

The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



Volume 2, Issue 7

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

Winter 2016

'Right to Dream' Tolerance Message Resonates with SMS Students



By Remi Saad
Tusker Tribune
Staff

It is important to respect each other on more than just our gender, race, color or religion.

We had the honor of having Taren Mangual present to the 6th and 7th graders a program called "The Right to Dream" during a special assembly on February 10.

The presentation is actually a multi-media play about the struggles that has happened in the past with white people and black people during the Civil Rights Movement.

The presentation teaches us why we shouldn't be racist and why it is important that we don't judge people based on their color. Taren delivers the message by playing the role of "Ruby", an



African-American girl growing up during the Civil Rights era.

I had the opportunity of interviewing Taren and learn a lot about her, after she did her play. I asked her, "How did the character, Ruby, change your life and help you become who you are

today?"

She replied, "Well, I was able to learn more about people, get more comfortable with my character, and even though Ruby is not a real person, I always think she is there when I perform. Without her and her character I would not be here right now. She also taught me the power of not having to be violent when you want something accomplished."

I have learned so much from her and the play, and I was very engaged with her story. I hope you learned a lot, too.



Super Bowl 50 Recap: Manning's Legacy

By Evan Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

On February 7, 2016, the 15-1 Carolina Panthers and the 13-3 Denver Broncos faced off at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. Prior to the game, all of the players who had won the Super Bowl MVP Award were brought together on field for a group photo. Then around 6:35, kickoff started and the dominance of the D# began.

This game was established quickly, and

it was clear that the winner would be whatever team's defense was better. After 15 minutes of play, it was 10-0 Broncos. Then at half it was 13-7. Von Miller and Danny Trevathan were probably the most hungry players on the Broncos and were dominating the defensive side of the ball. Cam Newton was pressured a lot and when he had time to throw, Denver's secondary would not allow a completion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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

Chapter 11: Captain Blekniq

When I realized how stupid I was, it was a little too late.

"Give me my daughter back!" I had wandered the halls of the ship until I reached a room that seemed to be the bridge of the ship. There, and only there, were aliens on the ship. Like all the rest had disappeared.

"Give me my daughter back or else you will feel the wrath of... uh... The Hulk! You have taken my daughter, and you have made me mad. You do not want to see me mad! Do you?" I hoped the aliens did not know of who The Hulk really was.

"Ah... Dr. Crevasse, or should I say... The Hulk. We want you to be the final part of our



plan! Help us! Convince the slav--the humans of the truth, the truth that we only want to help! You are, in fact, the first one to talk to us with a real conversation. So, will you do it? Because if you don't... we will get mad."

And then a plan went to my mind. One that would help me save the U.S. and my daughter. "Don't worry, Mr....."

"Just call me Captain Blekniq."

"Of course, Captain Blekniq. I will help you. Because I am the only one that can help you."

"Good." And right after the pony-alien said that, my earlier- and failed- experiment would come of use.

For once, the I tricked the aliens.

Super Bowl 50 Recap

Continued from page 1



With defensive players including DeMarcus Ware, Von Miller, Aqib Talib, and TJ Ward, you've got a group of elites. When it came time for halftime, Coldplay opened up and performed "Yellow", "Viva la Vida",

"Paradise", and "Adventure Of A Lifetime" before Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars rocked out to "Uptown Funk". After, Beyonce performed "Formation", and they all ended with "Fix You/Up&Up". This was in my opinion a pretty bad show. The headliner was supposed to be Coldplay, but they ended up being a third wheel. Beyonce did the Super Bowl in 2013, and Bruno Mars did it in 2014. They were clearly just coming back. And also, what is up with Bruno's hair?

Anyway, after halftime, Carolina continued to have a difficult time. They actually only got into Broncos' territory twice. After three, it

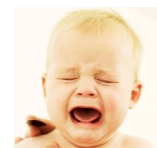


was 16-7 Denver. Peyton Manning was being pressured and could not throw very efficiently as he ended with only 141 yards on 13 completions. So, the Broncos ran and ran the ball.

After more and more inefficient offense by the Panthers, Denver scored to make it a 22-10 game. If they went for the extra point, it would be a 13 point game. Two touchdowns for Panthers would result in a 24-23 game. But, if they went for two, they could make it an even 14 point game.

Peyton Manning found Corey Latimer open in the end zone, and then that was it. Final score, 24 Denver, 10 Carolina. It was great seeing Peyton Manning ride his Bronco horse off into the San Francisco Bay sunset. Von Miller was MVP for his defensive excellence.

In the post game interview, Cam Newton left in the middle and cried off. Is it a coincidence that Peyton Manning ended his career with 200 total wins? I think not. So, what's next for the NFL?





Volkman's "All Star Analysis"

By Evan Volkman

Tusker Tribune Sports Staff

This year's NBA All Star festivities will be held from February 12-14, in Toronto, Canada. The headliner event is the All Star Game, which will be on Valentine's Day. Here are the rosters:

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Starters:

PG Kyle Lowry - Toronto Raptors

SG Dwyane Wade - Miami Heat

SF LeBron James - Cleveland Cavaliers

SF Paul George - Indiana Pacers

SF Carmelo Anthony - New York Knicks

Reserves:

SG Jimmy Butler - Chicago Bulls

SG DeMar DeRozan - Toronto Raptors

PF Paul Millsap - Atlanta Hawks

C Andre Drummond - Detroit Pistons

PF Chris Bosh - Miami Heat

PG John Wall - Washington Wizards

PG Isaiah Thomas - Boston Celtics

Head Coach: Tyronn Lue

There is lots wrong with this lineup. First off, other than LeBron James, not one of the starters should be starters. I know that the lineups are fan voted, but the NBA should consider having professionals select the lineups. For starters, Dwyane Wade? Really? The 34 year old isn't having as good a season as he has in the past. He is in his decline and will be considering retirement. He is averaging only 18.8 PPG (lowest since his rookie year). He may be the heart and soul of the Miami Heat, but is not All Star starter worthy. A possible replacement? Maybe JIMMY BUTLER!!! Butler is in his prime and now the face of the Chicago Bulls. He has improved every year he has played and is much better. With 22.4 PPG on .455 shooting percentage, he is a better pick.

Then you have Kyle Lowry. He has played well this year but just shouldn't be starting this game. He has played All Star quality by not superstar quality. So, who should replace him? John Wall. With 19.5 PPG, 9.8 APG, and 2.1 SPG, he has been playing out of his mind. With Bradley Beal sidelined, he has taken over. He is a consistent double-double player, and



with a few Eastern Conference Player Of The Week awards, he is worth the start. In his Player of the Week plays, he is 7-1, averaged 36.4 PPG and 13.5 APG during those games. In addition, the Eastern Conference team will be coached by someone who will have about 10 games of experience.

Tyronn Lue just became a coach last week and has little experience. This game will really end up being coached by LeBron James. Also, there are three small forwards starting. The tallest starter is 6-9! I can understand having 2 small forwards, but Carmelo Anthony at center? Really? Anthony is a good player, but certainly not a starting center. The NBA has Andre Drummond sitting on the bench for the first 10

minutes. When you compare Anthony's stats and Drummond's, center or not, Drummond is playing better.

Carmelo Anthony	Stat	Andre Drummond
21.2 PPG	PPG	17.3 PPG
7.5 RPG	RPG	15.1 RPG
43.2%	FG%	52.1%
82.3%	FT%	35.2%

WESTERN CONFERENCE

PG Steph Curry - Golden State Warriors

PG Russell Westbrook - Oklahoma City Thunder

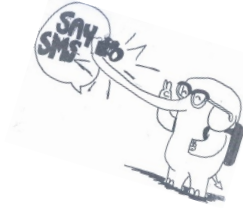
SF Kobe Bryant - Los Angeles Lakers

SF Kevin Durant - Oklahoma City Thunder

SF Kawhi Leonard - San Antonio Spurs

There isn't much to say about this lineup, I mean, this is an All Star Game. If you have a small ball running offense, you will do fine. As usual, viewers can expect for a close game with both teams scoring more than 120 points. Look out for Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

The Tusker Tribune "Comics, Cartoons n' Creative Creations"



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.** Today's artwork is by Mykah Channer, Conor Durso, Dani Cicogna, and Mitos Galeano.

The Tusker Tribune Game Review:



By Mykah Channer
Tusker Tribune Staff

Introduction

Sims 4 is a game where you create a sim (your character) and you plan out your sim's life. You can do anything from building houses to make a person just like yourself with the same personalities. This is a game where you control and you figure out how you make your sims life better or worst.

Feedback on the Game

I have interviewed three kids at Somers Middle School on this game. All three kids claim it's the best game in the Sims series. A girl named Madeline says that "This game is a life changer. I am able to plan out a perfect lifestyle for my family and me." Another one of the

girls who I interviewed named "Zara" (not her real name) said, "The Sims 4 is the best game ever. I have been waiting so long to get this game and now that I finally got it I have been on it

24/7." The last girl I interviewed, Olivia, said "I have this game on my school computer and on my home computer. Everything. I have played Sims 3 but Sims 4 has way better graphics."

Latest Updates

One of the latest updates on the Sims 4 is the Romantic Garden retreat. The Romantic Garden retreat is for Valentine's Day

and it is only \$9.99. Sims 4 can be very cheap with their prices when you think of how many things you are getting in that expansion pack. There are many other expansion packs to search from and find just what you want for your sims.



The Tusker Tribune Editorials:

Ideas for SMS Socials



By Julianna Aiello
Tusker Tribune Editorial Staff

Many students attend the socials. The ones who attend them say that they had a lot of fun.

But what would please ALL of the students? What would **you** do to change it? Here is what I thought.

Music. The newest hits available would catch your eye (and ears).

Themes. A theme that would seem appealing. Like "Dance for a Chance", or "The Grammys", or "The Red Carpet" where everybody would dress up. Or even a sports theme, like a

physical game (dodge ball).

Activities. Something that could keep kids healthy and be enjoyable at the same time. Like maybe



a social station where you can meet new people and find common interests.

Now it is YOUR TURN to think. What would you like to see? What would you change? Write it down and send it to Mr. Pappas for an article space. Who knows, maybe it might just happen...



**The Tusker
Tribune Staff**
Matthew Kushner
Remi Saad
Julianna Aiello
Hunter Duffy
Charley Martabano
Evan Volkman
Noelle DeMarinis
Mykahlah Channer
Conor Durso
Dani Cicogna
Mitos Galeano

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 Advisor Dean Pappas at
DPappas@somersschools.org



Book Review: City of Bones



By Noelle DeMarinis
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you enjoy reading fantasy books with tons of action, drama, love and a huge plot twist, then the Mortal Instruments series is perfect for you!

This series includes six books and is written from the creative mind of Cassandra Clare. I was introduced to the Mortal Instruments world and I instantly fell in love with the story! Who wouldn't with Cassandra Clare's hugely entertaining writing style and gripping plot!

The book begins with Clary Fray and her best friend Simon Lewis heading out to the Pandemonium Club. Somewhere between dancing and talking she notices a couple sneaking off to the storage room. Then she spots two boys armed with knives follow them inside.

Determined to help the witness, Clary follows the people into the storage room, and threatens to call the cops.

But the killers are undaunted and state the boy was a demon and they are demon hunters.

Bewildered and confused Clary leaves and soon finds out that it would be the last normal day of her life. If you are craving for fantasies and action packed themes this book is for you because "All the stories are true".

