



The Tusker Tribune

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Winter 2023

Is The No Place For Hate Pledge Really Making An Impact On School Bullying?



By Ashley Contreras-Valencia
Tusker Tribune Staff

Recently, SMS students had to sign a No Place For Hate pledge during Advisory last Wednesday. That had me wondering, "Does the No Place For Hate Pledge really make a difference?"

So, I decided to interview some fellow students at SMS to see what they thought about the Pledge.

How do you feel about the No Place For Hate Pledge?



Alisa Asllani: "It's a good thing to have but it feels forced on students."

Anonymous: "I think it's good, but it's not really followed."

Millie McCormack: "I feel like it's unnecessary and it's not significant enough for students to follow."

Do you think that the No Place For Hate Pledge could have an impact on people?

Alisa Asllani: "If we learn more about it and understand it more, then it could have an impact."

Anonymous: "If people followed it more, it could have an impact."

Millie McCormack: "I don't think it would. I don't think anyone really cares about it."

From One School (And an Elephant) To Four Schools



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered about the history of Somers? Maybe about the American Circus? Or about SCSD?

The American Circus started with the purchase of an elephant named "Old Bet". The elephant was brought to the U.S in 1796 from Calcutta. Hachaliah Bailey, who lived in Somers, purchased Old Bet in 1808 for \$1,000, to use her as a "zoo animal" elephant to show across the country. This is how the American Circus began.

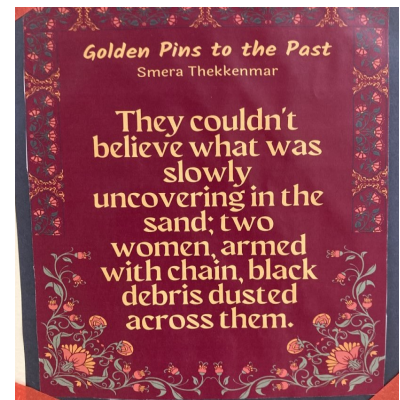
Old Bet passed away in 1827, and there is a rumor that the elephant is buried in front of The Elephant Hotel at the corner of Route 100 and Route 202. After 146 years the brother's circus closed in 2017.

What about the schools? In 1938, grades 1-9 began to attend the new Somers Central School (the original part of SMS!) Each year following, a new grade was added to the school, until the first class of Somers Central School graduated in 1942. Since 1938, Somers has built three additional schools and is a very well-off district.



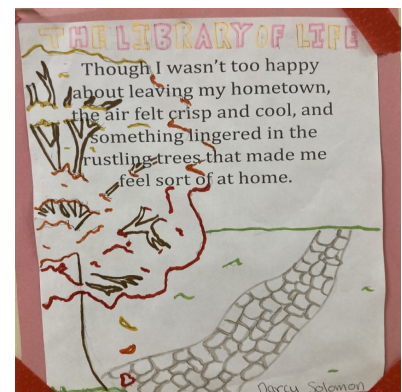
NaNoWriMo Leads

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.



My sadness
soon turned
into
vengefulness,
and I cried no
more.

With My Brothers
By Ryan Bateman



Why Do We Yawn?



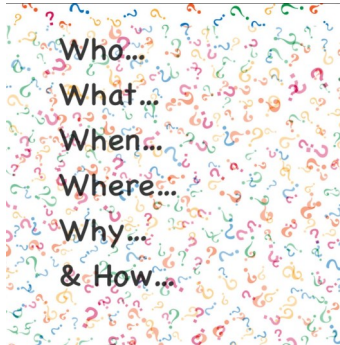
By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: This is a new column by sixth grader Jack Loscher, who will ponder the mysteries of various topics, and attempt to provide answers.

Ever think, why do we yawn? Well, I have an answer. Penguins do it as a mating ritual, snakes do it to realign their jaws after a meal, and guinea pigs do it to show their anger.

So why do we? At first, scientists thought we yawned to take in more air when there is not enough in our blood stream. They also thought yawning was to make us feel less tired.

Now some scientists are saying



that this statement may be false. Scientists now believe that yawning is a way of physiologically cooling your brain. Your brain works best at a certain temperature, like a computer. Deeply inhaling chilly air can alter the temperature of the blood in our brain.

So next time you are feeling stressed or under pressure, just yawn! So basically, we yawn for many distinct reasons. To cool down, to breathe in more blood, and much more. See you next time on *Who... What... When... Where... Why... & How...*



Help! A Halloween Story in February



By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

10/30/18—11:36pm

It was the night before Halloween, and everyone was sound asleep. except... "let's go sneak out. I'm so bored!" Gianna says.

"I wish, but we can't, my parents will freak out," Gaby says proudly.

"Not if they don't know..."

"I suppose, but what if they find out?"

"They won't. I'll text the others to see if they want to come."

"Fine, let's just go, but if my parents find out, I'm blaming it on you." "Whatever."

The girls open the window, and quietly slip out of the house.

"I don't know about this, Gianna. It's dark and scary!"

"It's fine, nothing's going to happen!"

"If you say so..."

They found a place to sit and wait. Wait for their other friends. They do not know where they are going, or what they are doing.

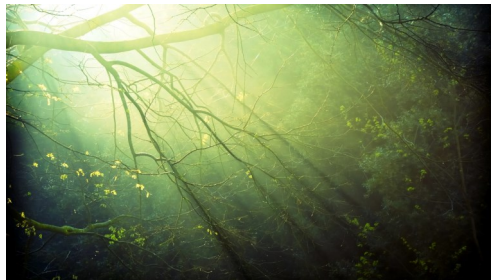
"Ugh, when are they going to be here? It's been like 10 minutes!" Gianna says in anger.

"Just wait, they have to sneak out, too, you know. It's not that easy!"

"Okay fine."

The girls waited, and waited for about 5 minutes...

"We're here!" Jack said.



"Finally, you guys took so long. I don't care let's just go." Gianna says.

"Go where...?" Gaby, Jack and Bryan said scared.

"The woods! C'mon let's go before we get caught."

"No, no, no, I am NOT going into the woods. I'm not trying to get killed today, nope!" Gaby explains.

"Gaby, do not be such a baby. Nothing is going to get you." Bryan says.

"Fine, let's just go. I can't believe I'm doing this."

They start to head into the woods. They could hear the leaves crunch beneath their feet. And the

howling wind swirled around them. Crunch, crunch, crunch.

"It's so cold, someone check the temperature on their phone! I thought it was supposed to be warm tonight. I should not have worn shorts," Gianna says shivering.

"It says 80 degrees. Weird, maybe it's glitching," Jack says.

"Maybe, but it's summer?" Gianna blurted out.

"Whatever. Let's just keep going."

"Wait! Where exactly are we going?"

"Why are you so nosy? Just follow me, I know what I'm doing."

The three friends looked at Jack, flabbergasted.

"Geez Jack! What's your problem? You're so moody right now!" Gaby giggles.

Continued on Page 3

Weekly Book Recommendation: Linked by Gordon Korman



By Anna Huber
Tusker Tribune Staff

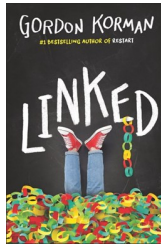
J.K. Rowling once said, "If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book yet."

Well, I firmly believe this is true. So, if you are looking for a great read, you should try Gordon Korman's book Linked.



Chokecherry is a small town where "occurrences" like these don't happen much. When a swastika appears in the school's atrium, the school is on a rampage on finding out who did it. And more importantly, why?

Michael is the ideal suspect, since he found the outrageous symbol. All eyes are on Dana because



she is the only Jewish girl in the school. And because Link is one of the most popular guys in school, everyone is relying on him to figure out who did it. As more swastikas appear, the student body decides to resist by starting a project involving paper links, trying to unite the town together, but instead tearing them apart. Outsiders criticize the town as more swastikas start to appear. Secrets about the town are revealed and the line between past and present blurs.

This book has theme topics such as "outsiders", "prejudice", "struggle", and "community". I would recommend this book because it is a great page turner!

Plus, this book is written in multiple perspectives! So, if you get a chance, read Linked by Gordon Korman!

Help!

From Page 2

Everyone giggled, except Jack. In fact, he looked mad. His eyes were wide, dark and scary. He started to smirk a little, just a little.

"Stop laughing, *now*."

They looked panic-stricken and intimidated. They stopped giggling.

"Jack? What's gotten into you? You weren't like this before, what's going on?" Bryan said as he was stepping towards Jack.

"Just stay away." His eyes were red; his skin looked dry. They screamed loudly. "I'll figure this out. Just, go!"

"Jack? What's going on? Stop scaring me, and everybody else! If this is a stupid prank, just stop!" says Gianna.

"Yeah Jack, do you really want to be alone in the woods? Let's just get back home. It's almost 1 am, and I'm not in the mood to get caught."

"No, just leave, and hurry quickly. Do as I say. I'll be fine. Just go please."

"I'm staying with you. It's dangerous out here," they all say.

"No, go. I rather be alone."

"Guys let's just go. He's being weird right now." Gaby says.

"Yeah, let's leave. If he wants to be alone, then so be it," Gianna says.

They start to walk out of the woods when they hear something running behind them. They turn around to see Jack, racing towards them.

"RUN!" Gaby blurts. They ran as fast as they could out of the woods and to the gate where they met up. Their hearts were beating so hard they could hear it.

"I think we lost him," Bryan says.

"I knew this was a bad idea! But you all doubted me! Now we're going to be suspects of



Jack's disappearance!" Gaby screamed.

"Okay, you don't know that. Jack could be right behind me about to yell 'Pranked!'," Bryan jokes.

"Hey."

Bryan turns around to see Jack. He looks like he never been in the sun! His hair was all messy and looked . . . fried?

"AAH, geez you scared me, Jack! C'mon, let's go back home. Bye girls!" Bryan uttered.

"No, you must stay for the sacrifice," Jack mumbled.

"SACRIFICE?" all three of them say.

"Yeah. Gaby, let's get you ready for the fire. You will make great meat."

"WHAT! NO! I'M TOO

YOUNG!" Gaby declared.

"Oh, you look scared. It only hurts a little!"

Gaby picks up a branch and swings it directly at Jack's face!

"OW! Why'd you do that for? Now I'll have a big purple bruise on my forehead!" Jack said weakly.

"Because you were trying to COOK me and EAT me!"

"It was just a prank!"

"Oh, well you took it *way* too far. I was about to call the police!" Gaby comments.

Bryan starts to grin.

"Wait, were you in this, too?" Gianna says in anger.

"Yeah, I was."

"Ugh I can't believe you two. We're leaving. C'mon Gaby, let's go!" They start walking away.

"Wait for us!" Jack screams.

6 minutes later

"Guys? Where did you guys go?..." said Jack...

The end

Video Games: Hurtful or Helpful?



**By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Research shows that video games might not just be fun and games. Studies show that certain video games can improve hand eye coordination, problem solving skills, and one's ability to process information. An MRI brain scan found out that children who played video games for three or more hours a day showed higher brain activity in regions of the brain associated with attention.

Some benefits of video games are, they can speed up response times, and they can encourage



friends.

Finally you may pay too much attention too video games that work and any other problems just keep getting pushed back. So, video games can be helpful, but also may be hurtful.

teamwork when working with others. Some video games can work on special skills such as building, money management, and so on.

However, when played too much, you may be at risk of getting addicted. You also may spend money on video games leading to financial problems. It also may isolate you from your family and

Is Asteroid Mining Possible?



**By Leo Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff**

We have all heard of asteroids. They are the rocks that whirl around in space, right? They are just useless objects that are found in the Asteroid Belt (between Mars and Jupiter) and the Kuiper Belt (past Neptune). But there is more to these bodies than meets the eye.

In fact, the space company behemoths such as NASA, ESA, and SpaceX have all at least considered this idea. Before the 1970s, it was all science-fiction, but the moon landing in 1969 caused a huge spark of interest in projects such as extracting asteroid ore. However, only 1 gram of asteroid has been extracted and successfully arrived on Earth. Why is that?

Well, a big problem is the cost. An upcoming NASA mission, OSIRIS-REx, is looking to return 400 to 1,000 grams (1kg) of ore and could cost \$1 billion. For most companies, that is just too high of a price for so little material. However, as we advance in technology, it could be looking increasingly realistic. Even if it did work, several of



these missions could destroy the world's raw material market.

Also, the very process of extracting asteroids from space will be exceedingly difficult. Since the asteroids we are looking for are not on Earth, getting the ore on the inside will be challenging in space conditions. Once

again, scientific breakthroughs will dictate the likelihood of success.

If it works, mining could have a positive effect on the environment. One reason is because one of the ways asteroid mining could be possible is by using a technique, like extracting water from the ground, which helps with water shortages around the world. If one area advances in technology, the other does, too.

Also, if asteroid mining dominates the main source of obtaining materials in the far future, this will cause no reason for underground mining, which is not only dangerous for some workers around the world, but also lets out toxic chemicals into waterways.

What do you think? Is asteroid mining the next huge economy-booster, or just a short-lived fantasy? Only time will tell.



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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:

Snow Day? Or Distance Learning Day?

Guess You Have to Actually Have Snow, First!!!



**By Reagan Ciccone
Tusker Tribune Staff**

With the winter weather becoming harsher and harsher and the temperature slowly dropping every, single day, snow days are bound to happen. The question is, would you rather have a relaxing snow day or would you want to save yourself a spring vacation by having a virtual snow day?

Benefits of a relaxing snow day

Although snow is beautiful and fun, the main reason kids would like it to snow on a school day is for the purpose of relaxing and missing school. It is a key part of your childhood to sit near the window and watch the snow fall while being able to relax in your cozy home, without having to worry if you did your homework or without having to stress over a test.

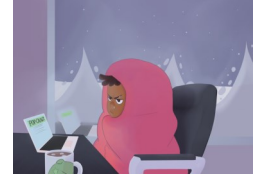
The entire point of a snow day is for you to relax, have some extra time to work (while I doubt any kid would want to work) or to have free time to yourself.

Having a virtual day would crush all of that in a second. If you were to go to "V" school, there is no time to relax, and you will need to worry about attending Zoom, and doing your work online. A virtual day on a snow day ruins the whole point; you might as well be in school.



Benefits of a virtual snow day

Although a virtual day on a snow day sucks out a lot of the fun from a snow day, it could be practical and beneficial. Instead of having to take days off important holidays or vacations such as spring break, you can just do school virtually. That way, it will count as an actual school day and not be taken off from your breaks that you would like to enjoy.



In about 3rd or 2nd grade, it had snowed a lot during the winter. It snowed so much that we had used up all our snow days and we eventually had to take off all the days from our spring break, making us attending school during the week we were supposed to be off. If a virtual day existed back then, it could have easily prevented our spring break from being taken away. Of course, snow days are enjoyable, but it is not worth it if you must lose your entire spring break.

After arguing on both sides, I personally think that once we use up our snow days, we should do virtual days to avoid losing any of our important days off. Yes, not a lot of people would be happy, including myself, but I think it will be worth it to go virtual if it means we spare more days off.

So, what do you think? Should virtual snow days be a thing?

SMS's STAR Students for January 2023

Grade 6:



Matthew
Raimondi



Olivia
Girolamo



Gabriella
Suflita



Sophia
Bernardi



Gianna
Lopez

Grade 7:



Kwaku
Wiredu-
Mensah



Aidan
Braun



Liam
Barrett



Nicholas
Morales

Grade 8:



Enrico
Diana



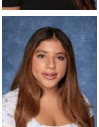
Jaiden
Meade



Daniel
Hershfield



Mailly
Cabrera



Aimee
Kovacs

Grade 8:



Eduardo
Ruiz



Jayden
Cardona



Aurora
Riley



Reese
Harney

A STAR award stands for Students who are Role Models. The students pictured here were caught doing something that deserves the STAR recognition for the month—from common courtesy, to helping another student or staff member, to standing up for someone or cheering them up!