

The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Winter 2016



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

The food drive for Advisory is at its climax and each class is competing to win the breakfast party. But the incentive is more than just a breakfast party for some classes.

With tension rising, learn the new information on the competition. Kids are rushing their parents to food stores to possess edibles for the food drive. Some kids have brought over 15 cans of food into school for this event.

While all three grades are participating, it's been well-known that perennial food drive

victors emerge from 6th grade.

Specifically, the most competitive teacher, by far, is Ms. Schettino.



The competitor to her class is Mr. Dell, but they probably wouldn't be able to compete with her without the incentive with which Mr. Dell has bribed his students.

Many parents and teachers constantly remind kids to do kind things to other people, but is bribing them obscuring the fact that we do most

kind things just out the goodness in our hearts, not for physical rewards? Some people certainly think so.

To find out the truth to all of the statements that have been circling around the sixth grade, we decided to interview Mrs. Schettino and Mr. Dell. (See chart at left)

Questions	Mr. Dell	Mrs. Schettino
How many times have you won the food drive?	2 or 3, I cannot tell you for sure.	I come in the top 3 11 times. For 2 years I wasn't participating because I was on maternity leave.
Are you confident that you will win this year?	I am confident that we will do very well, but Mrs. Schettino is tough competition.	Yes because my advisory team is very motivated and dedicated.
What drives you to win?	I am very passionate about getting food to people without enough. It is a great cause. Plus it's a lot of fun.	I really do believe it's a good cause. I like that it's a local food drive. I also like the reputation.
What three classes do you think have the most food in the sixth grade?	Mrs. Schettino, my class and I don't know the third.	Mine. Mr. Dell, and Mrs. Jelinek.
Have you given the kids in your advisory class incentives to collect more food for the food drive?	Yes. Pizza party with ice cream, chocolate sauce and a movie	Yes. I will also give a pizza party.
Do you know the largest amount of food that you have collected in the past?	I don't know.	350 points.
What kind of food has your advisory collected?	Corn, pasta, soup, vegetables, and fish.	Lots of soup, pasta, rice, and a lot of toothbrushes.
Why do you want to beat each other so badly?	I like a challenge and it's a lot of fun.	Mr. Dell thinks he will win so I decided to accept his challenge.
Is there anything else you would like to say about the food drive?	Mr. Arnett and the whole student council are doing a great job running the whole thing.	It is great that our school organized the food drive to help the local people in need. Also, having a competition makes it more fun for the kids.

**More Coverage
on Page 3**



The Tusker Tribune Special Feature: Matt Kushner's "First Communications" series

Chapter 10:

"Zoe! Follow me!" My young daughter followed me, thinking that I knew the way out. The sad thing was, I didn't. I was only going into the emptier hallways to avoid detection.

"Prisoners escaped from torture hall 4AB! They are dangerous! Very dangerous! Last seen at intersection 344A!" The blue alarm kept flashing, and an alarm sound kept on ringing.

"There they are!" Two of the pony aliens wearing weird garments aimed at me, then shot. They shot my Zoe, not me. My... daughter. She slumped on to the weirdly-shaped floor, on the weirdly-shaped ship, in



this twisted universe that I happen to live in.

The two aliens took her while I stood there, not knowing what to do. They took my DAUGHTER, my only thing that I could hold on to. They took her away from ME, they took HER!

I walked around the strangely empty halls until I realized that in front of me there

was a sign that read, "Emergency Exit Pod." I went into it. But then I went out. But then I went in. And then I went out. And then... I... I was at a moral dilemma. I could save maybe the whole U.S.A., or, I could try to save my daughter. I went in. I went out. I went in. I went out. That's when I decided.

2016 SMS Calendar of Events

February 5: 7th Grade Social, 7-9 p.m.

February 15-19: Winter Break

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!



The Tusker Tribune welcomes artwork of all kinds—comic strips, cartoons, and original drawings and sketches. Submissions can be given to Mr. Pappas in room 305 on paper, or sent to :

DPappas@somersschools.org as a .jpeg file. All drawings **MUST** be signed neatly by the artist. **PLEASE DRAW YOUR ARTWORK AS DARK AS POSSIBLE.**

Auugh! Ways to Cope with Horrifically Busy Schedules

By Remi Saad
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer



Some students are complaining about their busy winter schedules. Their backpacks are getting heavier each and every day.

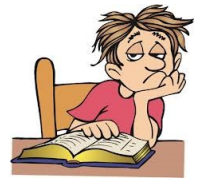
I didn't really appreciate how busy schedules can be until this week. I learned the hard way that procrastination is the worst thing to do. Putting off your homework when it is due another day is not the brightest idea. Even if you're too lazy to do anything.



I have learned from personal experience that in the end, you will regret it and you will end up staying awake until 3 in the morning doing your homework. I have tried balancing my tests and homework and still have time to do some extra activities, but let me tell you, that does not end well at

all.

Try to balance your time in a way that you will have time to do everything but still do some extra stuff on the side. Nothing is worse than staying up until 3 doing homework. I would much rather stay up watching TV.



If you're bringing home more books every day, consider trying to make a plan in order to balance your time and yet still have fun. Some students have explained that procrastinating is the most horrible thing to do.

I have interviewed Lawrence Weinberg with answering this question. Lawrence stated, "It's bad because you leave something to the last second and then either you stay up the whole night doing it, or you don't get it in on time."

Never ever procrastinate. It is the worst thing to do.

So . . .

Who will win the SMS "Food Fight"?

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

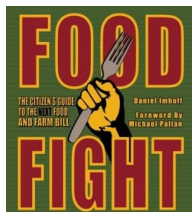
The results are drastically going toward Mrs. Schettino by 50%. We surveyed 10 kids who aren't in either of their Advisory classes, asking them if they think Mr. Dell will win or Mrs. Schettino will win. 7 of the 10 people stated that they think Mrs. Schettino will win, (70%) while 3 out of 10 of the kids declared that they thought Mr. Dell will win. (30%)

The Food Drive Point System

This year, there will be four winners. One winner from each grade and one overall winner of the 2016 Food Drive. Each item has a certain amount of points depending on the cost of

the item. Items can vary from cans of food to toothbrushes. So if you buy a \$2.00 can of soup you earn two points.

No matter how hard each advisory class tries, there will only be four winners of the food drive. But we are all making a difference to people in need, and that's what really matters. Still the competition rages. Who do **you** think is going to win?



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"The Mad 'Hatter' Nightmare"

By Steven Robeson, Tusker Tribune Staff

I was warned so many times. By my friends who were victims, by 7th graders in the past, by my sisters, and by my other teachers. But I forgot. I wish I remembered, but it's too late now.

It was February 2nd, 2038. Human life was at high risk. The world was running out of resources. Alien life has been confirmed, and several reports of aliens impersonating humans have been submitted to the FBI. It is believed that alien life existing on earth started World War III when a plasma nuke, detonated from an unknown location, destroyed the United Kingdom.

But I was still a kid. I had to learn, like everyone else. Here in New York (and most of America), life was normal. There were occasional threats by terrorists and other countries, but nothing came of it. I was in 7th grade and I went to middle school in a small town called Somers.

I woke up in a normal house, in a normal town. I had normal parents and normal siblings. I had a normal dog, too. But one thing in this world wasn't normal; the temperature. The temperature was insane. Who knows what that nuke did to the atmosphere? It was freezing that morning! I put my heavy jacket on, and my hat. I took the bus to school that morning.

Well, it was normal until 5th period. I walked into class like any normal class, until I saw the big sign behind my teacher. It read, in all capital letters, "NO HATS IN SCHOOL! NO EXCEPTIONS!". My heart began to race. Only then did I remember the warnings. The teacher, or as the people who warned me called him, "the hat Grinch". He got up, and stormed over to me. He ripped my hat off my head and threw it into his desk. He looked at me and said in a stern voice, "No hats in school."... That was it? That was what I was



about? All he did was take my hat?

warned

We continued with the class period like nothing happened. Until the end of the period. The bell rang, and all the kids stormed out, except me. I went up to my teacher and asked for my hat back. He stomped on the ground 14 times, in a pattern. All of a sudden the ground started shaking. The tiles in the floor move and reveal a stair case. My teacher turns green, like an alien, or, like a Grinch. He kicks me down the hole. I scream but nothing comes out of my mouth.

THUMP! I land on the floor and I hear the sound of the tiles closing at the top. My hat floats down from the hole. I put the hat on my head, because it's even colder down here!

"Where am I?" I ask out loud. Nothing. It's dark, but I can see the wall. This place looks like a cave. I scream, and the only response I get is the echo of my own voice. I start walking down the cave.

I hear a crack. Shaking, and more cracking. Rocks start falling from the ceiling. I screamed as loud as I could. "Help me! Help me please!" *Beep.*

Suddenly the floor I'm standing on starts to break. The ground starts falling down. Who knows where I'm going? *Beep Beep.*

"What was that?"

Beep Beep Beep

"Stop it! Let me out of this place!"

Beep Beep, Beep Beep!

I open my eyes. I turn to my alarm clock, and it reads 7:00 AM. I slam my hand on the top of the clock to get the annoying alarm to stop. "What a weird dream." I say to myself. I get ready for school. The hat is lying on the table. I look at it and put my hoodie on

**The Tusker
Tribune Staff**

Matthew Kushner
Remi Saad
Julianna Aiello
Hunter Duffy
Charley Martabano
Ray Mandel-Mueller
Lily Mandel-Mueller
Colin Brooks
Nitin Seshadri
Steven Robeson



Poetic Ponderings : Hair!



By Julianna Aiello, Tusker Tribune Staff

Different types,
blonde, brown, red,
blue, black, orange, gold.

Different styles,
curly, straight, wavy, flat,
greasy, clean, dirty, knotted.

You maybe blonde, but I
have brown.
There is no shame;
you are different.
Thick hair, thin hair,
coarse, dry, frizzy.
Your hair is you;
you are different.

The Tusker Tribune

Editorials:

Equality in Sports

By Hunter Duffy
Tusker Tribune Editorial Staff

A girl walks down the floor one hallway after school. Once she reaches the cafeteria, she stops and looks in and sees boys wrestling. She thinks it would be fun but there is no girls wrestling team.

A boy who's good at gymnastics sees cheerleaders at halftime during a game and thinks that he'd like to participate. But he's worried that he'd be the only boy.

There are lot of sports open to one gender that may be interesting for someone of another gender. Besides wrestling for girls, what about cheerleading for boys? Why is that?

I think it's wrong to open certain sports to just one gender. I think that all sports should be open to whomever is interested. No one should be limited because of gender.

A Common Sense Need



By Charley Martabano
Tusker Tribune Editorial Staff

You rush to the bathroom, feeling weird and scared at what's happening. It's a brand new experience and you have no idea about what to do and you're stuck in the stall.

The only knowledge that you know is that you need a pad... wait a sec, the nurses office isn't close at all. How are you going to walk that far without being noticed?

Many people get in this situation and have no idea what to do about it! That's why not only should we have them at the nurses office, we should have them in the stalls too!

Wouldn't you be scared if you have NOTHING to take care of it?

We definitely need pads in the girls bathrooms.

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**

SMS Maker Space Seeks Creative Types



By Nitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer

The Maker Space is a room in SMS (lab 130 to be exact) where anyone can drop by and construct items and invent to their heart's content. You can 3D print things, build, and design your own inventions that can be used anywhere in the world.

The maker space allows kids to create something useful for their homes or even for the school! The Makerspace's fleet includes top-of-the-line 3D printers, CNC Routers, computers, and other design equipment. The club is headed by Mr. Lugo and Mr. DeVito.

If you want to take part in this awesome club, simply come after school on Thursday or during your recess and build, design, and create to your heart's content! What will YOU create?

The Maker Space Club is headed by Mr. DeVito and Mr. Lugo.

Note: The Makerspace was closed at the time of writing—future weeks may hold more promise.

