



# The Tusker Tribune

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## SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Winter 2023

### Lion King Jr. Rehearsals in Full Swing!



By Ashley Contreras-Valencia  
Tusker Tribune Staff

As many people may know, the SMS Drama Club show this year is The Lion King, Jr. We have been rehearsing for the show since before winter break and we have made so much progress throughout the month.

One example is the songs we're using. The songs use many African phrases and words, so we work heavily on pronunciation. We also have to use those phrases in harmonies, which means that different groups sing different parts.

We have also been doing a lot of choreography. Choreography is the steps and movements in a dance, especially in a staged dance. With all the people on stage, it takes a lot of effort and practice to get the choreography right.

Last year's Peter Pan Jr shows went very well and I think this year's show will be even harder to perfect because of all the new dances and harmonies we have to practice. We have been working so hard and I can't wait for the shows in March!

### Clubs Are a Great Winter Diversion



By Jack Loscher  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Interested in joining a club? Here are some fun clubs to keep you occupied! Click on the club you want to join it will tell you all about it!

[Academic Triathlon](#)

[Advanced Choir](#)

[Art Club](#)

[Bell Choir](#)

[Chamber Orchestra](#)

[Computer Club](#)

[Drama Club](#)

[Fife and Drum Club](#)

[International Club](#)

[Intramurals](#)

[Jazz Band](#)

[Maker Club](#)

[NPFH Club \(No Place For Hate\)](#)

[Rockestra](#)

[Service Club](#)

[Ski & Snowboard Club](#)

[Stage Crew Club](#)

[Student Council](#)

[Tech Club description](#)

[Tusker Tribune Newspaper Club](#)

[Weather Club](#)

[Yearbook Club](#)



### NaNoWriMo Leads

*The Tusker Tribune will publish different NaNoWriMo "leads" from this year's 8th graders over the next couple of months. These leads are on display in the 8th grade wing and on the main floor of the school.*

*"You've been through  
hell and back and  
survived...who is to  
say you can't get  
through this too?"*

-What Happened After You  
Emma Steinberg

And then I  
turned around  
to the sound  
of, tick tick tick  
tick.

Deceivers - By Kenji Todo



"I trusted the  
wrong person,  
and they stabbed  
me in the back  
yet again"



The Unexpected Secret  
By:Gianna Comunale

## A Tribute to Winter



**By Gianna Peanamanda  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Winter is an awesome season. Snow falls and cold comes! Personally, I like to play in the snow, have hot chocolate, and sit by the fire. I also ski. I ski in Vermont at Mount Snow.

Winter is the coldest season of the year. The winter solstice is the "shortest day" of the year, meaning the least amount of sunlight. As a result, nights are longer in the wintertime.

Now, going a little bit off topic, did you know that the first Winter Olympics were held in



Chamonix, France, in 1924? In the first winter Olympics, there were only 16 sporting events and now there are only 15 sporting events. Some of the sporting events now are speed skating, skiing/snowboarding, ice skating, bob sledding, curling etc. I like to watch skiing because I ski, too! Sometimes, when skiers may fall down/wipeout, I will get nervous, but when I see that they are ok, I'll feel better.

Now, I hope that I have taught you a little bit more about winter, and a fun fact about me is that winter is my favorite season of the year!

## Where Did the Mayans Go?



**By Ava Schmidberger  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Mayans are an ancient civilization who lived in Meso-America. The Maya civilization lived in what is now Southern Mexico and Central America.

The civilization also extended into what is now the Yucatán Peninsula, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador and Guatemala. Have you ever been to any of these places?

Mayan people were short, with the average man being 5 feet tall, and the average women being 4 feet, 8 inches tall. The Mayas painted their



bodies black, red or/and blue. The Mayas would tie boards and objects to their infants' heads so that they could have flat foreheads and crossed eyes.

There were three eras of the Mayan civilization—the Pre-Classic, Classic, and Post-Classic.

In the Pre-Classic era, there were early settlements and fishing villages. These villages were along the Pacific coast and Caribbean coast. The Pre-Classic era was from BC 2,500 to AD 250.

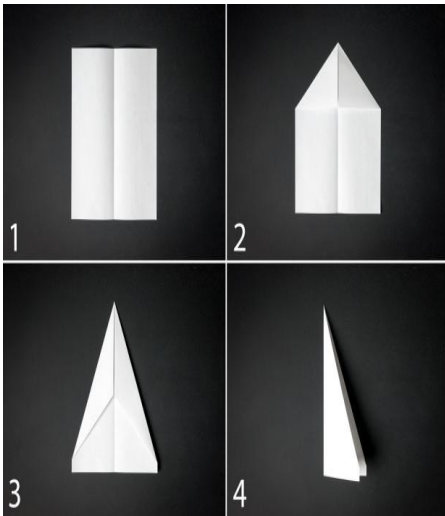
In the Classic era, the Mayans built numerous cities and advanced in math and astronomy. The classic era was from AD 250 to AD 900.

Last is the Post-Classic era. This is when the Mayas began to leave cities.

What happened to the Mayas still remains a mystery but a new theory could pop up tomorrow. You never know!



## An Official Guide to Building the Perfect Paper Airplane



**By Jack Loscher  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

*Editor's Note: The numbers in the pictures correspond with the "steps" in the story.*

**Step 1:** Fold the paper in half.

**Step 2:** Unfold the paper and fold each of the top corners into the center line.

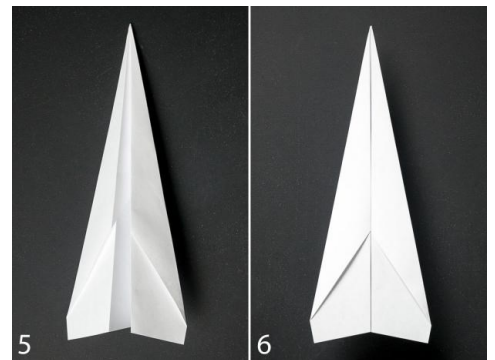
**Step 3:** Fold the top edges into the center line.

**Step 4:** Fold the plane in half toward you.

**Step 5:** Fold the wings down, matching the top edges up with the bottom edge of the body.

**Step 6:** Add double stick tape or a piece of tape wrapped up to the inside of the body.

**Step 7:** Let It Fly!



## NFC: Eagles Face Off Against 49ers This Weekend



**By Angela Roane  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Philadelphia Eagles match up against the San Francisco 49ers this Sunday!



On Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Eagles and the 49ers will face off in the NFC championship game. The Eagles got here by finishing 14-3 in the regular season and by easily cruising to a victory against the Giants, 38-7. The 49ers got here by going 13-4 in the regular season and by beating the Seahawks and the Cow-

boys. San Francisco was helped by Brock Purdy who replaced Jimmy Garoppolo after his injury and who has yet to lose a game as an NFL starter. Even though Brock Purdy has been a successful quarterback so far, I believe that the Eagles will win in a close game this Sunday.

Although the 49ers have a dominant defense, with Nick Bosa recording 18.5 sacks, the Eagles defense is very good also, holding the Giants back to only 7 points in their last game. This makes me think that Brock Purdy will be very challenged against the Philadelphia defense.

Another thing that Brock Purdy has going against him is that there has been no rookie quarterback who has ever reached the Superbowl.

The Philadelphia Eagles vs. The San Francisco 49ers will play at 3:00 pm eastern time.



Other NFL games this weekend include the AFC championship, where the Cincinnati Bengals will play the Kansas City Chiefs at 6:00pm eastern time Saturday. Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow will attempt to make it back to the Superbowl and win it all.

## So . . . Who's Headed to the Super Bowl???



**By Khloe Kisthart  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Touchdown!

The Super Bowl is coming up soon! The teams that will be going up against each other for a spot in the championships are the San Francisco 49ers and the Philadelphia Eagles for the NFC spot, and the Cincinnati Bengals and the Kansas City Chiefs for the AFC spot.

The Super Bowl is one of the biggest sports events of the year, and this year it will be held on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The winner of the Super Bowl receives the Lombardi Trophy, named after famous Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi.



A fun fact about the Lombardi trophy is that it weighs about 7 pounds and costs \$50,000! Another fun fact is one Super Bowl ring costs about \$33,333! The Super Bowl

will be taking place in Glendale, Arizona.

Football is one of the most disciplined sports in the world, but teamwork is definitely the most important aspect of the sport. Famous Jets Quarterback Joe Namath once said, "Football is an honest game. It's true to life. It's a game about sharing. Football is a team game. So is life." This quote explains how football isn't just football, it's a lifestyle and a team effort.

Many people make lots of food and snacks to pick at during the Super Bowl game. My family always makes burgers and has chips. This Super Bowl, go ahead and make some fun memories spending time with your family or friends! May the best team win!



**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:

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Tusker Tribune Website:

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