

# Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS  
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

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## The Latest News from Somers Schools

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### Somers Students' Success

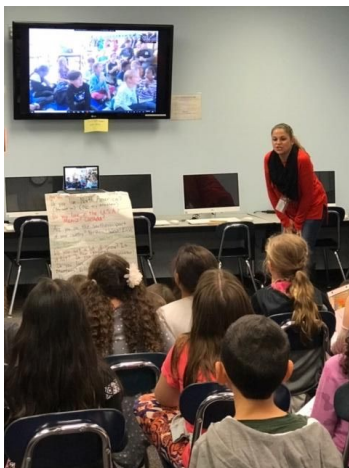


Somers High School is proud to announce that Maeve Janecka (right) is the the Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Jennie Baker (left) is the Salutatorian.

Maeve Janecka has also been named a semi-finalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition. Ryan Lurye, Peter MacNeil, Jacob Piazza, Jennie Baker, and Holly Cambareri, are National Merit Scholar awardees. Of the more than 1.5 million students who took the PSAT in 2018, 50,000 are recognized for their high scores and 16,000 are named semifinalists.



### Growing Up a Global Citizen



*Mrs. Rosolen and third grade students ask and answer questions with their new friends.*

How do you become a global citizen? One way is to connect with kids in other countries. The third-graders in Mrs. Rosolen, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Jacobelli's classes video-chatted with a group of students in another country, and each group had to guess where the other lived.

"We took turns asking yes or no questions," says Nicholas Fitts. "We asked if they lived in the northern or southern hemisphere."

Eventually they figured out, by using maps and atlases, that their new friends were in Orleans, a suburb of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada.

"A lot of our kids were wearing Somers shirts," says Elizabeth Spano, "So they had to turn them around so it wouldn't give it away."

The video chat was part of the Global Read Aloud, a program in which classes from all over the world read the same book in the same time period and connect in many ways to share their experiences. The book chosen for this age group is **Stella Diaz Has Something to Say**, by Angela Dominguez.



# Karate Champion

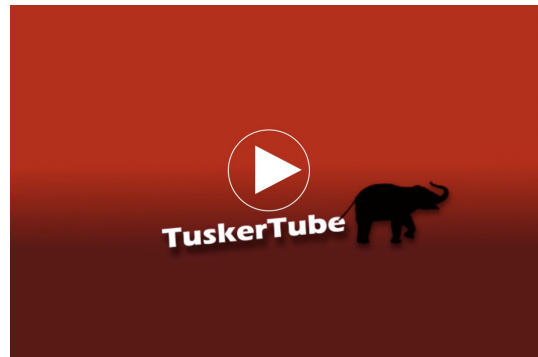


Eleven-year-old Sierra Deodhari is a national karate champion. The Somers Middle School sixth-grader recently came in first place in her age group at two national karate competitions, including the U.S. Karate Federation Nationals. She has qualified for the international championships in Las Vegas in April of 2020.

"Karate has taught me a lot," says Sierra, "Especially discipline, integrity, and confidence."

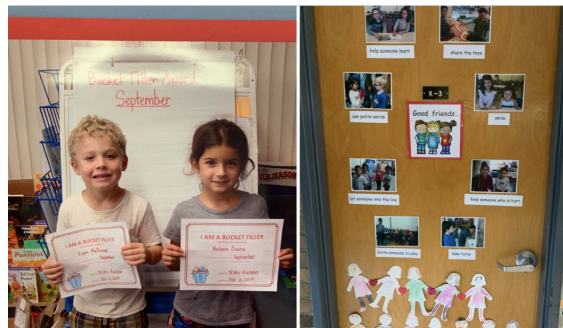
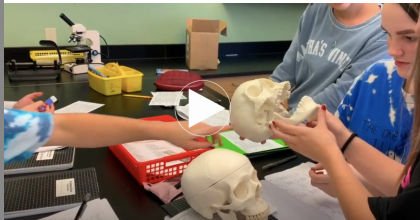
Hear more from Sierra on our **Tusker Talk podcast** about why she does karate, how she balances the commitment with school, and her future goals.

## Behind the Scenes with Tusker Tube



*When you see this logo, you know it's TuskerTube.*

So many parents wish they could spend a school day in their child's shoes. Asking "How was school today?" is often met with a one-word answer that doesn't shed any light on what they are learning, what their classrooms look like, and how they interact with their peers. Enter **TuskerTube**, a new series of videos from Somers Schools that takes you behind the scenes, down the halls, and into the classrooms. Here are two episodes of TuskerTube, one bringing you into a classroom at Somers Intermediate School and the other into a science lab at Somers High School. For more videos, click [here](#).



*Left, Evan Mallamud and Helena Coura are recognized as bucket fillers by their first grade teacher, Mrs. Hannon. Right, Mrs. Tetro's class decorated their door demonstrating different ways to show friendship.*

All four Somers Schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, which promotes drug prevention awareness. Students wore different outfits to highlight different themes, celebrated Unity Day to recognize everyone's differences, and Primrose students decorated their classroom doors to reflect the importance of friendship, respect, and kindness.

## Making Middle School Memories



Middle school students enjoyed their first social of the year, thanks to the Somers Middle School Parent Teacher Association. The Class of 2026 is a happy, kind, fun-loving bunch! There was breakdancing and the largest conga line EVER! Thanks to all the families that support the SMS PTA and allowed us to have an event where kids can socialize in a safe space. All proceeds raised from these events benefit the children and help fund Author's Day, Cultural Affairs Assemblies, Living History Day and the Holocaust Presentation.



ICYMI! Superintendent Ray Blanch gave a Facebook Live update on the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year in Somers. He talked about safety and security projects, the Middle Years Program, the vaping epidemic and much more. Watch it on the [Somers Central School District Facebook page](#).



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