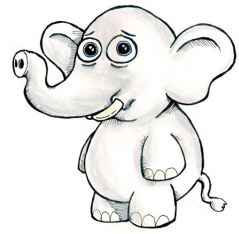


The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



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What Do We Do About our Really Cool Courtyard?

By Charley Martabano
Tusker Tribune Staff

We walk up the stairs near the maker space up to the second floor.

You stare out the sun lit window.

If you look closely, you can see a whole courtyard full of possibilities! This courtyard could be called the lost gardens of SMS, abandoned for many years.

This has come up once in another newspaper article. But now, we take action. This could be anything we dream or imagine!

It could be a place where Mrs. Nobile and Mrs. Schettino teaches yoga and self-mindfulness. IT CAN BE ANYTHING WE DESIRE!



We can build a garden to show how important healthiness is and how to recycle by using old cabinets as pots!

It's for a greater academic good and, an ecofriendly too!

The possibilities are endless! So why don't you start thinking of ideas today, but don't keep them in, because you can show them off! All we need is an idea and then the seed will begin to sprout!

Please forward any courtyard ideas to Mr. Pappas, Tusker Tribune Advisor, at DPappas@somersschools.org



Upcoming Events



2015

- **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!**
- **April 22-25: Holiday Recess.**
- **May 27-30: Memorial Day Weekend**
- **June 23: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**



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

Chapter 4: Torture

"I'll come my precious Zoe!"
It was daddy. Daddy was coming! Good! I'm safe at last and I can come home and sleep without that weird feeling that hurt.

"Good... good... the humans are falling into the trap, and this is only the start! Now, little earthling, what are the humans like now?"

"There's... uh... magical unicorns and ponies!" A tingly feeling was going through my arm, which was strapped to the chair with me. At first, the tingly feeling was fun. I laughed to it. But soon, my hand felt like it was the pony's bully trying to zap it off. The pony bully's zap powers was sending a mean current through my arm. "Make it stttttop! Please! I just wanna go home!"



"Tell me, earthling, is Earth dying?"

"Well, daddy once told me people are a virus and the earth is the host. But I never understood what virus and host meant." All of a sudden, more of the weird-looking people came rushing into my worst bedroom ever.

"Sir, the earthling has walked into the dictator's house."

"You mean the *president's* house?"

"Yes, sir. What shall we do about it?"

"Just continue watching him."

"Why... if I may ask, sir?"

"Yeah, weird looking aliens. Why?" I asked, just realizing that I might get hurt by the bully pony.

"Well, I have a plan...."



Winter Track Steps up the Pace

By Ella Kittridge
Tusker Tribune Staff

Winter track started the week of Nov. 30 with Mrs. Kelten and Mrs. Pires.

Winter track is for 7th and 8th grade SMS students. Winter track takes place after school from 3:15 to 4:40. If you decide to join, you would be bused over from SMS to Primrose. At Primrose you warm up, stretch and get ready to go over to SHS.

There, you work on the track and practice doing sprints. Winter track is great if you like to run and be with your friends at the same

time. There are also competitions you get to compete in, some of which take place at The Armory in New York City, and others that take place at Hendrick Hudson High School.

It may be cold outside but time passes by quickly. If you haven't gotten a chance to sign up for winter track there is also spring track.

We hope to see you at winter or spring track soon!





Poetic Ponderings by Remi Saad

“THE FOSSA”

With its beautiful fur that
shimmers in the sunlight;
the tail that never ends;
the claws that hold the
Earth at its might:
the Fossa.

Its nose that can smell
from a mile away;
its eyes that are as brown
as chocolate.
Its fur so soft, it might as



well be a puppy:
the Fossa.

Nothing can hold this winner down;
the top predator in faraway places
can hunt like no one before:
the Fossa.

Sneaky...
You never hear its footsteps;
you never hear it leave the tree;
you never saw it coming:
the Fossa.



The Apple Watch—An Objective(?) Review

By Nitin Seshadri

Tusker Tribune Staff

On Black Friday, something awesome happened. What was it? The Apple Watch became a part of the “gadget family” in my house.

In this article, I am going to delve deep into how it works, its usability, among other things. On opening the box, you are presented with (another) box. Inside it is where the fun REALLY begins.

The items inside the box include:

- The Apple Watch
- Magnetic charger
- Manuals and warranty info
- An extended strap for people with bigger wrists

On turning on the Watch, it presents the classic apple logo and (10 hours later) starts showing a weird pattern on the screen, which you are sup-



posed to hold under the iPhone camera after hitting “Start Pairing” in the Watch app. After that, you will need to fill in a few settings on your phone, and wait a few minutes for them to sync.

Then, you are done!

Some things I noticed on the Apple Watch:

- Poor battery life (6 hours at most)
- Intense.....slowness. (That is because it has to render all the funky animations on the screen. There are guides online on how to disable the funky animations)

Overall, the Apple Watch is a piece of tech for those who need it. Its ease of use will make you want to use it more than your fancy digital watch.

However, its slowness and poor battery life may be a drawback for *some* users, especially student like us...who sometimes forget to charge our gadgets. (Heck, I forget to charge my phone at night half the time). However, it is up to you whether to get one or not.

SMS Features Some Really Cool Clubs!

By Colin Brooks, Ray Mandel-Mueller and Lily Mandel-Meller, Tusker Tribune Staff

Clubs are something everyone should be able to participate in. Clubs help you meet new friends, learn new things, and have fun! Beneath is a list of some clubs.

Club: Computer Club
Supervisors: Mr. Lugo and Mr. DeVito

Meets: Tuesday

Description: In computer club, Mr. Lugo and Mr. DeVito supervise students as they play on the computers, make things to be 3D printed, and disassemble computer parts. This club is good for people who like technology and architecture. So far in the club the students have had a lot of fun playing Agar.io, Flight Simulator, and many more games! To add on to the fun, many kids have used that time to do a program called Inventor and promptly 3D print objects for their personal use.



Club: Tech Club
Supervisors: Mr. Lugo and Mr. DeVito

Meets: Wednesday

Description: In Tech club, students all work on the same project individually. A assignment is announced and within the boundaries the kids are able to be as creative as they want. In the club, the students are making CO2 cars, which they will race this week. In a few weeks this club will go on hold, and be replaced by Stage Crew.



Club: Maker Club

Supervisors: Mr. Lugo and Mr. DeVito

Meets: Thursday

Description: In Maker club, students work on freelance projects on their own or in small groups while being watched over and given advice by the two tech teachers, Mr. Lugo and Mr. DeVito. On other occasions, students go

to help create the Maker Space, which is currently being furnished. It is able to be seen on the first floor. Hopefully soon, this space will be open to all students in the middle school, and the 3D printers that the school owns will be moved to the space. I believe their goal is for students to use it for indoor recess. If you like building and creating inventions, then I would suggest this club to you.

Club: AT Club(Academic Triathlon)

Supervisor: Mr. Dell

Meets: Usually every other Thursday, but dates can change on occasion

Description: If you listen to most people, they usually say that AT is not as fun as other clubs. I disagree. When I can squeeze AT into my schedule, I do. AT competitions have three events. The first is trivia. The second is that you have to create and act out a skit. The third no one knows until the competition. Mr. Dell is a good supervisor for the club, because he always seems to have the time, and is full of energy. The first competition is going to be this Friday. If you like to be creative and have fun in a team, this club is for you.

Club: Tusker Tribune

Supervisor: Mr. Pappas

Meets: Thursdays, but is not completely rigid about the date

Description: In Tusker Tribune, or Newspaper Club, you write for the school's online newspaper. It was like Editorial board. From school events to movie reviews, you can write almost anything, as long as it is a contribution. If you like to write, then this club is for you.

All in all, clubs are very enjoyable, including the ones I did not mention here. If you are not in a club, you should join one, as there is almost one for everybody. The teachers are all incredible, so go out there and join a club. Remember, don't be afraid to try any club, because if you don't like it you don't have to stay.



Movie Review: **The Martian**

By Nitin Seshadri

Tusker Tribune Staff

A few weeks ago, I want to watch *The Martian* in 3D, a new science fiction movie. It was my mom's birthday and everyone (Mom, Dad and I) wanted to watch *The Martian*.

Unfortunately, the seats for the 4:00 show were full. We were about to decide to wait another week, but then we made a last minute decision and stuck around for the 7:30pm show instead. That's where the fun began.

Here's the deal: The movie was awesome. It is intense and gripping at times and is exciting and humorous at other times. Personally, my favorite part is when the main character, Mark Watney (played by Matt Damon), says "Take that, Neil Armstrong!"

The year is 2035. An astronaut named Mark Watney is presumed dead on Mars after a deadly storm forces his crewmates to blast off to Earth and also breaks Watney's communication antenna, impaling it in his stomach and causing Watney to faint and communication to be lost between him and his crewmates.

Watney comes to the next "morning" to find a low oxygen alarm beeping inside his

suit. He manages to make his way to the "hub" or the temporary "home" for the astronauts. Upon arrival, Watney finds that he only has about a year of food to survive, and the next rescue mission can only come in about four

years. So Watney, who is a botanist, decides to take matters in his own hands by taking some potatoes reserved for Thanksgiving, water made from rocket fuel (hydrogen) com-

combined with oxygen and some Martian soil. He grows the first-ever Martian potatoes—and then he eats them.

Meanwhile on earth, Mission Control discovers that Watney is actually alive. They hastily prepare a craft that can deliver more food to Watney, but it explodes on launch because it wasn't checked for integrity. At about the same time, Watney's potato crop is killed when the entrance chamber to the hub's kitchen explodes, causing that area to depressurize.

Finally, Watney finds another rocket that was meant for the next Mars mission and uses it to get back home to Earth.

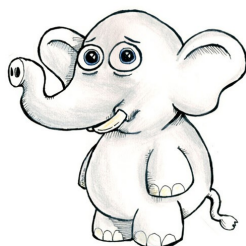
What this movie taught me is that you should never give up no matter what happens. Be determined to accomplish your goal. Following this, Watney was able to make his way home using his determination and skills he had learned as a botanist and not lose morale and die on Mars.

I would really recommend this movie for everyone. What makes it even better is if you watch it in 3D!



The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly 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



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