

Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

The Latest News from Somers Schools



Rachel Joseph, right

Somers High School senior, Rachel Joseph took the 2nd place award in the Environmental Engineering category at the prestigious INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). ISEF is the world's largest international pre-college science competition and Rachel is the first student to place at ISEF in Somers Science Research history. She was awarded \$1500 for her project, Optimizing Thermal Hydrolysis for Increased Biogas Generation in Wastewater Treatment.



Principal Mark Bayer, School Counselor Eileen Cawley, Katie Taylor, Assistant Principal Pete Rodrigues

Senior Katie Taylor received a highly coveted National Merit Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. Merit Scholarship awards are given to students based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments. A variety of information is used to select the winners, including the finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay. Katie will attend Yale University this fall.

WWII Solider and Holocaust Survivor Speak to Students



Esther Geizhals and Alan Moskin answer questions about the Holocaust and WWII.

Eighth-graders at Somers Middle School heard first-hand accounts from Esther Geizhals and Alan Moskin about the Holocaust and World War II during an assembly and a small group discussion. This is the eighth year that the eighth grade social studies classes have had the opportunity to listen to these personal accounts and ask questions of these courageous American citizens.

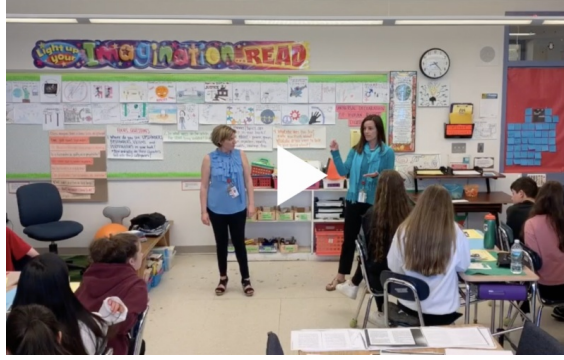
Wax Museum in 11th Year



James Radding poses as Mickey Mantle at the Wax Museum.

Fifth-grade students in the classes of Mrs. Sisca/Mrs. Salamone, Mr. Camarra, Mr. Ringer, and Mrs. Gjonaj participated in the 11th Annual Wax Museum at Somers Intermediate School. The children researched a famous person who has made a positive impact on the world and then wrote an autobiography on that person. The culminating event was an evening at the Wax Museum. The children dressed as their subjects and with their published essays hanging behind them, they "posed" as wax figures for parents and families.

L.I.F.E. in Middle School



The L.I.F.E (Learning Inclusively For Everyone) initiative in Somers Schools is committed to meeting all students' individual learning needs. Research shows that students are most engaged and learn best when they are with their peers. This is why Somers Schools are spending specialists into general education classes to help students who may need extra services, rather than pulling them out of their typical class time. Watch this video to see how these kinds of inclusive practices work in the Somers Middle School.

Lunch Bunch Serves Up Changes



Middle school eighth-graders Tyler Brownstein, Jake Mohan and Anthony Altieri eat lunch together every day. They were tired of repetition on the school's hot lunch menu, so teaching assistant Phyllis Levesque suggested they write a letter.

"I didn't think anything was really going to happen," says Brownstein.

They were asked to meet in the Superintendent's office with Dr. Ray Blanch, middle school principal Jeff Getman and food services manager Norma Zeller to discuss the issue.

"I was walking in and thinking 'This is real,'" says Jake. "Seeing all these official business people, it was really cool."

The boys did extensive research and created a presentation with suggested changes and additions to the menu. They did such a good job, they were invited to work with Zeller to create the middle school's May lunch menu.

"I explained the meal pattern we have to follow," says Zeller. "It dictates what can be on the menu, including what kinds of vegetables and grains we have to serve, in what order, and the limits of sodium and calories."

"I think most kids have no idea how many rules and regulations there are," says Anthony.

Despite the seemingly endless rules, the boys and Zeller created a menu with several meals of their choosing, including turkey tacos, vegetable soup, and baked potatoes with broccoli and cheese.

"I'm so proud of them," says Levesque. "They did such a wonderful job."

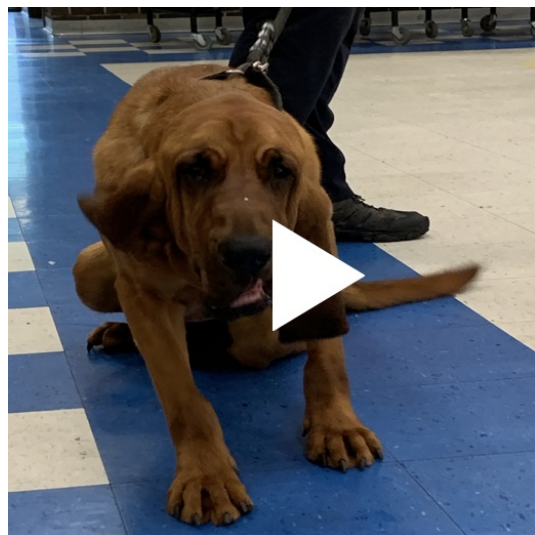
To hear more about this story from the boys themselves, listen to the Somers Schools podcast, [Tusker Talk](#).

Passing on the Power of Positivity



Somers High School student-athletes visited the 3rd-graders at the intermediate school to lead a lesson on mindfulness. The older students talked about power statements, mind and body awareness, and staying positive. The high school

Hide and Seek with Genny



Westchester County Police bloodhound, Genny, and her best friend, Officer Brian Tierney, visited the kindergartners at Primrose in May. The students got to see how Genny plays her favorite game - hide and seek. Click the image to watch

students said they developed this class so kids would learn coping skills at an early age, and those skills will be well-practiced by the time they reached high school. The 3rd-graders said it was a good experience and they learned, "no matter what, don't give up".

Genny do her job, and find the owner of a necklace. Thanks to School Resource Officer Brian Pavitech for inviting Genny and Officer Tierney.



The first annual Somers Tusker Trot 5K and 1M Kids' Fun Run was a huge success! All proceeds from this event will be donated to Somers Special Education Parent Teacher Association and the Primrose Parent Teacher Association to bring programs to students. A big thank you to Kelly Rudyk, for organizing the race and to all our sponsors and volunteers! This was a great community event that we will look forward to each year, promoting family fitness, Somers Schools and our community.



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

