



Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

The Latest News from Somers Schools

Giving Season Begins in Somers



Top, volunteers at the high school wrap Thanksgiving baskets full of food, gift cards, and games. Below, mason jars full of chocolate chip cookie mix created by students and their mentors.

The line stretches from a supply room to the atrium at Somers High School, as students pass boxes and baskets full of food that are loaded into vans, headed for the Thanksgiving food pantry at St. Luke's Church in Somers.

"Kids are always surprised to learn how many Somers families need help putting a Thanksgiving meal on the table," says school social worker Kristen Rigaglia, who organizes the food drive with her colleague Theresa Reda.

Students in all four schools spent the last few weeks gathering non-perishable food to provide Thanksgiving meals for nearly 70 Somers families. Each of those families has children in Somers schools. At Primrose and the intermediate schools, classes were assigned specific food items. Among the groups contributing entire baskets of food and gifts this year were the advisory groups at the middle school (30 baskets), and at the high school, the football team (16 baskets), the Peer Leaders (15 baskets), and the Leos Club. At the intermediate and middle schools, TEAM Tuskers Mentors and mentees made dozens of mason jar cookie mix and soup mix to include in the baskets.



The Thanksgiving food drive is a true community effort. The Somers Women's Club works the pantry at St. Luke's, and many local organizations and businesses donate gift cards, pies, turkeys and pre-cooked meals. The season of giving continues after Thanksgiving, with an Adopt-A-Family gift drive and another holiday food drive. To help, email Kristen Rigaglia at krigaglia@somersschools.org.

Gregorio Gets LEO Gavel



Analaura Gregorio, second from left, receives the gavel as she is sworn in as president of the state LEOs Club.

Madam President is in our midst. Analaura Gregorio, a junior at Somers High School, has been elected president of the New York State Leo Club. The Leo Club is the youth sector of the Lions Club, a service-oriented organization. Gregorio, a vice president with the high school Leo Club in Somers, says it is a great honor and she's excited to put into action her motto, "Together We Serve".

In her role as statewide president, Gregorio oversees all 100 Leos Clubs in New York. Her goal this year is to organize a service project in which every club in the state participates.

"I try my hardest to motivate everyone to do as much as possible," says Gregorio, "And make sure everyone is participating in events."

Gregorio was also just appointed by the Lions Club to the international Leo Club Advisory Panel. The sole representative for the United States and Mexico, Gregorio was one of just eight Leos in the world to be asked to attend the Lions International Convention in Singapore next summer.

To hear why Analaura Gregorio and fellow Leo member, Julianna Aiello, feel passionately about Leos, click [here](#) to listen to our Tusker Talk podcast.

Upstanding and Understanding



Somers middle school students listen to the keynote speaker and work through tough scenarios at a leadership workshop in White Plains.

Students from the Somers Middle School No Place for Hate Club and Student Council attended a leadership workshop run by the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center. The workshop was designed just for seventh-graders, and the presenters were assisted by high school students, including Somers students Peyton DiSiena and Kaitlyn DeRosa. The workshop focused on how to be an upstander, respect individuals for their differences and avoid microaggressions.

"A microaggression is a comment you make that offends a person, even if you didn't mean to," says seventh-grader Olivia Soto. "A comment that could be taken as prejudiced or insulting to a group, like about race."

The students were broken into groups and worked through different scenarios to help them recognize and avoid making unintended hurtful comments. They also discussed the importance of standing up for others.

"What I took away from the workshop," says Julia Schmidberger, "Is that I should not just stand by when someone is being hurtful. I should be an upstander."

Veterans Honored in Somers Schools



Retired Sgt. David Walker, U.S. Army Airborne and father of Emily Walker, speaks to Joe Mahoney's second-grade class about serving in the United States Military.

Students, teachers and staff in Somers Schools recognized Veterans Day with many different activities and ceremonies. The middle school Parade Band marched in the Somers Veterans Day parade. At the high school, the Special Olympics Team, along with the LEOs Club and the Student Volunteer Corps packed 15 boxes of candy for Treats for Troops. At Primrose Elementary School, children wrote letters to soldiers and veterans and collected candy and supplies. At Somers Intermediate School, students invited veterans in their families to the grade-level town meetings. During the assemblies, the veterans were honored with certificates, letters, and a video made by all the classes at SIS.



Veteran Harry Rios poses with fifth-grader Justin Williams Conroy during the Veterans Day celebration at Somers Intermediate School.

Tusker Athletes Commit to Colleges



Seven Somers High School seniors have officially committed to play a sport in college. Missed the signing ceremony? Watch on demand here: <https://events.locallive.tv/events/guest/33587>
From left to right in the picture: Kayleigh Kenny, soccer at Drexel University. Megan Dineen, lacrosse at SUNY Albany. Rachel Ross, soccer at Rider University. Nicholas Rossi, lacrosse at Lafayette College. Alexis Atkinson, soccer, Iona College. Jessica Rodriguez, Iona College, soccer. Danielle Roberts, basketball, Roberts Wesleyan College. Congratulations to you all for your hard work. We wish you the best of luck!

TuskerTube - Tuskers Committed Visits Middle School



Tuskers Committed is a group of students at Somers High School committed to a healthy lifestyle. Watch these role models connect with middle school students and explain why they are members of Tuskers Committed in this [TuskerTube video](#).

Can You Spot All E-Cigarettes?



Do you think you know what all e-cigarettes look like? These examples might surprise you. Our latest episode of [Spotlight on Somers](#) focuses on the nationwide adolescent vaping epidemic. This video includes advice on how to speak to your kids about vaping and what Somers Schools are doing to combat the epidemic. Join Superintendent Raymond Blanch, Somers High School Student Assistance Counselor Nicole Tarr, and pediatrician Dr. Dan Cohen for this information-packed episode of [Spotlight on Somers](#).

Somers Intermediate Turns 47



Liz Turner, principal of Somers Intermediate School, is taped to the wall by students to raise money for the SIS PTA.

The Somers Intermediate School Birthday Party is the biggest fundraiser for the SIS PTA and this year was better than ever. There were new games, a bake sale, Club SIS, a silent auction, raffles and a revamped Haunted Hallway. Proceeds help the SIS PTA fund assemblies and other events to enrich students experiences while at SIS. Thank you to all the volunteers, committee chairs, the SIS Administration, the LEOs Club and the custodial staff. This could not have happened without you!



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

