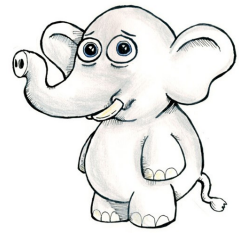


The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Fall 2015

SMS Continues its Dominance in Annual Cupcake Wars!

By Noelle DeMarinis
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

One-hundred delicious cupcakes line the tables. They are unfrosted and bare, waiting to be made beautiful. Every teacher waits anxiously to begin.

"And the time starts now!"

All of the participants start at once and the chatter arises. In five minutes every teacher turns into a mess.

Frosting and sprinkles cover them from head to toe. Cheers of the children fill the air. This baking frenzy takes place at the Somers High School and raises money for the Somers Education Foundation. This organization provides high-schoolers with scholarships to colleges.

This year's competition theme was a fall sport. The Middle School accepted this challenge like it was piece of cupcake! Mr. Lugo and his students made an amazing wooden structure of an elephant! They also made a football field to go with the elephant. The other staff members decorated the cupcakes as fans rooted for Somers!



The giant cupcake was my favorite part of the presentation. The cupcake was a huge ball of grass with a mini barbecue, ice cooler, soccer ball and a football! Now you might be asking who won this fantastic competition? This answer came easily to the judges. It was the Middle School!!

I can't wait for next year's cupcake wars!



Upcoming Events

2015

- November 25: Half Day!
- November 25—7th Grade Human Body Assembly
- November 26-29: Thanksgiving Recess
- December 4: SMS Orchestra and Chorus Concert.
- December 10: Band Concert
- December 23-Jan. 2: Holiday Recess

2016

- February 5: 7th Grade Social, 7-9 p.m.
- February 25: 6th Grade Social, 7-0 p.m.
- March 24-28: Spring Recess!



Autumn's Eve

by Catherine Gardner, Tusker Tribune Staff

You wake up to the
fluttering sound
of little wings.
But not a butterfly,
nor from spring.
Nor from summer rays,
or Winter cold..

But scraps of
'uselessness',
Or so we are told.
But these are presents,
they color our Earth.
Filling each person,
with childish mirth.

When you smell the
cider,
and hear the whisper
of leaves,
say hello to Fall,
and Autumn's Eve.



The Tusker Tribune Special Feature: Matt Kushner's "Spaced-Out Series"

Chapter 2: Taken

I awoke to the sound of static. As I slowly got up, I thought of what I could remember from last night. I was working on my 5-month project, yelled something out of joy, and then I fell asleep straight on the bulk of machine that fed into a small, old, radio. But if I heard static, it could only mean one thing... the communicator was working! Finally! After all of this time! I scientist have to tell my precious little daughter, Zoe!

I ran up the stairs of the basement, burst into Zoe's room (expecting her to playing with her toys on the floor) and yelled, "You want to see something really cool? It's downstairs in the basement, and I think you'll like it!" But when I looked on the floor, no one was there. Immediately, I started panicking. "Zoe?!? Are you playing hide-and-seek? You win!" There was no answer.



"Please, Zoe, come out!" And again, no answer. "Please...." I collapsed on my little baby's floor, not knowing what to do. Was she kidnapped? Stolen? And if she was, by who?

And then I realized what was happening. If I left the machine on, then... she was not just stolen. She made the First Communications. Zoe did something that any other human would have loved to do, and she didn't even realize it! I had to save her!

I ran down to the basement and spoke into the microphone next to the radio. "Whoever you are, where ever you are, *whenever* you are, WHERE. IS. MY. DAUGHTER?"

Stay tuned in next week's Tusker Tribune to see what happens next!



Poetic Ponderings by Remi Saad

*Cold and Crisp—winter is finally here;
bringing everyone lots of cheer.
Time for family, friends, and snow;
take a big sip from some nice hot cocoa.
Presents to open, gifts to give;
love, fun and joy—Happy Holidays.*

*Winter is bitter, cold, and bad;
but sometimes the snow can clear that.
You can go sledding, ice skating, and so much
more;
if you can go and soar.
Play snowball fights and enjoy the glittering
snow;*

build a snowman nice and slow--Happy Holidays.

*Sit by the fireplace nice and toasty;
even though you might feel ghostly.
No school and watching T.V.;
what can be better than that? Tell me!
Listening to Christmas Carols, dancing and
singing;
my frostbite stinging.*

Enjoy Christmas! Happy Holidays!



Eugne DiLorenzo's

"App Rap"

Asphalt is a new video game that's just come out. It's a racing game featuring actual car models so it's very believable. It's easy to find because if you go to the App Store and go to "Top Free Games", it's ranked No. 1!



I've played it with some of my friends and we all rate it 5 stars. It will take years for you to get bored of the game, especial-

ly because it has multiplayer functions.



I recommend this game to any racing enthusiasts who like multiplayer, action, and challenging games.

What I like most about Asphalt is that there are many different types of games, even in the campaign mode. These include "Classic", "Infected", "Elimination", and "Electric Cars".

I strongly urge you to try this game!

Are We Living in 'Swallow Falls'?

Why is so much food wasted?

**By Julianna Aiello
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On the lunch lines, students make fun of the food the lunch ladies cook. But until now, you haven't known how the lunch ladies feel about all the wasted food and the comments from the students.



We also asked, "How do you feel about all the wasted food?"

She responded, "It's very upsetting that the students throw out the lunch we prepared. And once it leaves the kitchen, we have no say. It would be great if all that wasted food could be donated to food pantries."



We asked one lunch lady, "How do you react to the students when they make fun of the way you cook?"

She responded, "The students are entitled

to their own opinions. It's unfortunate because if the students don't like the food, then the students should bring in their own lunch."

A major question most students are dying to know is, do you have a say in what you cook? The answer is, "We have some input, but we have to follow the guidelines the First Lady (Michelle Obama) has outlined."

Hopefully students at Somers Middle School will stop wasting and start saving.



An Interview with Sensei Scott Lenzi

By Nitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Staff

Sensei Scott Lenzi (better known as "Sensei") is a 7th degree black belt. He has been learning karate for about 44 years, and is very dedicated in doing so. As he is my sensei, I decided to ask him a few questions. Here they are:

Note: All of Sensei's answers are in their original form, and no modifications have been made.

Nitin (N): How did you get hooked onto karate?

Sensei (S): I saw a demonstration locally when I was in 8th grade and found it fascinating.

N: When did you start karate and how long have you done karate?

S: I started in 1971 so I have been practicing now for about 44 years.

N: At what level are you currently?

S: I am 7th degree black belt in Karate and a 6th degree in Kobudo (Okinawan Weaponry)

N: What is your favorite kata?

S: My favorite is Hakutsuru no Mai (Dance of the White Crane)

N: Who is/was your favorite sensei?

S: I have had the same Sensei since I began – Sensei Toshio Tamano

N: Any place where you used karate outside of class?

S: Many times, but because of our training most situations were easily handled without ever needing to

hit or hurt someone

N: How has karate helped you in your life?

S: This is a good question – Shorei-Kan as a way of life gives us wonderful things – a healthy body, a serene mind, discipline, kindness, self-confidence, self-defense and respect.

N: Does karate help in focus and concentration?

S: Yes, this is one of the fundamental benefits from practicing traditional karate. This focus is related to breathing properly.

N: What is the purpose of punching/kicking exercises before

actually practicing?

S: It is to develop and strengthen the basics much like practicing scales on the piano before playing a song.

N: What is the purpose of bowing to the shrine at the beginning of class?

S: This is simply a sign of respect to those who taught our teachers and thus us. It is a formality and part of the Japanese/Okinawan culture.

N: Any advice for students interested in learning karate?

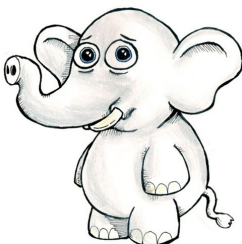
S: Take your time, have patience, be open to receive information, and understand that karate is a martial art to defend oneself, not one to use to hurt people or dominate them.

Overall, my Sensei is a great person. His answers are very meaningful. Even if you don't take karate, there are still valuable lessons to be learned. These include concentration, respect, discipline, and kindness. In fact, these are the basic principles of everything! Sensei is my role model, and I strive to live by his principles.



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