



The Tusker Tribune

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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 1

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Fall 2023

Three-peat for Tuskers!!!!



Photos by
Jennifer
Mendicina and
Alison Pepe

SMS students turned out in force to support Somers High School's football team as they defeated Whitesboro at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse for their third straight high school championship.

Inclusive Schools Week



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Inclusive Schools Week 2023 was from December 4th to December 8th.

Inclusive Schools Week is an annual celebration of progress made to provide a supportive and quality education to a diverse school community.

The theme for 2023's inclusive schools' week was "Draw Me In!" The reasoning for this is that participating in art provides a pathway to self-discovery and sharing art. Sharing your art also gives other opportunities to learn more about you in a different way than conversation.

Here at SMS, students participated in multiple Inclusive Schools Week activities. Every morning in advisory, students learned about how to be more inclusive and what being inclusive looks and sounds like. During our half day on Thursday, students learned more about themselves by doing a worksheet that taught them what type of learner they are and how they are smart and learn best.

Each student also drew a unique pattern on a tile that will be used to create one big mural here at SMS.



SMS's STAR Students: November 2023

Grade 6:



Andrew Pollaro



Emily Walker



Anastasia Maltempi



Hunter Cook

Grade 6 (contd.)



Michael Castaldo

Grade 7



Aiden Bourque



Hudson Meza

Grade 8



Elizabeth Castaldo

A STAR award stands for STudents who Are Role 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!

Mobile Devices Should Be Allowed During the School Day



By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff

1. Mobile devices should be allowed at Somers Middle School and here's why: Phones can be used to easily contact par-

ents, and for help in emergencies. If students were allowed to have phones with them, it

Cell Phone Vibrates at Home:



Cell Phone Vibrates at School



would increase the amount of safety they feel because they can contact their parents by texting them quickly. During emergencies, children could use their cellphones to contact others and 911.

2. A proven fact is that cellphones in school result to accelerated learning.

Cellphones are normally considered a distraction, but in today's world they take a role in teaching and learning.

3. Cellphones in school also help improve the quality of group work because of the fast communication and easily being able to send pictures and ideas back and forth when in a team time, in different classrooms, or quiet study space.

4. Cellphones in school are inevitable. The education system is constantly evolving, and technology will always find its way in there. Phones can be used to take pictures of homework assignments and help customize a child's learning experience.



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It's No Yolk! National Eggnog Month is a Thing!



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

National Eggnog Month in December is such a fun and delicious time of the year! Let's dive into the creamy, festive world of eggnog!

Eggnog is a classic holiday drink that brings warmth and joy to many gatherings. It's made with a delightful blend of milk, cream, sugar, eggs, and a hint of nutmeg. Some adults even add a splash of rum or bourbon for an extra kick!



One of the best things about eggnog is that you can enjoy it in all types of ways. You can drink it cold, warm, or use it as part of other holiday treats.

National Eggnog Month is the perfect time to experiment with new and different flavors. You can add a sprinkle of cinnamon or caramel drizzle with whipped cream. Don't forget a sprinkle of nutmeg! So, whether you're sipping on a cup of eggnog by the fireplace or sharing a glass with loved ones during this holiday season, National Eggnog Month should be all about spreading joy and enjoying the creamy and delicious drink!

The Island: A NaNoWriMo Excerpt—Part II



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Alright kids hold on, we are landing".

I feel the plane hit the ground. The men in the black uniforms pull us out of the plane. I try to scream but they cover my mouth. They have huge guns by their sides and pistols in their pockets.

What is this place? I feel a sharp pain in my arm, the feeling in my limbs goes away and I can't feel anything. Everything starts to fade away from my vision.

The feeling slowly comes back in my body. First my feet, then it

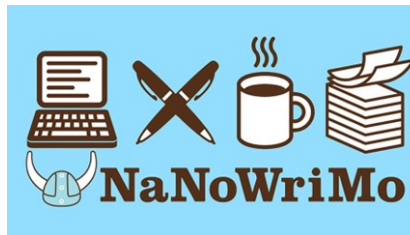
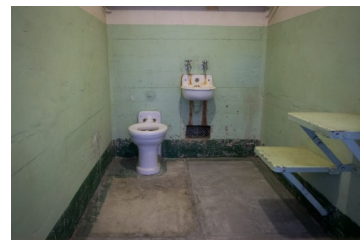
travels up my legs to my waist and through my arms and torso, down my fingers and up my neck. My eyes begin to open.

The room is gray with two beds, Lola is in the bed next to me. There's one toilet and a small sink along with a plain white t-shirt and black shorts. Lola is beginning to wake up . . .

"What happened?" I ask.

"I think they drugged us, I can't remember anything after going numb. Why are we here, first the island and now this. What is going on?"

I begin to sit up. There's a sharp pain in my arm. Lola and I both sit down and stare at the ground for a while. What now?



I Like Winter Best



**By Dayanna Diaz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I will always like winter best.

I drink hot cocoa with marshmallows, as I sing along with Christmas songs;

Building snowmen, and having snowball fights.

The irresistible sweet smell of freshly baked cookies and milk for Santa near the burning fireplace, lighting up the place.

I wake up to see the hazy first glistening snowfall;

I watch each flake of snow fall so silky smoothly;

Revealing a fluffy white blanket.

The dazzling Christmas feeling floating around in the air;

I can practically taste all the appetizing Christmas flavored drinks.

Gingerbread and white peppermint and vanilla.

And Candy Cane

I see all the wintery and Christmasy decorations:

Red, Green, and a million shades of blue

I count the days down until the jolly, white-bearded man in red comes down your chimney; And leaves the perfectly wrapped presents under the tree.

I will always like winter best.



Aladdin Jr.'s Cast List Revealed!



**By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Drama Club has recently posted the cast list for its play, Aladdin Jr. Everyone got a part, and we are going to make this play the best. This is the cast list for this year's play:

Genie will be played by Delia Eagleton and Gianna Lopez

Jasmine will be played by Alison Giron-Ruiz and Navya Maneyapanda

Aladdin will be played by Edwin Vasquez and Max Weinfield

Babkak will be played by Caroline Papa and Ila Schoenberg

Omar will be played by Derek Sheldon and Elizabeth Spano

Kassim will be played by Ashton Clarke and Michaela Gallo

Isir will be played by Katherine Dugmore and Grace Phalen

Rajah will be played by Ava DeBellis and Madysen Diaz

Manal will be played by Olivia Mercado and Hazel Sledzik

Sultan will be played by Henry Donsky and Jay Saha

Jafar will be played by Ruby McDowell and Aiden Quinn

Iago will be played by Lyla Hantzarides and Olivia McGurk

Razuol will be played by Jessa Chakides and Nova Laubis

The people in the featured ensemble:

Shop owner: Alyssa Devito

Fortune teller: Angela

The guards: 1-Kiara Stuart, 2-Alexa Ernst, 3-Shrileikha Shantan, 4-Lacey Sander, 5-Bree Rosenblum, 6-Aubrey Rodriguez, 7-Victoria McGee, 8-Giovanna Arena.

The beggars: 1-Josie O'Brien, 2-Alice Orzechowski, 3-Sofia Mendoza

The Apple Vendor, Attendants, Prince Abdullah, Spooky Voice, and Cave of Wonders roles have not been decided yet, so if you are interested in being one of those roles, then contact Mrs. Williams or Mrs. Racioppo or Mrs. Malara

The Ensemble/Agrahbans will be Olivia Ball, Kaylee Ball, Maria Berwa, Kylie Brenna, Bella Carlson, Dana Castillo, Natalie Cherry, Gabby Corden, Lauren Crispino, Olivia Cross, Giuliana DeMartino, Valentina DeSantis, Marleny Diaz, Reagan Dooley, Kaya Duzynski, Rachel Ehrmann, Olivia Ernst, Grace Feeney, Claire Feldman, Lyla Gaudio, Julie Genovesi, Ciara Gilbert, Juliet Gjini, Zahra Guerra, Leandra Ibrahim, Hana Kamenickova, Laurel Knapp, Ian Lyons, Sofia Maracallo, Samantha Martinez, Isabella Martino, Anna McArdle, Felicity McCormack, Isabella Miele, Tulla Minnaugh, Kenna Minnerly, Ava Miritello, Gianna Molito, Cecelia Morrissey, Sabeeka Mustafa, Anna Nivens, Ellie Ozer, Francesca Palumbo, Ava Parkin, Maisie Pelhank, Olivia Pelhank, Leroy Pica, Mackenzie Picco, Madeline Quinn, Camila Sacoto Quinteros, Juliette Sayegh, Escarleth Turcio-Gamez, Eva Urquiza, Giuliana Valenza, and Josie Wilkinson.

Good Luck to all the actors!

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:

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.

Tusker Tribune Website:

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

What Animal Are You? Take This Quiz to Find Out!



By Sophia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff

The animals you could be are a cat, a shark, a unicorn, a bear, or a koala.

Question 1- What's your ideal day at the beach? A. Swimming in the ocean, B. Making sandcastles, C. Eating a picnic with your friends, D. Walking around the beach, E. Sleeping under an umbrella

Question 2- What would you do for fun? A. Cooking, B. Planning something fun with friends, C. Going on a shopping spree, D. Watching tv, E. Reading outside

Question 3- Who would you want to be best friends



with? A. Ryan Reynolds, B. Harry Styles, C. Taylor Swift, D. Selena Gomez, E. Olivia Rodrigo

Question 4- What one of these colors do you like the most? A. Blue, B. Pink, C. Coral, D. Yellow, E. Purple

Question 5- Which one of these foods do you like the most? A. Chicken nuggets, B. Ice cream, C. Tacos, D. Pizza, E. Vegetables, and fruit

If you answered **mostly A's**, you are a Shark

If you answered **mostly B's**, you are a Unicorn

If you answered **mostly C's**, you are a Cat

If you answered **mostly D's**, you are a Bear

And lastly, if you answered **mostly E's**, you are a Koala

First Bell Choir Performance is TODAY



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Did you know that Somers Middle School has a bell choir? Mrs. Malara runs a bell choir club during the months of November and December for the holiday season. This year, the bell choir has a total of 34 student participants, 12 of whom are boys and 22 of whom are girls.

This year, the bell choir will perform a total of 7 times! The days the bell choir will be performing are **TODAY** at the Somers Library, December 14th at the SMS Band Concert, and December 15th



at Primrose, SIS, The Westchester School, Pine Bridges School, and at Town Hall.

The bell choir will perform many classic holiday songs. These songs include *Up on the House Top*, *I've Been Working on the Railroad*, *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*, *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, *Over the River and Through the Wood*, *My Bonnie*, and *Jingle Bells*.

The Bell Choir can't wait to play for the Town of Somers and we hope to see you at the Library or Town Hall!

Service Club's Coat Drive Warms Our Winter



By Kari Kellock
Tusker Tribune Staff

"**The Brr Is Back**" says the Farmer's Almanac for this winter. The Farmer's Almanac is a book that tries to predict the upcoming winters to know how cold or how mild the winters will be.

Its prediction is calling for lots of snow on the East Coast close to Maryland and New Jersey. And thanks to the Somers Middle School Service Club, many people will be warm this winter during all that snow.

The One Warm Coat Drive has collected close to 150 coats this year. The students in the Service Club have been working hard to count and sort all the coats.

There are a lot of options for people who need it. There are



men's, women's, and children's in a variety of colors and sizes. These coats will be donated before the holiday break.

A special thank you to all the people who donated, and keep a close eye on what the Service Club is doing next!

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'Pie' the Way, These are the Top 10!



**By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you like pies?

Pies are classic desserts that are common on holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, holiday festivals and other events during the fall and winter.

There are pumpkin pies, apple pies and so many others. I am writing this to show you the top ten most popular and common types of pies in the United States.

Number one is apple pie. Apple pie is a sweet dish that goes great with vanilla ice cream.



Number two pumpkin pie, a classic dessert people eat in the fall.

Next there is pecan pie. Just one of the delicious desserts fall has to offer. At the third spot, we have cherry pie, a great dessert that everybody loves.

Coming in at the fourth spot, there is blueberry pie. Just so appetizing. After that there is key lime pie, followed by peach pie and lemon meringue pie. Finally, there is chocolate cream pie. Those are the top ten kinds of pies in the U.S.

Doggone It! Dogs are Cool!



**By Jacob DiPasquale
Tusker Tribune Staff**

These are some fun facts about dogs:

Did you know that dogs are the most popular pets on the planet? They have evolved from wolves to dogs; dogs are usually pets but they can also be assistance dogs they help humans. Dogs are also helpful to police officers. They help find people and if they have someone who is lost.

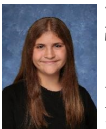
Did you know dogs sweat from their paws and they cool down by panting? Here is another fun fact about dogs: they can learn up to 100 words and gestures. Isn't that amazing? Or how about the fact that they have 18 muscles in their ears?



A dog's nose is its fingerprint. It should be called a nose print! Smaller dogs can hear in a larger range than a bigger dog. Dogs have one of the strongest senses of smell. They can smell something from over 400 feet away!

Finally, did you know that your dog can get jealous if you do not play with them?

December Means The Rockettes

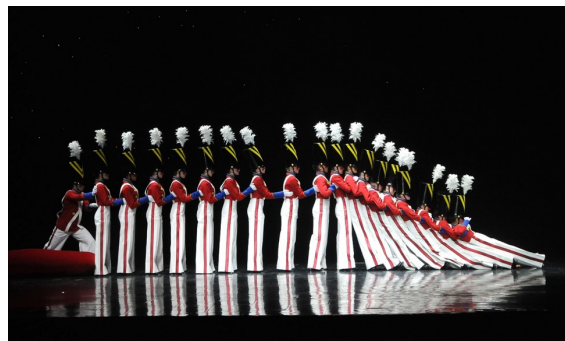


**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

"It's December in New York and Christmas is in the air and the Rockettes' performances have started!"

The Rockettes started performing way back in 1925 in St. Louis as the Missouri Rockettes and started performing in New York City at Radio City Music Hall as the Rockettes in 1932.

They are an American precision dance company. The Rockettes perform around Christmas time every year. Their show is always called "The Christmas Spectacular". The dancers are known for their high kicks and famous wooden solidier fall



where the dancers, dressed as soldiers, form a line in front of a cannon. Then, when the cannon "fires" at them, they slowly fall like a row of dominos.

Is the show worth it? As someone who has been to "The Christmas Spectacular" multiple times, I think it is always a fun experience. They always add new dances every year, but the classics stay the same.

The show is definitely a fun family experience especially because Radio City Hall is right by Rockefeller Center with its famous Christmas Tree and spectacular lights, as well as the famous Wollman ice skating rink.