

The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



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<http://www.somersschools.org/Domain/9>

Food Drive Underway in Somers Schools

By Remi Saad
Tusker Tribune Staff



At Somers Middle School (SMS), the students and teachers are doing a food drive to help the homeless and needy.

Food collections will occur during Advisory Sessions between now and winter break. Students will be encouraged to bring in canned foods, preserves in plastic jars, and some beauty products, such as, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush/toothpaste. Whichever advisory class brings in the most items, gets a special surprise.

Jesse Arnett, the school's health teacher and student council director, is running this activity and if you have any questions, he is the teacher for you.

Some students are so enthusiastic about this cause that one of them will be making a portion of hot soup for the homeless. We have to give this our all, and we have to target feeding all of the needy residents of Somers and Mahopac!

One of the best quotes that I have heard is one from Princess Diana saying: "Helping people in need is a good and essential part of life, a kind of destiny." All people have a responsibility to help each other, especially when in need. We, as students of SMS, are critical members of our community, and as such, have the same duty to help each other, and especially those who are less fortunate than we are.

I have interviewed 6 kids, asking "Why is it important to donate food to others?"

Lexi Quigley stated, "It is important because it means to help people who are less fortunate than us, I feel bad for those people because I can't imagine my family being in that position. I would like other people to donate, too."

Nora Searles said, "Of course it's important; some people are less fortunate than others and can't feed their families so if you have extra food don't waste it and give it to people who need it."

Emily Kottmann said, "It is important to donate because it is to help people who can't afford it. Saving people's lives is what truly matters and you can help by donating."

Caitlin Norbutt clearly stated, "Yes extremely important because if we were in their position we would want the same, even though most people think they

need to donate a lot, anything will help: from 10 boxes of pasta to 1 can of tuna fish."

"It is important to help others so they are not suffering," adds Alex Cabo while Quinn Visovich stated, "Because we have to help others that can't afford it, so they don't die."

The teachers, especially Mr. Arnett, are extremely proud of the students and are contributing themselves. We all strongly encourage students to bring in items for this fantastic cause!





The Tusker Tribune Special Feature: Matt Kushner's "Spaced-Out Series"

Chapter 8: The Hallway

"Okay, is there a way out of here, Mr. Trumpettes? You know, a way to the outside, *without* going through the Oval Office?"

"There is-" A sharp sound came from the trapdoor where we came from. Then another. Then another.

"Mr. President, is there another exit?" He was silent for a moment. The banging got louder, closer. I went to hide behind the bookshelf, but right before I went to hide behind it, the president took a book out of it, then another, then another, all in an order, each one took out at a different time, like 1 second after the last, and 5 seconds after the last.

The banging noise was getting stronger.

A door opened at the other side of the bunker. We both ran to it, and after we got to it, the door closed immediately. There was no light

in the room, but I heard a quick gasp emerge from the president.

After what seemed like eternity, I found what seemed like a light switch. When I flicked it, an old light appeared on above me. I gasped.

On the floor was the corpse of Mr. Trumpettes. And on the other side of the room (which I just realized was a hallway, not a room) was a pony.

"My slave, you will be very useful on our triumph of the rest of Earth."

"Where is my *daughter*?"

"She is...safe."

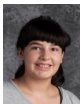
"Where. Is. My. Daughter?"

The pony turned to the darkness beside him. "I'm done dealing with him. Take him to the main ship. I have some..." the talking, walking, and I guess alien-looking pony turned to the mangled corpse of the president. "Business to deal with."

And then everything went black.



Don't Forget Those Food Drive Collection Dates!



By Kelsey Collura
Tusker Tribune Staff

Between January 20th and February 12th the Student Council will be holding a food drive.

You will give food to donate to your advisory teachers during the advisory periods. Then, after the food drive is over, all the food will be

donated to the Westchester County Food Bank.

The food drive will be collecting canned goods and beverages such as coffee. PLEASE do not bring any items that are expired or that are perishable and NO GLASS.

All the food will be going to the Westchester Food Bank during Winter Break. The food will be collected on 1/27, 2/3 and 2/10.

The Tusker Tribune

"Comics and Cartoons"



The Tusker Tribune welcomes artwork of all kinds—comic strips, cartoons, and original drawings and sketches. Submissions can be given to Mr. Pappas in room 305 on paper, or sent to DPappas@somersschools.org as a .jpeg file. All drawings MUST be signed neatly by the artist. **PLEASE DRAW YOUR ARTWORK AS DARK AS POSSIBLE.** This week's submissions are from 7th grader Aidan Horvath (left) and 7th grader Julianna Aiello (below).



Food Drive Letter Appeals to Those at Home

Editor's Note:

Below is a letter sent home to parents/guardians regarding the ongoing Somers Faculty/Somers School Related Personnel Food Drive. Collections are being done at SMS on January 27, February 3, and February 10.

Dear Friends,

This year we will begin our 24rd annual NYSUT Somers Faculty/Somers School Related Personnel Food Drive. **The drive will run from January 25th to February 12th.** Food pick-up will be held during the winter break. Our donations will go to The Food Bank for Westchester, Inc. (<http://www.foodbankforwestchester.org/index.shtml>)

We participate with nearly 40 districts in Westchester and the surrounding counties to provide food for the needy. **We are asking for monetary donations from teachers, staff and administration. Students are encouraged to contribute non-perishable food items (note that this year only food items in plastic or cans will be accepted along with personal hygiene goods).**

In past years the SFA executive committee has endorsed a \$10 dollar recommended donation for teachers and SSRP, a \$5 recommended donation. Contributions range from \$10 dollars or less to \$150 dollars from individual staff members! *In the past we have*

raised over 4,000 pounds of food and over \$2,000 dollars per year. Last year we collected over 2,214 pounds of food and \$1,979 dollars. It is understood that these are tough times. Let's work hard to collect at least that much this year. Whatever you may wish to give is greatly appreciated. **Checks should be made out to the Somers Faculty Association.**

I am proud to say that Somers consistently rates in the top five of all districts which is incredible given the size of our population. **All totaled, over the past 24 years, we have raised 80,000 pounds of food and \$48,913 dollars through our NYSUT SFA/SSRP Food Bank Drive!** These numbers add up to helping an enormous number of families and are a testament to the generosity of our teachers and staff, in organizing and motivating our students each year, and to the giving spirit of the Somers community at large!

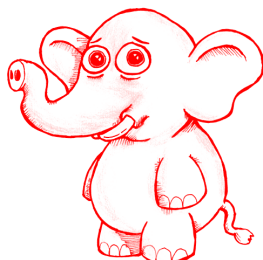
I once again encourage you to work with our Somers Food Bank Team to make this year's drive another success.

Thank you in advance – members of the Food Bank Team, teachers and staff – for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Paula Clinchy
NYSUT/SFA District Drive Coordinator

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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail
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Random Thoughts

By Hunter Duffy

MP 3 Begins!

A new quarter is beginning. Some people are looking forward to new teachers or no longer having a certain teacher.

You could be excited for report cards or new quads.

If you're like me, you're going to miss your last quad. I had art and it was great! But I know that others feel the exact opposite.

All I know is that I had a lot of fun this quarter. Who knows what a new quarter will bring?

Will it Snow?

Saturday we are expecting snow, but how much? Some stations say one inch and others say a foot or more. I guess we will have to wait and see.

For some people a big snow storm would be preferable because of all the snow to play in and finally being able to ski, snowboard, and sled on real snow.

Although for other people a snow storm would not be good. They probably do not want to change their schedules because of the weather.

Others do not care how much it snows and will not be affected by the outcome. But how much snow will be on the ground. This question will be answered when we wake up on Sunday morning.

Modified Ice Hockey Freezes the Competition

By Noelle DeMarinis
Tusker Tribune Staff



The buzzer echoes through the arena. That's another win for the Somers Modified Hockey Team!

This year, the Somers hockey team has been playing outstanding! With practices every week and a great work ethic the team has really come together! For the first time in what seems like forever, they have a winning record!

The team consists of mostly seventh and eighth grade players, but there are a few ninth graders as well. Not to mention that they are all extremely talented!

This year, the team has showed a ton of improvement! At practice the players work on their stick skills, passing, skating and shooting! I think the hard work is really paying off! I can't wait for this week's game!

