

Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES



Anthony Fusco, salutatorian, and Angelina Ayoubi, valedictorian of the class of 2024.

Angelina Ayoubi was nervous when she was called to the main office unexpectedly during class. She felt better when she found fellow senior Anthony Fusco waiting there as well.

“It’s always nice to have a friend to walk into the unknown with,” said Angelina.

In the office, they were greeted by applause from administrators, who announced that Angelina is the valedictorian of the class of 2024, and Anthony Fusco is the salutatorian.

“Sometimes the unknown can be pretty cool,” said Angelina. “I am pleasantly surprised. These past four years I’ve just focused on doing my best and enjoying learning. I’ve found the words, ‘You deserve it,’ to be the most hard-hitting,” she added about the reaction she’s received from her new title.

Along with four years of hard work, setting and meeting goals academically, Angelina has also played many sports including tennis, swimming, running, and kickboxing. She also enjoys chess and writing. After graduation, she plans to attend college and study biomedical engineering and neuroscience.

“My plan is to apply myself, have a good time, go to medical school, and do science research throughout and after.”

Anthony Fusco said, “The announcement came as a shock. I was ecstatic to hear I was named salutatorian. It feels great to know all my hard work is being recognized.”

Anthony spends his time outside of school composing contemporary choir music and writing lyrics. He plays multiple instruments including the euphonium, trombone, tuba, and piano. He’s also a vocalist and enjoys performing. He hasn’t committed to a college yet but hopes to study music and political science somewhere in the Northeast.

After the announcement, Anthony was congratulated by teachers, friends, and family. “It’s been a great opportunity for me to share how grateful I am for them and how they’ve helped me get to this point with all their love and support.”

□ Seen Around Somers □



Schools celebrated Unity Day on Wednesday. Students wore orange to bring attention to anti-bullying efforts. At the middle school, a Unity Tree was covered with leaves bearing messages of kindness and acceptance. Unity Day is sponsored by the National Bullying Prevention Center.



Fourth-graders let their imaginations take flight while creating "alebrijes" in art class during Hispanic Heritage Month. Alebrijes are mythical creatures in Mexican folk art. Students created creatures by combining qualities and features from at least two animals to form something new and unique.



Leaders are readers! Varsity football players read to second-grade classes at Primrose. They encouraged the younger Tuskers to read with and to loved ones. Practicing reading improves students' skills, and these players know a lot about practice.

Forecast Good for Budding Meteorologists



Primrose Elementary School has a new batch of kindergarten meteorologists. Students are learning about the sun and its effects on ice cubes.

Students first went on a “solar walk” to learn how the sun heats various surfaces by using their hands as thermometers. From there, they extended their research to discover if white or black solar mittens and paper would absorb the sun’s heat or melt ice cubes at different speeds.

“We put some ice cubes in the sun, and it was a fair test,” said Kimberly Zambrano.

Finally, they put their teamwork and engineering skills to the test. “We’re making a structure to save the ice cubes from the sun,” said Juliette Mora.

Students were provided six pipe cleaners, five popsicle sticks, a small square of netting, a piece of aluminum foil, and some modeling clay.

“We’re going to put the foil over the ice cube. We’re making a shade,” Joseph Bertorelli said when describing his structure.

Working in small groups, they built different styles of sun protection for their ice cubes and then put them to the test outside. Results varied, but students were excited to try out their designs to see what worked best.

Changing the World One Project at a Time



Eighth grade students discuss how to choose a topic for their individual MYP Community Projects.

Eighth-grade students at Somers Middle School held their first Community Project meeting. These projects are a vital component of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme program, helping students engage positively in their community.

Last year, the project ran as a pilot with a small group of students, but this year, the entire grade is participating.

“If we’re helping the community, then we’re basically helping our classmates, our families, and ourselves because it’s our community. It’s where we live,” said Maria Berwa.

Students reviewed a brief outline of the steps involved in completing their projects and filled out a survey about their interests such as art, landscaping, social media, family, photography, and cooking. They also listed community needs they were most interested in, including working with children, the elderly, the environment, or animal rights.

“There are a lot of good options, so it’s hard to choose just one,” Maria said about deciding which direction to pursue with her community project.

The students can request friends with whom they might like to work in small groups, or they may choose to work independently to complete their projects.

“Working with friends and helping out the community are my two highlights,” said Hana Kamenickova. Maria Berwa added that “coming up with an idea we all agree on and then actually getting it done,” will be a challenging aspect of the project.

The community project is designed with the IB learner profile at its core, helping students develop their communication and risk-taking skills while being open-minded and caring about their local and global communities.

Students are encouraged to reach outside their comfort zones and explore something that interests them. They receive mentor support from a faculty advisor, who guides them along the way, culminating in a presentation in May.

Building Community with Lunch



Students enjoy time outside on the patio during Community Lunch.

All staff and students at Somers High School have a lunch break at the same time, together, each day. They call it Community Lunch.

“I love Community Lunch. It’s like lunch in every single high school movie. I’m able to pick a place in the school and just hang out with my friends,” said Julie Guida, a junior at SHS.

Community Lunch helps to foster a sense of citizenship within the school, while also ensuring that all students and staff have time allotted in their schedules for a meal, helping to promote a healthy lifestyle. It’s held midday, evenly splitting the morning and afternoon classes, creating a sense of balance.

“It’s a lot better to have a break and then you’re ready for the second half of the day,” said freshman George Sullivan.

During Community Lunch, students choose how and where they spend their time. They may decide to eat lunch with friends in the Commons, cafeteria, outside, or any other area of the school that is supervised by a monitor. Students may also opt to play games with their peers, sketch, read, or participate in many other social activities in the Student Life Center.

“It’s a really good break. It’s a nice way to ease in and out of the day,” added Julie.

Numerous clubs and organizations are available during Community Lunch, giving more students with busy after-school schedules an opportunity to join. Counselors and teachers are also available during the period for extra academic help, career and college planning, or to simply share a meal with another member of their school community.

Sampling New Genres at a Book Tasting



Hungry for a mystery or historical fiction? Students tried bites of many different kinds of books.

Third-grade students at Somers Intermediate School were given the chance to sample the books available in their classroom with a “Book Tasting” activity.

“It was really fun because we could learn about different books that we never experienced before,” Lila Zindahl said.

The “Book Tasting” gave students the opportunity to learn about different genres and authors from their classroom library. “I discovered the 13-Story Treehouse series. I found a new favorite genre,” said Lila.

Students rotated in small groups from table to table, each with a different sampling of books representing one genre or category. Samples included realistic fiction, books in a series, graphic novels, and more.

“We wrote the books down in each section on a pretend plate, and we got a bookmark at each table we went to,” said Grace Sautner.

Once students add new books to their place mats, they are kept for future reference. Grace said, “If we’re looking for new books because we finished all the books that we have, we can go look on our place mat and look at what book we want to read. You just know which one you want.”

Now that students have stirred up an appetite for new books, they’ll be encouraged to borrow the books they’ve discovered throughout the school year.

The PTA Corner



The Somers PTA units have a busy lineup ahead!

- Saturday, November 4 - Holiday Happiness from 10 am to 4 pm at Primrose
- Wednesday, November 8 - SEPTA hosts a self-regulation strategies session at 7 pm in the middle school library 😊

Both events are open to everyone!

- Thursday, November 9 - SIS PTA hosts the SIS Birthday Party

SAVE THE DATES

- January 19, 2024 - SMS PTA hosts the 7th and 8th grade dance
- February 5, 2024 - SHS PTSA presents Hang Up and Drive

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