



The Tusker Tribune

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Winter 2024

Destination Imagination: The Club No One Knows About



**By Laurel Knapp
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever heard of Destination Imagination? Or maybe you know it as DI? You probably have not heard of it. So, I am here to explain it.

Destination Imagination is a team activity with a maximum of seven people on a team, and an adult to be the team manager. Adults are not allowed to produce solutions for the challenges; the kids must do everything.

Destination Imagination is all about creativity and teamwork. The motto of Destination Imagination is, "If it doesn't say you can't, then you can!" Now, I'll walk you through the steps to being on a Destination Imagination team. At the beginning of the year, you and your team select a challenge that the organization reveals. The categories are Scientific, Fine Arts, Engineering, Improvisational, Technical, and Service Learning. The challenges in those categories are different every year.

Once your team has chosen a challenge, you get right into planning your skit – a short performance – building props and necessities for the challenge and practicing your instant challenges at the Zoom meeting and at an in-person meeting every

week; all to earn the most points at the tournament. You keep perfecting your skit until the regional tournament.

At the tournaments, a portion of your score will be an instant challenge that you perform there as well as your skit, no matter what challenge you chose. The three types of instant challenges are acting, building, and a combination of both. The type of instant challenge you get depends on what challenge you choose. For example, if you chose the Engineering challenge, you would most likely get an acting instant challenge.

At the tournament, the judges will give you a score, and if your team places 1st or 2nd, then your team can go to the state tournament in Binghamton. If you place 1st at the state tournament, then you can go to Kansas City for the Global tournament. Last year, The Somers Central School District's DI team placed 3rd in the regional tournament, and sadly could not move on to Binghamton.

There are special pins for trading with other people in DI. The pins come from all over the country, and it is a great way to meet people at the tournaments. Destination Imagination is extremely fun, and awesome to be a part of.



Dr. King's Legacy Lives On 55 Years Later



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day this year is on January 15th, 2024. While Martin Luther King Jr.'s actual birthday is January 15th, the day is observed on the third Monday of January every year.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a federal holiday in the United States. It marks Martin's birthday. Due to MLK Day being a federal holiday, it is recognized in every town, in every state, throughout the U.S. Because of this, most people have the day off from

their jobs and schools have the day off.

Martin Luther King Jr. was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights Movement protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. Unfortunately, on April 4th, 1968, in Memphis TN, Martin died. He was assassinated in the Lorraine Motel by James Earl Ray, who was a white supremacist and a convicted felon.

Today thousands of people all around North America have Martin Luther King Jr to thank for his sacrifice for their freedom.



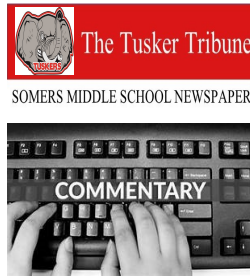
Winter Spirit Week a Great Way to Kick Off the Holiday Break



**By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The week before break at SMS, we did a fun holiday inspired spirit week that ended up a success even with the surprise day off on Monday.

With the power going out in some of houses and flooding in others, we were able to combine Monday's pajama and blanket day with Tuesday's festive hat day which ended up turning out great. We then



dressed up like snowmen on Wednesday, which was a fun way to be creative, Thursday was color wars where each grade dressed up in a different color. Sixth grade was white and grey, seventh grade was red, and the eighth grade was black. Lastly, on Friday we were supposed to wear a unique sweater and it was also the last day of school before the break.

This was a terrific and fun way to finish 2023 and make way for the new year that will be great.

PJ and Festive Hat Day



**By Olivia Ernst
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The week before break was a Winter Spirit Week. The Monday of that week was supposed to be PJ day, but since school was closed due to a storm, instead of panicking, the Student Council decided to combine Monday and Tuesday and make it one big spirit day.

This day was called PJ and Festive Hat Day. I saw many students and staff in their festive hats

and many pajamas

I would say this day was a fun day because we got to be comfortable in our pajamas. From my perspective, this day was just a fun day, I enjoy being comfortable in my classes and getting to wear a hat because Somers Middle School normally doesn't allow hats to be worn during the school day. Overall, I think this week was fun and interesting start to our long winter break and I hope we can do more spirit weeks later on in our SMS school year.

How Much are NFL Teams Worth?



**By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Back in the early nineteenth century, when the NFL first originated, the average team was valued in the realm of a couple thousand dollars.

Now teams on average are worth around \$5 billion. One team almost doubled that amount, making it look as if \$5 billion was not an absurd sum of money. Which team is it that, you might be asking? Well before we get into that, let us talk about some of the other teams in the league.



The Cincinnati Bengals have the lowest valued team in the NFL, coming in at around \$3.5 billion. Other teams in the under \$4 billion range are the Cardinals, Lions, and Jaguars.

On the other hand, the rest of the teams range from \$4.5 billion to \$9.6 billion. You read that right—over \$9 billion for an NFL team.

Going back to my earlier point, the Dallas Cowboys are the most valuable NFL team, worth just under \$10 billion.

How much do you think your favorite team is worth?

Lockdowns Can Cause Anxiety



**By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

A couple of weeks ago, an accidental lockdown occurred here at the middle school. People were still coming in from the buses and dropping off. Everyone went into a panic and ran into a classroom. That lockdown lasted up over a period and a half waiting for officers to arrive and clear each classroom.

After that, everyone and everything went on as usual until just one week later, havoc struck



again. It was an ordinary Thursday here at the middle school, the sun was shining, and it was quite warm considering the time of year, but then it happened. Towards the end of sixth period, we all heard it. "Lockdown, Lockdown, lockdown". Everyone ran to their hiding spots, and they all waited nervously for further notice. Minutes went by still with no answer. Until we heard "police were coming" in.

We all breathed a sigh of relief and waited to go back to our seats. How did you feel during the lockdown?

SMS's STAR Students: December 2023

Grade 6:



Kylie Brenna



Richard Davis



Tessa Sullivan



Haley Sander

Grade 6 Contd.



Ethan Racchumi



Amber Vitro



Kellan Figueroa

Grade 7



Jennifer Johnson

Grade 8



Caleb Noel

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!

Lundqvist's Hall of Fame Induction is Well-Deserved



**By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Henrik Lundqvist was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, or HHOF, this year. And that was something that he wholly deserved.

Lundqvist was born on March 2nd, 1982, in Are, Sweden. The former New York Rangers goalie played 15 seasons as a Blueshirt before retiring in 2020. He also played for the Swedish Olympic team and led them to their second gold in 2006.

Swedish Play

Before going to the NHL, Lundqvist played for Frölunda HC in Sweden. There, he won many awards and was the league's best goaltender. Though his professional career in Sweden started out rough, with many losses, and not much playing time, he turned himself around by leading the Swedish junior team to a fourth-place finish in the World Junior Ice Hockey Championships. That same year, Lundqvist led Frölunda to a second straight Anton Cup win.

Arrival of "King Henrik"

Lundqvist started his NHL career in the 2005-06 season with the Rangers, where he would



stay until retirement. He made his debut on October 8th, 2005, after the starter goalie was injured. Lundqvist's debut ended in a 3-2 OT loss to the NJ Devils, but he made his home debut with a 4-1 win against the Devils, just five days later. During his career, Lundqvist broke many club and league records, and he won the Vezina Trophy in 2012.

Retirement

Lundqvist signed a one-year contract with the Washington Capitals on October 9th, 2020. However, his season was cut short due to an irregular heartbeat caused by pericarditis, and he announced that he would miss the 2020-21 season on October 17th. An open-heart surgery was performed on him in January of 2021. Lundqvist returned to practice in February, but he announced that he wouldn't play for the Caps for that season on April 11th.

On August 20th, Lundqvist announced his retirement. On that day, the Rangers announced the retirement of number 30, in honor of Lundqvist. It was retired January 28, 2022.

Reporters/Contributors

Olivia Ernst
Laurel Knapp
Sophia Mendoza
Noah Samuel
Ava Schmidberger
Logan Ticker

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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at:

DPappas@somersschools.org.
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