



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 3

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

Fall 2022

Safety AND Fun Go Hand in Hand For Halloween



**By Victoria McGee
Tusker Tribune Staff**

It's October! And it's almost Halloween. Do you know what that means? Trick or treating! Whether you're going by yourself, with your friends or family, you need to be safe. Here are 5 ways to stay safe on Halloween!



- Check your candy, before you indulge in that delicious candy bar, check if there's anything in them. You may be thinking that your neighborhood is safe, and I'm sure it is, but you should always double check just to make sure.
- Bring a flashlight. It will be dark, and you need some light- or you could fall or worse.

Continued on Page 3

Should Blookit Be Allowed?



**By Ruby McDowell
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Sometime between January and April of last school year, a popular Kahoot-like game was blocked. It was because it now fell under the category of "Games". We now had to use a less popular alternative for review tests called Quizziz.

This may seem quite weird, since Blooket (Blue-ket) was supposed to be used for educational purposes only. But let me give you some background.

Blooket is very similar to Kahoot, which is a quiz-like game that classmates compete in, but with one main difference. Instead of the questions being presented in a quiz-like format, they were used to earn points to advance in one of several minigames, such as Tower Defense, or Fishing Frenzy, two of the most popular ones.

Continued on Page 3



Plenty of Activities to Do in October



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Having trouble finding things to do this spooky season? Here are 50 things you should do this October!

1. Visit a Pumpkin Patch
2. Go to a Fair
3. Do Spooky Crafts



4. Write for the Tusker Tribune

5. Go Apple Picking
6. Play Outside
7. Go to a

8. Haunted House
9. Play a Fall Sport
10. Make Applesauce
11. Bake a Pie
12. Go Geo-Caching
13. Paint Rocks
14. Take a Hike
15. Host a Bonfire
16. Make S'mores
17. Go on a Hayride



21. Go to a Corn/Hay Maze
22. Plant Tulips
23. Have a Picnic
24. Make Leaf Rubbings
25. Watch Hocus Pocus (One & Two)
26. Have a Halloween Movie Marathon
27. Go for a Walk/Run
28. Go to the Zoo
29. Go to NYC or a Downtown Area
30. Go Shopping
31. Make Apple Cider
32. Volunteer
33. Throw a Halloween Party
34. Go to a Trunk or Treat
35. Take Fall Pictures



36. Jump in a Leaf Pile
37. Try a New Restaurant
38. Research a Random Topic
39. Bake Apple Chips
40. Build a Scarecrow
41. Carve a Pumpkin
42. Make Popcorn Balls
43. Go Costume Shopping for Halloween
44. Toast Pumpkin Seeds
45. Bake Cookies
46. Take a Bike Ride
47. Make Pumpkin Bars
48. Go to a Football Game
49. Play Left Right Center with Halloween Candy
50. Make Caramel Apples



Bulgaria as a Vacation Spot? Why Not?



**By Dan Ziegler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever thought about Bulgaria being a top-notch vacation spot? Probably not.

But, if you dive deeper into the country with its beautiful beaches, resorts, and cities, you will know that going there would be an awesome trip.

First, the beautiful Bulgarian shore at the Black Sea. The Black Sea is a very underrated spot for a vacation because of its name and location. However, it is truly a hidden gem. There are a lot of reasons why the Black Sea was named what it is. However, the most reasonable evidence for the sea's notorious name is that when storms hit the sea, everything becomes very dark, to the point that the shore becomes black. But that does not mean it is a dark place.

The beach's sand is soft and golden, perfect to use for running and playing, and it is sunny most of the time. In addition, if you walk around the shore for long enough, there is a high chance that you will find exotic shells that can make sounds or have a surprise inside.

Also, if you dig up the sand near the shore, you will 100%, every time, find one or many little mole crabs.

Next, are the resorts. I went to a resort in



Obznor, Bulgaria, and it was a super fun experience. There were many giant pools and hot tubs, right next to the beach where I rode a mattress on the waves, and a buffet with many restaurants to eat at. There were also not as many people as I expected. But my favorite part from the whole trip, was the donut station. It was located right next to the pool, and while you waited in the line you could watch the small donuts being made in a machine, and when it is your turn to order, you could pick as many donuts as you want, and any of the syrups or toppings. Also, the rooms in the hotel you get are very spacious, and every one of them has a balcony.

Finally, the city of Obznor. This city in Bulgaria is not too populated and has many things to do, like an amusement park, and many shops that sell souvenirs, Bulgarian candy, chocolate, shells, and many other things that you do not see in the United

States.

In addition, Obznor is called the Sun City because of its sunny beaches. Also, tap water is safe to drink Bulgaria, too.

In conclusion, I recommend a trip to the off-the-beaten-path of the Bulgarian shore, with its experiences of a lifetime, and things you could never do anywhere else. You would definitely enjoy your top-notch vacation spot.

Hocus Pocus 2 Picks Up Where Original Left Off



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Nearly 30 years after the original, "Hocus Pocus 2" made fans from all generations happy, adding some gentle updating, some diversity, and taking away some violence. It is also a little bit sweeter.

The adult cast from the first movie includes always-terrific Doug Jones, the brilliant actor behind the creature in "The Shape of Water" and Abe in "Hellboy," and as the hapless zombie Billy Butcherson. Welcome new additions include comic powerhouses Tony Hale and Sam Richardson and all-around powerhouse "Ted Las-so's" Hannah Waddingham.

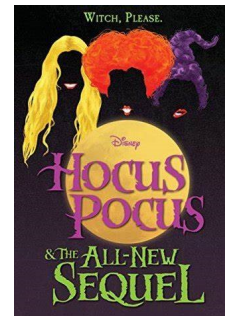
The first movie was about the relationships between brothers and sisters (with a little teen romance); this one is about friendship. (And we get a bit of an origin story.)

After an opening shot referring back to the original "Hocus Pocus, we see the Sanderson sis-



ters as young girls. First, we see the Pilgrim-like community scurrying out of the way as Winnie stomps furiously through

the town. Young Winnie is played by Taylor Henderson, complete with wild red hair and buck teeth. Her witty version of Midler's alpha witch is sharp and funny. The local clergyman, Reverend Traske (Tony Hale) has decided that since the Sanderson parents are dead, Winnie must marry a young man from the village and the younger girls will be sent to live with another family. Winnie refuses, and the girls run away to the forbidden forest, where they meet a very "glamorous" witch (Waddingham) who gives them one of the key props from the first movie, the book of spells with a human eyeball on the cover that really opens and sees.



The First of 10 Global Problems and How to Fix It



By Sophia Valenzuela
Tusker Tribune Staff

Day by day, our world goes through more problems every single day. However, through all our problems, here is the first problem out of 10, as well as ways you can simply change them.

The first on my list of 10 world problems is poverty. Poverty is shocking to some people when they see how serious this problem is. The most



common area for poverty is South Sudan. But there are a total of 107 countries struggling with poverty.

The main reason for poverty is no access to jobs (job overpopulation) and pressure on livelihoods. More than 10 million kids suffer from poverty. That means that 10 million children

must stress over the thought of something that's so obvious, like eating, but truly worth stressing over for unfortunate kids like them.

Now that it's clear to see how bad poverty is, I now can show you how you can help with this! You can do simple things, like just donating to funds and charity, or maybe you can ask a parent to bring you down to a place like Manhattan where there are many homeless people, and give them food. Lastly, here at Somers, there are opportunities to give to a food drive or host a food drive yourself in your neighborhood!

Even just donating to charities occasionally can even just help! These are simple things that can go a long way toward changing a life.

Reporters/Contributors

Ruby McDowell
Victoria McGee
Ava Schmidberger
Sophia Valenzuela
Daniel Ziegler



Halloween

From Page 1

- Have an adult with you. It can be your mom, dad, grandparents, babysitter, or any adult you trust
- Have extra batteries, or a spare flashlight. Even if your flashlight, or lamp dies, you can still have a source of light.
- Go trick or treating where you feel safe and know the streets. I suggest you go trick or treating on your block or a block you know well. So that if you do get lost you can walk to your house, or a safe place until you find help.

I hope that you do these things, so you have a safe, fun, and spooky Halloween! Have a great Halloween and don't eat too much candy!

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>

Blooket

From Page 1

Why might Blooket be disruptive? you might ask. Surely they are only allowed to use it with question sets like "Unit 5 Vocab", or "Math Review for Unit 2". However, on Blooket, they're several sets that have names like "Guess the food" or "Free Answer". Kids would play solo mode on these sets to earn coins and buy cool new avatars. When you thought they were working on a test review, they could be playing Blooket, diluted to the point that it is no longer educational, only a "Game".



However, Blooket is also an important tool, and the fact that kids are so excited to use it is should be promoted. Even though some kids are using it as a game, it doesn't mean that other kids should not be allowed to use it.

You see, whenever I would get to a low rank in Kahoot, I would feel unmotivated and just not care. With Blooket, kids are motivated to get more questions right so they can advance in the game. Additionally, blocking a "Game" isn't always the right way to deal with it.

Do you really think that the moment it gets unblocked, the student won't go back on the using it in a "wrong" way?

So what do you think? Should Blooket be allowed?

GO PI NK



FOR BREAST CANCER

HOW TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE:



- **JOIN THE "SFA STRIDERS" TEAM & WALK ON 10/16.**
- **DRESS DOWN IN PINK & DONATE TO OUR TEAM.**

**<SCAN CODE
FOR INFO TODAY!**