



Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

The latest news from Somers Schools



Left: Class of 2019 Salutatorian Kevin Li and Valedictorian Katie Taylor. Right: National Merit Finalists Noah Sanz and Katie Taylor.

Head of the Class of 2019 and National Merit Scholars

Somers High School has announced that Katie Taylor is the Class of 2019 valedictorian and Kevin Li is the salutatorian. Congratulations to you both on your hard work.

Another high achievement for Katie Taylor - she and senior Noah Sanz have been named National Merit Scholarship Finalists. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. All Finalists are considered for one of the 2,500 National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships and are judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.



An educator from China asks a second-grader about the mountain she's creating out of clay.

Reaching Across the Globe - from China to Primrose

Their hands stained blue and green, second-graders from Joe Mahoney's class formed mountains, ponds and even estuaries from clay. As they discussed among themselves where the different landforms should go on their models, they were surrounded by two dozen educators from China who watched and occasionally asked questions.

The visitors were mostly Chinese elementary school principals, with a few secondary teachers and college professors in the delegation as well. They were spending the morning at Primrose Elementary School to observe how Somers Schools teach STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The visit was part of a cultural exchange initiative by PNW BOCES aimed at creating opportunities for Chinese students to study in the United States, and for students in the region to learn more about Chinese culture and language.

The Primrose second-graders landform lesson is from the Science 21 curriculum, a program developed by PNW BOCES and aligned with state science standards.

"I am impressed with how engaged the children were in their lesson," said one Chinese educator through a translator.

David Jacob, the regional science coordinator for Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES agreed and elaborated.

"Our goal is to always help students apply the lessons to the real world," said Jacob.

After the children finished their lesson, teachers from the middle and high schools gave short presentations to the visitors, including details about the Maker Space, Principles of Biomedical Science from Project Lead the Way and Science Research Project. The Chinese teachers shared that they were inspired by the dedication and enthusiasm of the science teachers.

As part of their visit, the Chinese educators, who are from Taizhou, Jiangsu, attended professional development classes at BOCES, with a focus on delivering hands-on, inquiry-based science education. They are also visiting Harvard and Boston Universities.



Students in Beth Monteleone's fourth-grade class learn how to make candles and cook Johnny cakes.

Fourth-Graders Connect with the Colonial Past

The fourth-graders at Somers Intermediate School wore their revolutionary-era best for the Colonial Day Fair. Each class rotated through stations where they made candles, learned to put up a tent like Revolutionary War soldiers, made and ate Johnny cakes, and created artwork through tinning, which is the practice of pounding a nail through a piece of tin to create a design.



Top row: Primrose Elementary School security station (left) and security vestibule (right).

Bottom row: Middle school security station (left) and security vestibule (right).

All guests are required to press the intercom to be buzzed into the vestibules by a security monitor. After their information is processed, visitors are given a badge to wear around their necks.

Bond Proposed to Finance Safety and Security Measures

The Board of Education is asking voters to consider a bond in the amount of \$7,566,295 to finance safety and security measures at Somers schools. The safety and well-being of students is always the district's first priority. Knowing that the potential exists for shootings and other dangerous situations, the schools train, drill and coordinate with law enforcement to deter or react to potential threats.

A Safety Task Force made up of school security consulting firm Altaris Group, school officials, and community members has met multiple times to review and recommend enhanced security measures for the district. Many recommendations are already in place at each school, including School Resource Officers, single point of entry, security vestibules and after school security guards. The Safety Task Force has also researched and recommended additional measures which would be financed by the proposed bond, including safety film on first-floor exterior windows, doors and certain interior glass and doors, as well as a lockdown panic system, swipe card access to classrooms, exterior door ajar notification alarms, an increased number of security cameras, and lockable classrooms/wall installations for six classrooms at the intermediate school.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$10,745,000. The district would use \$3,178,705 in capital reserve funds and finance the remaining cost with a \$7,566,295 bond.

Somers Students Have Moves - Watch!



The International Baccalaureate Dance class showed off their hard work in March, performing a combination of salsa, hip hop, cha cha and swing dancing. In an IB collaboration, the IB Film class recorded the performance and will edit it as a project. A student mixed the music for the performance and another student did the lighting. Click picture to watch their performance.



The Somers High School drama department put on a feet stomping, hip-swaying performance of the musical hit Mamma Mia. Couldn't make it to the show? Click the picture for a peek inside rehearsal.

Hands-On Science Hands-Down Success

On March 21 Somers Intermediate School held its annual Hands-On Science Fair. There were 35 teams with a total of 95 students demonstrating various experiments such as "Elephant Toothpaste" and "Lava Lamps" in chemistry, and "Balloon Speedway" and "Robo Hand" in physics.

Teachers George and Christine Camarra, along with the school administration and SIS PTA organized the event. Students researched and created their experiments, wrote lab reports and demonstrated their findings. During the demonstrations, participants tried it themselves, and took home their results, including mini lava lamps and stress balls.



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