion Show



Fashion student Robbie Donaldson and teacher Chrissy Brooks use a mannequin to measure and pin fabric.

Students in Somers High School's Fashion Marketplace 1, 2, and 3 classes are using their skills to create new takes on old classics this year, culminating with "The Classics" Fashion Exhibition, which will be held on June 3, 2024.

Fashion Marketplace is a shared space made up of students from all grades and class levels. The class is a collaborative and inviting space that inspires classmates to design and create as much as they can imagine. Each year builds on the last, so garments become more intricate and inventive, broadening with the students' increasing skill levels.

"I decided to do classic fairytales, the ones that instill the fear. I decided to use the animals, like the big bad wolf and the white rabbit so I could use fur trims, woody aspects, and corsets," said Susie Signorile, a senior.

Students select their own materials and patterns and then measure their models before beginning the assembly of their garments.

"I have to create four different garments. I'll display my pieces with my models, mostly my friends and my sister," said senior Robbie Donaldson. "I had to take measurements beforehand, then I got templates of their sizes, so I knew how much fabric to buy."

Recently, these students took a trip to New York City to visit FIT's Food and Fashion Exhibition and shopped in the garment district to buy materials to use for their custom pieces. This "real-world" experience is critical in exposing the students to the

fashion industry.

“I got fabric for my first two garments,” said Gemma Carr, a senior. “Then I’ll go back and get the rest because it’s a lot to get four fabrics all at once.”

Students work throughout the year to create a collection of at least four pieces, all inspired by a common theme.

“I might do five pieces because I want to do sets. It’s going to be more of the basic classics, inspired by the roaring 20s,” said Kayla Rossetti, a senior.

Many of the students from Fashion Marketplace go on to pursue fashion-related majors in college. Some are interested in fashion design, while others are more interested in the business of fashion, which could lead them to careers in merchandising, buying, or marketing.

Yo Dije It's Fun to Learn Spanish!



At the intermediate school, fifth grade students learn Spanish vocabulary words to describe their family members.

At Somers Intermediate School, students are exploring the Spanish language in a whole new way.

“It’s fun. I was happy because I like Kahoots,” said fifth-grader Sofia Castellano, referring to the game-based learning platform. “I knew colors and animals already. In art, I learned parts of your face. Sometimes I talk to my grandma because she speaks Spanish.”

The program started last year with third and fourth grade, then expanded this year to include fifth-grade students. Currently, Señorita Purnell and Señora Stoecker push into a variety of classes, including art, music, and library. Language-related activities

start with learning new vocabulary and continue through games, songs, and scavenger hunts.

“I would do Spanish,” said fourth-grader Liam Gannon about taking a world language class in middle school.

During a recent fourth-grade art class, students learned the words for different shapes and features of animals in Spanish, helping to expose them to the language conversationally and informally. Students earned *Yo dije* (I said) tickets for using vocabulary words related to their project.

“I said what shapes I used in Spanish. At the end of the class, they draw a ticket out of the bowl and that person gets to choose a prize,” said fourth-grader Eli Mundis.

In a fifth-grade classroom, students studied family vocabulary, completed a worksheet activity together, and finished their lesson with a Kahoot quiz game to strengthen their retention of the new words, helping to build excitement for world language studies in middle school.

Refreshed at Recess



An old favorite is still loads of fun. Primrose students learn the joy of running under the parachute during Recess Refresh.

It might not look like a different kind of recess, but there is a plan and a method to the fun thanks to Somers SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher Association). SEPTA has brought a fresh new take on recess with Recess Refresh at Primrose Elementary and Somers Intermediate School.

“We get to pick what activities we do,” said first-grader Alex Rahe. “I picked the parachute.”

Last year, SEPTA saw an opportunity for inclusivity and exploration for all students during unstructured playtime at recess. With that idea in mind, they created Recess Refresh, a time when school community volunteers provide extra hands-on activities and support during recess a few times a month, for as long as weather permits. Activities include chalk art, hula hoops, potato sack races, parachute play, a friendship scavenger hunt, and ring toss, among many others.

“Someone would make a design and then they would color inside of it with chalk,” said Alex.

Activities change each time, except for a few fan favorites like chalk art, which is included during every Recess Refresh. The committee is always looking for new games and activities to try.

Kenny Grisanti, a kindergarten student, said, “I would want the ring toss again,” when asked what he’d like to see the next time Recess Refresh comes back to the school.

Recess Refresh is an opportunity for volunteers to look for those children who may need a little extra help playing with new friends. That can mean noticing a child walking by themselves and inviting them to play a new game or getting a group of students involved with an activity like the parachute.

The program was piloted last year with first- and second-grade students. This year, the program expanded to include the kindergarten playground and has also been adopted by Somers Intermediate School. SEPTA continues to grow and broaden the program, with hopes of finding ways to expand into all schools and grades over time.





The PTA welcomed acclaimed author, Helen Lester (above), back to Primrose this month. Lester is the creator behind the popular character Tacky the Penguin.

We are excited to announce that SIS principal Linda Belger was named a New York State PTA Hero in Education. Congratulations! The SIS PTA treated teachers and staff to a bagel breakfast. Anyway you slice it, our teachers and staff are the best!

SEPTA hosted an informative community learning session on social-emotional regulation.

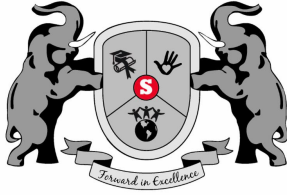
The SHS PTSA continues to host its popular coffee with Mr. Bayer.

The SMS PTA is so close to winning the Savvy Membership award. Please

consider joining today!



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Somers Central School District
250 Route 202
Somers, New York 10589
914.277.2400
www.somersschools.org



Somers Central School District | 250 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589

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