



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 1

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

Fall 2022

New School Year; Same Cell Phone Debate

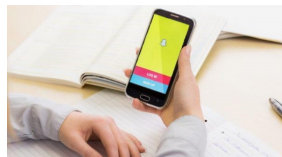


By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Cell phones. Should they be allowed during school? There are many studies proving that students should be allowed to have their phones in class.

"Although phones can provide some distractions during class, they can also be an asset to students by teaching them responsibility and preparing them for their future jobs, while also giving them the assurance that they are safe."

I sent out a survey to students and teachers and asked them these questions. *(Teachers answered as if they were students for questions 1 and 2).*



- As a student would you feel safer having you phone with you during the school day?
- 82% of people answered "yes".
- If given the privilege, how often would you use your phone when not supposed to?
 - 8% said "often".
 - 50% said "every now and then".
 - 42% said "never".
- I asked if **teachers** would be ok with students having their phones.
 - 80% said "yes".

Information from: <https://www.piercepublic.org/vnews/display.v/ART/5db31fb11sc8af1> Survey sent out to 40 people.

6 Reasons Why You Should Join a Club!



By Anna Huber
Tusker Tribune Staff

Now that school is starting back up, so are clubs! Our school has an immense variety of clubs. From Drama Club to Tech Club and many others! As someone who has joined a few clubs this year and last year, I can say that joining one has major benefits! So, here are six reasons why you should join a club and or extracurricular!

1) Make new friends.

By joining a club, you can make new friends who have similar interests! Or you can even join a club with friends! If you don't have any classes with your friends, then joining a club is the perfect solution for spending more time together!

2) Something new

Joining a club is going to be a step out of your comfort zone. Though, change can be good! It allows us to look forward to new experiences! Change allows us to learn more things and be more open-minded!

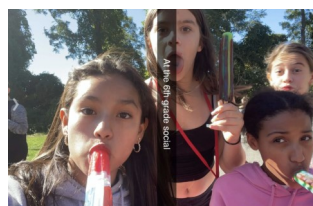
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Sixth Grade Social Kicks off the School Year!



By Maggie Mancini
Tusker Tribune Staff

The craziness started with a conga line then went to the "Cotton Eyed Joe" and the "YMCA" songs, with people dancing on tabletops with groups starting to form.



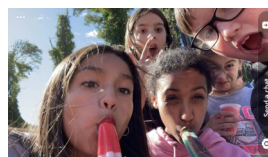
I thought the craziness already started but once the ice cream truck arrived, it was every man for

him or herself.

After everyone got their ice cream, a very friendly song came on. Everyone grabbed a friend and started to dance. There was also a very chaotic game of volleyball with girls. vs. the football team.



The "Macarena" started playing and a few girls formed a "Maca-Train" (Macarena Train).



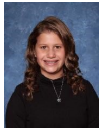
After that everyone went to do their own things, like baseball and whiffle ball, TikToking and Instagramming, Selfies and Snapchatting. Some did

Gymnastics, and others just sat down and had conversations.

Once the Social ended, some people got into cars to go home, some walked home, and others walked to Dunkin' and CVS. It was a fun and amazing experience that would be a very memorable night that nobody wanted to end.



Are There Benefits to Playing Video Games?



By Alexa Ernst
Tusker Tribune Staff

The pros and cons of video Games.

Pros:

- Helps with your hand-eye coordination.
- Video games can increase your brain's gray matter.
- Gamers may have better social skills.
- Games can teach you to be a better problem solver.
- You can become more physically active as a gamer.
- Video games can improve your vision.
- Video games can have mental health benefits.
- They are a fun way to get tricked into learning.
- Video games can inspire you to be more persistent.

Cons:

- It's been found that video games may desensitize players to violence, resulting in **increased aggression**, according to the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.
- Whether there is violent content or not, video games can have negative effects on your child's overall health.
- Video games are addictive, rettes, as ludicrous as it People of all age groups on games.
- Video games have been **considered as a source of distraction for young gamers**. Understandably, it is quite hard to tear oneself away from a video game

Source: Google



like ciga-
sounds.
get hooked

considered as a source of distraction for young gamers.

Anticipating Halloween



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

All up and down our street
on Halloween,
we frighten everyone we meet.

I love the scary Jack-o-Lanterns
that wink and blink at me.
The screeching bats and creeping cats
are as funny as can be.

I like to eat pumpkin pies
that grandma makes, yum-yum!
So very glad each year,
when Halloween has come!



A Fall Tradition



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

I picked a pumpkin from a patch;
It was orange and round.
It was the best one on the farm;
I brought it home.

And carved it right away,
I gave it candle light,
And put it on display.

My big jack-o-lantern,
As festive as can be
I kept it out for all of fall,
For everyone to see!



My Time in England

By Amber Sinagra
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever gone to England before? Well, my family has been there even before I was born!

I stay at my grandparents' house at High Green Farm. They have a bed and breakfast, and those places are so popular in England that they had someone from the Royal Family once stay at their home! It was such a cool and fun time.

When my family goes there, we always go to the place called Pately Bridge. It is so pretty. We also walk llamas. I forgot where it was but that's okay.

When I'm there, I also always visit my uncles: Uncle Dan and Uncle Rob. My Uncle Dan came over a few weeks ago and we had a party with him. I'm super close to him but not so much Uncle Rob. I love my family so much and I can't wait to see them again!!!



The Sphere



**By Dan Ziegler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As Antonio walked on the enormous circle, all he could hear, smell, and see were these mystical giants. He'd been carried on the back of one to get to the circle.

As he walked, he found many soft and spongy spheres that smelled like gourmet heaven! Once he came up to one, he pulled back, then slowly walked forward to the sphere. Antonio poked at it, and it seemed safe. Antonio heard his stomach growl as he was looking at the strange object. The lights of the large room blazed right into Antonio's eyes as the sun added on to it through the windows of colored tints. It blinded him for a second, but Antonio could not wait anymore. He reached his mouth for the sphere; happiness filled his heart. He had not eaten in a very long time.

Antonio took a few steps around the circle with the large sphere in his mouth. Then suddenly—BOOM! A giant object placed in front of him. It connected to the giant. Antonio tried to walk into it, but it stopped him. Then it seemed as the lights darkened for him. Then Antonio noticed he was flying! Or so it seemed, because now he was falling. Falling to the solid ground of endlessness, to where his life started and will end.

Antonio was questioning in his mind while getting closer and closer to the black and white tiles. How did he get into this fantasy? Why did he have to be stuck with the billions of the different and not trillions of the same? He could not just enjoy a piece of food without these annoying creatures. Antonio thought until his mind drifted back to when life was good again. When he wasn't on his own.

Antonio crept down the tunnel in search of



his mother, the queen. It seemed their home was as large as the world could get to Antonio. He could not always find his way around. Going around the corner Antonio clenched his jaw.

"Mother!" Antonio burst. "I—am—hungry," "Oh you poor little boy!" "Come right this way; I have a feast waiting for us!"

Antonio walked what felt like miles through the dark, musty, gloomy halls of his home. As Antonio's feet skimmed against the ground, he was carefully smelling the dusty air in search of the food. His mother could be playing another trick on

him. But seconds later, he saw the obscure shaping of all kinds of delicacies. Antonio sprinted as fast as he could past his mother and when he got to the beauty in front of his eyes, he sat down on the usual red and gold puffy eating carpet. The food was spread out beside him, ready to be eaten. He chowed down as much food as a frog could eat insects. Speaking of insects, they are Antonio's favorite food! In a matter of minutes, all of the food was gone. Devoured. The room was spotless, as it had seemed the food had just disappeared! Right then was when Antonio's mother, father, sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents walked in. "Antonio!" screamed his family.

Milliseconds passed by. They seemed like minutes. Antonio thought of how much of a silly, selfish boy back then. *If I weren't spoiled back then I wouldn't be in this mess. I would of actually learned how to hunt my own food and not scavenge my own. I had to travel far and wide for as long as I got out of that palace, and now I'm at the brink of death.*

For the next couple of seconds that Antonio was falling, he was thinking about his life decisions, and what he hated about life. He fell to his death. Antonio's last thought is how much he hated to be an ant.

Looking for a Pet?

**By Amber Sinagra
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are you looking to buy a dog? Well let me tell you something. Having a dog takes a lot of responsibility and work. I have a dog myself and her name is Ruby. If



you have a child, you might want to find a dog that is good with kids. I would recommend a Labrador. I used to have one and she was amazing.

Having a dog means that you need to walk then 24/7 because if you have a dog that is big like a German shepherd, you must walk them at least every day. If you are looking for a small dog, I would recommend a Pointer. They are good dogs. I have not had one myself, but I did do some research on them.

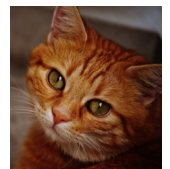
A dog that might be the best if you don't like shedding is a Huskey. They are very good dogs, but have a lot of fur. You also must groom your dog a lot.

I love dogs so I think I am the right person to talk to. Dogs aren't the only good pet but if you have a young kid who is at least one, you can always get them a fish. Trust me—my mom got me a fish when I was two and I loved it so much.

Some fish like Beta Fish need specific food to survive. But overall they are amazing!

Cats are also an option. I can't say much on cats because I've never had one before but I think they are good pets.

Thanks for reading!!!



End of Era: Queen Elizabeth's Death



By Ruby McDowell
Tusker Tribune Staff

On September 8, 2022, Queen Elizabeth II died at Balmoral Castle, England, at the age of 98, after serving as Queen for 70 years and seven months—longer than any other English monarch in history.



Queen Elizabeth was born in Mayfair, London, and actually wasn't supposed to be queen. Her uncle was the heir to the throne. When he fell in love with a non-royal, he abdicated the throne, and it fell to her father. When the Queen's father died of unexpected reasons, she became queen at 25 years old.

Whenever she wanted a break from her royal duties, she would go to Balmoral Castle, located in Scotland, which was one of the Queen's many royal residences and was often described as her favorite. Balmoral was a place of fond memories for Queen Elizabeth. When there, she would do many activities with her family. They would ride horses, hunt, and of course, at the end of the day there would be a big family dinner.

When the Queen died, the UK put Operation London Bridge into effect. Operation London Bridge consisted of a twelve day mourning period, and is classified as a bank holiday. At the end of the 12 days, her funeral was held.

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Don't Spread Those Germs!



By Victoria McGee
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's almost October, and the cold weather is coming. You know what that means? Colds. Whether it's a stuffy nose, a cough, or a sneeze, we should all be prepared.

Do you want to prevent yourself from getting sick? One thing that you should do is wash your hands frequently. Wash them before you eat, after you eat, after you use the bathroom, and whenever you get the chance!

Don't you just hate it when people sneeze and don't cover their mouth and nose?! If you feel a sneeze or a cough coming, **COVER IT!** Use your arm, and then use a tissue. Another important thing to remember is that if you don't feel good, use a mask, or don't come to school. Now, not coming to school is not an option for everyone but you should be mindful of others. If you are sick, please do the best you can to cover it. Remember last year when we all wore masks? Well, grab one if you're sick!



Have you heard the hallways?! It's so loud from all the coughing and sneezing! And a lot of kids don't even cover their mouths. **GROSS!**

Here's a question. Let's say it's the day before Halloween, you have great plans to go trick or treating with your friends, you have the best costume, and you are so excited! But then you feel it—you're sick. And it's because the kid you sit next to did not cover their mouth when they sneezed or coughed. How sad would you be?

I hope you learned that you should stay cautious during cold and flu season. One final point—if you can, try to get a flu shot! It will help protect you from getting sick.

Clubs

From Page 1

3) You can learn more about yourself

As ridiculous as it sounds, by joining a club, you can learn a lot more about your interests! You can learn about your goals, weaknesses, strengths, and so much more!

4) Gain new skills

Say you want to learn a new and important skill. Then joining a club is for you! You can test your knowledge while learning more about a specific topic! You can learn many skills in a club, whether it's leadership, creativity, collaboration, or more!

5) A break from your studies

As much as schoolwork is important, so is finding things you enjoy! By joining a club, you can get a rest from

your studies and do something that you find a bit more interesting!

6) IT'S FUN!

Originally, I was going to make these five reasons.

However, I almost forgot the most important reason—being in a club is **FUN!** If it matches your interests, you're most likely going to enjoy it!

At first, the idea of joining a club may be nerve-racking (it was for me, at least). But in the end, it's a great way to make the most out of your school year. I was terrified when I first joined Drama Club in the 7th grade, but in the end, it wasn't that bad. In fact, when it came down to our final meeting, it was somewhat sad. I had an amazing experience,

and lots of memories were made. In the end, joining a club is worth it. So, give it a shot!

