



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Fall 2022

There's a Club for Pretty Much Every Interest



By Victoria McGee
Tusker Tribune Staff

Are you looking for a club to join? SMS has a variety of clubs.

Last year, I joined the Drama Club and the A.T. Club. This year, I've joined Drama Club, A.T. Club, and the Tusker Tribune Newspaper Club.

Drama Club is an all-inclusive club with 6th, 7th and 8th graders. We put on a musical, and during the week, we practice.

For the A.T. Club, everyone can join. There is no official meeting to join the club. You show up to the meeting in Mr. Dell's room (303), play a game, and you're done! If you don't like it, you never have to go again!

And finally, the Tusker Tribune Newspaper Club. You join the first meeting, and write three stories to either get an Amazon Gift Card or NJHS service hours. Each week, we publish stories.

Do you need more recommendations of clubs to join? Well, here's a great list of them!

1. Drama Club
2. A.T. Club
3. Tusker Tribune Newspaper Club
4. Art Club
5. Computer Club
6. International Club
7. Intramurals
8. Jazz Band
9. Maker Space Club
10. No Place for Hate Club
11. Science Club
12. Ski Club
13. STEM Club
14. Student Council

There's a club for everything you like. These clubs have amazing teachers, and teammates. Even if you're not social, these clubs are a must!

In conclusion I think that you should join one of these amazing clubs! Tell your friends to join too! I hope that this list was helpful, and you found something you like! Have an amazing week, Tuskers!



The Second Bell: *Should Transitions Between Periods Be Longer?*



By Derek Sheldon
Tusker Tribune Staff

It has happened to all of us: you are racing down the hallway, trying to reach your next class, when the sound of the second bell fills the air.

Great, you are late to yet another class. However, it does not always have to be this way.

Proponents of longer transitions between periods state that having more time between classes means more time to take care of business, like getting water and going to the bathroom, that might otherwise take time out of class.

Currently, there are only three minutes between periods, so even just going from floor 1 to floor 3 (or vice versa) might take the entire time. Therefore, for many students, taking care of business would have to be done almost entirely during class periods. Additionally, increasing the time between classes would increase the amount of time that kids could spend socializing in the hallways. This would allow for more time to build social relationships with kids who you might not have any classes with. And, of course, having more time to get to your next class would decrease tardiness!

However, some people are not as confident about this solution. Opponents claim that having longer transitions between classes might increase mischief and bullying, since there is less adult supervision in the hallways than in the classrooms. In addition, since increasing the amount of time between classes without shortening class times would add more time to the school day, the school day would have to be extended to accommodate this new schedule. Just a few extra minutes after each period might not seem like a lot of time, but it builds up: if just one extra minute was added before each class of Somers Middle School, that would take away over 24 hours of free time from your afternoons each year!

So, what do you think: just how long do you think the transitions between periods should be? Should we minimize tardiness, or should we keep the school days as is?



A Biography of Queen Elizabeth II



By Sophia Valenzuela
Tusker Tribune Staff

September 8th, 2022, England lost a big piece of its history—the loss of their queen.

Who was Queen Elizabeth II? She was 96 years old when she passed. And in all 96 years of her life, she served as Queen of England for 70 years.

She became queen on February 2, 1952 due to her father, King George, dying of an illness called coronary thrombosis. Queen Elizabeth was famed and known for her great skills of persuasion. Some things people loved about her was her service in World War II, and the stability she brought to the monarchy.

Queen Elizabeth was born in Mayfair, London and grew up in a large house. However, she had a normal childhood except she was homeschooled and taught at home by a governess. To add on, she was close with her family and had a younger sister, Margaret, and many animals.



Queen Elizabeth enjoyed being outside. When outside, she often walked around the countryside. Other activities she enjoyed were spending time with her dogs, and Scottish country dancing, as well as being with her husband, Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Lastly, relating back to animals, Queen Elizabeth also enjoyed breeding and racing horses!



Queen Elizabeth's favorite food was "jam pennies" which is known here as peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or "PB&J's"!

In addition to loving jam pennies, Queen Elizabeth cherished her long marriage to Prince Phillip Mountbatten on November 20th, 1947. A fun fact is that once Queen Elizabeth was engaged to Phillip, she used ration coupons, issued during the war, to buy her wedding dress. This marriage had lasted 74 amazing years! Sadly, Prince Phillip died on April 9th, 2021.

Queen Elizabeth was an amazing queen to many, and now you know way more about her! May she rest in peace alongside her Prince Phillip.

Charles III Now Rules the United Kingdom



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Due to Queen Elizabeth's death, England has a new ruler, King Charles III. But Charles is not just King of England. He is also King of Australia, Canada, The Bahamas, New Zealand, and more! But who is King Charles III?



King Charles is 73 years old, born on November 14th, 1948. He has a wife and three siblings. His first wife (Princess Diana) died in a car accident, and he remarried Camilla, who became the Queen Consort of the United Kingdom. He served in the Royal Military, Air Force, and Navy. Charles became king on 9/8/2022, after his mother died.

Who will be king after Charles? The next heir to the throne is Prince William. Prince William is now 40 years old and King Charles's first born/eldest son. William has a wife (Catherine) and three children (George, Charlotte, and Louis).



Rest in Peace Queen Elizabeth.

The Magic of a Disney Cruise



By Victoria McGee
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever been on a Disney cruise? Have you ever wondered what it's like? Well, I've been on one so let me tell you about my experience.



First, I was in Florida for a week already and we needed to get COVID tests. My parents said it was for my grandparents' community where we were staying. We got it done and went home. Later that day, we got a phone call from a strange number. My brother almost declined it! But my mom said to pick it up. "We are here," a familiar voice on the phone, IT WAS MICKEY AND MINNIE MOUSE! And it said we were going on a cruise in two days!

We packed up and two days later, we went to the cruise docking area. We waited an hour and got on the ship! We walk in and they asked for our last name and we said, "McGee." Then they used their microphone to broadcast our last name as we board the ship.

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Yom Kippur—A Time to Reflect



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What is Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur was this past Wednesday (10/5/2022). Yom Kippur is the holiest day in Judaism and Samaritanism.

It occurs annually on the 10th of Tishrei (The seventh month of the Hebrew calendar). Primarily centered on apology and sorrow, the day's observances consist of full fasting and behavior accompanied by intensive prayer as well



as sin confessions (traditionally inside of a synagogue).

Alongside the related holiday of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur is one of the two components of the "High Holy Days" of Judaism.

How is Yom Kippur celebrated? Those who celebrate, fast from sunset to sunset on the holiday, refraining from eating food and drinking water. More observant members go beyond fasting and will also refrain from bathing, wearing leather, using any perfumes or lotions, using energy (cars, lights, etc.), and marital relations.

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.

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Disney

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We went to our room, and it was magical, walking through the halls, and when we finally got to our room, it was decorated for my birthday! We went exploring on the ship and it was amazing.

Later that night, we had dinner reservations, and then we went to watch a theater show! After that, we were all tired, so we went to our room and went to bed.

The next day, I woke up and IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY! We went to the morning breakfast reservations and then we docked at the Bahamas. We went outside and it was POURING! We went back in and got towels, then we went back out. It was so bad, we all got rain ponchos.

As the group was walking, the streets were flooded! We got there and made chocolate. Later on, it was great to get back to the ship and hang out.

Then it was time for us to go to the dinner reservations. We did and they sang "Happy Birthday"! Then we went to the theater and saw the play Beauty and the Beast. Then we ordered room service and went to bed.

The next day, when we woke up, we were almost at Disney's private island! Once we got there, I put on my bathing suit and went out! We



made it to Disney's beach and hung out in the water. Then we got free ice-cream (like we did on the ship) and smoothies! I got mine in an Olaf cup! Olaf is from the movie Frozen. Then it started to rain (again!) so we went to the barbeque and ate.

After much more time of going in the water, we were all sent to go back on the ship. We got dressed and had dinner. Then we hung out in our room and then did a Muppets scavenger hunt. Then we went to bed. It was the last and final day on the sea, and we hung out the entire time. We watched a movie and then it was Pirates' Night! So, we all dressed as pirates!

Then there was a big ceremony with fireworks to celebrate. Afterwards, we went on the waterslide that wrapped around the whole ship! It was so fun. My brother and I must have gone on it like 20 times! Once the water slide closed, it was 10:00 pm. And I took a shower and went to bed.

The next day was my brother's birthday! We ate breakfast and left the ship. We made it back to Delray Beach, Florida, because

that's where we are staying. And went to Dave and Busters for my brother's birthday!

Then we spent the next 2 weeks in Florida. That was how my Disney cruise experience went!

Happy National Chocolate-Covered Pretzel Day!



By Anna Huber
Tusker Tribune Staff

279 days have passed since January 1st (At least by the time this is posted). So, you know what that means—Happy National

Chocolate-Covered Pretzel Day! Chocolate and pretzels are the best snacks to exist! Mix the two? You get chocolate-covered pretzels! A sweet and salty snack satisfies both cravings.

So, in honor of this monumental day, I'm here to tell you about the origin of chocolate-covered pretzels, chocolate, and pretzels. So, this is how the chocolate covered pretzel came to life!

Before we talk about the chocolate-covered pretzel, we must look at the origin of chocolate and pretzels, before the two were combined. The pretzel's oldest story goes back to 610 AD. In Northern Italy, a monk created soft pretzels for children learning their prayers. The pretzel resembled little arms crossed to resemble children praying.



Now in Latin America, around 4,000 years ago, the first cacao plant was found. The Olmec were the first to turn this plant into chocolate. They would also make ancient chocolate drinks to use during rituals and used it as medicine.

Herr Franz Joseph Leibniz is the genius behind the work of art known as "the chocolate pretzel". In his bakery in 1544, he collaborated with a chocolatier in his neighborhood in Hamburg to create the chocolate-covered pretzel. Over the decades, the chocolate-covered pretzel became famous throughout all America and other countries as well.

Now, you know a little bit about chocolate, pretzels, and chocolate-covered pretzels! So, next time you go to the store, just a box of chocolate-covered pretzels!

Sources:

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Maris's Record Falls to 'The Judge'



By Ruby McDowell
Tusker Tribune Staff

Sixty one years ago, in 1961, with the Yankees, Roger Maris hit 61 home runs with the Yankees.

On October 4, 2022, Aaron Judge hit 62 homeruns, making him the American League Single Season Home Run record holder. Pitcher Jesus Tinoco of the Texas Rangers gave him the pitch and he blasted it 391 feet into left field.

I was in the kitchen, getting water when my dad yelled to me, "Judge's up!" I immediately put my water down and rushed into the den. And I'm so glad I did. After one ball and one strike, Aaron Judge made history.

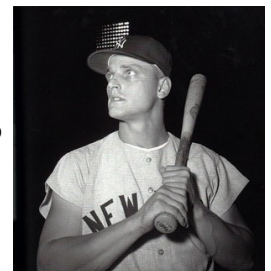


My family and I first really starting to follow this race to 62 when he hit his 60th homerun against the Pittsburgh Pirates to tie with Babe Ruth. The 33 plate appearances between 60 and 61 were filled with loads of "Just hit it already!" "Stop pitching around him!" and "Just hit it so we can watch more baseball!" But then he hit 61, in Toronto against the Blue Jays. Everyone was so excited. Aaron Judge was tied with Robert Maris!

In the three-game series against the Baltimore Orioles in the Bronx, Aaron judge did not hit it. But now heading into to the last series of the season, even more pressure was on Judge to hit the record breaking run.

And then, with a ball, that at least to me looked like a foul headed into the stands, Aaron Judge made history, and just in time, too! He hit the run on the second to last game of the regular season.

Overall, Judge's road to history was awesome and exciting, and I definitely enjoyed it.



One Direction Goes in Different Directions



By Nova Laubis
Tusker Tribune Staff

With a net worth of \$80 million, this currently solo artist is living in LA, making music, movies and a difference in people's lives. Born in Redditch, Worcestershire, England, Harry Styles met his band on Xfactor in 2009 and made it auditioning as a group on Xfactor at just 16 in 2010. The band consisted of five members: Louis Tomlinson, Nial Horan, Zayn malik, Liam Payne, and of course himself, Harry styles.

One Direction formed after taking part in Xfactor in 2010; they were grouped together during the competition and went on to finish third. But that didn't stop a judge at the time, who owns part of the company behind the show, snapping them up with a record deal. On December 13, 2010, One Direction signed a £1million pound record deal with Syco Music. Harry himself, at just 16, dropped out of school shortly after, when One Direction took off.



Very sadly, after almost six years of One Direction in 2015, the band went on hiatus. It was said that they just needed a break and were most likely to get back together again. After a few years, though, fans realized and were devastated that they had broken off.

The boys would now start a journey of their own...a solo career.

Fans of One direction followed their solo careers. So, Harry already had fans waiting with anticipation for his first album...his self-titled album "Harry Styles" became a hit with songs like "Sign of the Times" and "Kiwi". His second album, "Fine Line", which was an even bigger hit, had songs like "Watermelon Sugar", "Adore You", and "Olden".

Harry himself has given back in more ways than one. Having a TPWK campaign is just one, and Harry Styles fans will already know that 'TPWK' is an acronym which stands for 'Treat People With Kindness'. It's a phrase that Harry has used for years now. During his first solo world tour, Harry sold merch with the phrase on them to raise money for local charities. You can still buy 'Treat People With Kindness' t-shirts from his store today. Harry often tweets the phrase from his account, too. It's a common phrase but in recent years, it's become Harry's life mantra.

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Seventh/Eighth Social Was Terrific!



By Alexa Ernst
Tusker Tribune Staff

The 7th and 8th Grade Social last Friday was a blast! It was awesome!

It's an amazing way to hang out with your friends. It's also how you meet more people and make friends, and have a great time at school!

The Social costs \$20 per ticket, and you get ice cream, and a DJ. It runs from 3:05 to

4:30, so there's plenty of time to have fun!

The DJ does a remix of songs that everyone loves, and you can request a song to the DJ to play in his remix.



Haunted Bowling Pin Inhabits Room 304



By Ruby McDowell
Tusker Tribune Staff

Mr. Pappas has a bowling pin in his classroom. It is a regular bowling pin, except for the fact that it is painted as a fat man with smooth black hair, a mustache and a suit and bow tie.

Because it's very heavy, you have to be careful lifting it. It is an actual, real bowling pin that you would see in a bowling alley.

In Mr. Pappas's 22 years of teaching, he has moved rooms five times. Each time, he has deliberately left the bowling pin behind. However, it kept following him. Eventually, Mr. Pappas gave up and accepted that the bowling pin would always follow him.

The bowling pin could obviously be used as a good weapon, however, it seems to also be a little bit magical. Mr. Pappas says that it was already in his first classroom when he started at Somers, so there are a lot of questions about the pin's origin.





Thanks to everyone who donated to the Hoops for Hope "Gently Used Sneakers" Campaign!!!

Harry Styles

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Not only that but Harry has ignored "the norm" and society's expectations or/and standards and wears what he wants purely because he wants to wear it and is a great role model showing that it's okay for anyone to want to wear anything no matter how feminine or masculine it's considered...Because while how you dress may be considered a form of expression, at the end of the day it's just clothing.

Finally, another example of why this man has not only an incredible voice but he is a great person, as he is an ally speaking up about how



person and musician, it's no question why he's successful.

you are who you are who you are, and that's okay, as well as preaching equality and kindness.

Harry styles has also been making movies and it's been doing pretty well so far. Only time will tell.

I and many others hope that the band may one day reunite, but on the one hand, they are all successful as of now, and depending on management, reuniting may not be for the best. All the fans just want the best for them and only the future can tell what comes next.

Harry is an amazing