



The Tusker Tribune

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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 10

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

Fall 2022

November STAR Award Recipients



Jenna
Panebianco
Grade 7



Kailee
Chandra
Grade 7



Terezina
Parubi
Grade 7

Congratulations, STARS!

Tuskers Are State Champs!



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

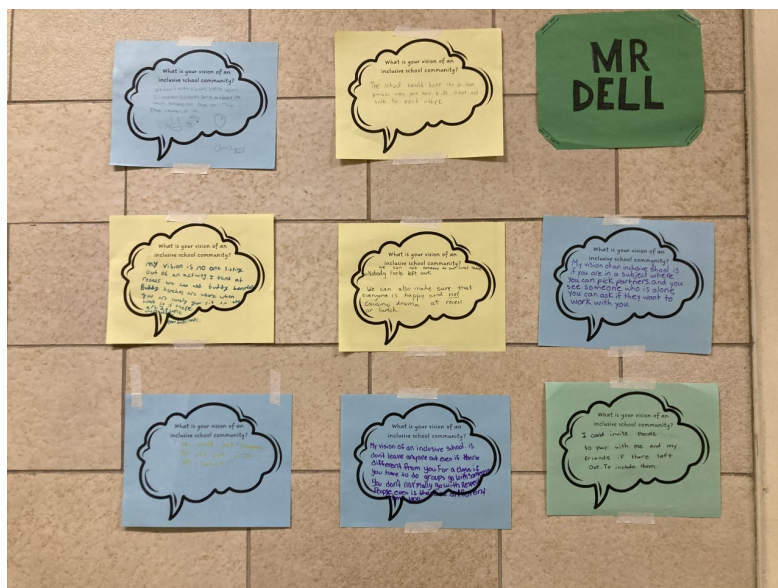
On Saturday, December 3, the Somers Tuskers made history by winning the Class A State Football Championship at the Syracuse University Carrier Dome!

Tuskers head coach Anthony DeMatteo followed in the footsteps of his legendary father, Tony, who delivered the team's first state championship in 2016. After a devastating 32-31 loss last year, Somers came back and won the championship against Union-Endicott by a score of 58-21.

Player Stats

Luke Savino carried 14 times for 165 yards and three touchdowns. Mason Kelly had two touchdowns, he ran for one TD and caught another. Ravi Dass finished with three catches. He also had four carries for 31 yards. Miguel Iglesias had three catches for 74 yards and one touchdown. George Forbes had six tackles. Luke Kennedy had five solos and one interception.

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Unity Day Highlights Inclusion Week



By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff
Unity Day was a blast!

We had a special schedule on the half day Wednesday, December 7.

You got to the to the library and check out some



clubs. All of the clubs were remarkably interesting.

Besides the Club Fair in the library, you also got to go to the gym to work on team building, then you went back to your Advisory group to work on inclusion activities that included "Unity in Our Community", "I Spy Champions of Inclusion Letter", and a film festival featuring two videos: "Different" and "Burger King Bullying Jr." with discussions.



Overall, Unity Day was fun, and I think our school should carry on with this tradition because not only do we have a ton of fun, but we learn how to include people and make our school a better place!



Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood



By Ruby McDowell
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Delectable... Dances with drama and insouciant wit..."

-New York Times Book Review on *Persepolis*

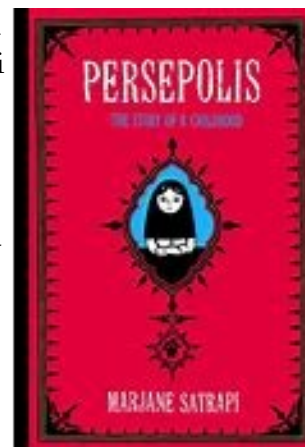
In 1979, Iran was going through what was known as the Islamic Revolution. Then, in 1980, female students had to wear the veil at school, and there were protests for, and against the veil. *Persepolis* is a black and white graphic novel that paints the story of growing up in Iran during the Islamic revolution. Written as a memoir, author Marjane Satrapi creates a beautiful story of coming of age in Iran.

The story follows Marjane, or Marji, from the ages of six to 14, and I think the portion of her life that the story takes up adds to the charm of the book. It makes for a very enjoyable reading

experience to watch the character change and grow naturally. You watch Marji grow from a small child who wishes to be a prophet, to a teenager who defies her religion teachers.

Marji's parents are not as traditional as you might think. They are very permitting of Marji, and allow her to dress in modern clothes. However, they still scold her for skipping religion class.

Overall, *Persepolis* tells a story about growing up during the Islamic revolution. I haven't read many books about this period, so this book taught me a lot, and I hope you read and grow from it.



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Quotes

Jake Polito (Somers Lineman) stated, "I can't explain how it happened, but I wish I could stay in this moment forever."

Coach DeMatteo said, "That's 365 days (of living with) a decision I made that kept us from winning a state championship. We were obsessed with getting back here and we did it."

Sources:

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<https://www.lohud.com/story/sports/high-school/varsity-insider/2022/12/04/somers-wins-nyphsaa-state-football-title-over-union-endicott/69682496007/>

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There's a lot to the Game of Softball

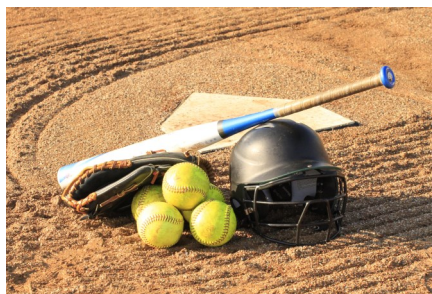


By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

Softball is a fun sport! In fact, I play it myself. There is so much involved in it. There is a home plate, first base, second base, and third base. You hit and you field in softball. (You also run a bit).

For the field, the positions are third base, second base, catcher, pitcher, shortstop, first base, center field, left field, and right field. I play second base.

In softball, you have balls and strikes. A ball is when it is not a strike. A strike is a pitch right down the middle, or close.



The pitcher pitches the ball. There are also walks. If you walk, it means you are on base. A walk is when the pitcher pitches four balls that the umpire believes the hitter can't hit, and a strike out is when the pitcher pitches three times and the hit-

ter misses each time.

There are also fouls. A foul is when you hit the ball into foul territory. Which means you can run the bases, if somebody on your team hits the ball.

There are also umpires in softball. An umpire can tell you if you are safe or out, if you strike out or walk, or when the ball is a ball or strike.

I play on a team named TC Futures. It is a travel softball team. There are different divisions in the sport. I am in 12U.

Other than 12U, the other divisions are 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U. Then you can go off to college if you would like to. As you can see softball is a fun sport that has a lot to offer.

The Night Alone



**By Allison Cardillo and
Ila Schoenberg
Tusker Tribune Staff**

One dark and spooky night in a cottage in 1984, everything felt big. The shadows in my room, the open closet door and well, my feelings. It was 9:00 exactly and I was up and never going to fall asleep. When suddenly there was a creak at my door. No one was there but it was as if I heard a voice saying, *"this is my house now."*

My parents were on a cruise across the sea; there was no way to reach them. I was in bed when I heard something coming from the closet. It almost felt like all these noises and thoughts were trapped in my head. Or were they real?

After what seemed like a while, the noises stopped, and it was finally 12:00 AM. And then I heard it again. *"Honey, I am home."* So, I checked the door, but it was not my parents, it was . . . nothing. So, I went back to my room and all I saw was a note lying on my bed. It read, "You cannot escape, the doors are now all locked and the windows are all shut, and you are not alone anymore." Was this a trap and someone else was here?

Then all sudden, I felt dizzy and when I opened my eyes, it was not 1984 anymore. It was 2067. What had happened? I thought the noises were going to be gone, but then I heard, *"You are in my time now and we can have a real chat."* Then the noise continued, and it said, *"Come to the end of the road of Miler's street at 7:00 pm so we can chat face to face."*

Then the clock struck 7:00 and I was waiting where this person said to meet, but it was quiet and eerie. Where was this sound or person? And then a tall, thin man in a black hat came strolling towards me. What and who was this man? Then the man said in a deep voice, "Hello there Clair. Yes, I know your name and your family."

"Why do you want me here? What are you going to do to me?"

"I do not want to do anything to you. I just want to ask you a question."

"Okay, what is it?" I asked in a frightening way.

"The question is, . . . Where were you at the scene when your mom and dad had died?"

"What!?"

"Yes, I am sorry to report they died last December on the cruise. But they were only gone for two days and then can back the next month, and this is the time you are supposed to be in, but you are stuck in 1984 on the 5th of December, the day your parents died."

"What, are you lying to me?"

"I wish I were. I was a good friend of your parents."

"I cannot believe this! It is like my whole life was a lie."

"I know, but at least I let you know."

"How did I get stuck in the day they died though?"

"I do not know, but if you come with me to my science lab, we can make this all make sense."

So, I started walking and following this guy. I was so curious that I was not scared at all. When we finally made it to his lab, he pushed this button and suddenly, this big metal door screeched open and all I saw was white smoke at first but then I saw . . . a time machine. I was so mesmerized. Then he said, "We're going to teleport onto the cruise your parents are on, and then we'll get all our answers to this complicated story."

So, I did exactly that. I followed him into the time machine. I was there and I saw my mom and dad and I tried to give them a hug, but I just went right through them. The guy said, "You cannot touch them; they are holograms."

And then I heard the crew say that the ship was going down, and I realized the name on the side of the boat read, "Titanic". And then, POOF! Right into an iceberg!

"Let's leave here. Oh no! The portal won't turn on! The back of the machine is covered in ice! What will we ever do?"

And then, "WAKE UP! WAKE UP!"

I opened my eyes and all I saw was my mom looking down at me. "Finally, you're awake! I've been yelling your name for five minutes. All I wanted to tell you is that your dad and I are leaving now to go on the cruise."

"NO! You can't go! No, please! You're going to thank me later."

"No, we must go, I have already got the tickets."

"If you go, then I'll go with you." **END**



One Trimester Down . . . Two to Go!



**By Reagan Ciccone
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Congratulations to everyone! We are officially 1/3 done with this school year!

With the first Trimester ending and the 2nd trimester starting here are three things to remember that can help you start your second trimester strong.

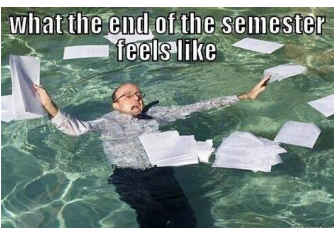
Number 1: Make sure to complete any assignments given to you on time. This is especially important to ensure that you can maintain a high grade for all your courses.

For people in the NJHS, you will need to obtain a 90 GPA or higher. To do that, make sure you are on your game from the start. Turning in assignments on time or even early is good practice and is also beneficial.

Some teachers tend to take off points for late assignments so handing in work on time will give you the best grade you can get. Imagine if you turned in your work late and got a 90. You could have gotten a 100 if you turned in your work on time.

Number 2: Reflect from the past trimester. Reflecting is one of the best ways to improve your grades. Trimester One might not have been your best performance, but if you work on getting better, you are sure to strive for Trimester Two. Looking back on old assignments and reflecting on what you did wrong can help you complete your new work in more detail and improve your overall working ability.

Number 3: Seek out for help when it is necessary. A lot of times, when kids fail, it is due to not understanding the assignment or the subject. You need to help yourself by seeking help from your peers, teachers, tutors, or even parents.



If you do not understand an assignment, don't be afraid to ask your teachers for help. They're there to help you and want you to get the best grade possible. If you seek help when you need it, it's more likely for you to score higher on tests and comprehend lessons on a higher level.

Good luck to everyone and remember if you didn't do that great last trimester, don't stress! This is a new chance to start fresh and improve your grades! If you keep these three things in mind, it can help you have a good mindset and help you perform the best way possible for Trimester Two.



Activities to Get You Pumped For the Holidays!



**By Anna Huber
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As it just turns to December, the next thing around the corner is the holidays! I remember last year when I celebrated Christmas on the 25th. It just didn't feel like Christmas! Not to worry though. There are many ways to get yourself excited for the holidays! So, here are a few activities that can get you ready for the upcoming holidays!



Make a Winter/holiday-dedicated playlist

I found that making a playlist with all my favorite holiday songs helped me get into the holiday spirit! Whether it's songs that take you back to winter when you were younger or classic holiday songs, making a playlist will help you feel that excitement toward the holidays!

Enjoy your favorite comfort food

You can enjoy a cozy winter snack or meal that you find gives you joy or maybe nostalgia. Maybe that's warm cookies with a glass of milk or a rich chicken soup! Either way, you can make the most out of getting ready for the holidays by doing this!

Decorate your room!



There is a specific joy in decorating your room with a winter or holiday theme that I cannot describe. It sets you up for the holiday spirit because every day, you wake up building up to the holidays and you wake up surrounded by a winter wonderland! It reminds you that you should make the most of the time leading up to the holidays and winter break!

Play in the snow!

Eventually, it's going to have to snow this winter. So, when it does, play in it! Don't waste time inside when you should take the opportunity to roll around in a pile of fluffy white snow. Make sure you wear something warm, so you don't get frostbite!

Watch your favorite holiday movie

My favorite is watching a holiday movie by the fire and sipping hot cocoa! It might just be yours, too! So, whether your favorite movie is *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Home Alone*, *Elf*, or more, start watching to get yourself excited for the holidays!

So there you have it, five activities to just you pumped for the holidays! Thank you for reading this story and stay warm!

FOOD WORD SEARCH

*Find the six food items listed below in this puzzle!
Answers will be published in next week's issue*



By Nick Wintje
Tusker Tribune Staff

MSNATRSBJDJCGKHHIHDHDBXHBFBHFJGLSWSMFREMITISAWCHIPSNKW
HHFYFUFDFDDDCXDKAFLGHIHJGBGHGGJYIHNMBNNBNFHFHBGHKMGJ
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HBVNLFLANWISXCDFBJKDHDGHHSHJHHGEEGEFGWGGGGGUGKJJTHG
BBVBVBBCBDBVUBHHGKXBVMNVCZHKLGESSAUPOUYREWWEJ
RNBVDHNNDDNEJKRIJHGMVJYUFRFGHJSDFGHJWERTYHERTYGHSDFG
ASDFGHNBNNMIUJKIIGFHVVCNVNFNFNHFOODFGGGHVVNBNNNMNN
BBMBNBHBMNRIEVSHSDUYSDFGHJDFTYTYDFGHRTGYHERFTGFGHD
FHJTDGGFGFGGEGDIRXBNMEVBNMSCVXBNMXFXNXVNCANDYNDUD
UDGDGFSOUPEVGGEGDGDGDGDCHICKENNUGGETSUYRHSNCDHJKLPL

SOUP CHICKENNUGGETS CANDY HAMBURGER CHEESE HOTDOG

A Compelling Contraption All You Need to Know About the COVID Test



By Derek Sheldon
Tusker Tribune Staff

Ever since the Spring of 2020, COVID tests have been a huge part of American daily life.

This diagnostic device can be found in what seems like every household and doctor's office in the country. However, have you ever wondered how these creations actually work?

For those of you who answered that question yes, COVID tests can be broken up into three categories: nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs), antigen/rapid tests, and antibody/serology tests. Let's take a deeper dive into each of the categories:

Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs)

Nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs), sometimes called PCR tests, are incredibly accurate, and are sometimes even looked upon as the "gold standard" for COVID testing. However, the test samples must be shipped to and processed in a laboratory, so results can take several days to get back to customers.

How do nucleic acid amplification tests work?

1. A sample is collected by a doctor or nurse by using a nasal swab. The sample is then sent to a laboratory.
2. A special technique called reverse transcrip-

tion-polymerase chain reaction is used to make millions of copies of any coronavirus RNA, or genetic code, that is in the sample.

3. Special chemicals that will change color if covid RNA is present are added to the sample; If the sample changes color, then the test is positive, and if not, then the test is negative.

Antigen/Rapid Tests

Antigen tests, sometimes called rapid tests or at-home tests, are by far the most common type of covid test. Despite being readily available and fast, due to their relatively low accuracy rate, antigen tests are not necessarily

"better" than NAATs.

How do antigen/rapid tests work?

1. A sample is collected by using a nasal swab.
2. The sample is mixed with water that contains special proteins called antibodies, which will bond to any covid-19 in the mixture. Several drops of the solution are then added into the testing apparatus.
3. As the solution slowly travels through the testing apparatus, some of the antibodies bond to the control line. The remaining antibodies continue to float around in the solution.
4. Once the solution reaches the test line, any antibodies that are bonded to coronaviruses will attach themselves to the line.

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COVID

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5. Any lines that have antibodies bonded to them will change color; if both lines change color, then the result is positive, and if only the control line changes color, then the result is negative.

Antibody/Serology Tests

Unlike the last few types of tests which determine whether you *have* COVID, antibody/serology tests (sometimes called assays or immunoassays) instead determine whether you *had* COVID.

These tests are very different from NAATs and antigen tests. (Note: a negative antibody/serology test does not necessarily mean that you

are immune to COVID.)

How do antibody/serology tests work?

1. A blood sample is collected by a healthcare professional. The sample is then sent to a laboratory.
2. Special chemicals are inserted into the sample.
3. If the solution changes color, then the result is positive, and you have had covid. If the solution stays the same color, then the result is negative.

Conclusion

As you have now learned, COVID tests can come in many different shapes and sizes. Each one of these compelling contraptions has its own pros and cons. Below, I have created a table summarizing the information about each type of test. Happy COVID testing!

Name	Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests	Antigen/Rapid Tests	Antibody/Serology Tests
Use	To detect whether someone has covid or not.	To detect whether someone has covid or not.	To detect whether someone has had covid or not.
Pros	Are extremely accurate.	<u>Are</u> easy to acquire and test-	Are somewhat accurate.
Cons	Results usually take a few days to get back to customers.	<u>Are</u> not very accurate.	Require a blood sample. Results usually take a few days to get back to customers.

Bibliography:

Thank you to GoodRX Health, Mayo Clinic, and the CDC, for your informational articles. Also, check out [this video](#) for more information, and a lesson on sensitivity and specificity.

The 3rd of 10 Global Problems, and How to Solve It



By Sophia Valenzuela
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: This is an ongoing series presenting 10 global problems and solutions to fix them. This is the second installment. The first installment ran in the 10/14/22 issue of the Tusker Tribune. The second installment ran in the 11/10/22 issue of the Tusker Tribune.

There are many global problems, however the 3rd ranked global problem is Food Insecurity, which in other words, means trouble with getting families the food they need. There are four pillars for acquiring enough food: **Availability**, **Accessibility**, **Utilization**, and **Stability**.

Up to 34 million people, including 9 million children, suffer from food insecurity. Another way of saying this is 10.2 percent of the USA suffers from not having enough food. The main roots of this problem are poverty and low income.

But believe it or not, food insecurity can also lead into obesity sometimes. Since people



with food insecurity struggle with food, they often have to buy cheap food which usually highly processed junk food. And, of course, too much processed food (junk food) can lead to obesity, diabetes and diseases like heart disease. Shortages of jobs and careers make food insecurity worse.

Some ways that can help solve this problem are donating to community shelters and

organize or volunteer at a shelter or food drive. You can also donate food and supplies, and lastly, you can even sponsor a family.

Often, schools organize food drives and in Somers, there are often chances to donate to food drives. It is our job to care for others. The MYP Learner Profiles of "caring (being giving and helpful)" and "communicator" (expressing and sharing), help reinforce this.