



The Tusker Tribune

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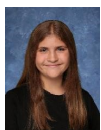
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 6

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Fall 2023

Just In Time for Halloween: Movies to Binge On!



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Halloween is coming up, and one way you can celebrate is by watching Halloween Movies! There are hundreds of different movies you can watch, and sometimes it can be hard to choose. Here are 31 Halloween Movies for you to watch this Halloween Season. . .

Family Movies

- Girl vs. Monster
- Casper
- Nightmare Before Christmas
- Halloweentown
- ParaNorman
- The Haunted Mansion
- Frankenweenie
- Hocus Pocus
- Hocus Pocus 2
- The Dog Who Saved Halloween
- The Little Vampire
- The Addams Family (animated)

- Scooby Doo
- Hotel Transylvania
- Spooky Buddies
- The Box Trolls
- PG 13
- Hubbie Halloween
- Lights Out
- The Visit
- Happy Death Day
- World War Z
- The Last Exorcism
- The Village
- The Adams Family (Live Action)
- The Uninvited
- When a Stranger Calls

Rated R

- Scream
- Friday the 13th
- Halloween 2
- Halloween 3
- Sleepy Hollow



What's Halloween's 'Back Story'?



By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff

Ever wonder about the backstory of Halloween? I can help!



originates from the ancient Celtic festival called *Samhain*, which marked the end of the harvest season. They believed the festival made their gods happy, so they would protect their families and crops during the long hard winter.

At the festival, they wore costumes and feasted together. The name "Halloween" comes from a shortened form of All Hallow's Eve. Over the years, All Hallow's Eve became increasingly known as Halloween.

For starters, Halloween is the second most popular holiday in the United States (Christmas being the first)! It takes place every year on October 31st. Halloween is best known for trick or treating, ghosts and witches, dressing up in costumes, telling scary stories, visiting haunted houses, and so much more. But that is only the basics of Halloween. You see, Halloween

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Red Ribbon Week Never Loses Its Importance

By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff



Red Ribbon week occurs annually from October 23rd-October 31st. Red Ribbon Week highlights the importance of a drug free life. It also

shows an intolerance for drugs in schools, communities, and workplaces.

More than 80 million people around the US show their commitment to a drug free lifestyle by



wearing/ displaying a red ribbon. The 2023 Red Ribbon Week theme is "Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free.". The week recognizes and celebrates those who live drug free, or who have chosen to leave drugs behind and get healthy.

National Family Partnership, formerly the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, was established as a nonprofit organization in 1980. Since its founding thirty years ago, NFP has devoted its efforts to the well-being of youth.

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40 Different Halloween Costume Ideas



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are you struggling to find a last-minute Halloween costume? Did you wait until the last second? If you did, here are some easy last minute Halloween costumes....



1. Construction Worker
2. Kim Possible
3. Cowboy
4. Gold Miner
5. Football Player
6. Ghost
7. Basketball



8. Baseball Player
9. Zombie



10. Doctor
11. Businessman
12. Crayon
13. Alien (from Toy Story)
14. Blow Up Costume
15. Lilo & Stich
16. Dog
17. Cat
18. Bunny
19. Adam Sandler
20. Baby
21. Taylor Swift Era (Dress up like you're going to her concert)

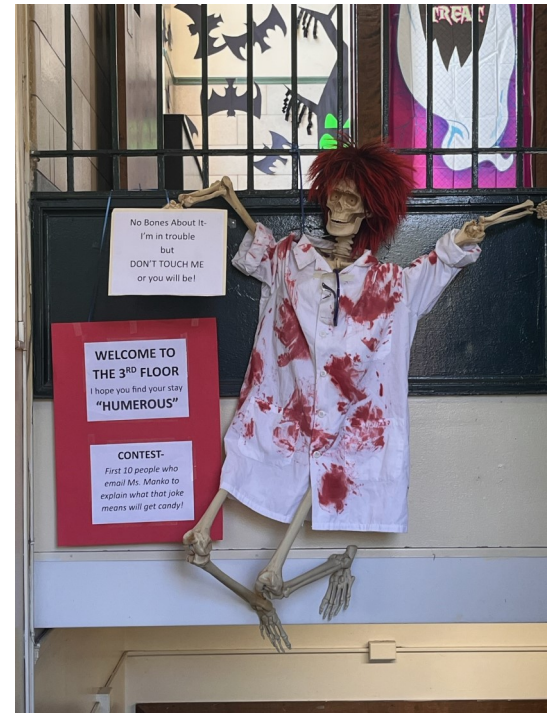


22. Slim Shady
23. Kanye West



24. Bumble Bee
25. Dinosaur
26. Unicorn
27. Dentist
28. Witch
29. Rapper
30. Frat Boy
31. Barbie (any variation)
32. Noob
33. Gorilla
34. The Joker and Harley Quinn
35. Wonder Woman
36. Hippie (70's)

37. Y2K (Dress Up like its 2000)
38. Devil and Angel
39. Agent/ Detective



Just hanging out on the third floor . . .

Back Story

From Page 1

Many years ago, people were not just afraid of meeting ghosts on Halloween but were also scared that ghosts or spirits would come to their homes. Because of this, they began leaving bowls of food outside their doors, to scare the ghost away from them.



Over time, people became less fearful of the ghost stories and started eating the treats themselves. So, the question is, are you ready for All Hallows Eve?

Red Ribbon

From Page

Today, NFP is a national leader in drug prevention education and advocacy. Their mission is to lead and support the nation's families and communities in nurturing the full potential of healthy, drug-free youth.

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The Tusker Tribune
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

What an Awesome SPIRIT WEEK!



*Photos by Serafina DeRaffele
Lauren Crispino,
and Sofia Mendoza.*

*Spirit Week
Stories on pages 4,
5, and 6*

*Pep Rally coverage
will be next week!*

All About 'Neon Day'



**By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff**

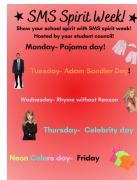
Today, Friday, October 27th, Somers Middle School students and faculty wore neon colors. The 6th graders were assigned to wear neon yellow; the 7th graders wore neon green, and the 8th graders wore neon pink. Neon Colors are fun, but have you ever thought of how neon colors came to be?

Neon was first discovered in 1898, by the Scottish chemist, Sir William Ramsay, and English Chemist Sir. Morris M. Travers. It is the 10th chemical element with its atomic number being 10 on the Period Table and is described by using the symbol Ne.

Neon is the second noble gas in the Periodic Table. It is a colorless and odorless gas. Neon colors were invented in 1910 and the first appearance of neon lights took place in Paris, France. The process, though, was started in the mid-1800's, and quickly became a symbol of modern industry and progress in the world.

Nowadays, there are over 150 neon colors with the most popular one being yellow, which is used for signs, shirts, and the one we might know best, highlighters.

Although neon signs are no longer viewed by many as a symbol of progress, they are still used to capture people's attention for marketing



products and safety reasons. We use neon colors for making bright signs, highlighters, clothes, traffic cones, and construction worker signs as a safety precaution symbol and to bring awareness to a certain thing so they can be seen clearly at night when it is dark.

The decade when neon colors were the most popular was in the 1980s, and it is still a symbol of remembrance for that decade. Within the past decade, neon colors have become popular again, with many celebrities and social media influencers such as Kim Kardashian, who loves neon colors, promoting them. She was even gifted a neon green SUV by her ex-husband, Kanye West. But that is not her only neon car, and many of her other cars also have neon lighting on the inside.

Bright neon colors can also be seen in the natural world. In the animal kingdom, many species of birds, frogs, fish, and insects display a beautiful variety of neon colors. Some examples of these would include the feathers of a peacock or parakeet, the Indian bullfrog, the Mandarin fish and the Sunset moth. By popular demand, pet stores are now selling different species of genetically modified fish which they refer to as "glo fish", because they glow in different neon colors under fluorescent lighting.

Today you can find neon colors just about anywhere, and like almost 170 years ago, it still grabs our attention.

Rhyming Without Reason is the Only Way

**By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff**



Do you know what beloved author made books with funny rhymes, that many times were without reason? Dr. Suess!

Some books that he made are Fox in Socks, The Cat in the Hat, and There's a Wocket in my Pocket. All these books, and many more of his famous books feature silly rhymes that sometimes don't make sense. That is what rhyme without reason is about.

Rhyme without reason costume parties is a partnered idea that started blowing up on TikTok, and quickly became popular to bring more fun to events and schools. The way it works is that two or three people must dress up as things that rhyme, but those things should be unrelated, therefore making it a rhyme without any reason. Some examples are "butterfly and FBI", or "Barbie and



army", "referee and bumblebee", "Rich and witch" or even "cat and bat". It is a fun way for people to be creative in making funny and clever costumes, while working together with peers.

This Tuesday for Spirit Week at SMS, it was Rhyme without Reason Day, and there were a lot of creative costumes. Sofia Mendoza (me) and Francesca Palumbo dressed up as "Blue and Flu," Leia Baroke and Kari Kellock dressed up as "wild west and princess," Masie Pelhank and Olivia Pelhank went as "Jack and Mack". Then there were also some trio groups, such as, Giuliana Demartino, Ellie Ozer, and Olivia Cross, who dressed up as "Ice spice, rice, and pumpkin spice," and another trio, Isabella Martino Leroy Pica and Zara Salazar as "Nerdy teen, Denim jeans, and Pageant queen," Felicity McCormack, Alice Orzechowski and Laurel Knapp as "Neptune, Balloon and Raccoon."

Lots of Comfort With PJ Day



**By Serafina DeRafele
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Monday's theme was Pajama Day for Spirit Week, where you could wear plaid pants like everyone else or be unique and wear things like onesies, robes, and not even pajamas.

Some examples of people who wore plaid pants are Rayssa Aguiar, Britton Bassi, and Ava Varbero.

Another student I interviewed was Shealyn Mullins. She was wearing a Winnie the Pooh onesie; she got this idea from other students. There were also kids who did not participate in pajama day.



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Spirit Week was a TON of Fun



By Victoria McGee
Tusker Tribune Staff

This week was Spirit Week! All of the outfits were amazing for PJ day, Adam Sandler day, Rhyme Without Reason, Celebrity Day, and Neon Color Wars.



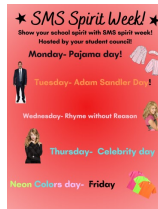
Spirit Week is always fun because you get to wear fun outfits and costumes, have a good time, and match with your friends.

One of my personal favorite days this week was Rhyme Without Reason. I love this one because you get to match with our friends and be very creative about what you wear. My friend and I did Lightning McQueen, and the mermaid, Aquamarine. I saw some really amazing outfits. Here's a list of my favorite



- Slim shady and pregnant lady
- Wild west, princess, and math test
- Bat and cat

- Smurf and surf



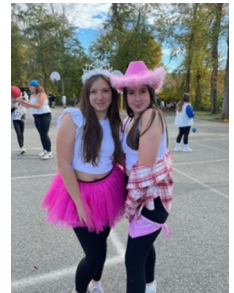
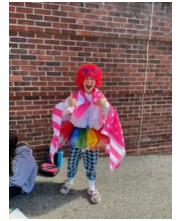
- Hanna Montana and princess Dayana
- Fourth of July and FBI
- Fairy and Harry
- Fairy and dairy
- Sporty, shorty, and 40
- Princess and wild west

There were many more fun and amazing outfits. This spirit week day is so much fun because you get to express yourself, and wear fun and crazy outfits for a week.

The pep rally is also something to look forward to.

You get to play games, answer trivia questions and more. PJ day was so fun because you could just stay in your PJs on a lazy Monday morning.

For Adam Sandler day you could wear your biggest and largest clothes, it was so cool. On celebrity day I saw people dressed as singers like Ariana Grande. This week was also very eventful because there was a book fair going on too. I hope everyone enjoyed this fun week and I hope to have more spirit weeks in the future!



Celebrity Day Showed Lots of Creativity



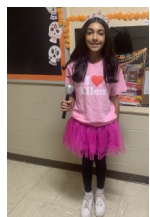
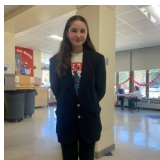
By Lyla Hantzarides
Tusker Tribune Staff

This week of school (October 23-27) was Spirit Week!

Thursday October 26th was Celebrity Day! There were so many cool outfits! But some of my favorites were these next people.

First, we have Abby Carpenter! She was soccer player Mbappe, number seven. He plays for Paris Saint-Germain! She did him because she admires his speed.

Next was a trio, Gabby Sullivan, Julia Carlson, and Julianna Cacsire. They were Alvin and the Chipmunks!



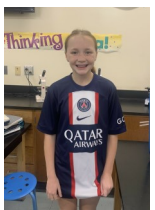
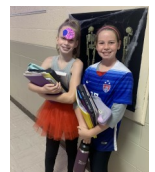
The outfits for them were really fun! Jiannah Rosa was Sophia Grace. She said she did her because it reminded her of her and her friend!

Hazel Sledzik was a member of Boy Genius. She did this because it's her favorite band!

Mrs. Malara and Mrs. Shilinki were Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift!

And last (my personal favorite) Sra. Soares. She was Cristiano Ronaldo!

She did this because he is her "boyfriend". Overall Thursday was a fun day between asking people who they are and trying to guess who they are.



November Means Na-No-Wri-Mo Is Back!



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

What is NaMoWriMo?

NaMoWriMo stands for *National Novel Writing Month*. National Writing Month is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that promotes creative writing around the world. Its flagship program is an annual, international creative writing event in which those who participate attempt to write a 50,000-word novel during the month of November.



Every November, SMS 8th graders participate in NaNoWriMo in their 8th grade ELA classes.

For the official NaMoWriMo, there are some rules. Writing must start no earlier than November 1st at 12:00 am and end no later than November 31st at 11:59 pm local time. Your novel must reach a minimum of 50,000 words to win. No material written before November 1st may go in the novel.

Participants' novels may be of any genre, theme, or language. Fan fictions are not allowed. Neither are trademarked characters or plots.

Anyone who reaches the 50,000 word mark, while following the rules, is declared a winner. While there is no physical reward for finishing, the reward is the novel itself. You can also submit to receive a certificate through email.

The Black Rat



By Robert Jarrett
Tusker Tribune Staff

It was the year 1348, but in a parallel universe, where technology was 600 years ahead of the original timeline. And the black plague was . . . different to say the least. Instead of killing people, it turned them into these weird, twisted, deformed creatures. They lived to kill and eat the normal humans. The only people who were normal were the other plague doctors. You all started a small community, but that didn't last long, because *they were getting smarter every day.*

It was an early December morning, and the rat was acting up again. You knew what that meant. You pick up your lever-action rifle, satisfyingly reloading, which filled you with dopamine, and walk out the door. You fire an explosive round into the *thing* outside and it toppled over.

As you enter the room, the rat is still yelping and screaming. This was *horrible*. You rush outside in terror to see the horrors of the completely regenerated infected running towards you and eventually kill you as you were paralyzed in fear. You, the last of humanity, are dead.



School Subjects are Essential to Growth

By Max Weinfeld
Tusker Tribune Staff



School subjects are a crucial part of our education! They provide us with the knowledge and skills we need to navigate the world around us.

From math to social studies, each subject has its own unique importance and contributes to the overall growth of our development. Math, for example, helps us develop problem solving skills and logical thinking. It teaches us how to analyze data, make calculations, and understand patterns.

Science helps us understand how things work. Language arts, also known as ELA, teaches us how to expand our vocabulary and also exposes us to different cultures and per-

spectives through the power of storytelling.

Social studies teaches us about the past and different societies and how the world was and how the world we live in has changed throughout the years.



All school subjects impact our lives and that is why school is important even if it might not intrigue many.

In conclusion school subjects offer knowledge and Education to help us prepare for the real world and the future. Each subject has its own role on how we understand things and how it gives us skill and gives us character. Most people underestimate the opportunities and offers school provides us and they don't realize that it does affect our lives.

PJ Day

From Page 4



But not enough to be more than the kids who did, and because of that pajama day was highly successful.

Now about teachers. Teachers like Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Woolsey, and Mrs. Jelinek wore pajamas, like

sweatpants, plaid pants, and a robe.

It is always good that teachers are a part of spirit week and get to wear pajamas to school. Spirit Week was a highly successful and fun event.

