

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



Volume 1, Issue 4

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

Fall 2016

First 7th Grade Social of the Year!

Halloween Theme Tomorrow Night!!!!!!



By Skylher Reyes and
Allison Zattola
Tusker Tribune Staff Writers

Tomorrow night,
October 14, between 7 and 9 p.m.,
there is a 7th grade social!

This social is Halloween
themed. We go to the social dressed
in our costumes. I am being a ref
and Allie is being a baby.

The social is a time where we
get to hang out with our friends and
have a lot of fun. At the social we
make dance circles and people have

dance battles in the center of the circle.

Also, we hang out with friends, have pizza
for dinner and they also serve pretzels and pop-
corn as a snack.



We usually have two so-
cials during the year. Last year
we had two. There is also usual-
ly a theme for the socials.

There is a DJ with some
really cool lights and sick mu-
sic. In the end we are really
looking forward to our first so-
cial of the 7th grade school year.

The Story Behind Yom Kippur



By Ray Mandel-
Mueller
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer

Yom Kippur, the holiest day of
the Jewish year, falls on the
tenth of Tishrei in the Jewish
calendar.

It has much religious
meaning. Also, it is one of the
two High Holy Days, along
with Rosh Hashanah. Overall,
Yom Kippur is a very holy day
in Judaism.

The first thing that hap-
pens for Yom Kippur is a feast
on the eve of Yom Kippur. It is
supposed to help you strength-
en for fasting on Yom Kippur.
It also consists of a special ser-
vice and another feast.

During the special ser-
vice, the rabbi reads from the Machzor, a special Jewish people.



book for the two High Holy Days.
After the fast, which lasts from sun-
down to sundown, there is usually a
large feast.

According to the Torah, the
first Yom Kippur was after the exo-
dus when Moses came down from
Mount Sinai with the original Ten
Commandments. He then saw the
Jewish people worshipping a golden
calf, and shattered the tablets in
rage. The Jewish people then
atoned, and Moses got a second set
of tablets.

All in all, Yom Kippur is the
most holy of the Jewish holidays. It
is known as the Sabbath of Sab-
baths, because of how holy it is.
There are two feasts and one special
service throughout the day.

In conclusion, Yom Kippur is
a day of fasting recognized by all

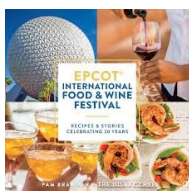
Epcot's Wine and Food Festival Has Something for Everyone



By Hunter Duffy
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Did you ever want to learn about cultures all over the world? Well in Orlando, Florida, Epcot's annual International Food and Wine Festival is taking place.

You get to try different things you could never try at home. You'd also get to meet volunteers from countries all over the world. And if experiencing new cultures by food and wine isn't what you like then you will be provided with street entertainment and shopping throughout



the world showcase.

As someone who has taken part in this event, I can say it was great. The food was great and different at each station. If I were to recommend a few things I would say to try the pulled pork from islands of the Caribbean, filet of beef from Canada and the chocolate pudding cake from Ireland. All these classic dishes are in small portion so you don't get full.

So if you visit Orlando any time soon, be sure to check out Epcot's annual International Food and Wine Festival.

7th Grade Tests and Homework!!!! A Tusker Tribune Editorial



By Alisa Tierney and
Avery Kossow
Tusker Tribune Staff Writers

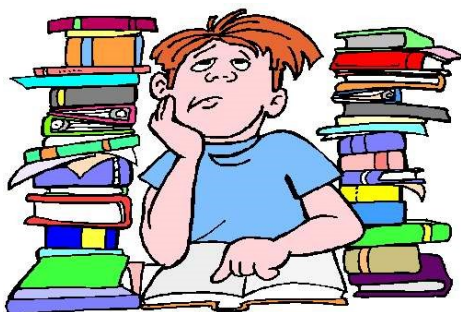
Hey 7th Graders! Do you ever feel like you have tests every day? Probably because you do, we are all bombarded with tests that either have very little to do with the work you have been doing or have very little to do with the review sheet, if you even get one.

We sometimes get more than one quiz a day! Per week the average tests and quizzes we get is around 3, and homework almost every night from every teacher!

On one quiz, someone scored very, very low and so did most people with that teacher, so I think it would be fair to rethink the quiz and maybe think about why a lot of people got low grades.

Also, this Friday, there are 3 quizzes that are on the schdeule. We have only been in school for 1 month and have not gone 1 week without having a test/quiz.

Some teachers give a lot of homework and expect us to all be done with it by the next day. Although everyone knows that school comes before sports, for most people it really doesn't. I bet almost every kid in our grade went to Homecoming and couldn't finish their homework. An example is cheerleading. If you miss a certain number



of practices you get kicked off of the team. Also, with volleyball, if you aren't at a game/practice you sit the bench the whole game.... shout out to the benchwarmers!! We have unnecessary busy work. For those of you who don't know what busy work is, it is probably 90% of the homework you will be doing tonight.

We know kids who have gotten 30's and even 20's on quizzes. Take math, for instance. When the sheet says "extra practice" it is really saying "work to keep kids inside doing things they don't want to do".

Studies show that homework will not expand the knowledge of a child so why do we have it? Are the forests worth of book reports and math and spelling sheets the average American student completes in 12 years of primary schooling making a difference? Or is it just busywork?" *SOURCE: Great Schools.*

In addition, on a survey conducted by *Debate.org* 40% of the people said yes, homework does help people. But, 60% said that homework was not useful and didn't educate people further.

If every teacher gives us 1-2 pages of homework, they think, "well it's not that bad". But if every teacher thinks that way, we will have 15 pages of homework a night!

Our solution? Balance it so that homeworks, tests and quizzes don't all occur at the same time on the same day.



Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

Author: Ransom Riggs



By Nick Cirillo
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

You've probably seen the coming attractions on TV advertising the new movie, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, and you may have watched it, too.

But did you know that there is a book series, too?

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, and its sequels, *Hollow City* and *Library of Souls*, focus on Jacob, a normal teenager - who all the sudden, suffers a loss. His grandfather and idol Abe dies mysteriously.



Jacob follows clues to a small island off of Wales, and finds a bombed children's orphanage there. But, somehow, he is teleported into a time loop, and meets a group of peculiars—people with special, recessive genes that give them powers. Emma can control fire,

Hugh has a connection with bees, Millard is invisible and Bronwyn has the strength of ten men.

But not all peculiars are good-hearted. A group of rogue peculiars, led by Caul, try to become immortal, but fail terribly, transforming into terrible, giant monsters known as Hollowgasts, and only a few special peculiars can see and control them.

If Hollows consume enough peculiar souls, they can transform into white-eyed humans known as Wights.

Whether you are a fan of the movie (which had its own peculiarities where Emma could fly and Mr. Baron replaced Caul) or haven't even seen it, the *Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children* series is a page-turning adventure that will have you trapped deep in its lore.



Poetic Ponderings



By Casey Bolotin
Tusker Tribune Staff



Halloween, Halloween,
Scary dark night!
Might give you a fright!

Halloween, Halloween,
Wear a costume!
Witches on brooms,
Mummies in tombs;

Halloween, Halloween,
Go out for candy;
It's very handy.

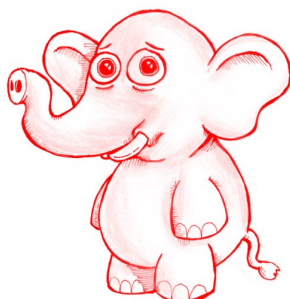
Halloween, Halloween!



The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from

Somers Middle School
250 Route 202
Somers, NY, USA.

Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org



The Tusker
Tribune Staff
Ray Mandel-Mueller
Ethan Hsu
Nick Cirillo
Allison Zattola
Skyler Reyes
Hunter Duffy
Avery Kossow
Alisa Tierney
Ashley Cambareri
Sabrina Cheung
Casey Bolotin

POETRY*In Motion**By Ashley**Cambareri*

Night of Fun and Fear

Trick-Or-Treat is all you hear
On this night of fun and fear
The day you thought you saw a ghost
Kids count their candy to see who has the most



Door to door groups of children race
Each one with a candy filled pillow case
Everyone is shopping for delicious candy
To make each child's Halloween dandy

Each house has their own unique decorations
While teenagers party at celebrations
The witches come out riding on a broomstick
Better hide from the cackling beasts, QUICK!!



Carve out your pumpkin and watch it glow
Will it scare lots of people, or no?
What are you dressing up as this year?
On this night of fun and fear.

Cross Country Keeps Kids on the Run!



By Ethan Hsu
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer

When I moved to Somers, I decided to join the cross country team.

The first time I went, I got very tired because I had not run long distance in a long time.

At first, I ran every day, but now I run four days a week. I do not get as tired now. I have been practicing.

When we meet we stretch, and we run on the grass. Then we go run cross country. We have to run three or four kilometers (between 1.8 and 2.4 miles) in practice. In meets, we run a course that's between 1.2 and 1.3 miles.

My mom said I have to do sports so I chose cross country. I think it's tiring but afterwards, I



think it's fun. I got the team shirt now and I am really proud of my progress!!

Mr. Wilbert is the cross country coach. The remaining meets for this season are:

- October 14 Port Chester Invitational @SUNY Purchase Campus. 4:00pm
- October 20 Somers Invitational @ Somers

HS. 4pm

- [October 24 Home Meet @ Somers HS Soccer Fields 4:00pm](#)
- November 1 Meet @ Byram Hills HS

"Sweet Dreams"

Part II of "The Man on the Bench" Thriller . . .



By Sabrina Cheung
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

It's an early Tuesday morning, the sun rose up until it couldn't lift any more. I get dressed and do my hair. I rush to the bathroom to brush my teeth, and then go downstairs to eat. Dad has his nose stuck into his newspaper.

"Morning, dad!" I walk over to him and give him a kiss. But for some reason, he didn't say anything.

Mom walks into the kitchen and I say hi to her too. She doesn't respond. "Where is Sammy? I have been looking everywhere for her," says mom. She must have gone to school early."

I tried yelling at them but they won't hear me. What is wrong with me?!

I run to the mirror and look at myself, but nothing is there. I touch my face with my hands but they feel the same. I stay home all day, afraid that I might actually be invisible.

Mom gets home and she is freaking out.

"MOM?" I scream so loud I hurt my own ears.

She dials 9-1-1 and starts screaming at them to find me. I am so confused. I must actually be invisible! I run outside and try talking to my neighbors but nobody sees me.

The man I saw about two months ago was

sitting on the bench with his newspaper against his dull face.

"I see you have a problem little girl." he says with a grin.



"Wait, you can see me?" I say confused
"Of course I can see you. That is on problem you must figure out." he says still smirking.
"What happened to me???"

He put down his newspaper and sipped the last of his Dunkin' Donuts coffee, throwing it into the garbage can.

"You must try to figure that out little girl. All I know is that I am the only one that can see you, and you must try to live with it."

I look at him with a blank face.

"I just mean, you should probably wake up now." he says.

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP! My alarm clock woke me up as always. Ughhh. I run downstairs and see mom and dad.

"Hey sport! How was your sleep?"

"DAD!" I run and hug him super tight.

"OK?" he says looking at me like crazy.

I walk outside and wait for the bus once again, and the man isn't there. Instead, there is the newspaper taped on the bench that says:

"Sweet dreams"

