



The Tusker Tribune

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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 1

<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

Fall 2023

Welcome to Somers Middle School!



**By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Welcome to SMS!!

Here at SMS, we are not just a school but a family.

On the outside, it might just seem like a regular school, but on the inside is a bunch of wonderful teachers, staff, and students!

Even though it might seem stressful, it develops independence and makes you stronger. SMS offers a wide range of clubs, including Jazz Band, Tech Club, Student Council, and so



much more!

At first, it's hard opening lockers, but once you master them, they're the best! Your locker is yours. Meaning you can decorate it, hang up pictures, and make it like your own personal space.

The schedule is confusing, but once you get used to it, it's the best! For example, if you have science, get assigned homework, and have team time next, you can do your homework without having to worry about it later!

You also rotate between gym and team time. Overall, I love SMS because we're not just a school, we're a family.

Celebrating AND Atoning: All In Just a Couple of Weeks



**By Allison Cardillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Rosh Hashana starts Friday, September 15 through Sunday, September 17.

Rosh Hashana means "Head of the Year", the Jewish New Year. It is the first of the High Holidays celebrated ten days before Yom Kippur.



Rosh Hashana is important because it commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe. This is a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates at Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement.

We celebrate Rosh Hashana by sounding the Shofar, which is an instrument made of a ram's horn. You greet one another by saying "Shana Tova" which means "good year". It is a tradition to eat round Challah bread which symbolizes the cyclical nature of life. You dip the bread or apple into honey for a sweet and happy new year.



You dip the bread or apple into honey for a sweet and happy new year.

Yom Kippur starts the evening of Sunday, September 24 through Monday, September 25. It is also known as the Day of Atonement and is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It is a day of prayer, fasting, and repentance.

How to Manage Your Work This Year



**By Victoria McGee
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you want to know how to keep up with your schoolwork and get amazing grades this year? Keep reading to find out!

We are in a new school year, and you know what that means: more work. Homework can be stressful for many people, and some people have many late assignments because they can't get themselves to do the work. Some easy ways to hand in your assignments on time are to do it the day your teacher gives you it. If you wait until later you could forget about it or just not do it until it's the due date and



you rush to get it done, then you will get a bad grade. Another way to get your work done is to sit in a place you like and get comfortable, grab a snack and get to work. Many people also listen to music when they do their work so they can focus. Sometimes I listen to music, too and it helps.

Also, take breaks. Do your work for 20 minutes and take a 10-minute break. If you are someone who forgets their assignments, get sticky notes and write your work down, then put it in a place where you go often, or where you can see it. I have tried this before and it helps so much. I hope with these tips you can get great grades and not forget about your work!

A Summer Vacation Recap (and only 168 days to go!)



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Summer is amazing. You say good-bye to the snow, and hello to the beach! You don't have to layer up or wear a jacket. You even get off from school for 2 months.

(That's one of my favorite parts.)



You usually spend more time with your family and create lots of quality moments with them! The holiday July 4th is also in the summer. My family and I have a big party up in Gilboa at our lake house. There are fireworks and lots of people.

This past summer, I went on a few vacations. I went to Maine, Vermont, Ocean City Maryland, and OBX. It was a lot of fun.

Now time for some facts about summer: Did you know that July is the hottest month of the year? It also has the most lightning storms. In the winter, it starts getting dark at 4:30, but in the summer, it starts getting dark around 8. You start a lot more sports in the summer, which means you're more active.

The first day of summer is the summer solstice on June 21st. The summer solstice is when it is the longest day with the most amount of daylight.

Unfortunately, school has started again, but it was fun to see all of my friends. Now I'm sad to see the summer go, but ski season is coming!

A Tough Break



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

It all started when I was up in Vermont with my family—my grandpa, grandma, mom, dad, and my sister. My sister and I were playing a volleyball game inside. Everyone else was just relaxing, watching tv. It was cold and rainy, so we made a fire.

I took a break from volleyball to help my dad make a fire. My sister and I also made hot chocolate and put on our pajamas. Once my sister and I finished our hot chocolate, we continued playing volleyball. When I went to dive for a ball, my body twisted in the air and fell onto my arm. Everyone heard a crack. I was just sitting there in so much pain, trying not to cry, but then it just came out.



My dad asked if I was ok and I said, "No, I hurt my arm." (Turns out it was my collarbone.) My dad told me to try and lift it, but I couldn't. My mom and my grandma went to go get ice in the fridge as my dad got me a pillow to lay on the floor because I couldn't get up. After a painful few hours later, it was time to go to bed. My dad carried me upstairs to my bed.

The next morning, we had to leave. On our way home, we stopped at the hospital. My parents told me we were just going to the doctor so as not to freak me out. They took X-rays and said my collar bone was broken. I couldn't believe it. "Ugh," I said to myself. They said I would have to wear a sling and that's when I got mad. I was hoping I didn't have to, but turns out, I did.

Once we got home, I relaxed on the couch and watched tv for the rest of the night.

Morocco Earthquake Has Long Lasting Effects



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On September 8th, 2023, at 11p.m local time, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit Morocco. About 20 minutes after the main earthquake, a magnitude 4.9 aftershock hit the region. The earthquake struck in the Atlas Mountains, around 50 miles southwest of the city of Marrakech (according to the USGS). However, shaking was reported throughout Morocco, as well as Algeria, Portugal, and Spain.

The earthquakes had a big effect on the communities around where the earthquake struck. Around 3,000



people were killed and more than 5,500 others were injured from the earthquake. Approximately 320,000 people were exposed to the earthquake, especially the remote villages in the Atlas Mountains that suffered great damage and losses. This earthquake was the deadliest earthquake in Morocco since 2004.

What is a 6.8 magnitude earthquake like? A 6.8 earthquake is classified as "strong". It is capable of causing extreme damage to poorly constructed buildings. This particular earthquake struck at a relatively shallow depth, therefore making it more dangerous.

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The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:

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Somers, NY, USA.**

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Tusker Tribune Website:
<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11>

A Month to Highlight Latin American Independence



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hispanic Heritage Month started on September 15th and ends on October 15th. It starts on 9/15 because that is the Independence Day of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Many other Hispanic independence days fall within this period, as well as Dia de la Raza, also known as Columbus Day.

Heritage Month celebrates Hispanic history, culture, and achievements. The 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month theme is "Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress".

In SMS, we recognize and celebrate Hispan-

ic Heritage, especially during this time. In Spanish classes/World Language classes, students learn about Hispanic heritage and celebrations. The classes also complete a project about a Latino or Latina of their choice and present it to the class. Students research things like where they are from, their achievements as a Latino/Latina, what their culture and heritage is like, as well as obstacles they may have faced.

You may wonder why it is important we celebrate and recognize Hispanic Heritage Month. While it is still important we recognize Hispanic achievements all year round, reflecting and acknowledging during this time will help us be better in the future.

Hispanic
Heritage Month
September 15-October 15



Our First Issue of The Year

You can become a published writer! And earn service hours OR a gift card while doing it!

By writing for the **Tusker Tribune**, your creativity will be posted online and visible to thousands of readers.

Students who write for the **Tusker Tribune** can type their stories in Word, and share them with Mr. Pappas through One Drive.

Write three stories, each 150 words or more, and receive a \$10 Amazon gift card.

Or, you may write stories for National Junior Honor Society Service Hours.

Click on this link to find out more:
<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>.

Write On!



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Did You Know This Stuff About Columbus Day ?



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Colombus Day is national holiday in the United States of America and many other countries around South and North America.

Colombus Day takes place every year on the second Monday in October. This year that date is October 9th. The day marks Christopher Columbus' first voyage to North America. He landed on the island of Guanahani, an island in what is now the Bahamas, on October 12th, 1492. Due to the explorer's checkered past, many states like Florida, Hawaii, Alaska, Vermont, and South Dakota don't celebrate the holiday. Instead, they celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day.

Fun Facts

Did you know that Christopher Columbus and his brothers were arrested? After ruling a Spanish territory for a long time, and after torturing and killing many natives, the brothers were rested and shipped back to Spain.

Another fun fact is that Columbus sailed his first voyage three ships—the na, the Pina, and the Santa Maria. The three ships were not together long. The Pinta sank at its moorings; in 1919, the Nina caught fire and sank. In 1920, the Santa Maria was rebuilt and continued to draw tourists until 1951, when it was destroyed by fire.



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