

# Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS  
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

## SHS Grad Scores with Design in Super Bowl Ad



**Comedian Pete Davidson wearing Jordan Baker's tie dye sweatshirt in a Super Bowl commercial for Hellman's Mayonnaise.**

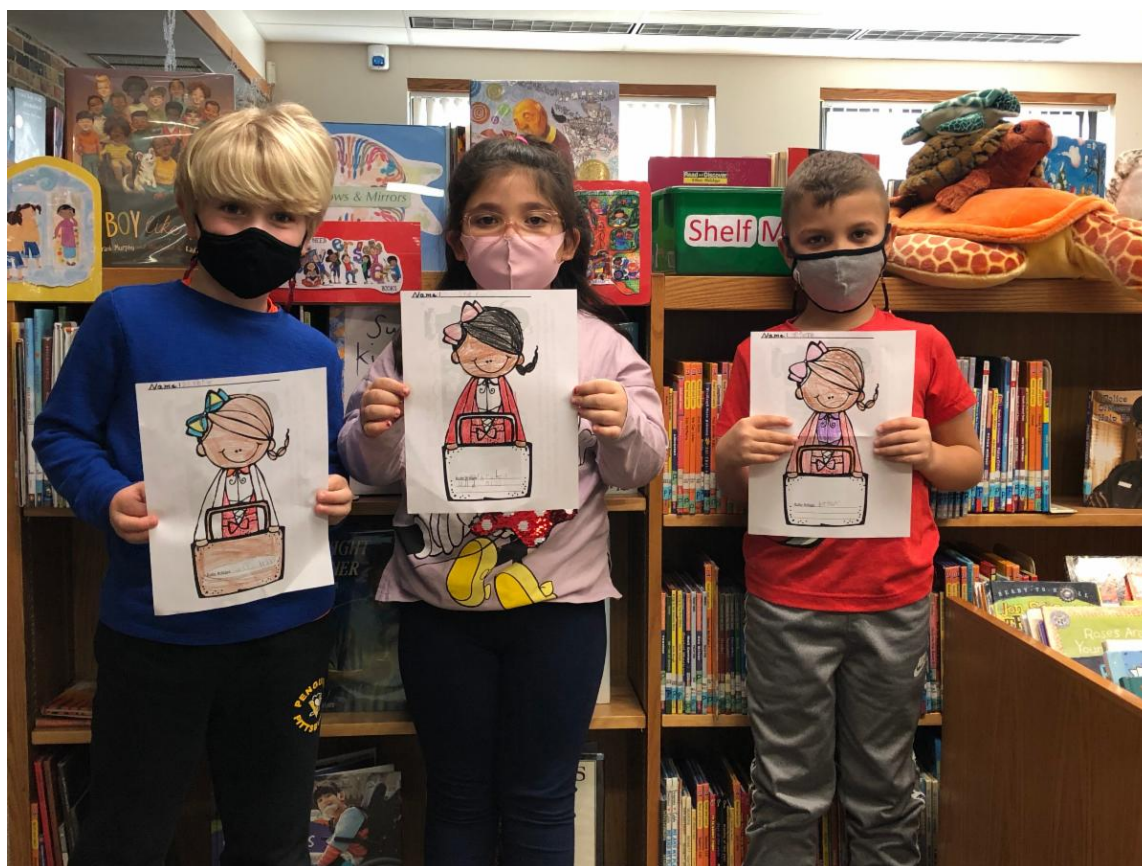
Another SHS alumni success story! Jordan Baker '14 had one of her sweatshirts worn in a Super Bowl commercial by comedian Pete Davidson. Davidson's stylist contacted Baker in December asking for some pieces for his fitting for the Hellmann's Mayonnaise ad and he chose her Black Reverse Set.

It was definitely a huge accomplishment for me and my business," said Jordan.

Jordan started her clothing line in 2019 as a side business while working in the fashion industry in New York City. Sales quickly grew and it became a full-time job. In addition to online sales, Brown Dyed Girl also has a store on Tomahawk Street in Somers. [Watch the commercial here.](#)



## Ruby Bridges - Their Age and Brave



**First grade students display the artwork that was part of a unit celebrating Ruby**

## **Bridges, the young girl who helped desegregate New Orleans schools.**

Primrose Elementary School first-graders were very surprised to hear that a young Black girl about their age was instrumental in desegregating the New Orleans school district in 1960.

Ruby Bridges was one important individual Librarian Nicole Secor showed her students as part of a lesson on Black “superheroes” who made a mark on history through courage in the face of adversity. Students talked about what feelings Ruby Bridges must have had as a Black student who walked into an all-white school. One student raised his hand and said Ruby was “brave.”

During Black History Month, Primrose students learned about the numerous influences and achievements Black people have had in our nation. “We all have differences that make us special,” Secor said. “We learn why Black History Month is celebrated and why it’s important for us to continue to learn about those who have made and are making significant achievements.”

Primrose students are commemorating Black History Month with various school and grade-level activities beginning each day with facts about the month shared at morning announcements. Teachers are integrating classroom activities to focus on positive impacts and contributions members of the Black community have had on society through music, art, science, mathematics, and history.

---

## **Fitting Students with 21st Century Skills**



**Wyatt Brown on the job as part of the PNW BOCES HVAC, Plumbing, and Pipe Fitting program.**

Somers High School senior Wyatt Brown has learned valuable skills and landed on a career during his time at the PNW BOCES Career and Technical Education Center’s HVAC Plumbing and Pipe Fitting program. Opportunities like these are an important aspect of the Somers Central School District’s vision of preparing students with 21st-century skills.

“I like it a lot,” Brown said. “It’s helped me pick out a future.” With some work experience already under his belt, Brown says he’s looking at HVAC programs at SUNY Delhi and SUNY Alfred to further his training.

Brown is one of 55 area high school students in the program. The HVAC curriculum is designed to allow students to learn the basics of plumbing and electricity all the way up through the installation of equipment through troubleshooting and set up.

The two-year program for high school juniors and seniors trains them using real field equipment and gives them experience performing actual repairs and adjustments. By the end of their two years, students will have worked on everything from refrigeration units for home refrigerators all the way up to advanced commercial equipment. Students may participate in an internship as well as receive Environmental Protection Agency certification.

---

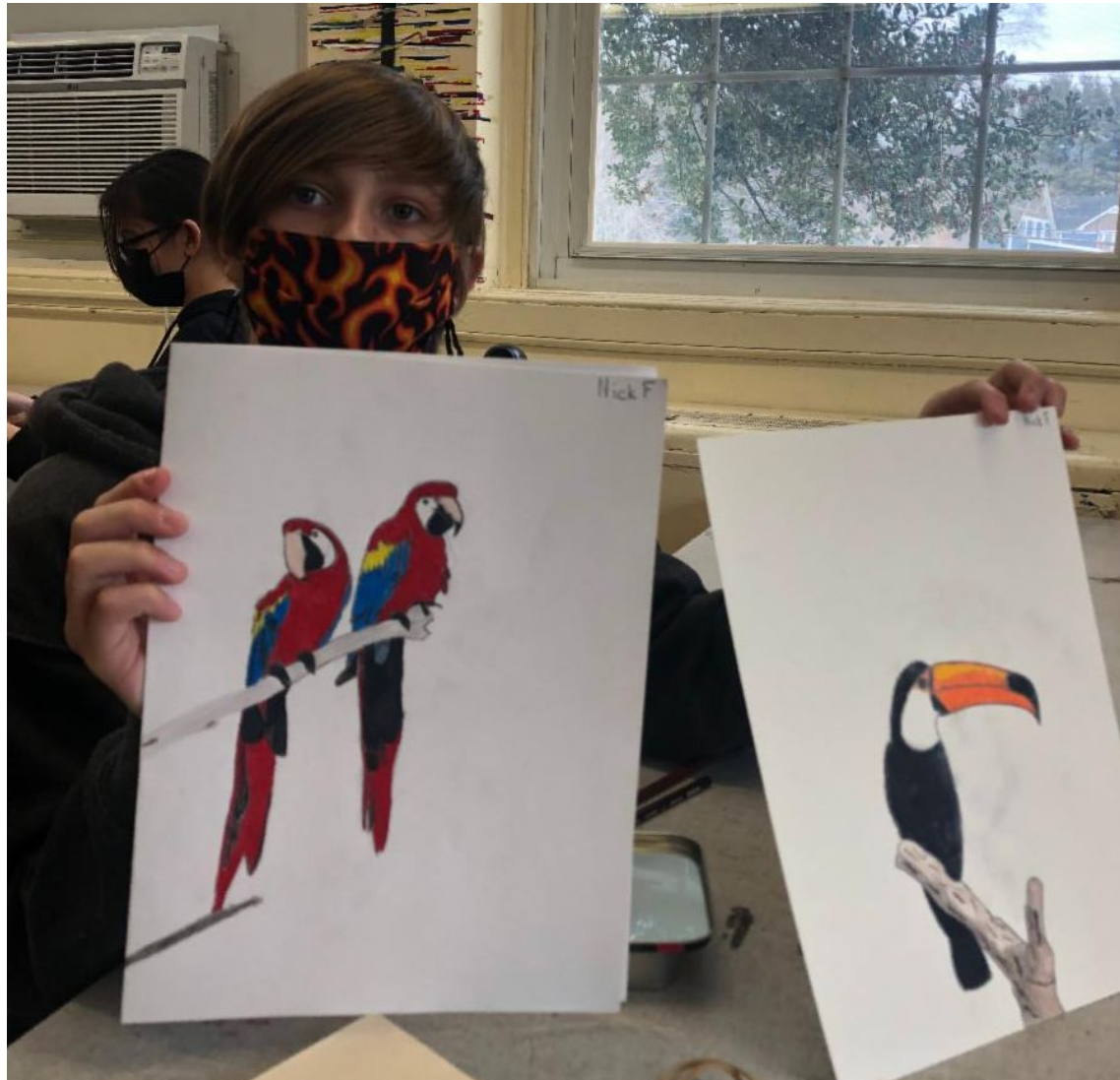
## **Going for the Gold (or the experience) in the Gym**



Are you a curling protege? Snowboarding master? Bobsledding's best? In honor of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, the physical education teachers at Somers Intermediate School gave students a taste of the games by turning the gym into an event-filled winter sports wonderland.

---

## Seventh Graders Finding a WIN with Art



***Nick Frey, a seventh-grader who chose Open Art Studio for his WIN period, shares his colorful, detailed designs of wild birds.***

Watercolors, sketching, colored pencils, markers.

These are the chosen mediums for a group of seventh-graders opting for Open Art Studio during their WIN period this week. The students are working on a variety of creations drawing their favorite animals, Pokeman characters, characters from video games, flowers, and more.

"I really like drawing. It's my favorite thing to do," said Alisa Asllani." Asllani is using watercolors to recreate a character from Pokeman, her own rendition of Snarlax.

Nick Frey was busy perfecting the images of wild birds. He used colored pencils to make the colors of the black and orange toucan and the multi-colored parrots really shine. "I like drawing birds and the fact that in this WIN period I can be creative," Frey said.

For Julia Klein and Dylan DeLuca, the Open Art Studio WIN period is the perfect combination of creativity and relaxation. Klein was busy with markers while DeLuca was putting the final touches on her sunflower using watercolor and ink.

Art teacher Gary Wanderlingh offers the Open Art Studio in his classroom for the seventh graders to come and work on projects of their choice. He said he was pleased with the turnout and range of projects especially since there is not a designated art class for the seventh grade. Wanderlingh said he hopes to incorporate clay into an upcoming WIN class.

---

## Somers Educators Get Lesson on Restorative Practices



**Deb Kilmer, Clare McGowan, and Sue Moynihan listen as Neil Ray shares a story about how faculty and staff at his Delaware school resolve conflicts and heal relationships.**

Strengthening relationships. Developing respect. Fostering responsibility and accountability. These are necessary components that promote community, a sense of belonging, and an environment of trust within a classroom -- also known as restorative practices.

More than 35 Somers staff members took part in a professional learning session presented by Neil Ray from the International Institute of Restorative Practices. The two-day program focused on giving educators tools to ensure positive classroom and school environments.

"It's about repairing relationships and creating a community of respect," said Karin Brill, Somers coordinator of diversity, equity, and inclusion. "An overall mindset change in the classrooms works to build feelings of trust, respect, honesty, accountability, and self-reflection. Every person has a voice and an opportunity to speak. When harm occurs, it allows for opportunities to repair relationships harmed by conflict."

Brill said the use of restorative practices as a disciplinary method has been shown to significantly reduce the number of classroom removals and suspension rates for students.

Some restorative practice tools include knowing when to use one-on-one conversations, informal time, separate breakout rooms, a whiteboard lesson, or even a chatroom to work with small groups inside the classroom while maintaining continuity for other students to work independently.

"I walked away from the workshop with great ideas on how to approach situations in a way that honors human dignity and strengthens relationships while making social connections within the community," said Somers Middle School Social Studies teacher Deb Kilmer.

"Neil showed us how restorative practices add a deeper level to that by giving students the tools to share how they're feeling or felt, solve problems, and have accountability," said Primrose Kindergarten teacher Melissa Maliniak.

## PTA Sponsors SIS Language Club



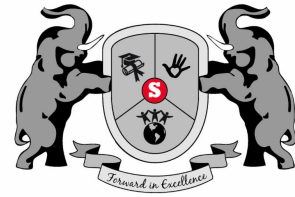
Julie Witkiewicz is leading an after-school World Language Club at Somers Intermediate School. The SIS PTA paid for the materials that will be used during the meetings. The students have been learning about the Dia de Los Muertos, doing related activities, and

learning some Spanish words inspired by the holiday. Dia de Los Muertos is a holiday that celebrates the lives of loved ones who have passed away and includes decorating homes and cemeteries, playing games, making music, and eating.

In the first days of the club, the children drew and labeled their drawings, which gave the teacher an indication of their Spanish language abilities. They have many more exciting things to learn about at the upcoming meetings. The students will present all they have done and learned at a Town Meeting at the end of the year.

---

Want more news? **LIKE** Somers Central School District on **Facebook** for daily updates on interesting accomplishments, alumni achievements, events, and programs in Somers schools.



**Somers Central School District**  
250 Route 202  
Somers, New York 10589  
914.277.2400  
[www.somersschools.org](http://www.somersschools.org)



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

[Unsubscribe schoolcommunications@pnwboces.org](mailto:schoolcommunications@pnwboces.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by schoolcommunications@pnwboces.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!