

The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Winter 2016

SMS KIDS: Vacation's Great! Too Bad It Has to End



By Remi Saad
Tusker Tribune Staff

SMS just got back from their week of vacation. Students did some very fun things over the week such as soccer games, vacation, the Grammy's too!

I have a feeling that not everyone was happy coming back to school, however. I have interviewed students and asked them, "What did you do over vacation and how did you feel about coming back to school from a week of vacation?" Caitlin Norbutt responded, "I watched the Grammy's with a friend, and went to the walk over the Hudson and Poughkeepsie. My attitude coming back from break was that I was tired and

not that excited for school, but I realized that my friends were there and I was very excited to see them. It's okay to come back & learn."

I also interviewed Samantha O'dell and she answered, "I went to the beach in the Bahamas and it was really fun, warm and windy. I wasn't that thrilled that we had school, but I was looking forward to seeing my friends and everyone I know, so it wasn't a total loss."

Coming back to school is always hard, especially after a long break, since your brain is still in vacation mode. I'm sure that this feeling is shared by both, the teachers and the students. Now that we're back, we have to work hard and stay strong, until our next break in March.



NBA All Star Saturday Night!



By Evan Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

From February 11 to February 18, the NBA was busy. Between All-Star Weekend festivities and the trade deadline, every NBA GM was running around trying to make their roster better in every way possible.

On Friday, February 12, BBVA Rising Stars challenge featured players in their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd NBA season who are playing at a high level. The two teams are separated by USA born players, and other worldwide players. Sim-



ilar to an All-Star Game for younger guys, there is usually very little defense played.

Last year Wolves SF Andrew Wiggins won MVP, this year it was Wolves Zach LaVine. LaVine and Wiggins are showing a promising future and the Wolves are beginning to surround their franchise around them. Here is a

link to the full recap:

<http://www.nba.com/news/as.rising.stars/2016-rising-stars-challenge-event-page/index.html?ls=iref:nba:specials>



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

Authors Note: It is recommended to (re)read the previous chapter(s) first.

Chapter 12: A Useful-and Failed-Experiment

"So, what is the first thing I should do to help, Captain Blekniq?"

"Ah... I am going to project your face to the whole Earth. Once you are there, explain the truth to them. Then we can live in harmony: the slave-the *humans* and us." If my failed experiment showed the side effects on me that I found, then... humanity will be saved. From the gross, disgusting, fake-pony, aliens.

While the pony-things looked at me, waiting for an answer, I was thinking about how to 'activate' the side effects. *But how? How can I do it?* And then, and just then, my plan was put together, like one of those 1000 piece puzzles that you can't solve for a while, but with patience, you can.

"Captain Blekniq, can you bring my daughter down to the planet?"

"After you speak the truth, I will do that."

"I will."

"Okay, Dr. Crevasse, say the truth." I felt a light coming on my face, probably showing my face to everyone in the world who was in peril because of these aliens.

"My people, I am sorry about this. But let me explain. These aliens are, in a way, trying to kick the truth into us. They want to live in harmony with us. Think about it. We could live on other planets than Earth. We can live *in space*. I mean, who wouldn't want that?" I laughed nervously. "Just trust me. And take care of my child. Please."

"Joneki, bring the child down to the planet via escape pod." Side effect of the failed experiment #1: every single human knows when I am lying.

"Thank you so much, Captain Blekniq. May I please have a map or a blueprint of the spaceship?"

"Here's a map of the spaceship. Does that help?" The alien gave me a blank slate

tablet (computer tablet) and then booted up to show me where I was in the spaceship.

"Also, can I have a gun?"

"Sure thing, Crevasse." He sounded unsure about what he was telling me. So that's probably why instead of giving me a gun, he said, "Kill him while we can!" With the map of the spaceship in my hand, I started running as fast as I could down the hallway.

"Kill him! Do whatever you can to kill him!" Guns fired from almost every direction. I headed left down the hallway.

"Do you think you can escape us?" I felt the floor fall beneath me. I landed a floor below, and there, lots of aliens were waiting for me. They all shot their weird guns at me, and a few hit me. Terrorizing pain flashed through my veins (or should I say neurons...) and I stood up, and started running down the hallway again. Not before another bullet (or laser, or syringe, or whatever they shoot) and more pain rushed through me.

Just survive a little bit longer, Crevasse, just a little bit longer....

Two aliens had some strange device on them, blocking my path. *Well I'll take a little detour.* I sprinted with the last of my energy to the place I wanted to get to. The Power Room. A

huge engine loomed below me. Then I jumped onto it, probably breaking a few bones while doing that. Then I sat there, waiting for the aliens to catch me, and kill me.

"Wrong choice, Dr. Crevasse, wrong choice." Then something hit me, which brought no pain, but made me lose breath very quickly. And then... and... a... I died on the spot. I died right there.

"We win! Finally! The aliens will get their slaves back!" That was Captain Blekniq's last words.

Side effect of the failed experiment #2: When I die, a nuclear explosion will follow, originating in my body. The alien's machines stopped working, the U.S. was saved, and most important, my daughter was still safe.

The End





Volkman's "Sport Season Silliness"

By Evan Volkman
Tusker Tribune Sports Staff

Ever ask yourself, what is the best sports month? Maybe not, but when you look at a calendar year, there are some high points, and some low points to the sports year.



Sport (Event)	Month
NFL Playoffs, Pro Bowl, NBA basketball, NHL hockey	January
Super Bowl, NBA All-Star festivities, NHL hockey	February
March Madness, NBA basketball, NHL hockey, MLB spring training	March
NBA Playoffs, NFL Draft, NHL hockey, MLB baseball	April
NBA Conference Finals, NBA Finals, NHL playoffs, MLB baseball	May
NBA Finals, NHL Stanley Cup Finals, NFL training camp, MLB baseball, NBA Draft	June
MLB baseball, WNBA basketball	July
NFL pre-season, MLB baseball, WNBA basketball	August
NFL football, WNBA playoffs, MLB baseball	September
NFL football, MLB playoffs, NBA preseason/basketball, NHL Hockey	October
NFL football, NHL hockey, NBA basketball	November
NFL football, NHL hockey, NBA basketball	December

I believe that October is the best sports month, because football season is in full swing, and teams start playing for real, the NBA preseason is going on, so you can see your favorite stars play and see how players on new teams play together, and the thrilling World Series occurs. What do you think?

Music Mayhem!

A weekly compilation of
popular tunes



By Evan Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Periodically, **The Tusker Tribune** features an updated "Top" list for Pop songs featuring iTunes and the Volkman Chart. Charts are accurate as of February 24, 2016.

Volkman Top 10:

My House - Flo Rida

Work (feat. Drake) - Rihanna

Pillow Talk - ZAYN

Stressed Out - twenty one pilots

Love Yourself - Justin Bieber

Roses (feat. ROZES) - The Chainsmokers

Never Forget You - Zara Larsson & MNEK

Stole The Show (feat. Parson James) - Kygo

Sorry - Justin Bieber

7 Years - Lukas Graham



By Nicola Demarinis
Tusker Tribune Staff

There are a lot of fun and exciting field trips planned for Somers Middle School's 7th graders.



On April 21st the entire 7th grade class will be going on an adventurous field trip to the Bronx Zoo. This trip corresponds with our 7th grade life science curriculum.



Next, on May 26th Mr. Bill Wienecke (a former SMS 7th grade Social Studies teacher) will be hosting the 9th annual Somers Middle School American Heritage Living History Day. This, unlike other field trips will be held at Somers Middle School itself!

Finally, to wrap up the school year 7th graders will be going on a trip to Splash-down Beach Water Park on June 20th. What a great way to end the Year!



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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

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