



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 9

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



Fall 2022



Gratified by Generous Food Donations



By Claire Cronin
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: The SMS Service Club held its annual food drive, with collections done during Advisory. Approximately 58 boxes of food were collected, totaling close to 900 food items. Photos by Claire Cronin.

This year, the Somers Central School District participated in a Thanksgiving food drive, collecting food donations to give to people less fortunate who wouldn't be able to provide as much for Thanksgiving this year. Students were asked to bring in non-perishable items to support the cause of the donation and help provide donations.

When I helped organize the food for pick-up with the SMS Service Club, it was great seeing how much food was brought from just one school, and how so much food would be brought to people in need.



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>

Reporters/ Contributors

Claire Cronin
Gianna Peanamanda
Ava Schmidberger
Jack Loscher
Ryan Sullivan



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Christmas a Time for Shared Celebration



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

We all know the world's biggest holiday, Christmas, but why do we celebrate?

Christmas wasn't always presents, decorations, lights, and mistletoes. Christmas is the day Jesus was born over 2000 years ago! This event is often called "the birth of our savior". Christmas is celebrated by all branches of Christianity.

How is Christmas often celebrated? Christmas traditions vary from family to family. The most common traditions are, receiving and giving presents, having a big feast/meal with family and friends, praying with family, baking, or cooking, and decorating.

I asked two people what their Christmas normally looks like...

"I wake up at 6:00 AM. I then wake up my parents, we head down and open presents and call relatives. In the afternoon, I go to my grandparents' house and see all of my family. We play games and eat a bunch of food."

--Lacey Sander

"I get up early in the morning and wake up my parents. My dad grabs his phone and I meet them by the Christmas tree. I start to rip open my presents. When I'm all done, my sister opens all of her presents. That afternoon we go to my Aunt Jill's house and eat tons of food!"

—Anonymous



Getting On the 'Right List'



By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff

Every year after Thanksgiving people usually start to get ready for Christmas. It is the time when friends and family get together to celebrate. Christmas is also the day of Jesus's birth.

It's the "Christ-mass" season!

Christmas is thought by most to be a wonderful time, focusing on giving, family togetherness, beautiful music, and decorations, feasting on special foods, and singing Christmas carols throughout the neighborhood.

On December 1st elves come to people's houses to watch over them until Santa makes his final decision about if you have been naughty or nice. The only catch is you must be on his nice list. So, let me ask you this question; Have you been naughty or nice?



Besties Work it Out is a Terrific Graphic Novel Read!



By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

The book Besties Work it Out is very good. I recommend reading it. It is a graphic novel and I read it myself.

It is about 2 besties, Beth and Chanda, who need money. They decide to start a babysitting business.

One day they get a customer, Ms Langford, who wants them to take care of a puppy while the customer is out of town for a week. They will get \$50 each!



While in the customer's house, they post photos about it, and let's just say it gets out of hand. They break an expensive lamp! Do you think they can fix it before Ms Langford gets back from her trip?

This book is full of excitement, nervousness, and laughter.

This book is by Kayla Miller and Jeffrey Canino. I have read books by them before, and I give them a 5-star rating!

Well, hopefully I have gotten you interested in this book, and you go get it! Now what are you waiting for? GO!

A Na NoWriMo Excerpt from Ryan Sullivan's Story



By Ryan Sullivan
Tusker Tribune Staff

Mason and Xander are chilling at the lunch table they always chill at. Right by the windows looking out and over their beautiful town of Freeburg.

It was quite a view looking over the town because the lunch room was on the second floor. Although, the view wasn't what was on their mind during this lunch, not on anyone's mind this lunch.

"Another missing report," Xander starts to bring up the local ninth grader Gabe Palmer who went missing. They all know him. He was cool, he was on varsity football as a freshman, he got straight A's in school, and he was a nice guy to people, none of that bully stuff.

"Yeah, I know, it's sad. I knew Gabe. He lives in my neighborhood," Jayden finally bonding with Xander seriously, not thinking he's full of baloney.

"Hey guys."

"Hey."

Martin and Jayden just walked up to the table, with three or four slices of pizza on each of their plates.

"What took you so long? It's been like 20 minutes," Mason asked agitatedly.

"It's pizza day. Everyone is on that line, it's soooo good," Jayden replied back with a smile on his face. Jayden loves pizza. He has it anytime he can and when he has it, he really eats.

"What's up with you guys? You seem awful depressed," Martin said while opening up his Snapple can. He could see that something was going on just by Mason's and Xander's facial expressions. Like they had the gut feeling that something was wrong.

"What's wrong?!" Xander shouted.

"What? I'm serious," Martin said.

"You know Gabe right?" Mason asked.

"Gabe Palmer? Yea of course."

"Same." Jayden chimed in.

"Well, he went missing. They're trying to figure out what happened," Mason said with a trembling voice. Knowing deep down that something was up with that missing case, something was up with all these missing cases.

"Darn it! Really?" Martin slams his hands down on the table, the force shaking it so everyone can feel it.

"No way. Gabe? Aw crud." Martin's face changes, along with Jayden's. They now feel sick to their stomachs and suddenly aren't about to go crazy on their pizza like they previously were going to.

"Yea, I mean, I'm at loss for words. He could be anywhere. That could mean he's in danger or already dead," Xander slowly talks to the

group.

"He could've been hit by a car and rolled into a ditch, never to be found again." Martin says.

"No don't think that way man. It's probably just a mistake, he probably just went to his grandma's or something like that and people are overreacting," Mason stops their horrible thinking.

"Yea, I guess you're right." says Xander.

"I guess," Martin said.

Jayden, looking out the window, is relieved that they are just overthinking it, chomping on his first slice.

Last Period

Mason and Jayden had study hall together in the library with a chill teacher. They could always talk and play games in that class and their teacher wouldn't care. His go-to saying was, "I don't get paid enough to sit here with you animals." The group liked him; they liked him a lot.

Naturally, Mason has to bring up the town's recent missing reports. It was basically all he could think about.

"Psst. Jayden. Jayden!"

"God, what do you want? I

was about to beat my high score on Ice Rider IID." That was Jayden's favorite game. He had a high score of 350, the highest in the grade.

"I can't stop thinking about it, you know the reports. Maybe, uh, maybe they're somehow all connected in some way," Mason says.

"Huh, what do you mean connected?" Jayden thinks Mason is overreacting.

"Like, maybe they are all getting taken by the same thing, or the same person."

"Shut up. You're turning into Xander with this drama queen stuff. It's just a stupid coincidence," Jayden snapped back with no thought of doubt in his mind. He knew that it was all a coincidence. Or did he?

"It's not like that. It's not some super scary kidnapper. It's probably just a big misunderstanding because they left their houses without telling their parents. Besides, aren't most of them already solved?" *That's what would be logical*, Jayden thought.

"No." Mason replied.

"What do you mean, no?" Jayden snapped back, thinking that he might have misunderstood Mason or something like that. He was right, he knew he was.

"I mean nobody that has been kidnapped, or have been reported during this past couple of weeks, has been found. No traces whatsoever," Mason said with a bit of fear in his voice, his face quivering like something was seriously wrong.

Continued on Page 4



NaNoWriMo

From page 3

Jayden, now rethinking his doubt, starts to think with a fearful voice in his head but still, the doubt overcome. "Shut up, you don't know what you're talking about. They've probably all been found already. It's gonna be fine, nothing big," Jayden said knowing, believing, thinking that it was all just a big coincidence that this is all happening now.

Riiiiing

"That's the bell, can't wait to get the heck out of here," Jayden snaps them out of their dark conversation with a quick thought of the weekend. They really love the weekend because that's when they have their sleepovers.

"Yea, two days of glory during the week," Mason pulls himself out of the conversation, too.

"I got a ton homework, but you wanna hop on Madden later?" Jayden asks.

"Definitely, I got the Steelers and you can't tell me different!" Mason yells back over the crowd of kids trying to get to their lockers.

Jayden makes his way to the locker, slipping through all the kids. He finally gets to his locker and starts unlocking it when he sees Martin in the hallway.

"Yo, see you later," Jayden said.

"See ya," Martin replied back

"By the way, me and Mason are gonna play Madden later. Wanna join?"

"Bet, sounds fun," Martin said back.

Jayden slips his AirPods in after he closes his locker and starts walking to his bus. He puts on his favorite Spotify playlist hot mix. It's just all the popular songs that are going around at the time. The playlist gets edited all the time; that's why it's his favorite.

His bus is really boring. He lives on the other side of town that Martin, Mason, and Xander don't live on. So no friends of his are on his bus, that's why he just sits and listens to music. He sits in the back seat enjoying the view. He loves the fall and how the leaves turn an array of colors like orange and bright yellow.

The bus makes a turn and he sees the tree branches brush up onto the window. As he watches, he notices it's his stop. He hops up and walks down the black rubber aisle of the bus.

"Thanks Mr. Joe." Jayden says a quick thanks to Joe, his bus driver. His name is Joe, but nobody knows his last name. Just to treat him as an adult, they say "Mr. Joe" so he seems more high profile.

"Have a nice weekend." Joe says back. Jayden starts his 1/2 mile walk to his house from the bus stop. His house is on a 1/2 mile long road that's not paved well and it's all the way down to

the end, so the bus doesn't bother going down that long road and dropping him at the end just to have to do an awkward turn around. It would be a hassle for the bus to have to do that.

He doesn't mind this walk though; it helps him clear his mind and helps him think about what he has to do when he gets home. Today that was science homework and then Madden with Mason and Martin.

All of the sudden, while thinking about how annoying science homework is over the weekend, he hears a car and it sounds like it's coming in hot. He turns and sees a Toyota minivan fly by him upwards of 40 mph. He wonders what that car is going so fast for, and why down his road.

"What the hell?" Jayden whispers to himself. The van takes a sharp ninety degree turn and drifts so that it's blocked off the whole road in front of Jayden.

"Ok, what the hell!" Jayden now yells a bit louder. And out of the cloud of dust that the car had created from drifting in front of him, he sees the back door of the minivan slide open aggressively, and two skinny, pale men with ski masks on jump out and have their eyes locked onto him.

"Now," one of the skinny tall men says as they start to approach him.

As he realizes what's happening now, it all comes back to him—the missing cases. Kids in his town, Mason stressing him out about how it's all connected. He snaps out of this phase he's having once the skinny men start picking up the pace and running at him. Luckily, Jayden is a fast kid and used to do track a couple times a week. He turns and starts running down his cracked pebblelike street, his feet sliding as he starts to gain traction. He gasps for air

when he feels like he's running the fastest he ever has in his entire life. He starts to gain a bit of space on the men and they start to get tired, but Jayden keeps churning, keeps striding, pumping his arms at full speed.

Jayden gets all the way down the street before slowing down and looking back. No sign of the men or the van. He jogs into the woods just in case they kept track of him somehow. He gets down and lays behind a large log and keeps gasping and panting for air. His heart is beating a thousand beats per second and his mind is racing thinking about all the things that could have just happened. He has to get to his mom, Mason, Xander, Martin; he has to warn them tell them what happened, give them descriptions of who these people were, go to the police.

While all these thoughts are racing through Jayden's mind, he hears leaves rustle, and then a bag comes down over his head and is tied at the neck. Just when he's about to fight back, he's hit hard in the head. Before he can try to figure out what or who he was hit by, he was out cold and knocked unconscious

