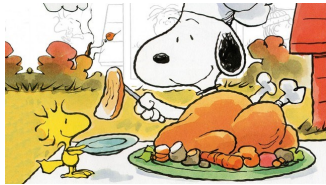




## Happy Thanksgiving!



**No Tusker Tribune next week.  
Next issue will be December 2.**

## SMS Shows Off for IB/MYP Visit



**By Alyssa Diaz  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As you might have seen, there were members of the IB (International Baccalaureate) team going around our school on Wednesday (11/9) and Thursday (11/10) to verify the school as MYP (Middle Years Program) certified.



Myself, Sofia Borrelli and Scotty Evans got chosen by our student council advisors to give a tour to members of the IB team.

During this tour, we went on all three of the floors and showed all the rooms. For most of the rooms, we described something that we do, did or could do in that class that related to MYP.



We taught the IB team about our school building and school practice, but I also learned things about the school. For example, I learned who the people who have their name above the library entrance and auditorium entrance were, and I learned more about what some murals and artwork around the school signify. My friends and I who did the tour were very glad to have that experience and hope the school gets verified for MYP certified because I think this school, and its staff, deserve it.



## Thanksgiving Origins



**By Ava Schmidberger  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Thanksgiving is an annual national holiday in the United States and Canada, celebrating the harvest and other good things that happened the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled by a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people (Native Americans living in modern-day eastern Rhode Island). The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism. This holiday is often one of the busiest of the year, as family members gather with one another. Thanksgiving is always on the last Thursday of November. Last year it was November 25<sup>th</sup>, this year Thanksgiving is on November 24<sup>th</sup>.



There are many traditions during the Thanksgiving season. Families gather around a table and give thanks, normally followed by a big meal. The traditional food in a Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, gravy, apple cider, cranberries, and pumpkin pie.

## Christmas Preview



**By Gianna Peanamanda  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Christmas is a celebrated holiday that you celebrate if you are Christian. It is a fun time where you spend time with your family, open presents, and Santa comes to your house!

Now, let me explain who Santa is. Santa will come to your house the night before Christmas and give you presents. The night before Christmas you also put milk, and cookies for Santa to eat when he comes to your house.



*Continued on Page 2*

## 30 Fun Activities to do In December!



By Ava Schmidberger  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Don't know what to do this holiday season? Here are 30 things to do this December...

1. Bake Cookies
2. Build a Snowman on a Snowy Day
3. Read a Cozy Novel
4. Watch a Holiday Movie
5. Host a Family Game Night
6. Go to a New Restaurant
7. Donate Old Books, Clothes, Blankets, etc.
8. Make a TikTok with Friends and Family
9. Complete a Puzzle
10. Host a Holiday Party
11. Prep for New Years
12. Do a Random Act of Kindness
13. Listen to Holiday Music
14. Work for a Neighbor
15. Go Sledding
16. Knit a Scarf
17. Hold a Movie Marathon
18. Drink Hot Coca
19. Hold a Sleepover
20. Visit Family
21. Go to the Mall
22. Create a Gingerbread House
23. Redecorate Your Room
24. Try a New Craft
25. Take a Family Photo
26. Play Video Games
27. Go Skiing
28. Have a Snowball Fight
29. Bake Pastries
30. Volunteer



## Christmas

Also, elves come to your house, usually around Thanksgiving, and hide in your house. So, every morning, up to Christmas, they will come to your house, hide, and you find them in the morning. You can name your elf, too! I named mine Pom Pom, but you can name yours however you like.

Elves are small little creatures that look like humans. Personally, my favorite holiday is Christmas because you get to see all your cousins, and family.

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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>

## You Are Two



By Leo Mundis  
Tusker Tribune Staff

The brain is a powerful, mysterious, and sometimes frightening place that can change how we think about our thinking. However, your brain is in-

stead two brains inside one skull. Although technically "hemispheres", they both control half of the body's vision and movement. But the left brain controls the right side, and the right brain controls the left side.

Understand? No? Let's just move on.

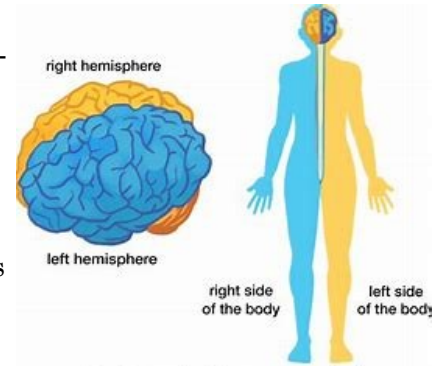
These two brains are connected through a cable of nerves, but before better medicine came along, it was often cut, as people thought it was an effective treatment for epilepsy (recurring strokes). This cutting exposed both sides of your brain and showed how they are different, how they work, and scariest of all, how they are now independent. Some patients got very frustrated and complained to the doctors. When picking an outfit, or anything, with their right hand, the left hand often smacked it away and chose a new one. There was quite often disagreement within their own body.

First, one important thing to know is that the speech center is entirely found in Left Brain. This caused the patients to side with the right hand, which Left Brain controls, when explaining to the doctor. Right Brain is mute but is the side able to recognize friends and family in a crowd.

So, which one are you? You may be tempted to say the speaking side, the Left Brain, is the "You" in this. But experiments prove that Right Brain is also listening and answering questions. Also, if Left Brain was you, why can you tell friend from enemy?

The answer is simple; who are you? *You are two.*

Credit to CGP Grey's *You Are Two*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfYbgdo8e-84>



Each hemisphere controls the opposite half of the body.



## Lazy Sunday Thanksgiving Logic Puzzle

	Turkey	Stuffing	Mashed Potatoes	Pumpkin Pie
E v e				
L u i s				
J a n e				
E r i c				

**Clues:**

1. Eve and Jane do not like desserts.
2. Eve does not like potatoes.
3. Eric only eats meat.



**Puzzle by Derek Sheldon  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

## SHS Leos Brrrrrr-ing On the Challenge with Polar Plunge



**By Victoria McGee  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are any of your friends or family included in the Somers Leos?

If you don't know who they are, they are a group of Somers high schoolers who do community and charity work.

Last week, the Leos did the Polar Plunge. The Polar Plunge is an activity where you raise money and see who wins the trophy. But that's just a bonus. Wonder why it's named "Polar Plunge"? Because you plunge into icy waters.

This year was the 15<sup>th</sup> Polar Plunge! This year's goal was to raise \$250,000. The Leos raised \$254,348!

Each Leo was encouraged to raise \$150 and if you did, you

would get a Polar Plunge sweatshirt. Somers High School came in first place for public schools raising money.

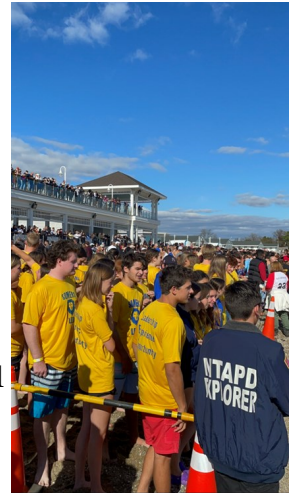
The event was amazing! They handed out free snacks such as Oreo Cookie Bites and Goldfish crackers. And they handed out beverages like coffee, hot cocoa, and water.

You could go to the beach and take photos of the event. Once they said it was OK to go in, everyone jumped in.

"It was crazy! The water was freezing. It was like a mad house. Everyone just jumped in," said my brother, Colin.

Ever heard of the place called "Westchester Country Club Beach Club in Rye, New York? This was where the event took place. It was such a nice view, an amazing ocean, and beautiful sand.

The event altogether was amazing! Well, I hope when you get to Somers High School, you think about joining the Somers Leos!



## Get Ready for the FIFA World Cup Starting November 20!



**By Ava Schmidberger  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What is the FIFA World Cup?

The FIFA World Cup (often simply called The World Cup) is a football (soccer in the US) competition, where teams from all over the world compete for the FIFA World Cup title. About 32 teams compete in this



**FIFA WORLD CUP  
Qatar 2022**

event every four years. Here are some world cup facts.....

- The first FIFA World Cup Tournament was held in 1930
- Brazil has the most World Cup wins
- Mexico has the most World Cup losses
- The World Cup is being held in Qatar this year
- The World Cup will be held in the US in 2026

### -What teams are in the 2022 FIFA World Cup?

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
Qatar	England	Argentina	France	Spain	Belgium	Brazil	Portugal
Ecuador	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Australia	Costa Rica	Canada	Serbia	Ghana
Senegal	United States	Mexico	Denmark	Germany	Morocco	Switzerland	Uruguay
Netherlands	Wales	Poland	Tunisia	Japan	Croatia	Cameroon	Korean Republic