



# The Tusker Tribune

# 139



## SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 7

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

Fall 2023

### Spirit Week Wrap-up



**By Edwin Vasquez  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

During the week of October 23, it was Spirit Week at SMS.

Spirit Week is when we all participate in different theme-related activities including PJ Day, Celebrity Day, and on the final day of Spirit Week, it was neon day.

During neon day, all three grades had

different assigned colors.

The 6th graders were wearing yellow, 7th graders were wearing green, and 8th graders were wearing pink.

On the final day of Spirit Week, almost all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders wore the correct shirt as they partici-

pated in the final day of Spirit Week neon day.



A lot of people wore different colors because they wanted to see that 8th graders are pink and 7th graders are green. This is because at the end of the day, there was the pep rally. The main battle was between the 7th and 8th graders as they faced different fun challenges to see who is better. These games included tug of war, trivia, volleyball, pie face, and a couple

other games to keep the crowd screaming and cheering. In the end, no one kept score because we all had a great time playing the six games that had the crowd excited and cheering for those who signed up.



### SMS Goes All Out for Halloween



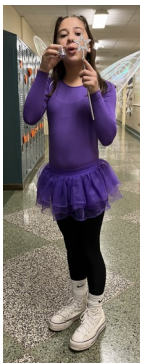
**By Shealyn Mullins  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On October 31, 2023 I was responsible for taking pictures of people wearing costumes for Halloween. This is a very exciting day for the school.

Everyone loves to dress up as their favorite character, player, or worker. We wear our costumes to brighten up other people's ideas so maybe they will be it next year. We also do it to show our interests and hobbies.

Some costumes we saw were Tiger and Winnie the Pooh, fairies, dogs, construction worker, football, and hockey players. Most teachers took part in a costume competition. Some teachers were Barbie, Care Bears, Uncle Sam, and Boy Scouts.

One group of teachers were emotions from the movie Inside Out. All the students got to vote for which teachers had the most creative costume. It was a lot of fun to see all the teachers dressed up. At the end of the day the teachers with the most votes will win. This competition is nice because it brings the whole school together. *More photos on Page 3*



### Celebrating Italian Heritage



**By Ava Schmidberger  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

October was National Italian American Heritage and Culture Month.

Italian American Heritage and Culture Month is celebrated by declaration of the President and Congress in the United States to honor the achievements and contributions of Italian immigrants and their families living in the United States, especially in the arts, science, and culture.

Every year, Italians around the United States celebrate the month. They do so by reflecting and remembering accomplishments of Italian Americans. Italians use this month to focus on preserving their culture and traditions.

*Continued on Page 2*



## The Lotus Lantern's Connection to Korean Culture



**By Sofia Mendoza  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On Saturday October 21, members of the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project (KSCPP), a non-profit, non-government organization dedicated to the promotion of greater awareness and understanding of Korean history and culture, offered a Korean lotus lantern making class at the Somers Library.

The organization was first founded in 2005 by Kim Jae Woong, and travels throughout the United States, Europe, and Korea. These lanterns are traditionally used for weddings and holidays. Once a year, usually in the spring, Koreans celebrate *Yeondeunghoe*, a Lantern Lighting Festival in Korea to celebrate Buddha's Birthday. Buddhism is the most popular religion in Korea and its beliefs and traditions are embedded into Korean culture. In Buddhism, the lotus lantern means to light the light of wisdom and escape from the darkness of defilements and ignorance.

The lotuses grow in many beautiful colors. White symbolizes purity, **Pink** is associated with the Great Buddha because it is reserved for the highest deity, **Red** lotuses symbolize love, compassion, passion and all the qualities of the heart, **Blue** is a symbol of knowledge, and lastly **Purple** symbolizes dignity and spirituality.

Did you know that lotuses grow in the mud underneath the water, stem through the water and bloom above the water, and never get stained by mud or dirt? They also are one of the most unique flowers because they produce their fruit at the same time that they bloom. Both these things have great significance in Buddhism.

The lanterns are made with wire and then 8 pieces of cut out paper is securely glued onto the structure, using a special handmade paste of flour and water. Then it is left to dry before adding the beautifully colored petal paper. Regular glue is used to stick each individual delicate paper petal onto the structure of the lantern in rows of eight and finally the green leaves are added by two rows of fours at the end, the last row facing the other direction outward.

The lanterns are lit with candles or little

electrical candles can be used to prevent fire hazards. They can be placed on tables or near windowsills to be admired by all who see them. It is important to note that many other Asian cultures also admire and celebrate the beauty of the lotus flower.

The cultural values in Korea are encapsulated in the nation's founding philosophy of "*Hongik Ingan*", which literally means to live for the benefit of all mankind. In my opinion everyone in the entire world should follow this philosophy because it works for the good of all living creatures. This is teamwork at its finest, where everyone works together to improve life for everyone else as a whole.

About 70 years ago, Korea was the poorest country in the world after being nearly destroyed by three years of the Korean War, from 1950 to 1953.

Many leaders around the world thought Korea could never recover from the damage, but the nation proved them all wrong. Then in 1997, Korea experienced a devastating economic crisis which left the country in a lot of debt. But its people worked together and donated all their gold jewelry to the Korean banks to help pay off their country's debt. Many citizens worked hard and worked overtime without pay so that future Korean generations would have brighter futures.

Today, Korea is the 6<sup>th</sup> most powerful country in the world. Amazingly, in its long history as a nation, Korea has never invaded another country. It is the only country to have gone from complete poverty to success in such **little** time. Most of its citizens have attended college, and their healthcare is one of the best in the world and also affordable for all. Its average crime rate is much lower than that of the United States and other countries in Europe. It is also on the path to possibly being the first country in the world to ever break the 90 years of age life expectancy average, with its current life expectancy average being one of the top ones at 83.7 years of age.

If the whole world followed the example of Korea, then the world would be so much happier. In Somers Middle School, many of us take taekwondo classes, enjoy Korean dramas, listen to K-pop, and enjoy Korean snacks and food brands such as Bibigo. It is important to learn about other countries and their cultures so we can become good global citizens in the world.



### Reporters/Contributors

**Cole Doaln  
Robert Jarrett  
Sophia Mendoza  
Shealyn Mullins  
Edwin Vasquez  
Ava Schmidberger**

### **Italian Fron Page 1**

Who are some Italian Americans that we can recognize? Danny DeVito is one of the most influential Italian Americans. Danny DeVito is an actor, comedian, and filmmaker. Dan-

ny DeVito is 78 years old and 4'10". He grew up not far from Somers, in Asbury Park, NJ. Recently, Danny DeVito made a half a million-dollar donation to the Jersey Shore University Hospital. He has also donated to other charities like Keep Memory Alive and Operation USA.



## SMS's STAR Students: October 2023

### Grade 6:



Ryan Tatto

### Grade 8



Kiara Stuart



Jacob Watanabe

*A STAR award stands for **ST**udents who **Are** **R**ole models. The students pictured here were caught doing something that deserves the STAR recognition for the month—from common courtesy, to helping another student or staff member, to standing up for someone or cheering them up!*

## Yes, There's a 'National Breadstick' Day



**By Ava Schmidberger**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever heard of National Breadstick Day? National Bread Stick Day is October 27<sup>th</sup>!

Breadsticks were created in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (1600's) by an Italian baker called Antoino Brunero. He originally created the food for Duke Victor Amadeus II, who had digestive problems throughout his life. Afterwards, breadsticks quickly became popular because they were easy to digest and would last for days. Now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, breadsticks are usually a soft bread served at restaurants. However, breadsticks, while time consuming, are easy to make at home! Here's how...

**1. Proof yeast:** Add warm water, yeast and sugar to the bowl of a stand mixer and stir gently. Rest for 5 minutes. The yeast should lightly foam on top. If it doesn't, the yeast may not be fresh. (If using Instant yeast, skip this step and add all of the ingredients to the bowl.)



**2. Make dough:** Add 1 ½ cups flour, salt and vegetable oil and mix on medium speed. Add another 1 ½ cups flour. The dough should be slightly sticky, but pull away from the sides of the bowl. Knead mixture for 5-7 minutes.

**3. Let rise:** Transfer dough to a large, greased bowl and cover tightly with plastic wrap. Allow to rest for about 1.5 hours.

**4. Shape breadsticks:** Once risen, punch dough down and divide it into 12 equal parts. Roll each piece of dough into a rope shape and transfer to a greased cookie sheet.

**5. Second rise.** Cover and allow to rise again for 1 hour.

**6. Bake** breadsticks at 425 degrees F for 10-12 minutes. Remove from oven, brush tops with butter and transfer to a wire cooling rack.

**7. Season** the breadsticks however you would like. My personal favorite is a mix of cinnamon and sugar.

**SOURCE:** <https://tastesbetterfromscratch.com/homemade-olive-garden-breadsticks/>



## Was This the Least Watched World Series Ever?



By Cole Dolan  
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Texas Rangers played the Arizona Diamondbacks in the 2023 World Series and as far as I know no one watched it.

Combined the two teams had 1750 to 1 odds to even get to the World Series and guess what? They made it. This is what baseball did not want, Day after day, baseball's ratings go down. Granted, it's still a pro sport but it is also a dying sport,

I love baseball with all my heart, but even I see it is dying. There are only two ways to fix it. Having fewer teams to the playoffs could help, One



year ago they implemented a rule allowing two more teams from the AL and NL, adding two more teams and that allows these average teams (in my opinion) to let an upset happen, and have a sloppy World Series for only the team's fans to enjoy.

Another thing that could help is make shorter seasons like they did in 2021 for the COVID year, when they had only 60 games in the regular season which made every game important. Just one loss would bring a team down to third place for 15 games before they could get their original spot back, which is a quarter of the season. Everyone has their take but that's mine.

## The Crashland Perspective—A Star Wars Fan Story



By Robert Jarrett  
Tusker Tribune Staff

**Prologue:** It was the year 20 BBY. You, *Vidar Kyreest* (Character Name Pronunciation: Vi-dar Ki-reest), are in a plethora of debt thanks to the Pyke Syndicate, who framed you for mass spice smuggling.

*Those stupid druggies,* you think with a stream of obscenities as you stroll on to the Imperial Factory you work at. On your way there, you walk past a bright Holo-Poster. In big, bold letters it says **JOIN THE EMPIRE; PROTECT THE GALAXY!** You think of the better life you could have lived and decided to enroll in the army, I mean, you were a very physically active 23-year-old. You would 100% be able to ace the physical training! What was the worst that could happen?



The worst had happened. It was the battle of Yavin. Where the first Death Star would be destroyed, and young Luke Skywalker would be proclaimed the Rebel Hero.

Suddenly on the Intercom, "TK-3584 Come in! I repeat, TK-3584 Com-". Then as quickly as the Intercom went on, it became radio static. You were shaking in your Tie-Interceptor's seat as you watched



the Death Star explode and debris fly everywhere, all your friends, dead, exploded in the vastness of space. Suddenly, the built-in voice program on your Tie says, in a calm but artificial tone, "Engaging emergency warp in T-Minus 5.4.3. . ."

"NO! NO!" you scream wanting to still fight. "1. . ."

You wake up, feeling sore and dizzy from the crash. All you could remember was the trauma of the battle. You look around your surroundings in confusion. This is a weird world. You head to the wreckage of your Tie and pull out your scanner and IB-94 blaster. All These years, what was it now? 20 years? You were a Known pilot for the empire, days away from receiving the rank of admiral, and here you were, in a completely unknown and uncharted planet, probably pronounced dead.

It had been a couple of months since the crash. You built a lean-to, made a fire, forged for edible berries, and properly hunted the planet's native fauna. As you were, say, 10 meters away from your camp,

you heard a lot of rustling.

You take your blaster out, grip the handle with both hands, and stealthily walk inch by inch to your camp. You see the thief in the dimly lit area. You raise your blaster at the figure and shout, "HANDS WHERE I

CAN SEE THEM!" as they turn around hands in the air, you see it.

The blade suddenly ignited, and the Jedi says, "Actually, your hands w here I can see them."

"You're a J-J-Jedi!" you say in a tone of shock and fear, stammering on that last word. "You're supposed to be dead like the rest!"

They give you a shocked look and say, "All the Jedi are dead? How?"

"They were traitors! The lot of them!" you say, teeth bared in a tone of mild anger, knowing you will probably end up decapitated if you sound too angry.

Suddenly, your blaster flies out of your hand and into the Jedi's. "What is your name, anyway?"

"TK-3584, Imperial Pilot!"

They look at you, dumbfounded. "OK. Number One, your actual name, and number two, 'Imperial'?"

"Okay, um, number three, it's Vidar Kyreest, and number four, you're going to want to sit down."

*Continued on Page 5*



## Student Interviews, Part 1: Endrit Selimaj, Grade 6



By Cole Dolon  
Tusker Tribune Staff

*What is your favorite subject?*  
Math with Mr. P (Paulmeno).  
*What if your favorite book?*  
The Fourteenth Goldfish by

Jennifer L. Holm.

*How many sports do you play, and which is your favorite?*

I play four sports and my favorite sport is football.

*What if your favorite movie?*

My favorite movie is The Unlist-  
ed.

*What do you like more, the middle school or S.I.S?*

The middle school.

*Who is your favorite sports team?*

The (NFL) Baltimore Ravens.

*What is this best school lunch?*

The regular chicken nuggets with BBQ sauce.

*What was the best place you have traveled to?*

Ocean city Maryland and Cancun, Mexico.

*What is your favorite food?*  
Spicy sushi.



*rant?*

*What is your favorite restaurant?*

King Buffet.

*If you had a choice to be an animal, which animal would you chose?* An axolotl because they can grow their arms and tail back.

*What is your favorite video game?*

Madden 24, especially the online games.

*What is your biggest fear?*

A tsunami hitting, and I don't notice it.

*Would you rather have a superpower that lets you be invisible or invincible?*

I would rather be invisible

*What do you like more, Fortnite or Call of Duty?*

I like Fortnite.

*Would you rather the school day be 30 minutes shorter or have the school year with 30 days out of the school year?*

I think that 30 minutes less each day would be amazing.



## A Few More Halloween Pics!

### Star Wars

From Page 4

**Epilogue:** You were leaping and running through the forest to your camp after a successful hunting mission.

Goro Syeck (or the Jedi) had died a couple of years ago. As you stroll on, you see some metal in the distance, you run over to the metal and realize. It is a TIE. There were a couple boxes of rations and supplies, and a recently put out campfire.

And then you felt it. The cold metal of an E-11 blaster pressed up against your back.

"Don't move!" came a rude, helmet filtered tone.

You sit there for a couple seconds then turn around at what could have been the speed of light, and hit the blaster out of this stranger's hand, grabbed your own and aimed it at the person, and said "You don't move, actually, and what year is it?"

"29 ABY"

"29 Years?"

