

Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

Important Updates

- Congratulations to the Class of 2018. We wish you continued success!
- A reminder that the track and turf fields at Somers High School are closed for construction until mid-August.
- A district Safety Task Force has been formed and members will begin meeting next month.
- Have a safe and happy summer!

Kindness Rocks in Somers



Clockwise left to right: Peer Leaders coat rocks, SIS garden in memory of Sherri Mangus, Robbie Donaldson digs for his rock at the middle school, Juliet DeRaffele paints her rock

All four Somers schools are rockin' kindness this year. Students at each school participated in a Kindness Rock project, a national movement that encourages people to decorate rocks with inspirational messages. At Primrose Elementary School, all students thought about what kindness means to them, the ways in which kindness is shown, and how they feel when they are kind to someone else.

"It feels good to help someone," says second-grader Juliet DeRaffele, "Because then people won't be lonely."

Thanks to a grant from the Somers Education Foundation, the decorated rocks were treated with a protective solution by parent volunteers and placed around the gazebo in the central courtyard at Primrose.

At Somers Intermediate School, students were assisted in their kindness rock project by Peer

Leaders from the high school. The intermediate school kids painted rocks that have been placed in a garden behind the school in memory of special education teacher Sherri Mangus, who passed away last year.

The TEAM Tuskers mentoring program led the middle school's effort. Throughout the year, mentors and their mentees painted rocks in the mentoring room. The rocks are now in a box in the mentoring rooms at both the middle and intermediate schools, with a sign that reads, "Take one for inspiration, share one for motivation, leave one to help our garden grow."

All Eyes on The Common Project



The Common Project photographic mural hangs in a middle school hallway

A conversation with Maggie Sullivan, the Somers High School junior behind *The Common Project*, a photographic mural hanging in each Somers school building.

What does *The Common Project* mural represent?

Looking at the photos of eyes it can be quite hard to figure out who the person really is, and by looking at those quotes you can't identify who on the mural said them. The mural is about anonymity as well as individuality, and how we don't understand one another just by looking. We have to have a conversation to find out who someone really is.

How did this project evolve?

I created this piece as a part of the Creativity-Action-Service requirement for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The initial concept was a collaboration between photography teacher Colleen Sheehy, former student Erika Sanders, Assistant Superintendent Julie Gherardi and me. I'm president of the photography club, an art student, and I have a particular interest in morale and tolerance among classmates, so the project hit on many topics relevant to me.

What lasting effect do you hope this mural will have on students?

The same piece hangs in every school, not only a unifying visual but also a consistent message students are taught from Primrose to graduation day. The goal is for kids to look at identity in a way they haven't before. I hope the mural will evoke curiosity and encourage each person to recognize what makes them unique.

Navy Seaman Thanks Students



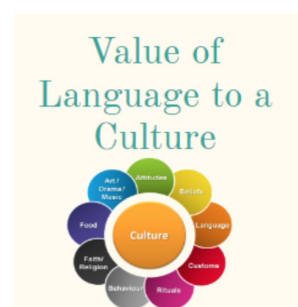
Petty Officer Bryan Bennet made a surprise visit to the third graders in Mrs. Stepkoski's class at Somers Intermediate School. A third class navy seaman aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, Bennet spoke to the students about his recent seven month deployment. While he was away, the students sent him Veteran's Day cards and care packages, which Bennet shared with his shipmates. He came to thank the students in person, and answered questions about his life and job aboard an aircraft carrier.

A short video on L.I.F.E. - The Elementary Years



Italian 2 Students Explore Language Loss

Italian 2 students explored the real-world problem of language loss and its impact on culture, through a scenario on the fictional planet Zar. Through project-based learning, their mission was to create proposals for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), seeking support to save an at-risk community of inhabitants through Italian music. Students focused on the purpose and use of language, as well as the appeal of Italian music and how learning language through music is effective. Watch one presentation [here](#).



Living and Learning American History



Many thanks to the Living History Education Foundation, Somers Middle School PTA, Somers Lions Club and Somers Historical Society for another successful Living History Day at the middle school.



Somers Central School District
250 Route 202
Somers, NY 10589
914.277.2400
www.somersschools.org

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