



## **Somers Middle School**

### ***Weekly Newsletter of January 14<sup>th</sup>***

#### Important Dates:

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1/14 | Seussical Rehearsal (3:15-4:15pm)                     |
| 1/15 | Computer Club   |
| 1/15 | Seussical Rehearsal (3-4:30pm)                        |
| 1/15 | Intramurals – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade                   |
| 1/16 | Student Council – after school meeting                |
| 1/16 | Stage Crew Club                                       |
| 1/16 | Yearbook Club   |
| 1/17 | Student Council – grade level lunch meetings          |
| 1/17 | Seussical Rehearsal (3-4:30pm)                        |
| 1/17 | Intramurals – 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| 1/17 | Tusker Tribune  |
| 1/17 | Maker Space Club                                      |
| 1/18 | Jazz Band (7:30am-8:20am)                             |

#### **COUNSELING CENTER**

Attention 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students and parents – please note the following important information and dates coming up:

- **January 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**, the SHS Counselors and Mrs. Kurchack will meet with 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes to begin the conversation about the transition to HS!
- **January 24<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a Curriculum Night at SHS. Parents and students will learn about the new course offerings and the range of academic options in the 2019-2020 school year from SHS administration, staff and students. This will include information about the AP and IB programs, embedded honors options, BOCES programs, and the course advising process. This is a more detailed view of the entire HS curriculum than what will be offered at the 8th Grade Orientation Program, which offers a global introduction to the school.
- **On January 25<sup>th</sup>**, there will be “A Taste of High School”. It is a half-day orientation at SHS designed to give the 8th-grade students an introduction to the building, teachers, course electives and more. On this day, the high school

will be operating a half-day schedule for all high school students with dismissal at 10:30 am. Our 8th graders will be bussed to the high school at the same time and will begin their visit by having lunch in either our Cafeteria or Commons. Our Peer Leadership teams help organize and facilitate a successful day that includes a music performance by current orchestra, band, and voice students, as well as an overview of various electives and clubs. The day will conclude with an informal Q and A session in which 8th graders can ask their peer leaders any questions they may have about life at the high school. Following the program, the students will be bussed back to the middle school for regular dismissal at 3:05pm. Students should anticipate a fun and informative day!

- **February 5th** – Orientation program for 8th grade parents at **SHS @7:00pm**. This program will provide an overview of the high school, including course of study and selection process, as well as graduation requirements.
- **February thru March** – After February break, Mrs. Kurchack (8th grade school counselor) will meet with students individually to discuss and finalize their 9th grade course selection.

## **YEARBOOK**

Yearbooks are now on sale! Only \$40.00. Last date to order is March 30<sup>th</sup>. Please see flyer on our website for further information on how to place your order. Any questions, please email [castrologo@somersschools.org](mailto:castrologo@somersschools.org) or [kbehling@somersschools.org](mailto:kbehling@somersschools.org)

## **TUSKER TRIBUNE**

Check out SMS' student-written school newspaper, the Tusker Tribune, by clicking on this link! <https://www.somersschools.org/domain/995>

The Tusker Tribune is published online every Thursday (except during school holidays) by the Tusker Tribune staff. Any SMS student is eligible to submit stories for the Tusker Tribune by sending an e-mail to Advisor Dean Pappas at [DPappas@somersschools.org](mailto:DPappas@somersschools.org). Weekly meetings are held Thursday from 3-4 in room 305.

## **E-CIGARETTE AWARENESS**

Please view the letter on our website from joint Commissioners - New York State Education Department Commissioner, MaryEllen Elia and New York State Department of Health Commissioner Howard Zucker M.D, J. D., concerning an emerging public health threat on the widespread use of electronic cigarettes/e-cigarettes among NYS youth.

- E-cigarettes are battery powered devices that heat a solution of liquid nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals creating an aerosol that is inhaled by the user: [NYSDOH E-cigarette infographic](#).
- In fact, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has declared youth e-cigarette use an epidemic: [FDA Press Release](#).

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nicotine is addictive and has lasting consequences for youth brain development including impaired cognitive functioning and the development of addiction pathways in the brain.
- An evidence-based [E-Cigarettes and Vaping Webinar](#) and an [E-Cigarettes Learning Page](#) are available at the NYS Center for School Health, a contracted technical assistance center for the NYSED.
- Additionally, resources available at the [NYSDOH Get the Facts Website](#).

## **SEPTA**

**Somers Car Magnets Available** - Show school and town spirit by purchasing your Somers car magnet today! Magnets are \$5 each; checks should be made payable to Somers SEPTA. To place your order, send an email to [somerssepta@gmail.com](mailto:somerssepta@gmail.com) or go to the SEPTA website <https://www.somersschools.org/SEPTA> and click on the order form. All proceeds benefit Somers Special Education PTA.

## **SMS PTA News**

**Amazon Smile and DeCiccós:** Support the SMS PTA by shopping at Amazon Smile and DeCiccós in Brewster and Katonah. Visit our [website](#) for more information

**Box Tops:** Earn cash for SMS by clipping Box Tops! Clip Box Tops for Education from participating brands, place in envelope and put in Box Tops container in SMS mailroom. No expired ones please. Submit 10 box tops and be entered in the drawing to win a prize. [Click here](#) to see flyer to enter.

## **SHS PTSA Scholarship Committee Presents...A Raffle to see Hamilton in NYC!!!**

Win 2 tickets to see Hamilton on Broadway Friday July 19th at 8pm. Seats are Right Front Mezzanine, Row A, Seats 6 & 8 (first row).

Raffle tickets are 1 for \$20 or 3 for \$50. Proceeds go to the SHS PTSA Scholarship Fund. Drawing will take place on May 16th at the SHS PTSA meeting. You do not have to be present to win. Purchase tickets online at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com). Go to School Store, Browse All Items, and SHS Raffle Ticket. Raffle tickets will be mailed to you. For more information or to pay by cash/check, please email [shsptsa.scholar@gmail.com](mailto:shsptsa.scholar@gmail.com) Don't miss this amazing opportunity! Face value of Hamilton tickets is \$750 (\$375 each ticket)!

## **COMMUNITY**

Health Expo and Blood Drive on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at Somers High School from 9am-2pm. See flyer on our website for further information.

**HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!**