

# The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Spring 2016

## Aladdin a Hit on the SMS Stage!



**By Noelle DeMarinis  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This past week, the SMS Drama Club put on a production of a Disney classic, Aladdin Jr! Four performances were given March 17, March 18, and March 19.

This outstanding play was directed by the marvelous Michelle Moriarty, a teacher at SMS, and featured students ranging from 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

Performing beloved songs such as "A Whole New World" and "A Friend Like Me", the cast hit it out of the park!

The stage crew did a fantastic job with the

sets and props, and it really made the audience feel like they

were in Agrabah! (the imaginary city where the play takes place).

The costume design was spectacular and everyone looked incredible. To conclude, both stage crew and cast did a wonderful job and should be extremely proud of what they accomplished! I give it five stars out of five!



## Behind the Scenes at Aladdin—Hard Work Pays Off



**By Charley Martabano  
TuskerTribune Staff**

***Editor's Note: Charlie was one of the cast members for the SMS production***

***of Aladdin. She gives a "behind the scenes" reflection on the effort it takes to pull off a drama production.***

Were you the person in the audience cheering the actors on? How did they do it? How did they perform such a great show?

It's not as simple as you think! It takes a total of around 4 months and at least 2 days a

week if not 3 days. Each day lasts until 4:30 or 5:00 pm!

Most of the days are all about the singing and choreography. But, the people who have speaking roles have an extra day so that we can practice.

Sure it's a lot of work, but in the end, it's all worth it! The feeling of the spot lights prancing around you and everyone singing to their hearts' content! We couldn't have done it without the fun

and loving, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Moriarity! These people are the most understanding, and caring people you could meet! They understand that you have to do homework and understand you have commitments, too! It's a real balance!





## Neal Shusterman's 'Unwind'

By Peyton DiSiena  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello readers!

Hope you have a happy long weekend, and spend some of that time reading a good book.

Oh? You don't have a good book? Well this Book Talk is for you! I have found a great series, that is not fantasy, but Science Fiction! And it is the Unwind series by Neal Shusterman.

This book takes place in a time where there is a Second Civil War. What is happening



at this time is that some parents are starting to "unwind" their children at age 13, which means they have their children "tithe", or give their organs to different donors so life doesn't technically end.

This first book in the series follows three children who decide that they don't want to be-

come "unwound".

I don't want to spoil too much, because you should read the book for yourself! Happy reading!

## Reflections on Peyton Manning's Retirement



By Mia Renne  
Tusker Tribune Staff

You may have heard that, after 18 seasons, Broncos Star Quarterback Peyton Manning bid farewell to football.

"He didn't get better every game. He got better every meeting, every practice, every period in practice," said former Tennessee Coach Philip Fulmer, who coached Peyton in college. "He was the most incredible player that I've ever seen of taking it from the film room to the practice field and then from the practice field to the game."

He added, "Manning has inspired many to become better athletes. I guess we all



Can say that he is proud to be a good teammate."

"I get asked about my legacy," said Manning before this year's Super Bowl 50. "For me, it's being a good teammate, having respect of my teammates, having respect of the coaches and players. That's im-

portant to me. I cannot take this for granted. I just love football."

**Editor's Note: Paste the link below, into your web browser for additional insights:**  
<https://newsela.com/articles/peytonmanning-retires/id/15556/>



## Matt Kushner's 'Time Warp' Series

*It is recommended that you read the previous chapter(s).*

### Chapter 4

After my strange encounter with the pizzeria cook, I decided to walk across the street to the well-hated electronic shop. And, personally, when I walked to the display window to look inside. It was nothing like I expected. The shop was small and cluttered, with old phones and televisions stalking the walls, cassette recorders and portable tape players filling the floor, and a register with smaller unidentifiable little gadgets from this distance inside a case below it. Nothing like it is now. Something happened to the shop

"Hello? Is anyone there?" No one was there. Which was good, because it meant I could snoop around the shop a bit. But, personally, I didn't know what I was looking for. A check that I could rip up and ruin the shop's business? A detonator to blow up the shop? I don't know.

"Hey, man. Looking for some *coool* gadgets?" I once met the owner of the shop across the road, and he was nothing like this.

"Yeah, man. Do you have a phone? A nice-lookin' one." I was trying so hard to sound normal, but I'd never know.

"The nice-lookin' ones are in the back over there. But only nice-lookin' ones. If you want more top-

of-the-line ones, go to the shelf across from it." The cashier pointed to a wall on the other side of the store, which was not a far distance, mind you.

"Thanks." I walked over to the shelf and pretended to be browsing at the different selections of phones. I had to come with a plan. A plan to take down this small joint....

I picked up a strange-looking phone and turned around to ask the cashier how good it is. But instead, I almost dropped it.

"Move a muscle and I'll kill you." The cashier was now holding a gun like I've never seen before. Almost like one out of a sci-fi story.

"What do you mean?"

"You know what I mean, agent. Now, just let me take you in for interrogation, and you'll be on your merry way." I ran for the small portable TVs. I saw two televisions get hit by what seemed like lasers and then, almost a millisecond later, they exploded. I continued running, but this time, I threw the "good lookin'" phone into the air. Luckily, he

must've shot at me, but instead hit the phone that I threw.

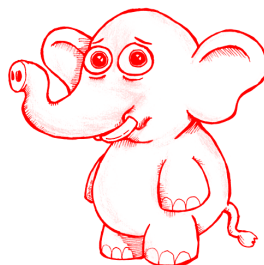
I then continued behind the counter, where I found a gun like the cashier's, just sitting there, for me. I heard the laser gun hitting the sides of the counter. Then, I picked up the gun, got up, and shot at the cashier. He immediately fell to the ground after three tries, the first two missing.

I found a key on the remains of the cashier's body. The key, of course, led to the door behind the register. But what was behind that door was beyond what I was imagining.



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**The Tusker Tribune**  
**Editorials:**

**More Cafeteria Seats, Please!**

**By Charley Martabano**  
**Tusker Tribune Editorial Staff**

You walk into the cafeteria and look for your friends. You find their table and go to sit down. once? The more the merrier! Why should this happen when it doesn't have to!

But, as you get closer, you see there are no more seats left! This dilemma has happened many times

and recurs every year.

The monitors say you can't pull up a chair so now one person is out—you!

Why should it be that only 8 people can sit there at

The chairs shouldn't be built into the seats, because then it would take you 20 minutes to add the seat, and then you have no time to eat your lunch!

There should definitely be more unattached seats in the cafeteria!



**Bring on the Mild Weather!**



**By Kaitlyn DeRosa**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

I don't know about you guys but I am loving the beautiful, warm weather we had last week!

It was hard to believe it was March! I think Mother Nature was giving us a taste of what a nice hot summer we will have in a few months.

Remember last year? In March there were big, fluffy, white snowflakes dancing about through the air. What a difference a year makes!

Even the wimpy "snow storm" we had this past Monday couldn't hold up in the face of an early spring!



**SIS Annual Colonial Day Takes Students Back in Time**



**By Justin Vassallo**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

On Wednesday March 23 2016 SIS will be having its annual Colonial Day. Colonial Day is strictly for 4th graders only. It is run by Mr. Badini and Mr. St. Germaine.

There are many thrilling events that take place during Colonial Day. Some activities that take place during Colonial Day consist of making candles, learning colonial dances, making pancakes with a corn mix and making pudding. Participants also set up a

tent and learn how to shoot a muzzle loading flintlock musket. Nicole Vassallo says "I am really looking forward to colonial day!"

Colonial Day is a SIS tradition that takes place every year.



# Mythological Musings . . .

## Ares and Dionysus



By Jack Kerins  
Tusker Tribune Special Features

*Editor's Note: Jack decided to do some research on Greek Gods. His findings appear here.*

### Ares

They say that you can't be born evil, but that is not the case for the god Ares. When Ares was born his parent's (Hera and Zeus) could barely hold him. When Zeus tried to tickle the chin of Ares when he was born, Ares grabbed Zeus's finger and broke it. Then the baby pounded his chest and roared.

While Ares grew up he never cried or whined, the only thing he did that for was blood. His thought of fun was, riding a chariot and seeing how many people he could knock over.

When he was in his teens, he built the ultimate fortress. The castle is made up of entirely iron. It had black metal walls, metal gates, dark towers, spiked turrets, and a central



keep with bars on the windows. He had about 10,000,000+ swords and shields. Basically he never loses a battle. Ares's usually outfit is a horned helmet, full black armor. He usually uses a sword as his main weapon. It's actually

hard to say his appearance, because he always changes how he looks because he is a god.

### Dionysus

When Dionysus was first born, he actually came from Zeus's thigh. After that, Hera had a problem with him. So Zeus sent him to the mortal world as

a girl so that he wouldn't be found. Then after 3 years, Hera found them and messed with the people who were taking care of Dionysus. So Zeus turned Dionysus into a sheep so that Hera would not find him. She made Uncle Athams think that his oldest son was deer so he shot him. And then Aunt

Ino thought that their younger son was cold and needed a hot bath, which boiled him alive. After that Hera could not find Dionysus so Zeus retrieved him and turned him back into a goat. He was the only Olympic god with a mortal parent.

Later on, Dionysus was picking grapes from a grape bush. He picked them and put them into a basket and brought them to a stream. He searched for the perfect size rocks that he could find. He finally found two large flat stones, he smashed the grapes with the rocks and made the first winepress. Dionysus got out a cup which he always keeps on his belt and took some of the juice. He held the drink up to the sunlight and did some of his magic on it. He looked at it and noticed something different from all of the other juices. So he drank it. His taste buds exploded! Then he said aloud, "This is some pretty good stuff."

After that he made all different kinds of this drink. And then he came up with the name "wine".

