

# Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS  
FOR SCSD FAMILIES



This month, students, families, and staff at all four Somers schools helped make Thanksgiving brighter for local families in need with food donations to benefit the St. Luke's Food Pantry.

More than 50 boxes and baskets of donations, complete with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner and gift cards for turkeys, were delivered to St. Luke's to be included in the drive-through food distribution on November 18.

The donation drives at each school were spearheaded by student council and peer leadership groups, as well as elementary school PTAs and room parents. This event not only helps raise awareness about food insecurity in the Somers community, but it encourages the idea of neighbor helping neighbor.

The students in elementary school added turkey hands to their boxes and colored pictures to be included in each box. Some even added a little extra.

"I knew the students truly understood the goal of the drive when my student, Lucas, told me that the \$5 came from his own money," said second grade teacher, Joe Mahoney.

At the high school, the Peer Leadership group took its collection a little further and included activities for local children.

“Our Peer Leaders incorporated a lot of items for kids including books, coloring books, and crafts,” said SHS social worker Kristen Rigaglia. “It was really nice to see them combine activities for children with the food donations.”



Members of the Somers Schools Fife and Drum Band and the Somers Middle School Advanced Choir marched in the Veterans Day Parade on November 11 to honor members of the military.



November is Albanian Heritage Month and students are learning about this unique country over morning announcements and with classrooms lessons. Students practiced some short phrases in Albanian and listened to music from



What do you get when you combine paper plates, a little paint, and some fun, googly eyes? Turkey headbands, of course! Kindergartners had a little help from room parents in creating custom Thanksgiving turkey headbands. Students wore their finished projects in class on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, then



Our elementary students supported United for the Troops this month. They collected special treats and snacks to be included in CARE packages for soldiers overseas. Students also brought in baggies filled with dirt for the SOIL for Soldiers

some of the famous musicians who have Albanian heritage, like Dua Lipa.

brought them home to share with their families.

Program, which gives deployed soldiers the feeling of home. The soil and packages will be delivered during the December holidays.



## Student-Athletes Sign Commitment Letters

Congratulations to the eight Somers High School student-athletes who signed commitment letters to play sports at the Division I and Division II college level. Students are Jared Googel, Lafayette University Track and Field; Evan Carway, Adelphi University Baseball; Jake Polito, Naval Academy Football; Lyndsay Gill, College of the Holy Cross Track; Lauren McCartin, Yale University Lacrosse; Madelyn Lyle, Wofford College Lacrosse; Ava Guidice, Fordham University Soccer; Teagan Ryan, University of Colorado Boulder Lacrosse.

## Wee Deliver Turns 20



*Second grade students in Joe Mahoney's class stand by the "street sign" along the Primrose postal route.*

The 20<sup>th</sup> opening ceremonies of the Primrose Elementary School Wee Deliver Post Office

was a mix of fanfare, singing, and encouragement as second graders dressed in their best red, white, and blue gleefully dropped their letters into the bright blue USPS mailbox.

The first shift of 23 second-grade postal workers entered the cafeteria carrying mail totes and waving American flags accompanied by music teacher Stephanie Closson on the ukulele. To get in the spirit, all second-grade teachers and students sang “America the Beautiful,” “Mail Myself to You,” “This Land is Your Land” and their own special song “Wee Deliver Mail” written several years ago by a staff member.

The Wee Deliver Post Office has been a Primrose tradition for 20 years. As the oldest students in the school, the 200 second graders will take two-week turns during recess collecting, sorting, and delivering mail to Big Top City, ABC, and Tuskertown – the school’s kindergarten, first, and second grade classrooms and mailboxes located outside specials classrooms and other locations in Primrose.

The second graders all took a postal exam, submitted applications, and were interviewed by members of the school community, including Superintendent Raymond Blanch and Somers High School Student Resource Officer Matthew Hickey, who did the official swearing-in of the students. The Primrose PTA made sure there were brand-new mailboxes outside of each classroom to receive the hundreds of letters that will be delivered this year.

“My favorite letters are the ones that ask questions,” said School Counselor Katie Bergin, who added that she looks forward to getting student letters asking if she likes cats or dogs or how she likes to spend the holidays. One staff member said that one of the best letters she received contained only jokes.

Part of the opening celebration included recognizing Gail Weiner, a Primrose teaching assistant who has led the students as head Postmaster at the Wee Deliver Post Office for 20 years. She was presented with a special Gail Weiner commemorative stamp and a bouquet of flowers.

---

## **Canine Crime Fighter**



***Sophomore Miguel Iglesias volunteers to act as the source while Acorn demonstrates his crime-fighting superpower.***

Acorn, a three-year-old black Labrador Retriever circled the classroom sniffing furiously before settling at the foot of a student seated in the front of the classroom. Acorn wagged his tail excitedly and began to drool -- he found the scent of gasoline that was placed on a student's shoe and knew he would be getting a food reward for a job well done.

Students in a criminal law class at Somers High School got a special visit from Westchester County Police Detective, John Peters, and his canine partner, Acorn. One of the WCPD's arson detection dogs, Acorn sniffs out accelerants and ignitable liquids in suspected arson cases. Peters gave the class an overview of Acorn's training and how he is an essential part of working arson cases with WCPD. "Acorn and I do about 100 fires a year," Peters said.

Peters said the black Lab breed is uniquely qualified to work in arson detection due to the sensitivity of their noses -- over 250 million olfactory receptors can sense even the most minuscule ignitable substance. Their keen noses, combined with their intelligence, gentle and social nature, and high play and food drives, make Labs perfect for the task. Arson detection dogs are trained with a food reward system.

For the safety of the team, they wait until a fire is completely out before going in to investigate and Acorn is always on his leash. In addition to sniffing out the burned remains of suspected arson, Peters said Acorn is also a valuable part as the crime unfolds. "He would be able to detect the slightest amount of an ignitable substance in a crowd of spectators gathered outside of the scene of a fire," Peters said. "Arsonists often stick around to see their work."

Peters showed the class just how good Acorn is at his job. To demonstrate, Acorn left the classroom for a few minutes while Peters placed a droplet of gasoline on tenth grader Miguel Iglesias' shoe. Once back in the classroom, Acorn swiftly circled the room and stopped at Iglesias' feet. The drool began instantly, and Peters rewarded Acorn with a scoop of kibble.

Iglesias said Peters' presentation to the class was very informative and he learned a lot about the use of dogs in arson cases. He added that it was incredible to watch Acorn react so quickly to the smallest drop of gasoline. "I thought that was really cool," he said. "I learned so much about how the dogs help during an arson investigation."

Tenth grader Adrianna Adelman said she did not know much about the arson dog use in WCPD prior to the visit. "It's really interesting to see what Acorn is capable of," Adelman said. "I learned so much about what goes on behind the scenes in an arson investigation."

---

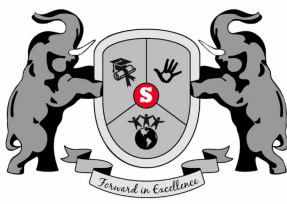
## The PTA Corner



Partner PTA groups, SEPTA, PES PTA, and SIS PTA are joining forces to help build friendships through cooperative and inclusive play, called Refreshing Recess, during the second and third grade recess sessions. Activities such as Rock-Paper-Scissor Showdown, Friendship Walks, Obstacle Courses, and Group Chalk Art murals will be offered to help facilitate social skills among peers. The activities are all run by PTA volunteers and fourth and fifth grade sessions are coming in the near future!

---

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).



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](mailto:schoolcommunications@pnwboces.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!