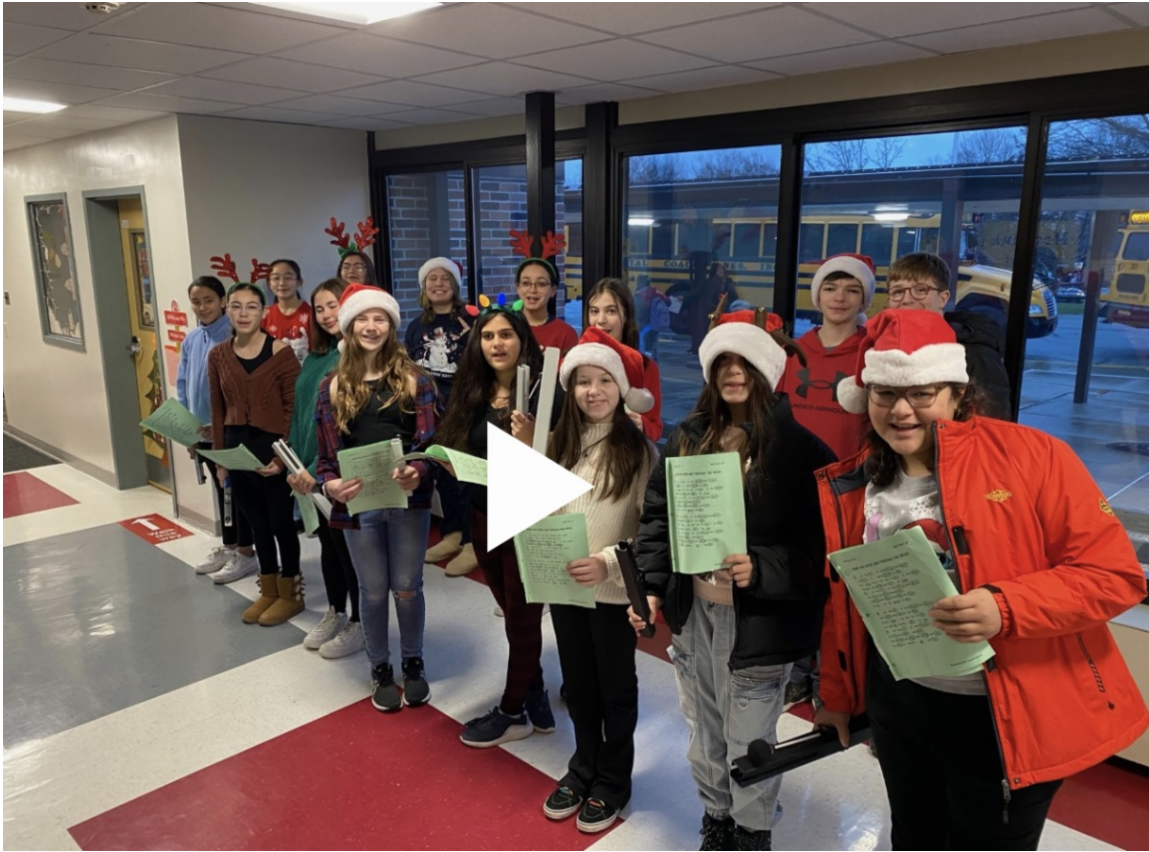


Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES



Sounds of the holidays echoed around town as the middle school bell choir spread cheer and song this month. The musicians rang students into the school day at Primrose and SIS, and also performed at Pines Bridge School, The Westchester School, and Somers Town Hall. [Click to watch this joyful crew.](#)



Students and staff at Somers Intermediate School spent time making fleece blankets for the Linus Project, a national organization that collects and donates blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.



The French Club at the high school celebrated French Week with Francophone Trivia Contests, and the first, school-wide Art Imitates Art contest in which students recreate art by famous French artists.



We are helping neighbors in need this month. Primrose collected for Toys for Tots. Intermediate school students made dog treats and collected and wrapped books and pajamas for local organizations. At the middle and high schools, students gathered food, new socks, and toys for local families.

Special Olympics Club of the Year



The Somers Special Olympics team was chosen as the Training Club of the Year by Hudson Valley Special Olympics. The team was recognized for its enthusiasm, dedication, participation, and support of Special Olympics. Pioneer team members, coaches, and volunteers accepted the award at the annual recognition ceremony.

Inclusive Schools Week Brings Middle School Students Together



A brainstorming session at the middle school brings students together to develop ways to make the school more inclusive.

Listening, sharing ideas, and working together were some of the ways that Somers Middle School students helped each other across the “radioactive” gym floor during a team-building activity during Inclusive Schools Week. All four schools in the district participated in activities throughout Inclusive Schools Week to highlight the importance of having a supportive and respectful environment for diverse learners.

Students at the middle school worked in teams to devise a plan to get safely across the gym without touching the floor using only each other and the tools available to them – two scooters, two plastic pulleys, and two rubber stepping stones.

Some teams found success with students using rubber stepping stones under their shoes to shuffle across while towing teammates holding pulleys on the scooters. Other students knelt on the scooters and used the stepping stones on their hands to shimmy across. And when they got stuck, their teammates sprang into action and threw a pulley to help drag them to safety.

The team-building exercise was one of the various all-school activities offered to students in Wednesday's modified advisory schedule during Inclusive Schools Week at Somers Middle School.

Wednesday's schedule also included a mini film festival with short videos on inclusion and anti-bullying, a brainstorming session on ways to make the school more inclusive, an enrichment exercise geared towards recognizing what a Champion of Inclusion might look like, and an SMS Club Fair aimed at getting students to join a new activity.

"My favorite activity was the team building in the gym because we all worked together to get our teammates to the other side," said sixth grader Lila Hantzarides.

Rachel Ehrmann said it was great collaborating with her fellow sixth graders. "It was nice to listen to other people's ideas and work together," Ehrmann said.

During Inclusive Schools Week, each day began with a 15-minute activity designed to follow the theme of "Unity in Our Community." Student activities included ways to be conversation starters, door decorating with ideas and encouragement about being more inclusive, brainstorming small things to create change, and creating their own Inclusion Superhero.

Tuskers Football State Champs!



The Somers High School football team was crowned state champions after a decisive 58-21 win over Union-Endicott for the NYSPHSAA Class A Football Championship on Saturday, December 3 at the JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse.

Throwing Strikes For the Tuskers



The inaugural varsity bowling team after the first game. Top row, left to right: Coach Erik Tetro, Assistant Coach Rob Pregiato, Tyler Fazio, and Daniel Roth. Bottom row: Giuseppe Arena, Dylan Larson, and Jack Dwyer. Missing: Jack Stoecker and Kade Suarez.

The first-ever varsity game of the Somers High School Bowling Team came down to the 10th frame against Briarcliff High School. Although they lost last week, with two Somers bowlers throwing their highest-ever games, the team members are confident that they will make a name for themselves in the school's athletics line-up.

Under the coaching expertise of Primrose Math AIS teacher, Erik Tetro, the members of the team, who have varying levels of experience, travel several days a week to Cortland Lanes for team practice. The Tuskers bowling team will compete against the 10 other high school teams in the Conference 1 League that includes Lakeland, Yorktown, Walter Panas, Peekskill, Greeley, Ossining, North Salem, John Jay, Hendrick Hudson, and Briarcliff.

"When I saw that there was going to be a bowling team at the high school, I jumped at the opportunity to coach the new team," said Tetro, who began bowling competitively at eight years old. He participates in a competitive local men's league. "I knew that I could pass along my knowledge of the skills and techniques and hope to inspire a love of bowling."

"I wanted to get involved in a sport and bowling seemed the most fun to me," said Dylan Larson. Although Larson said he's not a seasoned bowler by any means, he found the hobby enjoyable enough to join the competitive team. "Like many of us, I've gone bowling with my family but never really played often."

Tyler Fazio, a seasoned and competitive bowler, said he is enthusiastic to bring the energy of the bowling team to Somers. "I want people to know about us and be excited that bowling is a brand-new sport at Somers High School," Fazio said.

The Tuskers bowlers are excited about their inaugural season and while nerves may be part of the game, team members know a little patience with themselves and each other as they start off is imperative. "Bowling is very easy to learn but can also be a little infuriating," Larson said. "You just need to stay calm, and you'll do great."

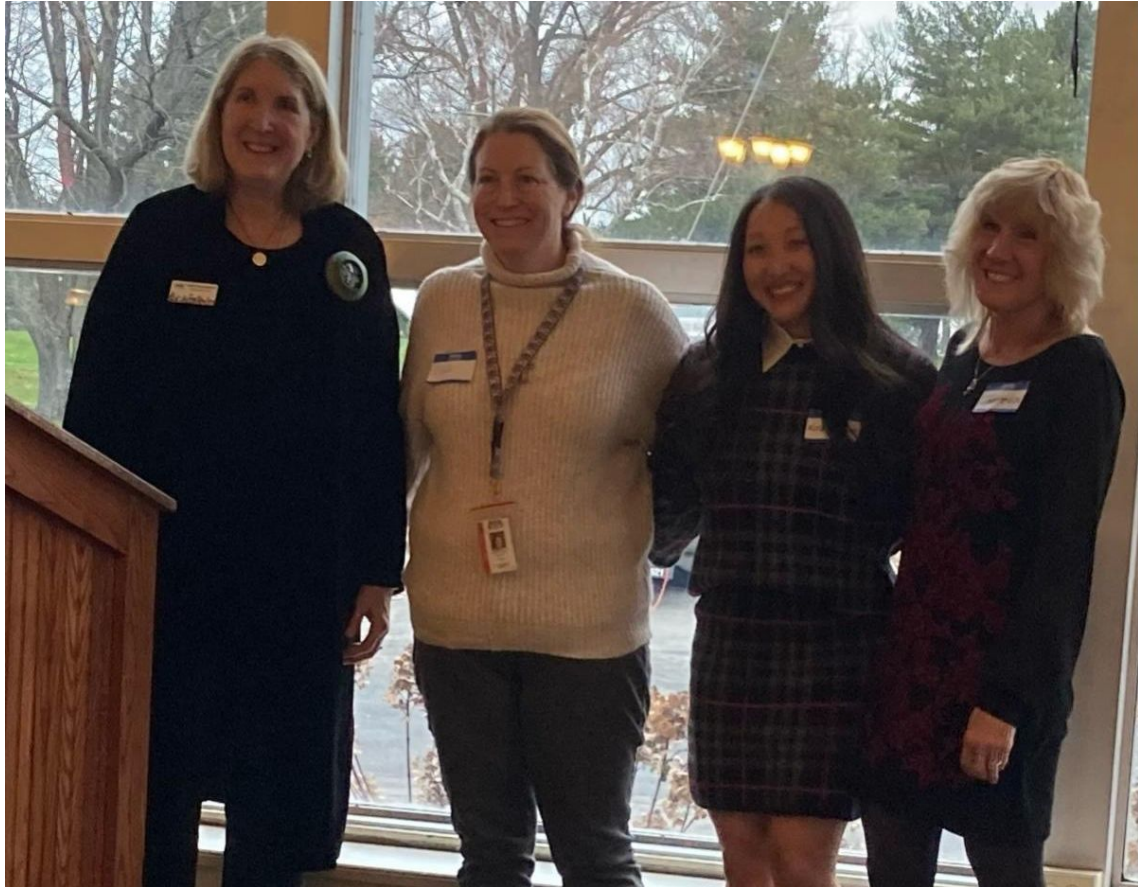
"We are so happy to have the opportunity to start a bowling program this year," said Athletic Director Marc Hattem. "One of the goals of the Athletic Department is always to have as much participation as possible from our student body, and the bowling team will provide an opportunity for our students to participate in a lifetime activity."

The Somers Bowling Team is set to be a co-ed team. Tetro said the team has seven boys who will compete, but he is hopeful girls who are interested will join.

For Tetro, the expectations of his new team of bowlers include improving their skills and

growing their love of the game. "I want to be able to watch them grow as bowlers and come together as a team," he said. "I believe that by the end of the season each student will improve their techniques and raise their high scores. My goal is for the team to enjoy themselves and make some lasting friendships. I believe if they do that, then the Somers Bowling Team will become a fun and competitive team."

Not All Heroes Wear Capes



At the Heroes in Education luncheon, left to right: WERP region chair Mary McNamara, Brenda O'Shea, Kira Markowitz, and Theresa Reda.

There are many heroes among us in our Somers schools. Five of them were honored with the Heroes in Education Award by the Westchester East Putnam Region (WERP) of the New York State Parent Teacher Association. These outstanding members of the SCSD family were nominated by fellow teachers and PTA members:

- Elizabeth Breslin - Teacher Aide, Primrose Elementary School
- Joan Cass - Special Education Teacher, Somers High School
- Kira Markowitz - PTA Chair, Primrose Elementary School
- Brenda O'Shea - Student Life Coordinator, Somers High School
- Theresa Reda - Social Worker, Somers Intermediate School and Primrose Elementary School

Correction

A correction to an article in last month's Tusker Nation... the Wee Deliver Post Office at Primrose Elementary School has been in operation for 30+ years, not 20 years as reported. Congratulations to everyone involved in such a long-lasting, impactful venture!



The PTA Corner



It has been a busy and exciting time for all five Somers PTA units. From coffee with Mr. Bayer to Refreshing Recess – the PTA is here for everyone! The Primrose PTA proudly sponsored Emmy award-winner Kevin Briody's educational experience. He showed second grade students how ideas can be transformed into songs. Art abounds as the SIS PTA Green Committee sponsored a recycled wreath-making contest. The creativity continues as the SMS PTA had four extremely creative submissions to the PTA Reflections – Show Your Voice contest. The SHS PTA hosted Coffee and Conversation with Mr. Bayer. Partnerships continue with SEPTA, PES, and SIS to build friendships and cooperative play during Refresh Recess.

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.



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