



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Spring 2024



Aladdin Junior Brought Down The House!



By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

As most of you know, the SMS Drama Club recently performed "Aladdin Junior". It was on Thursday, March 21 at 7pm, Friday, March 22 at 7pm, and Saturday, March 23 at 2pm and 7pm.

That's right. The cast of Aladdin Junior performed four times in three days. I watched it on Thursday, March 21. The play was amazing! They were all singing, dancing, and smiling! It looked like they were enjoying it as much as the audience!



The props added a wonderful effect, and the stage crew did great! Everyone, including me, had a wonderful time! The cast outdid themselves! They worked about three times every week going to all these rehearsals and

practices. And when it came close to the performances, the cast stayed until 8:00 P.M practicing. They even ate dinner there!

Their hard work paid off and the show was amazing. Since I am in 6th grade, it was my first time seeing a performance from Drama Club, and it was an amazing experience. Thank you so much to the Aladdin Jr cast for the wonderful performance!

Join Drama Club!



By Michaela Gallo
and Mackenzie Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff

Drama Club is one of the best clubs in SMS. Have you ever thought about joining, but haven't had the courage? Well, we are here to tell you all about the highlights of being in Drama Club from two different perspectives.

(Lead/featured role perspective): Drama Club is one of the best experiences I have had in quite a while. One of the best parts of Drama Club is, of course, PERFORMING!!! I had so much fun just brushing off all my worries and having the best time on stage. A lead/featured role means putting in a lot of time learning your lines and songs. You have to transform yourself into another character. You also have to work well with the other cast members in your scenes.

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MYP Projects Approach The Home Stretch



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here at SMS, 8th graders have been working on MYP projects during Advisory and at home. Here are two projects I think are great and have important causes.

Madison Kaplan and Mia Cruz conducted a bake sale to raise money and awareness for the homeless population. They raised over \$100 for their cause. Madison Kaplan says, "We were surprised about how much money we were able to raise considering we thought we weren't going to make a lot because it was our first time doing a bake sale. It was an overall success."



Tydeus Rodrigues, Kate-lyn Mariani, Alexa Polner, and Olivia Spandi decided that they were going to come up with a plan to raise awareness for animals in shelters. They are soon going to volunteer at a local animal shelter. Tydeus Rodrigues says, "The most difficult part of our project was finding a date that we could all volunteer that worked with the shelter. We hope to save animals and brighten their days." Kate-lyn Mariani says, "I think the hardest part was trying to find the right animal shelter to go to and volunteer. I like the MYP projects because it gives me a chance to give to the community".

MYP Sports Clinic Scores for School Program



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

A few weeks ago, I wrote about what my MYP project is and how it would help our community. MYP projects are a project in which the 8th graders are tasked to help their community by volunteering anyway they choose. My group chose to host a clinic here at SMS to introduce kids to volleyball and basketball and raise money for Amani Charter School's P.E program.

The clinic was a success! We raised over \$450 for the P.E program. In total over 20 kids attended and had tons of fun!

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So Many Worked Hard to Make Aladdin Jr. a Success



**By Gabby Codero
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This year, Somers Middle School did the play "Aladdin Jr." The play was amazing and I was in it. Everyone put in such hard work so the play would be good.

We had many practices in school until late at night while working on the play just to perfect it for the audience.

Everyone was so good, but we can't only give the students credit because the directors and volunteers were a big part of the play, too. Ms. Malara, Ms. Racciopo and Ms. Williams: Thank you for all the work you did for the play and I'm happy the play turned out so well.

In addition, thank you to all the teachers and parents who volun-

teered during late night practices and the play to help watch all the kids. Lastly I would like to say thank you for the hard work put into the amazing play. I'm so excited about next year's play!



Painting was a big part of the stage crew's efforts.



Aladdin Jr.'s stage crew hard at work on the props.

Reporters/Contributors

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Mackenzie Picco
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Ava Schmidberger**

Clinic

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We are now preparing for our project presentation by creating a tri-fold with information about our clinic to raise awareness for the underfunding of children's sports. With the money we collected, Amani will be able to continue to expand their P.E program and teach kids new sports.

After reflecting on our project we have decided to do it one more time to continue raising money. The second clinic will be only basketball on April 9th. We hope to see you there!

TUSKERS BASKETBALL CLINIC

ROUND 2!

**date: 4/9
time: 5:00-7
location: Somers
Middle School
Ages: 7-12
\$20 per child
CASH ONLY!**

Help make an MYP
Community project
come to life!



Help raise money and awareness for underfunded kids sports and P.E programs in New York and NYC!

Contact
schmidberger.ava@somersschools.org
with any questions

Drama Club

From Page 1

I loved having the feeling of accomplishment after seeing my hard work and my peers' hard work pay off together.

(Ensemble perspective): Some people say that being in ensemble is not as important, but I do not think that is true. Ensemble is one of the key elements to make an exceptional performance. Without the ensemble, we couldn't tell the story. It is not only fun to see the result, but it is also fun to be in the moment, up on that stage dancing, singing, and having the best time. The ensemble is not only about "just being a part of the show." It is also about spending time with friends, getting up on stage with a big smile and a good attitude, and entertaining an audience!

Although it is a big commitment and a hard process, lead role or not, Drama Club always comes together like a big family in the end. So, will we see you on the stage next year performing your heart out?



Expo Calls Attention To Social Injustice



This past Wednesday and Thursday, 8th grade groups showed off their projects that they had been working on in ELA classes. Sixth and Seventh grade classes circulated through the library, speaking to the students about their projects and learning about various issues going on in the world.



We're Going (Almost) Dark on April 8!

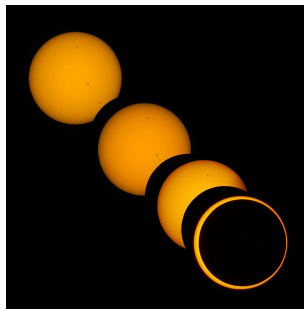


**By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You might have heard about the solar eclipse on April 8th. But do you *really* know the science behind it? And do you know why this event is so special?
Science

The basics of a **solar eclipse** are that the moon goes between the Earth and Sun, blocking the Sun's light from hitting Earth. But why doesn't it happen every year then? The answer is that the moon does not orbit the Earth at the same level, and the orbital plane is on a slant. So even if the moon is between the Earth and Sun, the Moon could be too high or too low to completely obscure the Sun. When this happens, it is called a partial eclipse, contrary to the total eclipse in two weeks where the moon will totally block the sun.

Another type of solar eclipse is an **annular eclipse**, where the moon appears to be too far away to completely cover up the sun, and therefore, a small outline of the sun is still visible around the moon. The last type is a **hybrid eclipse**, which is where some parts of Earth are covered in totality, while others view the eclipse as annular. This is comparatively rare to the other eclipses. A total eclipse can happen up to every 18 months, but in one given place it can be centuries in between.



Annular eclipses happen every 1-2 years, but on average are more common than total eclipses. A partial eclipse can happen up to twice a year, as it only takes a little bit of the moon to cover the sun.

When, Where, and How

Solar eclipses sure are cool, but you should **never** look directly at the Sun, as even during an eclipse, it can damage your eyes very badly. A common way to safely view an eclipse is through eclipse glasses, which block harmful rays from reaching your eyes. You can also quickly

make a solar eclipse projector with a shoebox, aluminum foil, white paper, and tape. This takes the science of using a pin-sized hole to project light, and the same logic can be applied by using a colander or tennis racket.

The eclipse itself will enter the U.S. through Texas and exit through Maine. As the percentage of totality in Somers is about 92%, you will still get a good view of the spectacle, but to experience the darkness of totality, you can travel to Rochester, NY, which is about three hours away.

The eclipse will start at about 2:11 and end at 4:36, with the maximum totality available at around 3:26.

So now you know what a solar eclipse is all about, why it is so special, and what to bring to view it. You might never be able to see another in your life, so enjoy it when you can!

Women's History Month Recognizes Trailblazers



**By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Women's History Month is a time dedicated to recognizing the remarkable achievements and contributions of women throughout history. It began as a week-long celebration in the United States in 1980 before expanding to a month-long observance in 1987. Since then, it has become a global recognition of the vital role women play in shaping societies worldwide.

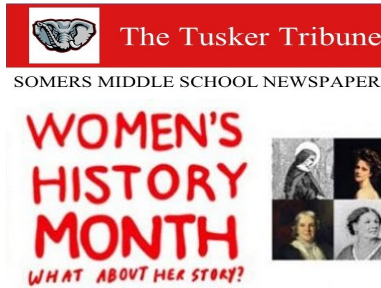
During this month, we honor the trailblazers who broke barriers and challenged societal norms in various fields such as politics, science, literature, arts, and social justice. Women's History Month serves as a reminder of the incredible progress made and

the ongoing struggles for gender equality.

While we celebrate the successes of women, we also acknowledge the persistent gender disparities that exist today. It's essential to continue striving for progress and inclusivity.

Throughout Women's History Month, there are many engaging events like lectures, exhibitions, and performances that highlight the diverse experiences and contributions of women. These events inspire us to learn from the past and work towards a more equitable future.

Let's use Women's History Month as an opportunity to celebrate the resilience, courage, and achievements of women, past and present, and to recommit ourselves to building a fairer and more inclusive world for all.



National Vietnam War Veterans Day is March 29



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

National Vietnam War Veterans Day, observed annually on March 29th, is an important occasion dedicated to honoring the courage and sacrifice of veterans who served during the Vietnam War. This day holds historical importance as it commemorates the withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam in 1973.

It serves as a reminder to express thankfulness to the men and women who bravely served their country during one of its most challenging periods. Many Vietnam veterans faced hardships and were not



properly appreciated upon returning home, making it crucial to recognize their contributions now.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day provides communities with an opportunity to come together and support veterans through various events like ceremonies and parades. It's a chance to listen to their stories, learn from their experiences, and ensure they receive the acknowledgment and assistance they deserve.

This day encourages reflection on the impacts of war and emphasizes the importance of honoring those who served, regardless of political viewpoints. It's a reminder to show appreciation and respect for the sacrifices made by veterans and their families.

Don't Forget About National Zoo Day!



**By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

National Zoo Day, which falls on April 8th every year, is a time to celebrate the amazing world of wildlife and the work of zoos in protecting it. Zoos are not just fun places to visit; they also teach us about animals and how to help them.

On this special day, zoos welcome visitors with exciting activities and exhibits. It's a chance for families, students, and anyone who loves animals to learn about different species and why they're important.



Zoos also do important work behind the scenes. They help breed endangered animals and do research to help them survive in the wild.

By celebrating National Zoo Day, we show our support for the conservation of wildlife. Zoos help us understand and appreciate the natural world, and they inspire us to take

action to protect it.

So, on April 8th, let's visit a zoo, learn something new about animals, and pledge to do our part in keeping them safe.

Many Christian Faiths Mark Good Friday Tomorrow



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Good Friday is a significant day for Western Christians worldwide. It marks the saddest part of Jesus' story in the Bible, his crucifixion.

Note: Eastern Christian faiths follow a different calendar—the Julian Calendar—and will celebrate Good Friday and Easter on May 3 and 5 this year.



Good Friday takes place on the Friday before Easter Sunday every year. It is a time of celebration for many, but Good Friday is also sacred. It is a day for reflection and prayer.

Imagine being blamed for something you didn't do. That's what happened to Jesus. Betrayed by a close friend, he faced unfair judgment. Even though he was innocent, he was sentenced to die on the cross.

For Christians, this isn't just history, it is a huge symbol of love and sacrifice. Christians believe that Jesus suffered to forgive humanity's mistakes. Like giving up something important to help others, even if you think they don't deserve it.

This is part of the reason why during Lent, the 40 days before Easter, Christians give up something of significance or something that is hard for them to not do/eat/drink.

Easter and Lent



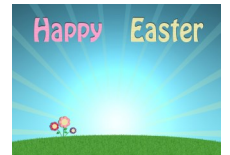
By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

This year, Easter is this Sunday. Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. This holiday is very happy, fun, and cheerful. You can decorate eggs, you can bake, you may even have an easter egg hunt in the morning.

A lot of people think Easter is about candy and chocolate, but there is a lot more about Easter than just that. It marks the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion. For many Christian churches, it marks the end to Lent. A way to honor Jesus and God in Lent is to give something up. Most people give up something that they eat a lot or do a lot. You can give up something like pizza, or ice cream.

If you really do not want to give something up in Lent, you can do a good deed—something small or something big. During Lent, some people fast. You cannot eat meat on Fridays. The reason behind that is that a long time ago, the fishermen were not getting enough money so the church said that people could not eat meat on Friday so more people would buy fish from the fisherman.

Now you know about Easter and Lent, and I hope you have an amazing Easter this year, if you celebrate it!



Some Facts About the City the 8th Grade's Going to Visit



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

In early April, most of SMS's 8th graders are going on a trip to Washington D.C..

Washington D.C., the capital of the United States, is a city filled with history, culture, and fascinating facts.

Did you know that D.C. wasn't always the capital? The United States capital was originally New York City, but D.C. became the capital in 1790, chosen by George Washington himself.

The city is home to iconic landmarks

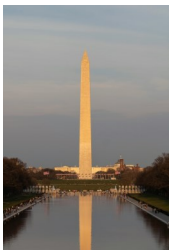
like the White House, the Capitol Building, and the Washington Monument, which stands at an impressive 555 feet tall.

One of the unique features of D.C. is its lack of skyscrapers, thanks to a building height limit of 130 feet imposed by the Height of Buildings Act of 1910. Beyond politics, D.C. has

a huge vibrant arts and culinary scene, with world-class museums like the Smithsonian Institution and delicious cuisine from around the globe.

Each spring, the city comes alive with the breathtaking beauty of cherry blossoms, gifted by Japan in 1912. Eighth graders on the trip can expect to see some of these trees in bloom.

From its storied past to its vibrant present, Washington, D.C. continues to impress visitors with its charm and interesting monuments



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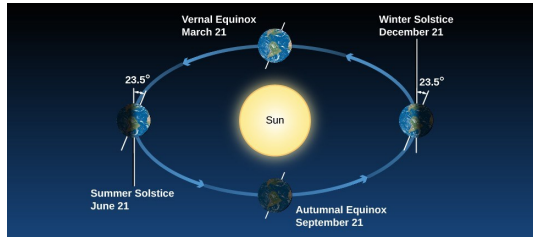
Change of Seasons Tied to MYP Community Project



**By Brynn Robinson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Allowing kids to learn about different seasons lets them understand the real world. By studying seasons, kids can learn about weather, patterns in weather, temperatures, and the cycle of life for animals and plants. It can also give kids an understanding of time and about different activities and even traditions in each season.

Understanding seasons can also help kids learn about nature as well as climate and the ef-



fects on nature. It can give kids an understanding of the differences in each season and what changes in the environment and nature in those seasons. It shows how the world changes throughout the year and how different climates in different areas change and stay throughout different parts of the world.

For example, it explains how the weather stays warm in Australia no matter what season, compared to where we live where each season has different temperatures. Learn more about these topics soon in the language hallway with the MYP Community Project Max Weinfield and I are doing!

Phys Ed Gets In on the Pickleball Craze



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last week in P.E., we started to learn about Pickleball for the first time. The teachers introduced us to the rules and taught us how to play doubles.

Doubles is a type of pickleball when each team plays with two players at once. We also learned how to have proper form and hit the ball.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S currently. Pickleball was



first created by Joel McFee, a Washington State Congressman in 1965. In 1972, a corporation was created to protect the creation of the new sport and introduce it to new players. In 1990, pickleball was officially being played in all 50 states!

Recently, in 2023, pickleball reached a total amount of players in the US of over 70,000. 2023 also marked the first Pickleball National Championships. The sport has continued to expand over the past 50 years and hopefully will continue to do so in the future.

World Language Day Entertains AND Fills Stomachs!



**By Gabby Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This year, SMS had its annual World Language Day. It was very fun, from activities to fun snacks for all. There were many rooms to visit.

The rooms all consisted of one thing: a guessing jar. Each room included a guessing jar with a variety of things in them, like coffee, beans, lollipops, pasta, and more.



What you would do is take a slip of paper and put the total amount you guess that the jar has of that certain

**Día
Mundial
de las
Lenguas!**

**Giornata
mondiale
della
lingua!**

item inside, and put it in a jar, and whoever is the closest *wins*.

Not only were there guessing jars, there were activities such as bocce, marble games, karaoke, coloring, and lots more. All these activities are so fun and a great thing to do on this day.

Then, during lunch periods, we had the food portion of the day. There was a lot of variety of food from lots of different countries which all tasted very good.



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Susan B. Anthony: More Than Just a Face on a Coin



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

March is Women's History Month, and there are many women who were – and still are – particularly important to our country and history as it is today. One of those people was Susan B. Anthony, an important social reformer and women's rights activist.

Early Life

Susan B. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820, in Adams, Massachusetts. Her given name was only Susan Anthony, but she and her sisters all added a middle initial to their name. Anthony chose that name when her aunt married a man with that last name. She never truly used that name, though.

Activism

Susan B. Anthony started her activism movement in 1851, when she was introduced to Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Stanton had been one of the organizers at the Seneca Falls Convention and had introduced the women's suffrage movement there. Anthony worked very closely with Stanton her whole life on various movements, such as temperance, anti-slavery, equal pay, suffrage, and women's rights in general. They would give many speeches at conventions, meetings, public halls, and social events. She and Stanton also published a newspaper titled *The Revolution*.



Suffrage

By the end of the Civil War, Anthony completely devoted her work to women's suffrage and the NWSA (National Women's Suffrage Association) organization, that she and Stanton had founded in 1869. The fact that she was unmarried gave her an advantage to her work, as she could do many things that married women couldn't. She had the right to rent public halls for speeches, and sign contracts. At about 1870, Anthony and Stanton joined the lecture circuit. They would travel to deliver speeches and hold state suffrage campaigns. They would organize local and national conventions, and lobby Congress and state legislatures. Anthony's work started to pay off as Wyoming and Utah allowed women to vote in 1869 and 1870, respectively. Many organizations and social groups started to support Anthony's work, and she received that support in the form of improved working/travel conditions and money.

Trial

In 1872, Anthony and about 50 other women registered to vote in Rochester, NY. Many were turned down, but Anthony and 14 others persuaded the election inspectors in their ward to let them cast ballots. Women in other wards were refused, however. On November 18th, Anthony was arrested for illegal voting. She was then taken to court and was found guilty. However, Anthony delivered an important message during her trial that "you have trampled underfoot every vital principle of our government. My natural rights, my civil rights, my political rights, my judicial rights, are all alike ignored." When she was released with a \$100 fine (equal to about \$2400 today), she said that would never pay the government's unfair penalty, and she never did.

So now you know who Susan B. Anthony was, and all the things she did to get women the right to vote. When you see a long line of people to vote this year, know that women are standing there because of Susan B. Anthony.

World Language Day

From Page 6

The food was an amazing addition to the day. Here are some pictures from the day!



**Journée
mondiale
des
langues!**

Shein and Temu—Why You Shouldn't Buy From Them



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Many people buy from these companies as their prices are extremely cheap. But what many do not realize is that these companies are horrific for several reasons. I hope that after you read this article, you will boycott both companies, if you have not already.

Firstly, both Shein and Temu treat their employees like garbage. Their employees are not paid enough and work extremely long hours. They often work until 2 or 3 A.M., 7 days a week, 14–16-hour days. The workers always work overtime because their normal wages are so low. It is estimated that around 100,000 people might be in forced labor in China. Both Shein and Temu used cotton made by forced labor in their products.

Secondly, Shein's impact on the environment is far too large, emitting "6.3 billion kilograms of carbon dioxide each year" (according to davidsuzuki.org.) A toddler's jacket from Shein was made with around 20 times the amount of lead Health Canada believes safe for kids. I know I am just piling dreadful thing after dreadful thing, but



Shein also steals designs from independent artists. As if it couldn't get worse!

Many have had terrible experiences with Temu, with many customers complaining of scams, lies, damaged products upon arrival, and no refunds. One person claimed to order \$50 worth of Temu products that were never delivered. Like

Shein, Temu may be copying designs from other sellers. One Amazon seller claimed to see items similar to what he was selling on Temu 30% cheaper. He is thinking about taking legal action, as Temu has not responded to his several complaints.

To wrap it up, you should not buy from these brands, despite the cheap prices. Both are phony frauds that abuse workers. Boycott the companies and do research before you buy from a store, so you do not support brands such as Shein and Temu.

Sources:

<https://globalaffairs.org/bluemarble/how-shein-and-temu-get-around-us-labor-laws-ban-products-made-forced-labor>

<https://davidsuzuki.org/living-green/the-environmental-cost-of-fast-fashion/>

Stop Wasting Food!



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever seen food in perfect condition in the garbage in the cafeteria? I have. And we should stop for several reasons that I will explain.

First, it's just kind of depressing to see all the food people throw out while people are starving in other places. I know all the 6th graders recently completed the "how water impacts our lives" unit in ELA and social studies, and we also read *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. So now we have acquired the information about how some places, like South Sudan, are not able to obtain as much food and water as we can. You would think that information would make people care more about wasting food, right? Wrong.

I am not going to say names, but I once knew someone who threw out *entire salads* daily! That's ridiculous! Fun fact: I used to eat 5-6 cheese sticks a day because they would be thrown out otherwise. And I know that sometimes, not everyone likes the school lunch. But if you don't like it, just bring your own lunch! It is really a simple solution! Also, throwing away food is just a waste of money as well because you are buying food, but then throwing it away. That's like buying a TV, but as soon as you take it out of the box, you just whack it with a hammer.



A way you can try to not waste food is not give yourself too much food before you know if you like it or not. I once was at a food buffet, and I scooped a lot of macaroni and cheese onto my plate. Macaroni and cheese is my favorite food, but this kind just tasted weird to me, and I was also full before I could finish my plate. So, I had to throw out a lot of macaroni and cheese. I felt super guilty. But if I just scooped a little onto my plate, realized I didn't like it, and not scoop any more, that would have been less wasteful. That is what you should do, and I will do it as well.

Another way you can waste less food is giving food you don't like to friends or family. For example, I once forgot my lunch box at my house, so I had to order school lunch. The school lunch came with sausages, but I am vegetarian. So, instead of throwing the sausages away, I gave them to my friend who likes them.

One last way to not waste food is by composting it. Any fruit or vegetables can be composted, so if you have some blueberries, let's say, and they taste weird, and nobody wants to eat them, you can compost them instead of throwing them out. The blueberries will decompose and turn into soil for gardening.

In conclusion, you should try to waste food as little as possible, as it is a waste of money, and it is also disrespectful to the less fortunate who don't have food. I hope by reading this article you will be less wasteful.

Want to Know What's Best for School Lunch? Ask Ms. Dolan!



**By Kari Kellock
and Megan O'Reilly
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Some people may say our school lunch is not good, but some people say otherwise. According to the students we interviewed, almost all said they prefer home lunch.

According to Education Week, most teens give their school meals positive reviews. According to the survey, 64 percent said that school meals taste good while 55 percent said they are low quality or food that does not look appetizing.

But Mrs. Dolan, a 6th grade social studies teacher, says otherwise. She says the school lunch is awesome on some days. If you go up to Mrs. Dolan and ask her about the school lunch, she will tell you all about how she rates the food on a 1-10 scale.

But sometimes school lunches can be the only option for less fortunate kids, so <https://www.cn.nysed.gov/national-lunch-program> discusses, "The National School Lunch Program," a national program that helps kids get the nutrition that they need to have a healthy lifestyle. "The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in over 100,000 public and non-profit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provided nutritionally balanced, low-cost, or free lunches to more than 31 million children (about the population of California) each school day in 2012."

In 1998, Congress expanded the National School Lunch Program to include reimbursement

for snacks served to children in afterschool educational and enrichment programs to include children through 18 years of age.

Ms. Dolan thinks school lunch is better than home lunch and this is why. Ms. Dolan says that her favorite lunches to buy are the Tasty Turkey Tacos, Grilled Cheese, Cheesy Bread, and the Crispy Chicken Sandwich. Even though she has many, her favorite one is the Tasty Turkey Tacos. She rates them a 10/10 on the JD rating scale. "I think that is surprisingly good!" she said. "They are not only tasty, but there is a crunchy shell that adds a perfect crunch." Lastly, she loves the flavor of rice, and she loves the sour cream that comes with it.



Her #2 is the Grilled Cheese. Once again, she rated it a 10/10. She really likes it with tomato soup and French fries because you can dip the French fries into the soup. Ms. Dolan LOVES it.

Ms. Dolan's #3 is Cheesy Bread with marinara sauce. This time it gets a 9.8/10 because there is no salad sometimes. When there is a salad on the side, it instantly becomes a 10/10.

Last but not least, her #4 is the Crispy Chicken Sandwich. Ms. Dolan emphasizes, "Yes it was a new item, but it has a perfect amount of crispiness and spice. It was delicious and they should make it more." Lastly, she thinks it is much better with adding mayonnaise and cheese.

The best part is it feels like it is an extremely healthy lunch! It is all whole grain which is healthier, and nothing is deep fried with unhealthy oils. Lastly, it is completely allergy free.

Rangers Have Terrific Momentum



**By Madeleine Peretz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever heard of the New York Rangers? The New York Rangers (or NYR) have come a long way since they last won the Stanley Cup in 1994. They started in 1926 and have won four Stanley cups since then. Their head coach is Peter Laviolette. He started coaching the NYR on June 13, 2023.

Peter has kept the NYR in shape since then. This is why the NYR have been winning so many games. They improved a lot and have won a ton of games. The NYR play at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The captain of the team is Jacob Trouba. He has 73 goals in his career of being on NYR. But this season, he has only three goals because he got injured 2-3 weeks ago. Luckily, he is

coming back soon!

The strongest players on the NYR are Mika Zibanejad, Chris Kreider, Artemi Panarin, and Adam Fox. Zibanejad has 23 goals this season. Panarin has 41, Kreider has 36, and Fox has 12. These players really hold up the team. One more player who is extremely important to the NYR is Igor Shesterkin. He is their starting goalie on the team and has 1,719 saves. He is one of the top 10 goalies in the entire NHL league.

The NYR's backup goalie is Jonathan Quick. He has 622 saves this season and is another one of the top 10 in the league. In conclusion, the New York Rangers have been AMAZING in the past years and this season! So, we should continue to cheer them on.



Just a Guy and his . . . Alligator



**By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Usually, your normal pet will be a dog, cat, or a fish, but for Tony Cavallaro, he chose an alligator.

Tony Cavallaro has been going viral recently after his 11-foot, 750-pound alligator, Albert, was taken away by the DEC for “endangering the public” because he let some people jump into the pool with Albert. Tony says they treated him like he was on America’s Most Wanted list. He claims



they came in full body armor and had two assault shotguns. Albert had his mouth taped and put into a van taken away to a location that has not been disclosed to the public.

There have been many petitions to let Albert free and bring him back to Tony. People have gone as far as making T-shirts saying, “Free Albert”. In my opinion, Tony did nothing wrong to the alligator, Albert was living a amazing life and I feel they should have let Tony keep him. Do you think they should give Albert back to Tony?

A Broadway Show is Always Magical



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Recently, I went to NYC to see a Broadway show. We were going to see Aladdin. This is my second time going to a Broadway show. I went, along with my mom, dad, and sister, because it was my grandma's birthday.

After a long drive to NYC, we had finally parked. We got out, walked a bit, and went to the GAP because it was the closest store to where we had parked. Once we bought sweatshirts of Times Square at GAP, we went out to dinner. The name of the restaurant we went to was called Becco. My sister, grandma, and I got UNLIMITED PASTA of three kinds. I was full after that.

After dinner, we walked to the place where the Broadway show was going to be. There was not that long of a line to get in. When we got into our

seats, the view of the stage was incredible! We were so high up. The show started and everybody went silent. All the singers/dances were so talented and had amazing voices. My favorite scene was when Jasmine and Aladdin went on the magic carpet, and it looked like they were flying. There was no string holding them up.

My family and I think it was drones, but we are not sure. My favorite character out of all was the genie. He was so funny. It was so cool because you would never just be bored in the middle of the show. There was always something exciting and fun going on.

If you have already seen Aladdin and want another idea of a Broadway show, I recommend The Lion King. I went once and it was so cool. All the animals' costumes were so detailed, and you could tell they put a lot of thought into it. We are so lucky to have Broadway close by.



International Transgender Day Recognizes Differences



**By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

International Transgender Day of Visibility, observed on March 31st each year, is a time to honor and raise awareness about transgender people worldwide.

Started by activist Rachel Crandall in 2009, it aims to highlight the struggles and celebrate the accomplishments of transgender individuals.

Despite progress, many still face discrimination and obstacles. This day promotes understanding of transgender identities and their rights.

Through events and social media, we ampli-

fy transgender voices and fight against discrimination. Allies are vital in supporting transgender individuals and fostering acceptance.

International Transgender Day of Visibility reminds us to work towards a world where transgender people are respected and celebrated for who they are, without fear of prejudice.

While we are not in school for International Transgender Day of Visibility, here at SMS you can talk to any teacher about

the day, especially Mrs. Malara, who, through the school's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program, spread awareness and showed support by posting on Schoology!

