



The Tusker Tribune

80

NEWSCLUB
TUSKER TRIBUNE

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 19

<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

Winter 2023

Extinction Threat is Very Real for These Animals



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Polar bears, tigers, blue whales, rhinos, and sea turtles. These animals are some of the many endangered species on earth. An endangered species is a species that is likely to go extinct in the near future. Some animals are at risk because of poaching and habitat loss. Others are at risk because they're threatened by invasive species.



As the number of sea turtles declines, so does the number of sea turtle eggs. Fewer eggs on the beach mean fewer nutrients. Dune vegetation would lose this major source of nutrients and would not be strong enough to maintain the dunes. That would result in increased erosion.

Just like the number of turtles, the number of other endangered species are declining. Polar bears and tigers help control other species' populations.

There are so many bad things that would happen to our ecosystem if even one animal goes extinct. It would cause a chain reaction and would eventually lead to the collapse of many different food chains.

How can you help? Try to recycle everything you can and use reusable plastic and try to create less waste. You can also "adopt" an animal and donate to different wildlife nonprofit organizations on their websites.

It's Time for March to Have a Holiday! (Just Like Every Other Month of School!)



By Ruby McDonnell
Tusker Tribune Staff

September has Labor Day, October has Columbus Day, November—Thanksgiving, December—Christmas break, January has MLK day, February—mid-winter break, April has spring break, May—Memorial Day, and June has Juneteenth.



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



Wait! I missed one! March is the only month in our school year that doesn't have a holiday! How unfair is that?!? And so, I propose.... the week of March 12-18 off! This week entails so many amazing holidays!

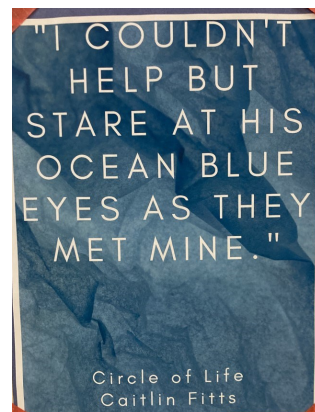
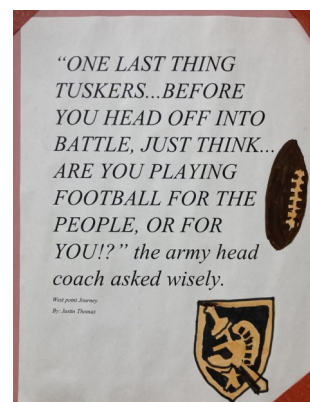
Kick the week off strong with Plant-a-Flower Day on March 12. This wonderful day is a great way to have some fun with friends and family, planting flowers to beautify your yard! Skipping the 13th, we have Pi day on March 14! Get it? 3.14...

Celebrate the mathematical concept or the food on this day! On March 15, we have World Speech Day. Get out there and share your voice on March 15! On March 16, we have Panda Day! Who wouldn't want to celebrate these adorable bamboo lawnmowers? Finally, on March 17, we have St Patrick's Day. We need to spend the day planting traps for these pesky little leprechauns.

So what do you think? Should we have this week off in March?

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.



Super Bowl Traditions and Customs



**By Angela Roane
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On Sunday February 12th, the Eagles and Chiefs face off in the Super Bowl in Arizona!

Here are some of the traditions and fun facts about the Super Bowl. One fun fact about the Super Bowl is that 99.18 million people watched it last year! Another crazy thing about the Super Bowl is the commercials. Surprisingly, a lot of people enjoy watching the commercials, sometimes more than the game itself.

The amount of money a company will spend for a 30-second ad is even crazier. In 2022, it cost roughly \$230,000 per second for a Superbowl ad! That means that a 30 second ad would cost close to \$7 million!!



Lots of people like to celebrate Super Bowl Sunday by having a Super Bowl party. Some of the most popular foods for Super Bowl parties include chicken wings, chips n' dip, pizza, pigs in a blanket, nachos, chili, subs and burgers.

My family doesn't have a Super Bowl party, but my parents still enjoy the halftime show while I enjoy the game.

Another tradition for Super Bowl Sunday is for the President of the United States to get involved with the winners in the Super Bowl. For decades, after the Super Bowl, the president calls the winners. The winning team also gets a tour of the White House.

I hope you tune in to watch the big game at 6:30pm on Sunday, February 12th!

Super Bowl Fun Facts



**By Claire Cronin
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Super Bowl is a very popular event that takes place every year. It is mostly watched by Americans, but it has been recorded that a few people outside of America have watched, too.

This year, Sunday, February 12th, is the day the 2023 Super Bowl takes place. This year, the half time performance is believed to be Rihanna. She will be making a much-anticipated return to live music. This year, it will be the singer's first live performance in five years, so it's a big deal to many audiences.

The first ever Super Bowl was held on January 15, 1967 and was played between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs. The game was played at Los Angeles Memorial

Coliseum with the Packers beating the Chiefs 35-10.

This year, the Super Bowl will be held in Glendale, Arizona. Some fun facts about the Super bowl are...



- The Super Bowl is the second-highest eating day for Americans after Thanksgiving.
- The Green Bay Packers were the first team to ever win a Super Bowl.
- 12 NFL teams have never won the Super Bowl: The Arizona Cardinals, the Atlanta Falcons, the Buffalo Bills, The Carolina Panthers, the Cincinnati Bengals, The Cleveland Browns, the Detroit Lions, the Houston Texans, the Jacksonville Jaguars, and Los Angeles Chargers, The Minnesota Vikings, and the Tennessee Titans.
- The University of California is the school which has produced the most Super Bowl QBs
- A special gold coin is used for the coin toss.

At Least One Taylor Swift Concert Should be Free!

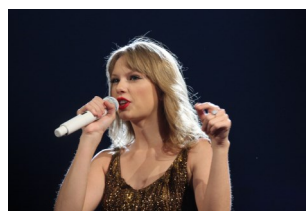


**By Samantha Harris
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think there should be free Taylor Swift concert tickets for these reasons.

One reason is that there are millions, maybe even billions, of people who want to go to her concerts and love her music. People have been listening to her music forever and need the experience of being live at one of her concerts.

A second reason is that it can be way too expensive to afford everything you need to



go to her concerts. If the tickets are free, it helps a whole lot because you also have to pay for the gas to drive to her concert, and airfare if you need to take a plane to the concert, which is a lot of money, too.

Third, most people will buy front row tickets and re-sell them for double or even triple the original price, which makes them incredibly expensive. Sometimes, it can be just as expensive as a car. If they were free then it would make all Swifties very happy.

Why Do Volcanoes Erupt?



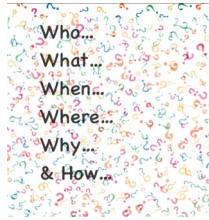
By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff

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 volcanoes erupt? Well, I have an answer. Deep within the Earth it is so hot that some rocks slowly melt and become magma. Since it is lighter than the rock around it, magma rises and collects in something called magma chambers.



Eventually, some of



the magma pushes through vents to the Earth's surface and erupts in a volcano. Therefore, it becomes lava.

To make it easier, imagine this. Your friend is playing a prank on you. They shake up a soda can, and hand it to you. The more you shake the can, the more it builds on and on. When you open that can, BOOM! Soda everywhere. This happens because the gas has dissolved in the soda can. It has been kept under pressure. When you open that can, gas bubbles rush out, bringing soda with it. That is why the foam coming out of your soda volcano is pretty much the same way. Except obviously, no one is going to be shaking a volcano.

See you next time on Who... What... When... Where... Why... & How...

Should students use tablets or paper during school?



By Mary Hawkins
Tusker Tribune Staff

Every day, students can come to school ready to learn with one single device. A tablet! We can carry all our information and schoolwork effortlessly. But the question is, is this small device taking away our learning skills?

After the COVID-19 virus hit, our country had to go on lockdown and school turned from in person to online learning. This time in history has affected many people and changed our world completely.

Before March 13th, 2020, we would learn in school with paper and a pencil, sometimes even a white board or a chalk board. We had to carry folders and notebooks stacked with paper. But one day that all changed. Zoom started to become popular with many schools and this online learning technique stuck to our curriculum even after the pandemic.

The day we went back to school, we had so few papers to carry that it almost felt like a relief! We did not have to worry about organizing our folders or having to search everywhere just to find a little note sheet. That was because we had the tablet, the device that carried the knowledge of everything recorded on this earth. Even beyond earth!

Tablets can search up anything a human could want to know or learn about, instead of mindlessly searching through a 1000-page textbook for hours. Some students argue that tablets can be easier to learn on since most people just look up answers for everything nowadays. But is it really helping us learn better than the old fashion paper?

Research shows that tablets can help students with tests and homework because of the amount of

information you can learn from it. But other studies show that paper is better for a student's learning abilities to expand. Having paper allows you to express your creative thinking instead of typing.

Studying is also shown to be much more useful on paper and written. It is also said that

writing your notes will help you understand what you are learning more. Let us say you are writing down something letter by letter with a pencil, or you are typing word for word. Which one would you think would be more effective?

Students have also confirmed that material they are learning will retain for a longer amount of time and will improve

your critical thinking skills. This will also allow students to engage more in what they are learning. Typing your notes will not help you learn much, according to <https://now.northropgrumman.com/in-handwriting-vs-typing-notes-pen-and-paper-might-win-out/>.

Statistics show that student test scores are improved by 5.4% if they study on paper. Yes, some students can achieve studying on a mobile device, but most average students prefer having paper notes instead of having to read it off a screen.

Some students argue as well that reading on paper or having something physical in front of you is much more effective than having to read on tablets or laptops. For example, reading a textbook can be difficult trying to find certain page numbers, etc. But it is proven that the knowledge sticks more in your head and trains your brain to concentrate more.

So, the debate still stands. Do you think tablets or paper are better for students?



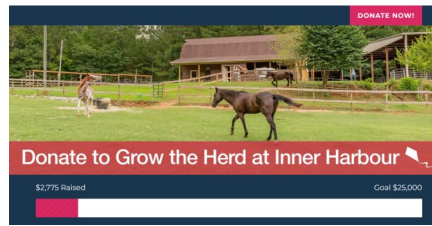
Guess The Number of Kisses! (It's for a Good Cause!)



**By Alyssa Diaz
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

The SMS Student Council is holding a Valentine's guessing jar contest where you can win what's in the jar, plus a gift card to Bobos Café. All you need to do is guess the number of Hershey's Kisses that are in the jar. For \$1, you can get two guesses on how many Hershey's Kisses are in the jar.

However, if you donate to Youth Villages, which is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children with emotional and behavioral problems and their families live successfully, you can get **THREE** guesses for every dollar you donate to them. The organization uses a lot of animals to help the children, one of which is horses.



They are raising money to get more horses and need your help to get them. Their goal is \$25,000 but are currently at only \$2,775, which is less than 1/2 of their goal.

Help out Youth Villages because they have worked to radically improve the lives of children across the country through an array of program models and services built around preserving and restoring families. So donate \$1 to Youth Villages, using the link provided below, and print out a confirmation that you donated to them to get three guesses. Tell your friends and family members to donate, too! My goal is to get them to at \$3,000 so they get closer to their goal.

Use this link to donate:

[https://youthvillages.donordrive.com/index.cfm?](https://youthvillages.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=609)

[fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=609](https://youthvillages.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=609)

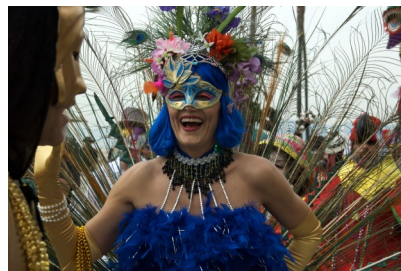
Mardi Gras is getting closer



**By Ashley Contreras
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Mardi gras is taking place Tuesday, February 21st. Here's some fun facts about Mardi Gras to prepare you for the celebration.

- The words "Mardi Gras" translates to "Fat Tuesday" in English.
- The Mardi Gras official colors are purple, green, and gold.
- The first Mardi Gras was celebrated in 1703 in Mobile, Alabama.
- People who ride the floats are required by law to wear a mask.
- Mardi Gras is also known as "Pancake Day" or



"Paczki (filled donuts) Day."

- There's usually a small plastic baby inside the traditional cake. Whoever ends up with the baby has to bring in the cake the next year.
- In Mardi Gras, the color purple symbolizes justice, green symbolizes faith, and gold symbolizes power
- It is required to take off masks at 6 pm.
- The most popular dessert during

Mardi Gras is King Cake, which is a cake made of nutmeg, milk, eggs, sugar, and flour, and filled with cream cheese and sugar.

- Mardi Gras beads used to be made of glass. Hopefully these fun facts get you prepared for Mardi Gras!

Reporters and Contributors

**Ashley Contreras
Claire Cronin
Alyssa Diaz
Samantha Harris
Anna Huber
Mary Hawkins
Jack Loscher
Ruby McDowell
Ava Schmidberger**



Are Lunch and Recess Too Short?



**By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you think lunch and recess are too short? I do. Here is why. Imagine this—it is finally lunch time. You drop off your stuff at your locker, and head downstairs, only to find a line outside the doors.

You wait and wait and when you get your food and sit down, the three minute warning is called. You rush to eat your food and do not get the chance to enjoy your meal or talk with your friends. Then you transition outside.

When you start playing your game, you never want it to end. Then all of a sudden, the whistle is blown. You rush to put away the ball and head upstairs.

This is why I think that lunch and recess are too short and that they should be extended.



Weekly Book Recommendation, The Outsiders by S.E Hinton



By Anna Huber
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's time for a weekly book recommendation! The book I will be recommending is The Outsiders by S.E Hinton. This is an amazing book with well-developed characters, immense amounts of details, and an amazing plot!

Ponyboy is a 14-year-old who lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His brothers, Sodapop and Darry, were always there for him, even before his parents' deaths. They're there whether it's back up in a fight with the Soc's or just a good old fashion rumble. The rest of the Greasers are there as well, like Johnny and Two-Bit.

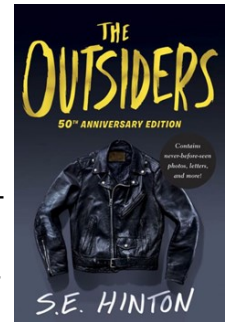
Though Ponyboy isn't as close with other greasers like Dally or Steve, he still considers them family. After all, "Greasers" need to stick together, especially when it comes to dealing with the "Socials", otherwise known as the "Socs".



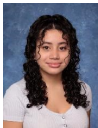
The Greasers believe that Socs are just ruthless spoiled rich kids who have a blast beating up Greasers, but the Socs presume that Greasers are nothing but low-class, cold-blooded hoods. However, Ponyboy knows that the Socs are predictable with their beer blasts and attacks on Greasers.

At one point, when Ponyboy runs away from home and comes across Johnny, a walk to the park is the perfect way to calm down. Though, when the Socs turn up, the night takes a turn for the worst.

This story includes theme topics such as outsiders (obviously), rivalry, found family, and more! I would recommend this to anyone who wants a great read and is interested in the theme topics above. Thanks for reading!



4/10 Global Problems and How to Fix Them



By Sophia Valenzuela
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: This is an ongoing series presenting 20 global problems and solutions to fix them. This is the fourth installment. The first installment ran in the 10/14/22 issue of the Tusker Tribune.

In this essay I will be informing you about the ranked 4th most important problem in the world, which is refugee rights.

Refugee rights means having rights like the freedom to work, freedom to move, freedom to access education, and other common freedoms that allow people to live their lives normally.

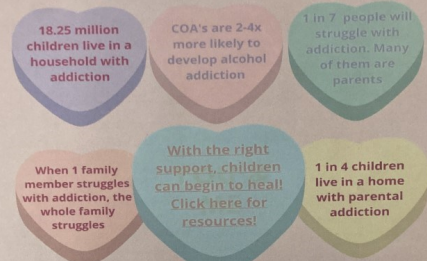


Unfortunately, this is a problem in the world and is something some people are unlucky not to have. Refugees struggling with their rights is mostly common in places like Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and Türkiye. Over 32.5 million people global are affected by the refugee rights crisis. About 4.6 million people are asylum-seekers (seeking refugee status) and 53.2 million people are displaced within their own countries. That's almost 41% of a population forcibly displaced within their own countries. Almost one million children were born as refugees between 2018 and 2020.

One way you can help with this problem is by donating to donation centers online that help refugees. Refugee families are fighting every day to survive, recover and rebuild their lives. Donating will help provide food, medical care and emergency supplies to children and families in countries that are affected, like Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, and Ethiopia.

Also, look for opportunities to help volunteer with refugees. Lastly, we want to live in a world where people who are in grave danger have the opportunity rebuild their lives in safety.

Child Of Addiction Awareness week February 12th - 18th



COA WEEK

CHILDREN OF ADDICTION

When you're struggling with a sense of shame, or with the fear of voicing your needs, make a list of your rights as a child or teen and repeat them to yourself. Say them out loud until you feel comfortable with them, until they become part of the way you think about yourself.

**I HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK UP.
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO GET HELP.
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE LOVED.
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE.**

Ms. Casey, Student Assistance Counselor / Prevention Specialist
Helps Students to Remain substance free, enhance wellbeing and make healthy decisions

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:

DPappas@somersschools.org.

Tusker Tribune Website:

<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11>