

# Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS  
FOR SCSD FAMILIES



Somers hosted the Regeneron Westchester Science & Engineering Fair - the largest regional science competition in the country. More than 600 students presented their research projects at the high school and Primrose. All 15 Somers Science Research students who participated won an award. [Watch a recap of the competition here](#) and [watch the awards ceremony here](#). Congratulations to the outstanding, award-winning Somers scientists below.

## And the award goes to...

Grand Prize, International GENIUS Olympiad - **Conner Entenberg**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award  
**Zoe Gutherman, Charles Heese**

Shelby Hancox Memorial Award for Independent Technical Achievement - **Lauren McCartin**

Society for In Vitro Biology Award - **Sebastian Wissa**

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Science Champion Award - **Andrew Acosta, Kaeleigh Picco**

Office of Naval Research - **Nate Traver**

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Engineers Award - **Timothy Lee, Mary Grace Mahoney**

Community Impact Award - **Taylor Bassi**

Honorable Mention - **Kiera Goff, Maya Shirakura, Ella Ponterio**

4th Place - **Timothy Lee, Zoe Gutherman**

3rd Place - **Michael Aquilino, Conner Entenberg**

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**Seen Around Somers**



A dedicated group of students, teachers, and administrators from Somers Middle School gave a presentation about the Middle Years Programme to the Board of Education, celebrating the school's official accreditation.



U.S. History students did research on Alice Paul & Lucy Stone, pivotal figures in the modern women's rights movement. They created a movie comparing Paul and Stone's efforts to earlier women's rights reformers.



Current and former Primrose students treated the school to Irish Step Dancing on St. Patrick's Day. Teachers and students were greeted by the lively music and complicated dance steps as they arrived at school. [Watch video here.](#)

## Guided Towards Giving



Kindergarten classes were treated to a morning with a student's best friend: dogs from the Guiding Eyes organization. Providing safety and direction to their owners, the dogs act as the human's eyes. The students have been collecting pennies to mark every day to the 100th day of school. This year the students rolled the pennies and donated more than \$150 to Guiding Eyes.

## Rising Educators Teach and Mentor





***Junior Kade Suarez and senior Sharika Szabo of the Rising Educators Club read to kindergarten students at Primrose.***

Student clubs and activities at Somers High School are vast and varied, but the Rising Educators Club is among the most thought-provoking groups—at least from some students' perspectives.

“The way that teachers work around the many challenges is just amazing,” said a group of club members after participating in student-led lessons with Primrose Elementary students. “We have a whole new respect for teachers.”

Members of this career-oriented club meet about four times a month during lunch periods. Most are considering a career in education, while some want to work with children in other capacities.

A typical meeting involves discussing outreach opportunities between high school students and working with younger students in reading and other literacy activities. The club has also hosted book drives and a “blind dates with a book” event, creating intrigue about books whose titles are hidden. In addition, teachers welcome the opportunity to reach out to the club seeking help in creating bulletin boards and displays around the school. Some club members visit Primrose Elementary on a weekly basis during their free or lunch periods to lead recess games with the younger kids.

Eight ninth grade club members visited Primrose to read and work with kindergarten and first grade classes earlier this year. They prepared all classroom activities and lessons. Club President Sharika Szabo, a senior, and Vice President Isabella Milojevic, a junior, contacted Primrose Assistant Principal Meg Benedetto to coordinate and schedule the classroom visits. Before the visit, club members worked together to determine age-

appropriate reading material and literacy lessons. Before teaching the class, club members practiced their plans with one another.

“I want to be a teacher, so it was great to learn what the job entails, and just seeing how excited the students were was great,” said Melanie Maia.

“I liked reading the story and doing the activities with them because they had meaning behind them. It was really fun,” added Caitlin Gannon.

Club moderators and teachers Katherine DeLandri and Tara Kearns dedicate themselves to the club’s vision “to help high school students connect with children through the role of mentor and teacher.”

“Rising Educators Club provides a wonderful opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in education to determine if teaching is a good fit for them,” said DeLandri.

“It has been incredibly rewarding to witness how engaged and intentional the students have been as they choose books and plan lessons for the little ones,” added Kearns. “Katherine and I are available to provide mentoring and guide them in this process, but they come up with such cool and unique ideas all on their own. It makes us very proud!”

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## **All "Abuzz" About a Challenge**





***Mia Romano and Matthew Barna stand by the honeycomb replicas they created with their class during an engineering challenge.***

The fourth grade classrooms were buzzing with activity and ideas were flying as the students created honeycomb replicas during their Challenge Island week at Somers Intermediate School. The students were learning about the life cycle of honeybees and how critically important bees are to the Earth's environment.

“Without bees you can’t have apples, or any kind of fruit or vegetables because bees pollinate,” says fourth grader William Spano.

William is correct. In fact, one-third of the world's food supply is dependent upon bees' pollination. Challenge Island is an organization that brings hands-on science projects to schools in Westchester County. Their creative activities enhance critical thinking, problem-solving, and the assurance that it is ok to make mistakes. The bee project fits in with the fourth grade science unit on life cycles.

“It is a great program for kids of all ages,” says Nan Elmore of Challenge Island, “Because they bring their own abilities and experiences to it. It’s about helping kids realize that science is fun.”

In addition to creating a bee out of foam and pipe cleaners, the students were tasked with creating replicas of honeycomb out of toothpicks and Dots gummy candy. Honeycomb is a

structure of many hexagonal prismatic wax cells built by honeybees to store honey.

“They need their honeycomb in the hives to be hexagonal because if it was a circle there wouldn’t be enough room, there would be gaps, it would waste space and even fall apart,” says student Matthew Barna.

Matthew’s STEAM team partner, Mia Romano, was impressed with bees’ structural engineering expertise.

“I love building structures,” says Mia, “And it was hard to make that exact hexagonal shape. And when bees build it, not only are the shapes exactly right, but they are all the same size – identical.”

The fourth graders were the final group to participate in their Challenge Island activity. During previous weeks, the third grade focused on the Blizzard of 1888 and the weather cycle, while the fifth grade experimented with gravity, friction and momentum.

## AROUND THE WORLD TOGETHER FESTIVAL



To sign up, scan the QR above

**SHS Student Senate brings you a new community event! We want to showcase all cultures, while making it fun and educational for everyone. This festival is a celebration of what makes Somers Somers. We invite you to volunteer to run a booth with food, art, music or other aspects of your culture or to sponsor a booth. Help make this event wonderful for everyone.**



### DATE AND TIME

Saturday, May 20th,  
2023  
11-2pm



### WHERE

Somers High School-  
outside



### WHY SIGNUP?

We want to make  
sure all are  
represented and we  
need your help

The Somers community is invited to a day of music, art, food, and educational activities thanks to the efforts of the Somers High School Senate Cultural Immersion Committee. The Around the World Together Festival is planned for Saturday, May 20, 2023.

“We hope to bring the community together to discover what makes us unique,” says Julia Schmidberger, a sophomore senate member.

Schmidberger recalled a similar event from her days in a private elementary school. “We were young, so parents ran the event. They brought food and taught kids about different cultures. So, I wanted to bring that experience to Somers,” says Schmidberger.

A subcommittee of the 15-member student senate is organizing this new event, which will be the culmination of a week-long celebration at the high school. Each day will celebrate cultures from around the world.

“We have a diverse group of kids, so most plans come from familial experiences,” said Schmidberger. “Some are personal narratives, while others are doing internet research projects.”

For the weekend Festival, the committee invites community members to run or sponsor a booth that highlights aspects of their culture. The goal is to feature as many different cultures as possible.

If you are interested in participating, [click here by April 1 for the Sign-Up Genius link](#). Current plans include food trucks, live music, art, games, and other activities.

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Somers Central School District  
hosts the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual K-12 Festival of the Arts Show  
an evening to celebrate works of art created in the SCSD K-12 Art programs.

**SAVE THE DATE**

April 27, 2023

7:00-9:00PM

Somers High School



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**PTA Corner - Get Egged!**





Celebrate Spring and support the Somers High School  
PTSA Scholarship Fund with the  
Get Egged “Fun”raiser!

Have your house, a friends or family’s house “EGGED” with plastic  
eggs filled with candy.

25 Eggs for \$20

Order by March 31, 2023 or while supplies last via [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) or email [shsptsascholarshipfund@gmail.com](mailto:shsptsascholarshipfund@gmail.com) to place your order. Your home will be egged on the evening of Friday, April 7th or Saturday, April 8th (please specify delivery preference). Delivery to Somers and the surrounding area. Candy is individually wrapped. All Nut Free.



The Somers community has supported the PTA units in many ways. A town tradition and favorite, Get Egg'ed is back! Support the SHS PTSA Scholarship Fund today. The fundraiser helps our Somers students follow their dreams and pursue continuing education opportunities.

Want more news? Follow Somers Central School District on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for daily updates. You can also find frequently updated articles about SCSD on our website at [www.somersschools.org](http://www.somersschools.org).



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