



The Tusker Tribune

75



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Winter 2023

Go on a Blind Date . . . With a Book!



**By Lauren Crispino
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are you having trouble finding a new book? Love another story, and need something like that? Are you indecisive?

Well, the SMS library has something just for you. You can go on a *blind date with a book!* But how does this work, you may be asking.

Well, if you head [to](#) the SMS library, you will see some wrapped books around the library. Some books will have blurbs, quotes, descriptions, and even some popular books just like that one! Did you love The One and Only Ivan? Well, they have a book just like that.

Did you love Malala Yousafzai's story? Well, there is a book based on that too! Or even Diary of a Wimpy Kid, if you loved that. Go check out the blind date with a book contest! There are tons of books to choose from, and you can even choose more than one!

Happy reading!



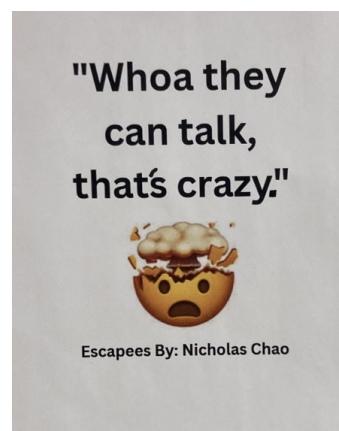
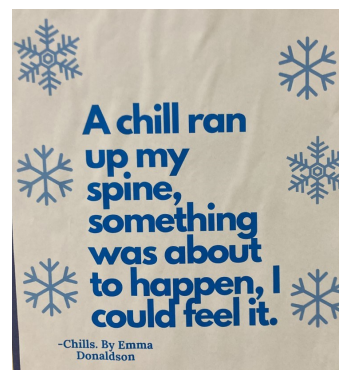
NaNoWriMo Leads

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.

The Missing Island

By Mitch Monahan

**The light gave
Matt and Joey a
sigh of relief, they
were thankful
that they would
not be spending
the night in the
unpredictable
jungle.**



Skiers and Snowboarders Should Have Separate Mountains



**By Samantha Harris
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I believe that there should be different mountains for skiers and snowboarders. I think this because when snowboards turn, they have to shift their bodies, but their back is facing you if you are behind them. This can cause accidents because if they aren't able to look back at you, then they can be in your way and could crash.

Also, if you're getting off the lift and have to go to a trail by walking, then it's much slower for the snowboarders to get to the trail. They only have one foot to move with because the other foot is locked in the buckle.

On the other hand, skiers can move their legs freely and

has poles to move them faster. This could cause "traffic" on the mountain because skiers are trying to get past them. This frustrates skiers a lot because they want to get to a trail faster and have fun, but snowboarders stop them from doing that.

Lastly, snowboarders stop on the mountain by sitting back and lying on their back. This takes up a lot of room

across the mountain if there are multiple snowboarders resting on the mountain.

With these reasons I think that it would be better for skiers and snowboarders to have different mountains.



Michael Jordan's NBA Legacy



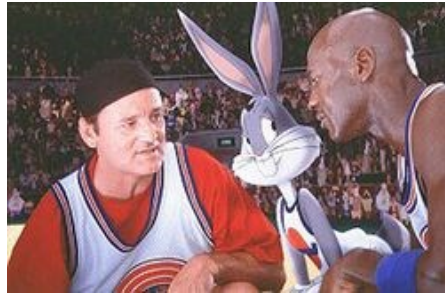
**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Michael Jeffrey Jordan (born February 17, 1963), also known by his initials MJ, is a former professional basketball player. His biography on the official NBA website states: "By acclamation, Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player of all time."

He played fifteen seasons in the National Basketball Association (NBA), winning six NBA championships. Jordan is the majority owner and chairman of the Charlotte Hornets of the NBA and of 23XI Racing in the NASCAR Cup Series. He had a very important role in popularizing the NBA around the world in the 1980s and 1990s, becoming a global icon in the process.

Jordan was born at Cumberland Hospital in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, New York City, on February 17, 1963, the son of Deloris and James R. Jordan, Sr. In 1968, he moved with his family to Wilmington, North Carolina. Jordan attended Emsley A. Laney High School in Wilmington, where he played basketball, baseball, and football. He tried out for the basketball varsity team during his sophomore year; at 5 feet 11 inches (1.80 m), he was deemed too short to play at that level. His taller friend, Harvest Leroy Smith, was the only sophomore to make the team.

Motivated to prove his worth, Jordan became the star of Laney's junior varsity team, and had some 40-point games! The following summer, he grew four inches (10 cm) and trained intensely. Upon earning a spot on the varsity roster, Jordan averaged more than 25 points per game (PPG) over his final two seasons of high school. As a senior, he was selected to play in the 1981 McDonald's All-American Game and scored 30 points, after averaging 27 ppg, 12 rebounds (RPG), and six assists per game (APG) for the season.



Jordan was recruited by numerous college basketball programs, including Duke, North Carolina, South Carolina, Syracuse, and Virginia. In 1981, he accepted a basketball scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he majored in cultural geography.

Jordan played college basketball for three seasons under coach Dean Smith with the North Carolina Tar Heels. As a freshman, he was a member of the Tar Heels' national championship team in 1982.

Then, professionally, Jordan joined the Chicago Bulls in 1984 as the third overall draft pick, and quickly emerged as a basketball star, entertaining crowds with his insane scoring while gaining a reputation as one of the game's best defensive players. His leaping ability, demonstrated by performing slam dunks from the free-throw line in Slam Dunk Contests, earned him many nicknames.

Jordan won his first NBA title with the Bulls in 1991, and followed that with titles in 1992 and 1993, securing a three-peat (three titles, three years in a row). Jordan abruptly retired from basketball before the 1993–94 NBA season to play Minor League Baseball, but returned to the Bulls in March 1995 and led them to three more championships in 1996, 1997, and 1998, as well as a record (back then) of 72 regular season wins in the 1995–96 NBA season.

He retired for the second time in January 1999, but returned for two more NBA seasons, from 2001 to 2003, as a member of the Washington Wizards. During the course of his professional career he was also selected to play for the United States national team, winning four gold medals at the 1983 Pan American Games, the 1984 Summer Olympics, the 1992 Tournament of the Americas and the 1992 Summer Olympics.

In addition, he played a starring role in the 1996 movie Space Jam, featuring Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and other cartoon characters.

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:

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

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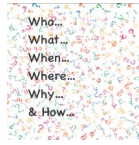
Where Does Our Trash Really Go?



**By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Most people think that our trash just go to the dump, otherwise known as landfills. Well, they are, for the most part, right.

Trash such as paper, uneaten food, clothing etc., take a variety of sorting paths depending on what they are. Some trash gets recycled or composted, while other pieces of trash are sent to waste-to-energy facilities that convert garbage into electricity, and the rest of the trash goes to the landfills.



Landfills are specially engineered facilities. They are designed to hold waste and keep in all the bad toxins. Some people still think that our trash gets dumped in the ocean, but they banned that in 1988. This act saved many sea animals' lives.



So our trash goes to many different places, but definitely not the ocean. I hope this fills you in. See you next time on Who, What, Where When, Why & How.

Eco-bricks: The Simple Solution to Plastic Pollution



**By Anna Huber
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Plastic pollution is to be one of Earth's biggest problems. Plastic, the non-biodegradable material that will stay on Earth for decades and centuries to come.

According to Science.org, "By 2050, we'll have produced 26 billion metric tons of plastic waste, almost half of which will be dumped in landfills and the environment." Though this isn't the most optimistic information, there are still a few ways we can reuse plastic. One way is making eco-bricks.

So, what is an eco-brick? Well, in simple terms, it is a clean plastic water bottle compacted with layers of nonbiodegradables such as plastic.

These eco-bricks can be used as reusable building blocks. Eco bricks prevent plastic from degrading into toxics and microplastics.

There are 3 kinds of eco bricks, all of which include regular eco bricks, cig bricks,

and ocean eco bricks.

A regular eco brick has a plastic water bottle that holds all the plastics inside. You must stuff the plastics inside the bottle, layer by layer. You can do so by using a wood or bamboo stick. The plastic also needs to be cut up into little pieces for easy compacting.



A cig brick is an eco brick that secures the toxic acetate of cigarette filters. These cig bricks are made from cigarette butts with the paper and ash removed.

Finally, there is the ocean eco brick. This ocean eco brick uses plastic from bodies of water such as rivers and the ocean. Typically, the plastics here are wet and dirty, not qualified for a regular eco brick. These ocean eco bricks are reused as building blocks.

Of course, the process of making an eco-brick is a bit tedious. That's why in the next part, we will be talking about how to make eco-bricks and how to use them! Stay tuned!



Things to Do Over Winter Break

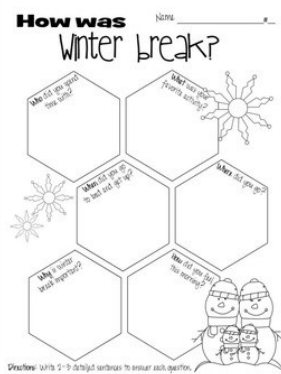


**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are you having trouble figuring out something to do over winter break? Here are some fun activities to do with friends, family, or by yourself!

By Yourself

- Volunteer
- Exercise
- Set a Goal to Achieve
- Clean and Organize
- Play Video Games
- Catch up on School Work
- Write for the Tusker Tribune
- Go for a Bike Ride



- Facetime/Skype
- Play Video Games

- Catch up on Your Sleep
- Practice an Instrument

With a Friend

- Go to the Mall
- Go to an Arcade

- Work on a Project
- Have a Movie Marathon
- Have a Sleepover
- Take an Art/Pottery Class
- Go to an Amusement Park
- Try a New Sport
- **With your Family**
- Have a Game Night
- Go on a Road Trip
- Take a Mini Vacation
- Go Skiing
- Go to an Indoor Pool
- Go to Presidents Day Parade
- Go to The Park
- Go Ice Skating
- Bake/Cook Together
- Go to a Museum

You Don't Need a "Significant Other" To Enjoy Valentine's Day



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring a saint named Valentine.

Through later folk traditions, it has become a significant cultural and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

Valentines' Day is often celebrated by going on a date with your significant other. People who don't currently have significant others often celebrate with their friends.



Here are 14 things to do on Valentine's Day...

- Go to a brunch
- Go to the movie theater
- Netflix and chill
- Bake
- Go to the mall
- Meet up with some family
- Deliver flowers to loved ones

- Volunteer
- Make crafts
- Go out for dinner
- Host a party/Go to a party
- Go to an arcade
- Go bowling
- Play video games with someone

Fun Facts About Valentine's Day



**By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff**

- Valentine's Day is always on February 14th
- It is a day to announce

love for one another

- Valentines' Day was originated by Saint Valentine.
- Valentine's Day was first celebrated in 496!
- Cupid appears the most on Valentine's Day cards.
- Women buy more Valentines gifts, by about 85%.
- Valentine's Day was not romantic until the Middle Ages.
- The earliest known valentine has a sad love story behind it.
- "Wearing your heart on your sleeve" was the



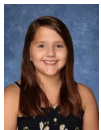
real thing.

- Cupid was a Greek God.
- Teachers get the most valentines.
- Candy hearts were originally used for medicine.
- Valentine's Day is associated with red, which is the color of passion, desire, and respect.
- Around \$25.9 billion (about \$80 per person in the US) a year is spent on valentines.
- Kids give the most valentines.
- About 9 million people (about

half the population of New York) buy valentines for their pets

- Valentine's Day is the second most popular greeting card sending holiday.
- Valentine's Day is the 8th most popular holiday.

A Valentines Poem



**By Anna McArdle
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Value your
loved ones
Appreciate
your

friends

Love is in the air
Enjoy some chocolate

Number 14
The day of love
Is here

Now is your
chance

Everyone celebrates

So, give someone a valentine!



Residents Concerned After Train Derails Near Their Town



**By Xavi Dosil
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

On February 3rd, there was a train derailment in the small town of East Palestine, Ohio.

The train carried 50 cars of hazardous materials. When it was derailed, there was a leak of the hazardous materials. The governor of Ohio ordered an evacuation of East Palestine. They did a controlled burn of the materials and train.

When they burned the chemicals, a huge cloud went up in the sky. After the disaster, it was reported that there was 3,500 dead fish in the river and even dead pets in yards. It is a great



concern of the land and river being impacted. The chemicals went into the Ohio River which goes from Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana to Illinois.

In a town hall meeting, Pete Buttigieg, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, did not attend it for unknown reasons. The people of East Palestine want answers.

Hopefully East Palestine does not turn into Chernobyl, an unlivable area in Ukraine. In conclusion, East Palestine is a good place and its citizens are good. Let's all hope that the town recovers from this in a good matter and the chemicals are removed.

Girls Scout Troop 1458 Ice Skating Event!



**By Meadow Dondl
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you like ice skating with your friends?

The Somers Girl Scout Troop 1457, is hosting a private indoor ice-skating event open to everyone in our community!

Come enjoy an afternoon of private skating with your friends and family on the main ice. Help our troop raise money for our trip to the Girl Scout National Convention this summer in Florida.

Date- Friday, March 3, 2023, (Somers Professional Learning Day No School)

Time- 3:30-5:00pm (1.5-hour private session on the main ice) Please arrive early to get skates.



Place- Brewster Ice Arena, 63 Fields Lane, Brewster, New York 10509

Cost- \$20 per skater- includes skate rental, hot cocoa, snack, and craft. We will provide nut free and gluten free snacks also.

\$16 if you bring your own skates. **Adult skaters \$10 includes skate rental.**

Questions/Contact us: Michelle Quinn- super-gool@aol.com

Google Form to RSVP and pay→ <https://forms.gle/ZRD8A8BXutpRJJXc6>

The Importance of Presidents' Day



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Presidents' Day is a National Holiday to celebrate George Washington's birthday on a federal level.

Most states also consider it a state holiday. Presidents' Day takes place on the third Monday of February every year. Most workplaces have off the Monday after and some schools (including Somers) have no school for the whole week!

Presidents' Day is to honor those who have served as our president. Some people celebrate both Abraham Lincoln's and George Washington's birthday on Presidents' Day.



Who was George Washington? Mr. Washington served as the first United States president (from 1789 to 1797). He also fought in the Revolutionary War. He played a huge role in leading the United States to victory.

Who was Abraham Lincoln? Mr. Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States, during the Civil War. He abolished slavery and made Thanksgiving a national holiday. However, some people who were pro-slavery didn't agree with Abraham Lincoln's actions. Unfortunately, Mr. Lincoln was shot by one of those people on April 14th, 1865.