

The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



Volume 1, Issue 10

<http://www.somersschools.org/Domain/9>

Winter 2015

The Tribune's 'Scoop' on Neal Shusterman!

By Julianna Aiello and Remi Saad, Tusker Tribune Staff

On December 11, 2015, Neil Shusterman came to visit Somers Middle School. He had just recently won the national book award for his book Challenger Deep. We got the scoop and we are ready to spill the beans!

We asked Mr. Shusterman, "What was your most embarrassing moment"? He replied, "When I was at an author convention, I talked to another author, and said that this looks like a great book. But why did you use such an ugly kid for the cover? The lady blushed, and said, "that's my grandson." And the lady never talked to me again".

We also asked, "What is something that held you back when writing your books?" He answered, "In the past, fear of not succeeding. My third book I wrote was the first book that actually got published. And

now, after writing Challenger Deep, I want to be able to write something even better. But, it can be hard to win the national book award and be able to top that off."

Another question we were

dying to know is, "Which one of your books is your favorite"? He answered this one as, " they are all my favorites! They are like children, you can never have just one". In my opinion, I think that is a well said answer.



A question that some may skip is, " Do you speak another language"? He actually speaks a few, " Spanish for 2 yrs. In High School; French, Italian, Hebrew".

A sneak peek for all who was absent or in 6th grade, a book that will be released soon! The book is called Dry and it is about how in CA there is a drought. Now he is looking into

the future by saying there is only one bottle of water left, the old lady has it, a girl's little brother needs it. But if she takes it from the old lady, the lady would die and the girl would have to live with the fact she killed someone. But if she doesn't, her brother will die. So one way or another, someone will die." I think that this will keep you on the edge of your seat, **dying** to know what will happen next.

Something that you don't think about every day is the ones that are inspired by you. Allison Michaud, saw Mr. Shusterman 4 years ago here at SMS. Now she is writing her college application and she included how Neil Shusterman inspired her!

When we interviewed him she came in and we met with her. She even gave Neil a copy of her college application.

Now I bet you are wondering why this connects? Well, Neil inspired someone. And that person was happy. That is what really counts, not your hair, looks, but if you are happy and smart.





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

Chapter 5: War

"Hello. I am very sorry about the security that you have gone through, Dr. Crevasse. But the meeting you have with me better be important, or else you will not like the consequences...."

The way that Mr. Trumpettes was treating me was very surprising. I was in the oval office, having a meeting about aliens. Of course, not to say that the aliens were fake, but still... something was odd here.

"Now, Mr. Trumpettes. I have created the first communicator with aliens. But-just but-my little girl was the first one to talk with them, meaning very bad consequences. The aliens are not only torturing my daughter, but they want me for some strange reason. Now, here comes my question. Can you help?"

"How do I know if you are lying or not? How am I supposed to believe you?"

"The aliens live 15.4553854 light years away, exactly."



"You have not created the first communicator with aliens, Dr. Crevasse. You have just created the first communicator that you do not need to wait 15 years for a response."

"Wha... wh... what?"
Flabbergasted, I stared at the president. He was saying that I did NOT create the first human-alien communicator.

"Let me explain. Back in the mid-30's, Area 51-"

"Am I allowed to hear this?"

"You are now. Anyway, back in the mid 30's, Area 51 created the first fast-as-light communicator. They sent out a message, explaining who we are as a society, etc. 31 years later, we got a response. In a way.

As you know from American history, Neil Armstrong and 2 others landed on the moon in 1969. Those were aliens, and somehow, mimicking our television technology at the time, sent out an unexpected broadcast to all Americans. Those 3 astronauts were aliens, not humans, Dr. Crevasse. And that message was meant for the government. That message was war."

2015

- December 23-Jan. 2: Holiday Recess

2016

- February 5: 7th Grade Social, 7-9 p.m.
- February 25: 6th Grade Social, 7-9 p.m.
- March 24-28: Spring Recess!
- April 22-25: Holiday Recess.
- May 27-30: Memorial Day Weekend
- June 23: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Upcoming Events





Signs of Christmas

By Kaitlyn DeRosa, Tusker Tribune Staff

When the air grows cold, and the sun goes down earlier, you'll know it's Christmas.

When you feel some more love, from loved ones here and above, you'll know it's Christmas.

When there are noises



on the roof, that kind of sound like hooves, you'll know it's Christmas.

When there's lights up on trees, and a cool snowy breeze, you'll know it's Christmas.

Now go spread some more cheer, to the ones you love dear, and soon they'll know it, too.



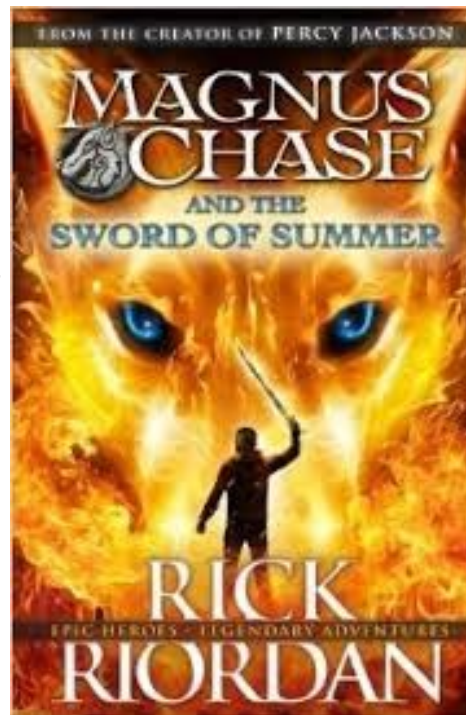
Book Review: Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard: The Sword of Summer

By Sofia Toledo
Tusker Tribune Staff

Now that the weather is getting colder, and the indoors are seeming a whole lot warmer, you might want to stay inside more often.

I suggest that maybe instead of watching countless videos on YouTube or binge-watching your favorite TV show, you should pick up **Rick Riordan's latest book, Magnus Chase and The Gods of Asgard: The Sword of Summer**.

It's the story of a boy who discovers that his dad is a Norse god, which takes him on a wild adventure that he never expected. This book is full of action, excitement,



supernatural occurrences, and lots of crazy magic.

On his quest to retrieve the Sword of Summer, he discovers mind-blowing secrets about his friends, and meets new people along the way.

The story explores the importance of bravery and teamwork. This book is guaranteed to take you on a journey through the Nine Worlds (which are explained in the book!).

And while it's not quite as good as the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series (also written by Rick Riordan), it's still a great read.

So, if you're looking for something to pass the time (that doesn't involve a gamepad or a selfie stick), *this is the book to read!*



Sports Wrap-up with Evan Volkman

This past week was a week that should not be forgotten in pro sports, particularly basketball and football. The Carolina Panthers rallied to continue their winning ways as they brought their record up to 13-0.

The Panthers are the first team since the 2007 New England Patriots to start a year 13-0. The Patriots ended up 16-0, then lost the Super Bowl.

Quarterback Cam Newton is having a career year, as he has thrown 3,062 yards, 28-10 touch-down/interception ratio, and a 96.9 passer rating.

In pro basketball, the Warriors went on to become 25-1, ending their 28 game win streak. Reigning MVP Steph Curry has started this year with a league-leading 32.0 PPG.



For the weekly league leaders in the NFL, click on the link below: or paste it into your web browser:

http://www.nfl.com/stats/categorystats?tabSeq=0&staticCategory=PASSING&conference=null&season=2015&seasonType=REG&d=447263-s=PASSING_YARDS&d=447263-o=2&d=447263-n=1

For the current NBA league leaders click on the link below:

<http://stats.nba.com/?ls=nbacom>

SMS Excels at Special Olympics!

By Charley Martabano

Tusker tribune Staff

The triumphant SMS Special Olympics team has conquered Yorktown High school with a score of 5-0!! Thank you all participants who supported these middle school superstars, but also a special thanks to the people of the SMS student volunteer corps, who joined the athletes later on at the awards ceremony!

Also special congratulations to Marina Murphy, Antonio Randazzo, and Ralph Carfagno for scoring awesome goals!!

But not only did Ralph Carfagno score goals, he was awarded most improved player at the season awards ceremony!

We cannot wait for these all-star players for the hockey season to start this January! Once again congratulations and thank you so much for representing SMS!

**Special
Olympics**



Writing Workshop Inspires Kids



By Evan Vokman

Tusker Tribune Staff

On December 11, 2015, award-winning author Neal Shusterman visited the Somers Middle School for the 7th and 8th graders.

Shusterman recently won the 2015 National Book Award for youth literature for his most recent book, Challenger Deep. His presentation to the grades were unique from other presenters. Shusterman simply answered questions, and told a few stories.

The assembly was from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. After followed a pizza lunch that 20 7th/8th graders were allowed to sign up for as he answered more questions over Fratelli's pizza and Oreos.

Then, from 1:25 PM to 3:00 PM, Shusterman held a workshop where he did an exercise with some 7th and 8th graders about how to think outside of the box when they write. For both the pizza lunch and the writer's workshop, students had to volunteer and write a paragraph explaining why they wanted to attend either of these events. As a result, the sessions were filled with kids who really wanted to be there, and have an opportunity to meet in a small group setting with an award winning author.

In addition to giving tips on writing during the workshop, Shusterman, gave away 3 autographed posters of Challenger Deep to Thomas Shehada, Daniel Noonan, and this writer.





'Winter' Band Concert a Hit Despite the 50 Degree Weather

By Derek Tan
Tusker Tribune Staff



On December 3, 2015, SMS had its winter concert in the SMS auditorium.

The first group who played was the SMS Chamber Orchestra. The first piece they played was "Festival of Lights". The second piece they played was "Trepak" from the "Nutcracker Suite".



Then, the orchestra played "Ding Dong! Merrily on High", "Hanukkah Habanera", and "Jingle-bell Rock". The conductor for both orchestras was Mr. Mike Maino.

After both orchestras played, the 6th Grade Chorus sang "Deck the Hall



With Jingle Bells", "Beautiful December", and "Light the Candles".

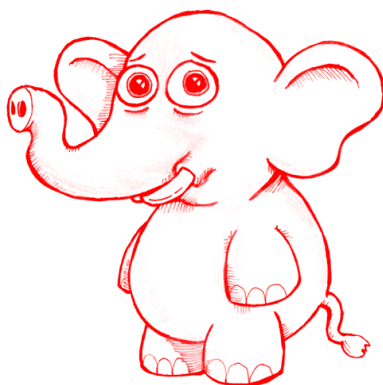
Finally, the 7th and 8th grade Chorus performed their songs. They sang "Sheperds, Come Quick!", "Winter Wonders", and "Hanerot Halalu".

The conductor for both choruses was Ms. Marie Williams and the accompanist was Mr. David Baranowski. Overall, it was a great and fun experience for me and many other performers in the concert.



**The Tusker
Tribune Staff**

Derek Tan
Charley Martabano
Hunter Duffy
Matthew Kushner
Evan Volkman
Kaitlyn DeRosa
Sofia Toledo
Julianna Aiello
Remi Saad



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 Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org