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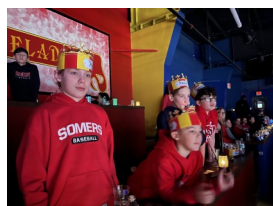
Spring 2024

Merriment and Frolic Abound at Medieval Times Trip



**By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If you are in sixth grade, you probably went on the Medieval Times field trip! If not, no need to fret! Here is an explanation of what it is, what you do, and what happens!



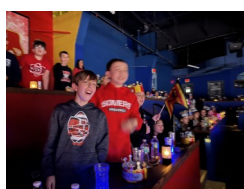
First, there was an hour and a half long bus ride. But everyone on my bus had fun trying to get trucks to honk at us! We got three trucks to do it! When we arrived, we had to go in line to get a card. The color of the card was your knight! Then, once you know your knight, you take a seat in a section that is your color! There were blue, red, green, red and



yellow, white and black, and yellow sections! I got blue, so once I got my card, I took a seat in the blue section!

Once everyone got seated, most people, including

me, got up to shop around! My friends and I raced to get a slushy! It was a quick wait, and most of my friends got blue raspberry slushies. When I got a cherry slushy, everyone told me since I was on blue team I shouldn't have gotten it.



But it was great in my opinion! It comes with a castle cup that lights up! I also bought a blue flag to cheer on my knight!

When the events started, there was cheering and yelling! My favorite part was when a hawk flew around everyone! We were not allowed to wave our flags around when the hawk flew, but it was so cool to see! Then, the knights jousted! There were games and battles and the whole thing was so cool to watch! Sadly, my knight lost his first battle, but that did not disappoint me too much!

All the knights threw flowers at the crowd, and I was so close to catching one! But I did buy a fake flower that lights up! It was a cool gift to get and 100% worth the purchase! There was food like chicken, bread, corn, and potatoes! The food was so good! And afterward, everyone got cookies! The only annoying part was the hour and a half long bus ride home after, but I loved this field trip, and it was my favorite field trip I have had!



Should the U.S.A. Ban Tik Tok?



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The U.S is deciding whether to ban Tik Tok or to keep it. Here is the story behind this issue. The United States is worried about Tik Tok because it is owned by a Chinese company. The United States thinks that the Chinese government may get information from Tik Tok and could use it to affect our national security.

Currently, the House of Representatives has passed a ban of Tik Tok, but the US Senate still must decide. If the U.S Senate agrees to ban Tik-



Tok, President Joe Biden has said he will sign the bill to ban it.

I feel you can see both sides of the story. Here are some reasons why we should and should not keep Tik Tok. First let us list the reasons why TikTok should continue:

- If we ban tik Tok it would negatively impact those who make money off this app. They make money off this app by showing a product or a piece of clothing in their video, tagging that company/store, and getting a percentage of the profit.

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It's March Madness Time!



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

This month is March, and that means one thing – college basketball's March Madness! March Madness officially starts on March 19, 2024, with the First Four.

The term "March Madness" came about when Henry V. Porter, an Illinois High School executive, used the term to describe the excitement surrounding the school's basketball tournament, but there is a lot more to this event.

Bracket

March Madness is an annual NCAA (National Collegiate Athletics Association) Basketball Championship, with a total of 68 teams participating for the title of champion. Thirty two teams are automatically entered into the tournament, with the other 36 being chosen by the NCAA Selection Committee.

The championship is kicked off with eight teams playing the First Four. Then, it continues with 64 teams into the first round, with 32 teams getting first rounded. The championship next goes into the second round, with 16 teams eliminated. Those 16 teams go to the Sweet Sixteen, where eight teams emerge victorious. Then, the Elite

Eight, or the quarterfinals is played, where the four winning teams go to the Final Four, or semifinals. There, the two winning teams play the final championship game, also under the same semifinal name.

Teams

There are a total of 68 teams participating in March Madness, but there are 363 teams in the NCAA's Division 1. There are 313 schools in D2, and 442 D3 schools. 68 teams in March Madness compete out of the 363 D1 teams. The defending March Madness champions are the UConn Huskies (University of Connecticut), who won the 2023 tournament. The

team with the most wins is the UCLA Bruins (University of California, Los Angeles), with 11 championship titles.

Facts

Every year, the NCAA hosts a bracket challenge. Never in the history of the event has someone filled out a 100% correct bracket, as the odds are 1 in over 9.2 quintillion. That's even rarer than winning the lottery twice in a week or getting struck by lightning. Each year, pizza and beer sales go up by 19% and 3.5 million cases, respectively. The first March Madness had eight teams.

So now you know all about the March Madness championship, and about the teams that participate. What team do you want to win the tournament?



Tik Tok

From Page 1

- Another reason we should keep it is because Tik Tok is entertaining. It can be good for making friends, and it can be a good creative outlet. For example, creating videos with your friends can help build stronger relationships and be lots of fun. Some people use it to gather information on current events around the world. Over 150 million people use Tik-Tok to create, engage and learn.

Now let us list some cons:

- Even though it says you must be 13+ or older, many people can just click a different year and be in, so that is not good on the safety side of the app.
- According to Alex Capri, a research fellow at the Hinrich Foundation and a lecturer at the National University of Singapore Business School, "If TikTok is eventually banned, more Chinese-owned apps in the US may be next in line."
- Many arguments have stated that kids are spending too much time on social media apps, especially TikTok. Many times, kids make videos that have swearing or rude behavior. In addition, kids can make mean comments which can affect a kid's mental health and can lead to depression and anxiety.

After digging a bit deeper into this I think that it may be best to ban Tik Tok and that the U.S should make a similar app that has improved safety and security. What is your side of this argument? Do you think Tik Tok should be banned or stay?

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Of Note: It's Music in Our Schools Month



**By Lauren Crispino
Tusker Tribune Staff**

March is Music in our Schools Month! MIOSM is a way to celebrate all things music: playing away on a woodwind, singing loud in chorus classes, watching the bow graze the strings of a viola, and so much more. MIOSM also celebrates some benefits that music classes give to the students, such as more discipline, expanding their knowledge, following directions and working as a team.

Music is found in every subject we learn. For example, with math. In songs or arrangements, there is a time signature. A time signature is how many beats per measure, and how many notes per measure. So, if the time signature is 4/4, there would be 4 quarter notes per measure.

With science, music is incorporated by learning about the sense of hearing, and how sound-waves work.

In ELA, music comes in because of all the vocabulary we learn in music classes. With language classes, it is similar. A lot of words in music originate from different countries, such as the dynamics, or level of sound. "Piano", which means "soft" or "quiet", comes from Italian origins.

In history, we learn how music has started, helped or hurt causes, and changed our history.



Music is everywhere, and that is what MIOSM is meant to represent.

MIOSM started in 1973, only in New York. However, 12 years later, in 1985, it became a national holiday. The month was meant to show how hard music teachers work, and all the benefits from music. It is also meant to help create more musical opportunities around the country.

An organization that is helping with this is the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). The DoDEA helps enforce music classes, as early as elementary school. I mean, don't we all remember using the recorder, and learning about Bach, Beethoven and other famous composers?

Music in schools provides a safe space, welcome to all and can really be what a student needs in times of trouble. A student can turn off their outside problems, and just focus on the rhythm or melody, and that can be crucial to someone getting help or improving.

Outside of just music in the classroom, there is also obviously listening to music. Many teens find music to be an outlet. From relatable lyrics to catchy beats to so much more, music can be fundamental in someone's teen years.

This month, make sure to thank your music teachers, sing a little louder and practice extra hard!

Five Fun Facts About Chihuahuas



**By Lauren Crispino
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Chihuahuas, while infamously known for their loud barking and aggressive spirit, can be a great household pet.

From a chihuahua mix owner myself, my dog Tyson, while he has a lot of bark, does not bite. We adopted Tyson when he was 3, and now he is 8 and he has been a wonderful dog. His playful spirit is never ending. So, on the topic of chihuahuas, here are some fun facts!



1. Chihuahuas live very long lives. 13-15



years at a minimum in usual cases.

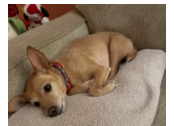
2. This may be a little biased, but Chihuahuas have BIG ears. See the picture of Tyson on the side, and judge for yourself!

3. Chihuahuas are VERY loyal.

From personal experience, Tyson sticks by either my side or my mom's side constantly.

4. Chihuahuas are very smart dogs. I was able to train Tyson in some basic commands in the first year we got him.

5. Chihuahuas are from Mexico, specifically, you guessed it, Chihuahua Mexico!



Can They Make It?



**By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The New York Knicks was an iconic team that was a dominant force in the late 1990s with players like Patrick Ewing and Walt Frazier leading the way.

However, the Knicks' last championship was in 1973 and they have not made a title run since.

As of this season, though, the Knicks have solidified themselves as serious contenders in making a run in the playoffs. Knicks player and NBA



All-Star Jaylen Brunson has had a generational season averaging almost 17 points per game. That is only one of the reasons why. In addition, Julius Randle and recent player acquired through trade Jalen Brunson have both had a significant impact on the success of the team. Both

Randle and Jalen were out with injuries, but Brunson just came within the last couple of days. The Knicks are on the path to success and are currently in the 5th seed, which is in the playoffs. Do you think the Knicks can go all the way?

The Pulsera Project



**By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Through March 25th, Pulsera bracelets will be sold in our school!

Pulsera bracelets are hand made by Central American artists. The Pulsera Project brightens schools in the U.S.A. while employing 200 Nicaraguan and Guatemalan artists at the same time.

Pulsera funds many causes with the money raised from selling bracelets. Some are giving people education, healthcare, housing programs, environment initiatives, youth and women leadership, and disability rights advocacy.

The Pulsera Project gives many benefits to



their artisan employees, such as scholarship, legal services, housing, healthcare, and more.

The Pulsera Project began with 13 friends visiting Nicaragua in 2009. The group befriended some young artists in the foothills of Managua, Nicaragua's capital city, and when they left for the states again, the artists gave them a going away present – Pulseras. Since then, they have raised more than \$6

million and sold more than 1 million Pulseras in 3,600 schools.

Pulsera means “bracelet” in Spanish. Have you bought Pulseras? I bought 4 today- 1 for me and the rest for my family.

Source: Pulseraproject.org

Video Games Build Community and Fun



**By Cole Harney
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Video games bring us all together, something we can all laugh at, enjoy, make us have new friends, escape from reality and have an enjoyable time.

Something that we can just know that we're having fun and that that moment can't be taken away, hopping on with the boys or girls, having a good time, having fun shooting, farming, having no consequences on that game.

Some may think that we would be rude in real life, but no. It's that we're really having a good time and that we can finally escape from the world that we are in today the world. It's a community.

My personal favorite games are Pal World and Fortnite. Let me tell you about these games.

Pal World is likee Pokémon but it takes place on an American island. You can capture used pallets to do work. You can use them to upgrade your base, you can farm, plant, defeat bosses, you can give your pals weapons, or you can just keep them as your pets and more.

Fortnite is a battle royale where you illuminate the players in the game. One hundred players battle and the last person standing wins. There are squads, trios, duos, solos and there is this thing called “creative mode” where you make your own apps and express you yourself. You can have fun, be creative and you can do whatever you want. There are also cool skins that can make you look however you want. There are also thousands of games for school: New School Superhero is a first person shooter game.

However, you want to say it, video games can make you feel great. People have built their ca-

reers off it; they have made relationships. Unfortunately, there are some toxic people but no matter how toxic those people can be, we can always fight back to make our community strong together, so we can stay together as long as we can, and we will stand together as long as we live together.

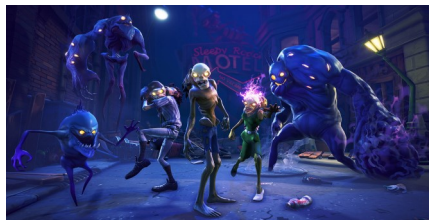
I also would like to talk about this new game called Hell Divers. It's a Halo-type of game where you destroy robot insects. You get to play with others and you get to finally be together as soldiers.

As for platforms, Xbox is good for multiplayer games, PlayStation is for single player games, and the PC is the most reliable system, being able to play both PlayStation and Xbox games, as well as Nintendo Switch. Nintendo is the console for farming and non-violent games. Those are for communities in the gaming world. There may be more, but I'm not sure. I am glad that we have these great consoles, however.

Do you want to express yourself in games? You can play Minecraft. You're able to build whatever you want with no limits. If you want to play other games and single games, you can play Roblox. People say it is a kid's game, but I do not care. Grown ups have built their entire lives of gaming making money off gaming. I am glad to say that I can play video games and have a great community like this.

If you are not into video games, it is OK. They are not for everyone. But if you are, that is great to keep playing. Just know this gaming is a wonderful thing and just like how one famous line started it all for Minecraft this morning.

I am glad that I am a gamer and all the funny moments that people have that we can share with, and I am glad that I have great friends I can play. We cabn play PalWorld, Fortnite, Call of Duty, and we always have a wonderful time together.



Have the Zodiac Signs Ever Interested You?

Disclaimer: Zodiac Signs are not meant to define how you live your life; they are just fun pieces of information to know.

All About Aquarius



By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here are some facts and fun facts about **Aquarius**! The zodiac sign Aquarius starts on January 20th and ends on February 20th.



Aquarius is ruled by the planet "Uranus" which is the planet that governs innovation, technology, and surprising events.

The Zodiacs representation is two squiggly lines representing the water carried stemming from the root Aquarius. Aquarians are clever, analytical, technical, truthful, assertive, confident, progressive, and innovative. Aquarius' element is Air. (Gemini and Libra are also in the Air element with Aquarius).

Aquarians' lucky numbers are 4, 7, 11, 22, and 29. An aquarius takes integrity and honesty very seriously with anyone they have a relationship with, meaning friends, family, and relationships.

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If You're a Pisces . . .



By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here are some facts and fun facts about the sign **Pisces**. The date of the zodiac sign starts on February 19th and

ends on March 20th. Pisces is a mutable sign, meaning Pisces prepare for change into the next season. This makes the people of this group highly adaptable, flexible, and communicative.

A Pisces is a water sign, therefore, the zodiac is symbolized by two fish swimming in opposite directions, which represents the constant division of a Pisces's attention between fantasy and reality.

Pisces is also the twelfth and final astrological sign in the zodiac.

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And Then There's Capricorn . . .



By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here are facts and fun facts about the zodiac sign **Capricorn**! The sign "Capricorn" begins in December on the 22nd and goes all the way to January 19th.

Capricorn is an earth sign and is in fact the last earth sign. This Zodiac sign is represented by the sea-goat. This is a mythic creature with the body of a goat and the tail of a fish. Accordingly, Capricorns are skilled at navigating both the material and emotional realms.

Capricorns are 'pragmatic' which means that they can deal with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical rather than theoretical considerations. Capricorns are also "proud" which means that they feel deep pleasure or satisfaction because of their own achievements, qualities, or possessions or those of someone with whom one is closely associated. The traits of a Capricorn are determination, loyalty, tradition, unfailing drive, a sensible outlook on life, and a razor-focus on achievement. Capricorns get these traits from their ruling planet Saturn, which oversees hard work, challenging lessons, organization, concentration, responsibility, rules, boundaries, and discipline.



Continued on Page 6

Presented by Somers Middle School

DRAMA CLUB

Disney

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Lyrics by Howard Ashman, Tim Rice and Chad Beguelin

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Pisces

From page 5

Here are 10 fun facts about Pisces:

1. Pisces adore exploring their endless imagination
2. They're extremely good at adapting to their surroundings
3. They're observant of other people's energy and personality
4. They can be very secretive
5. Pisces can be over-thinkers
6. In that sense, no one can truly understand what goes on in a Pisces' mind, it's too complex for even them to understand!
7. They are compatible with Taurus, Cancer, and Capricorns
8. They constantly evolve and don't fear change
9. Pisces love, LOVE!
10. They are very encouraging to their friends, but very hard on themselves.

Aquarius

From Page 5

Here are 10 fun facts about the Zodiac Sign Aquarius:

1. They have quirky personalities
2. They often choose path less traveled
3. Aquarius are the humanitarians of the Zodiac
4. They're very easy-going
5. Many of them are gifted with a strong sensibility to arts
6. They can be very emotional
7. They embrace change and can be quite unpredictable
8. They can have a rebellious side
9. Aquarius is very good at learning from their past mistakes
10. They aren't afraid to innovate

Capricorn

From Page 5

Famous women such as Michelle Obama, Kate Middleton, Regina King, and Zooey Deschanel are practical, hardworking Capricorns who have made a significant difference and mark on the world!

Here are 10 fun facts about Capricorns:

1. Stability and order are important to Capricorns
2. They are gifted with a sharp intuition
3. Capricorns are very patient, with themselves and others
4. They have confidence that they can achieve anything
5. Capricorns can find it difficult to share their own struggles
6. Their mood can change in the blink of an eye
7. They love to make others happy and feel safe
8. Capricorns are incredibly resourceful
9. They look for facts and evidence before rushing to conclusions
10. Capricorns are known to give amazing advice

Hall of Fame Welcomes Jaromír Jágř



**By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Jaromír Jágř was inducted into the hockey hall of fame on February 18th, 2024. For those of you who don't know who he is, Jágř was a professional ice hockey right wing – one of the best ones.

Career

Jágř began playing hockey at three years old and showed an exceptional capability. In 1990, Jágř was drafted fifth overall by the Pittsburgh Penguins. He played with them until 2001, and then signed with the Washington Capitals on a \$77-million contract, worth \$134,094,348 today.

However, he didn't live up to expectations with the Caps and was finally traded to the New York Rangers in 2004.

When Jágř's contract expired in New York, he became an unrestricted free agent and went to Avangard Omsk in Russia. He decided to return to the NHL in 2011, and the Philadelphia Flyers were the ones who took him.

In 2012, he got a call that the Dallas Stars were interested in him. Jágř stayed with the Sheriffs (nickname for the Stars) for a year before going to the Boston Bruins. But when he lost the finals to Chicago, Boston said they would not offer a new contract. He then played with the New Jersey Devils from 2013 to 15.

He was traded to the Florida Panthers in 2015, and Jágř played with the Cats for two seasons. The Calgary Flames then took in the once-again free agent, but his season was cut short by being placed on waivers in January of 2018. He cleared his transactions and went to play with his hometown team of Rytíři Kladno, in Czechia.

Jaromír Jágř was originally from Czechoslovakia, but after the fall of the Iron Curtain, his country split into the Czech Republic (Czechia) and the Slovak Republic (Slovakia). Jágř represented Czechia throughout his international play, including in the Olympics and the IIHF World Championship. He currently manages Kladno and plays home games for them. He also won many awards/medals and broke many records – the most recognizable with the Pens and Blueshirts.

Overall, Jaromír Jágř was one of the best ice hockey players of all time. Jágř's Number 68 in the rafters of PPG Paints Arena is well deserved.



Birthstones Give Clues to Personalities



By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Birthstones are not only beautiful but also very rare and precious gems.

Garnet

The official birthstone of January is Garnet! Garnet signifies protection, friendship, trust, commitment, and love. It is also said that Garnet keeps the wearer safe during travel.

Stone Garnet is surrounded by folklore and was known for its healing properties. This precious gem's name references the bright-red pomegranate fruit, even though it actually comes in a diverse range of colors!

Garnet is best known for its deep red hue which is why it is given in close association with the pomegranate. Although it is best known for its deep red color Garnet naturally occurs in a range of colors, including greens, yellows, and even blues. Garnet is made up of many minerals including pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular, andradite, and uvarovite, which are equally important as gems themselves.

Going deeper into what minerals they are made from, here is some information about the minerals! Pyrope is exclusively red, and is the stone most widely associated with early jewelry pieces. Almandine ranges from deep red to a brownish red and black color, white spessartine is found to mostly be orange. Andradite can be red, yellow, brown, and green grossular is commonly green, but may be a brown-red color or even yellow! Uvarovite is a rare, bright green garnet.

It is said that a great amount of folklore surrounds the garnet, stemming from a diverse range of cultures and time periods. One common idea is the idea that garnet protects its wearer from negative energy like illness, enemies, or bad dreams. Although garnets as a gem are not that rare, the demantoid garnet is the most valuable and rare of all the garnets!

Amethyst

The official birthstone of February is amethyst. This birthstone is purple, and its purple color comes from impurities in the crystal structure. Amethyst was one of the emblems of the twelve apostles. Greek legends suggested that the amethyst crystal promoted clear headedness and prevented its wearer from getting drunk!

The name "amethyst" comes from the Greek word "amethystos", meaning "not drunken", which is why the Greeks believed that it wards off drunk-



ness. The amethyst has some "old-school" myths, including that amethyst supposedly had good powers. It was also believed that it helped people stay awake and think clearly. It also protected the wearer against evil spells and brought victory in battles. A fact about the amethyst is

that it is found in geodes, which look like ugly rocks on the outside. Yet when they are cracked open, the geode reveals a sparkling raw amethyst crystal. These crystals range in color from light mauve to deep purple.

A fun fact about this crystal is that at one time, you could only wear amethyst jewelry if you were royalty. Amethyst is the most valuable crystal in the quartz family. Its chemical classification is silicon dioxide. It rates a 7 on the Mohs scale which means it is extremely scratch-resistant! If your birth month is in February this is the perfect crystal for you!

Aquamarine

Aquamarine is the birthstone of March. The name "aquamarine" comes from the Latin word "aqua marina" for seawater. This stone was said to keep the waves of the sea calm and keep sailors safe at sea. Aquamarine also embraces the happiness of marriages. It is also said that some civilizations believed that aquamarine could increase youth, intelligence, foresight, courage, and happiness. In fact, by wearing this gemstone, it was thought to bring the wearer many great things.

Aquamarine has been found in countries all over the world, including in Brazil, Zambia, Nigeria, Madagascar, Pakistan, Mozambique, and the USA. In fact, the state of Colorado in the United States produces some of the finest specimens of aquamarine. Due to its fine production, aquamarine was officially recognized as the official Colorado state gemstone in 1971.

There has been evidence that aquamarine was worn by the Ancient Egyptians, and the gemstone even features in Roman mythology. Due to the evidence, it allows historians to confirm that the gemstone aquamarine was a favorite amongst these ancient civilizations.



Great Wolf Lodge is an Awesome Winter Break Spot



By Cecilia Morrissey
Tusker Tribune Staff

One Saturday during winter break, my family was packing for the Great Wolf Lodge and I was so excited. I hadn't gone to Great Wolf Lodge in like three years!

My brothers and I were so excited, but once we got in the car, everyone went quiet because we



were all watching movies. My youngest brother, Caleb, and I were watching Tangled, and I don't know what my other brothers were watching but it was a movie.

After about two hours, we finally made it. We walked inside and looked around the once small, cramped lobby that was now the huge one. While my mom waited on line, my dad and my brothers waited for our friends. Once they got there, we rushed to show them around.

After a short little tour, my mom got our bracelets and put them on our wrists. A few minutes later, our room was ready, so we went to our room, unpacked and put on our bathing suits and went down to the water park. When we got to the water park, it looked the same except that there was a new area with new slides. I grabbed my friend and ran into the wave pool. We played in the wave pool for ten minutes and then went to a water slide.

Once the day was done, we went to a nice buffet where everyone filled their plates. By the

time we ate everything, we were stuffed! After that, we went down to the entrance of the water park area where there was a store with a cool wand in it and if you bought it, you could do this scavenger hunt. We got two, one for my family and one for our friends' family. We ran around playing the game going from 3rd floor to 4th floor like crazy.

About 30 minutes later, everyone was half asleep, so we went to the room. In the morning, we ate breakfast as fast as we could so we could get down to the water park. Once our parents let us, we ran down the hallway, down the stairs and to the door of the water park. There was a big line to get in to the water park but once the workers opened the door, everyone went rushing in to get a spot to sit down before it got crowded.

We got a spot and went running to the slides. We played for about two hours before packing up to leave. I was so upset that we had to go but I had school,

so I got dressed, grabbed some bags, and walked to the car. I took a seat and looked out the window where I could see a whole bunch of water slides coming out of the building and back in. I really wanted to stay but I couldn't.

As we drove away, I thought back to all the fun I had that weekend and all the fun here. I had before this and as I did, I started to think about when we would come back and do all that fun over again.

