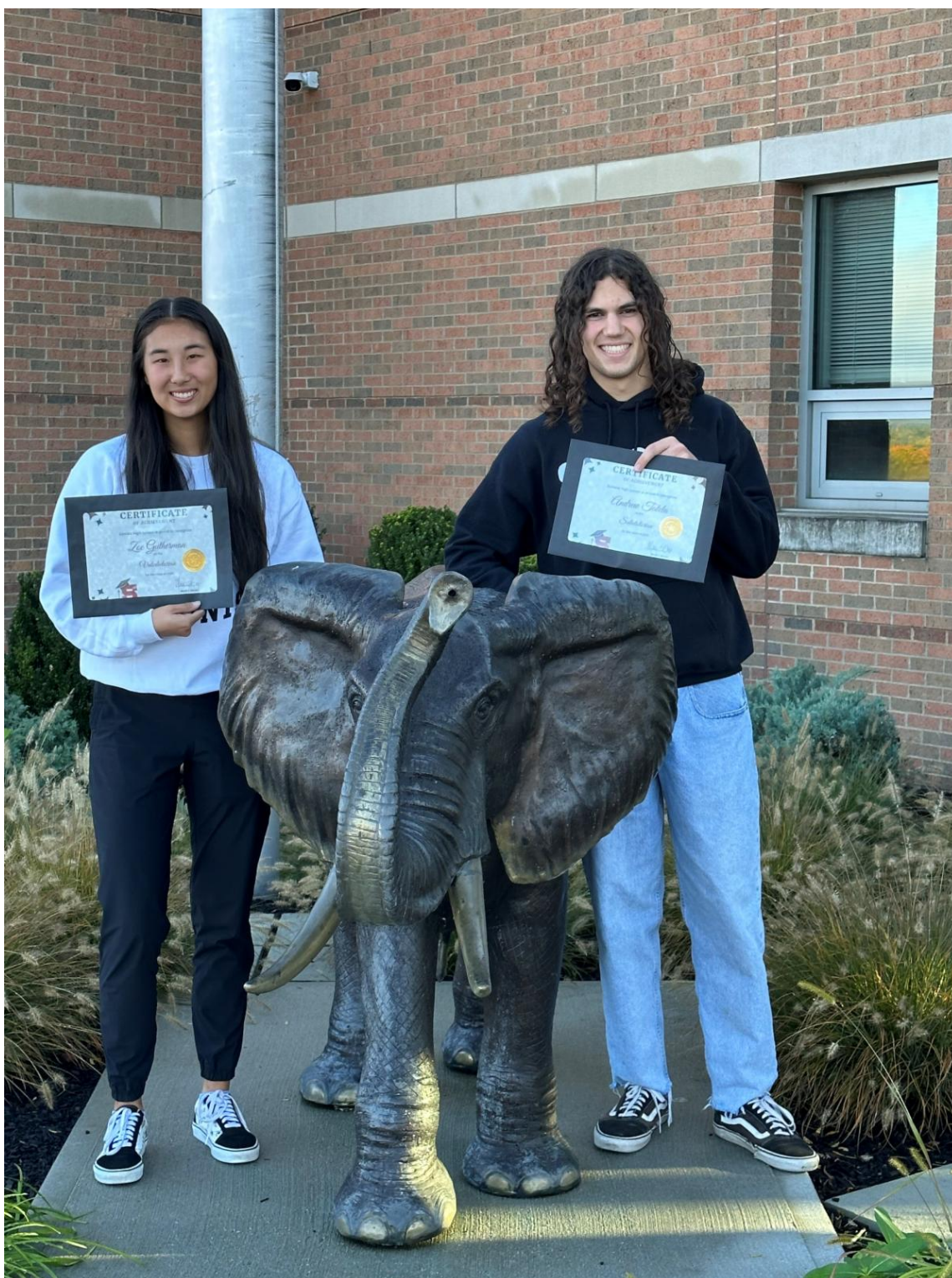


Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES



Zoe Gutherman (left) and Andrew Tatela (right) have been named valedictorian and salutatorian of the Somers High School Class of 2023.

Somers High School senior Zoe Gutherman has earned the top spot as valedictorian and Andrew Tatela is the salutatorian of the class of 2023. The two students credit amazing teachers, a robust program of study at Somers High School, a supportive community, and hard work for their academic success.

“The Science Research Program greatly contributed to where I am in my academic career because of the skills it taught me,” said Zoe Gutherman. “The independent nature of the course forced me to improve my time management as well as giving and receiving support to and from my peers. It also helped me realize my passion for learning about and helping the environment.”

Gutherman’s research project won second place at the Westchester Science & Engineering Fair. She used satellite imaging data to investigate how land surface temperatures vary across different land covers in New York State. Gutherman plans to attend college in the northeast and study environmental science.

Tatela was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program. He is a lover of all things music and wears many musical hats at Somers High School. He is a member of the jazz band, band, choir, chamber choirs, and drama club. He also plays guitar and sings in his own band, Puppets for Hire, which recently opened for the world-famous Spin Doctors. Tatela's future plans include college and while he has no "dream college," Tatela said he could see himself at Brown University in a math or science-related major.

"However, I'll try not to limit myself in college," he said. "I'd like to continue to be a well-rounded learner and explore many disciplines."



Somers High School football players visited several classes at Primrose Elementary School in October to read to second graders. The students were excited to meet the older kids and learn more about them. Teachers were also thrilled by the visit because some of the players were their students years ago at Primrose.



SHS Homecoming 2022 was a great success, including some familiar, surprise guest dancers who joined the cheerleaders at the pep rally. [Click to watch the performance.](#)



To mark Unity Day on October 19, middle school students and staff wore orange and created chain links of words of kindness, inclusion and acceptance. Those links now decorate the central atrium and Peanut, the mascot. Students at SIS made signs that reflect their commitment to stand together for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.



School Resource Officer Brian Pavletich visited all the kindergarten classes to share the book "A Day With Police Officers". The book explains what police officers do on a daily basis and all the different equipment they use to help keep people safe. Officer Brian compared the book to what he does at Primrose and explained why SROs play an important role in all the Somers schools.



Alum Connects IB Studies to College Research

Mackenzi Berner, SHS class of 2019 and a member of the school's first International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme cohort, visited four IB history classes to share her experience conducting historical research for a professor at Lafayette College. Berner, a senior at Lafayette, connected the research skills she uses in her paid research to those she learned in IB History in high school and reinforced the importance of source evaluation and reflection. Berner is researching yerba mate and its influence on social and political dynamics in Uruguay and Argentina.

Learning How to Make Mistakes



Teacher Jennifer Mojica engages her class in a discussion about the benefits of making mistakes.

In Jennifer Mojica's class, fourth grade students spent time discussing mistakes and the importance of the lessons we learn from them.

For a recent English Language Arts lesson, Mojica read the book "The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes." The story is about a girl named Beatrice who never made a mistake, but when she finally did, her reaction to the mistake ended up making her happier.

Mojica led the students to think about Beatrice's character traits before and after her big mistake. They all agreed that striving to be perfect probably caused Beatrice a lot of stress and once she realized mistakes are okay, she was able to have some fun.

Students then reflected on times they made mistakes, how they may have fixed them and

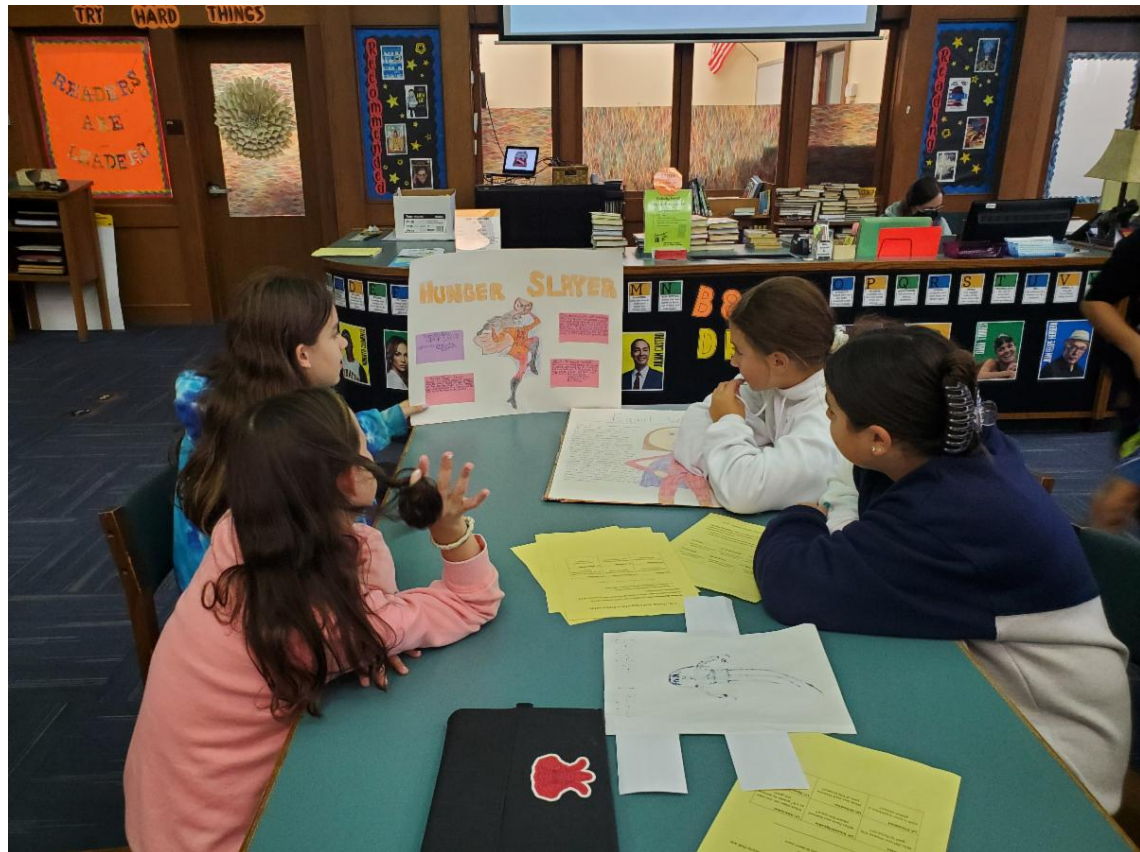
what they learned from both the mistakes and the story they read in class.

“I learned that nobody has to be perfect,” said Tyler Truitt. Truitt said a tool he uses to fix a mistake in school is to “erase it and go back and do it again.”

Ayla Kramer said her favorite part of the story was when Beatrice laughed at her big mistake – standing on a stage in front of a crowd with her pet guinea pig and popped a water balloon on her head.

“I liked Beatrice a lot better after that,” Kramer said. “I learned that you don’t have to be perfect.”

Raising Awareness of Global Water Scarcity



Students display their superhero, Hunger Slayer, and explain how they developed a plan for the character to eradicate hunger in the world.

Move over Captain America and Ant-Man. There are some new superheroes in town. Oliver the Ocean Saver, Hunger Slayer, and The Equalizer.

For their first Middle Years Programme unit in social studies, called “What Does It Mean to Be a Global Citizen?”, sixth graders created Global Goals superheroes to fight for causes like ending world hunger, eradicating poverty, and ensuring that the earth’s water supplies are clean.

Students in Jenna Schettino and Deb Kilmer’s classes chose a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to research and then created a superhero to solve the issues they discovered. Each superhero was also connected to an International Baccalaureate Learner Profile attribute.

Aiden Bourque is an avid catch-and-release fisherman and wanted to know more about Sustainable Goal #14, Life Below Water. He created Oliver the Ocean Saver to ensure the future conservation of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

“His superpowers include giant hands to pick up the garbage that lines the ocean floor and feet that could plant and spread seagrass seeds,” Bourque said. “I do a lot of fishing and I want to make sure that the water is always safe to fish.”

The Equalizer is Emily Martin’s superhero and her power, Martin said, is more of an accessory. “She has a book bag and every time she pulls out a book, a girl gets a proper education,” Martin said.

During her research, Martin said she was surprised to learn that there are areas in the world where girls are not only undereducated but not allowed an education at all. She said she created her superhero to help fix that.

Simone Hennigan created Hardship Girl to address Goal #1, No Poverty. Hennigan’s superhero flies to the areas in the world plagued by poverty and helps organizations that are working to improve the lives of people in poor communities.

“It’s not fair that people in the world can’t afford necessities like food and clothing or a roof over their heads,” Hennigan said. Researching her sustainable goal and creating a

superhero to help end world poverty piqued her interest in someday working with a world relief organization.

The PTA Corner



The SIS PTA celebrated the 50th SIS Birthday Party on Friday, October 21. This is the SIS PTA's largest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds go right back to the school and students. The birthday party allows the PTA to continue funding events and programs throughout the year.

The SMS PTA is enjoying the Scholastic Book Fair through October 28. The back-to-school socials for all grades were a huge hit and it was wonderful to see the kids enjoying the start of a new school year.

The Primrose PTA is gearing up for its 50th Holiday Happiness on November 5. This is PES PTA's largest fundraiser of the year and it will be held outside on the school campus.

The Somers High School PTSA-sponsored Community Service Fair was held in October during Community Lunch. Thank you to our community organizations for sharing these opportunities with our students. On October 11, the SHS PTSA celebrated the teachers, staff, and administration with a luncheon for all the wonderful work they do with our students.

Want more news? Follow Somers Central School District on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for daily updates on initiatives and accomplishments, alumni achievements, events, and programs in Somers schools. You can also find frequently updated articles about SCSD on our website at www.somersschools.org.



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