

# The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Spring 2016

## SPRING FEVER!!!!

### *How to Hold it Together When the End is Sooooooooooooo Close!!!!*



**By Remi Saad**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff Writer**

The end of the school year is close, and students of SMS are starting to get excited and restless.

The change in the weather really gets the students distracted. The weather is becoming warmer and everyone wants to hang out and play outside.

The students are also not focusing on their studies that much because summer is only a few weeks away. The teachers are giving out homework and more tests now, so we can have less work to do later in the year.

The science test in 7th grade, formally known as the S.P.A. is coming up on Friday April 1st. Also, the state tests in math and English are happening in early and mid-April and some students are a little nervous.

How can you hold it together when the school year is almost done? Thinking how summer is around the corner just calms you down and actually makes the school year go by faster. My dad always says, "You have to finish strong

because people always remember the end result."

I have interviewed three students, asking them

that same question.

Caitlin Norbutt responded, "Deep breaths. To cope with all of the test struggles, I

have to turn off all my electronics, which is heartbreaking, and do my homework and study outside. When it comes to the state tests, I got anxiety last year on the ELA and if you do, just tell your parents to exempt you."

Makenna Wiggins stated, "I am upset because I won't be able to see all my friends, but I just think of all the things I am going to do over the summer, like vacation."

Mia Renne said, "I get really excited to hang out with my friends, especially since I can't that much during the school year. I just think about the pool, warm weather, and vacation and then I feel better."

We are in the homestretch, and we should not lose sight of the go line, no matter how much we want to ignore school and our studies. Summer is almost here!



***Editor's note: As of 3/30/16—  
56 days  
left in this school year.***



## Wonder by RJ Palacio

**By Peyton DiSiena**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff Writer**

Hello readers! I hope you had a fun-filling spring break! You better have been reading and if you haven't, then I have the book for you!

The theme book for this week is... Wonder by R.J. Palacio. This book is based on a boy named August, who was born with a severe cranio-facial deformity. Because of this, he didn't go to public school, like we do. He was homeschooled.

However, in this book, August, who

likes to be called Auggie, begins 5th grade at Beecher Prep, and all he really wants is for people to treat him like one of them. To find out if the school treats him right, read Wonder now! Have a great week everyone, and happy reading!



**Editor's Note: For more information about Auggie's craniofacial condition, please watch this heart-warming You Tube Video:**

<http://viewpure.com/mKDRo5DLTwQ?start=0&end=0>

## The Tusker Tribune **Editorials: Chart Your Future Path!**



**By Hunter Duffy**  
**Tusker Tribune Editorial Staff**

Are we reaching our full potential?

If we had the opportunity could we be on Broadway, working in Apple, in Pixar, or even in the Junior Olympics. What's holding us back from that?

As kids, we're always told to follow our dreams and that we'll always have support. But if that were true, we would be somewhere else.

For me, my parents always say they'll make sure to push me hard to get good grades and into a good college to become a lawyer or doctor. But all I want to do is sing, write, and act.



We're told in FACS (Family and Consumer Science) Class to imagine ourselves later in life but what if that's what we want now?

I know a lot of kids can relate to this. If you're one of them, I encourage you to look into your interests. Look for auditions, internships, or try-outs. Even though it might take a lot of time, if it is something you really want, it will be worth it.

**Editor's Note: Check out Nitin Seshadri's M.I.T. Spark Article on page 3 of this edition!**

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The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from  
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## Matt Kushner's 'Time Warp' Series

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

### Chapter 5

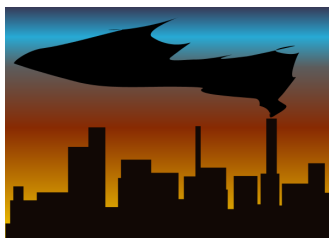
There was a hallway behind the door. *But*, it was what was behind the door at the end of the hallway.

It was a factory of sorts. Tens, if not hundreds, of workers assembled whatever they were assembling. Hallways sprung from the main room and led to who knows how many doors. People went in and out of doors, probably leading outside, and other people ran to and fro. And all I had to do is pretend like I was a gear part in this machine.

*"Repair on conveyor belt 4B. Repeat. Repair on conveyor belt 4B. Repeat. Repair on conveyor belt 4B—repair in progress."*

This place did not belong in the small town of Relishere. I don't know how to explain it... but... it didn't belong. This wasn't right.

So. Back to the snooping. First thing is first: I have to look the part. I need some sort of disguise. Everyone was wearing a lab coat/



armor type thing, so all I need is just that. Of course, I can't just pick it up. So maybe I could...

The sci-fi gun in my hand. Of course! I sneak down the stairs and get ready to find someone to-

**"INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER ALERT! ENTRANCE 4E! REPEAT. INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER ALERT! ENTRANCE 4E! REPEAT...."**

I was spotted. Immediately, several security guards (or as it seemed like that's who they were) darted towards me.

I had to find an escape hatch, or place, to leave. But, when you are running for your life to nowhere, it is pretty hard to create a plan in which you escape and destroy this operation of sort. And, instead of thinking, I decided to, because *WHY NOT*, run straight into one of the rooms that probably had certain death inside. The truth?

Not one, not two, but thousands of them, all piled up. All replicas of the time machine that I used, or will use.

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## M.I.T. Spark Program Inspires and Teaches



**By Nitin Seshadri  
Tusker Tribune Staff  
Writer**

MIT Spark is a one-weekend program on the MIT campus designed to give kids from grades 7-9 the opportunity to explore a wide range of subjects.

It is taught by MIT professors and students, as well as professors from nearby colleges. You can learn about pretty much everything, ranging from Algorithms to Irish tap dancing!

The program takes place on one weekend in March every year and costs \$50. Best of all, you can make your own schedule!

I attended this program a few weeks ago. Mainly, I took classes relating to math and sci-



ence. There's no use stating what I learned in Spark because everyone gets to choose their own schedule. I met a few of my friends as well.

Also, you get some freebies: Lunch is free, and you get a t-shirt. I recommend that more people should go to MIT Spark because there are more new and interesting things to learn every year.

As a matter of fact, you might find your potential career path, as Hunter Duffy points out in her editorial on page 2 of this newspaper. For more information please visit:

<http://esp.mit.edu/learn/Spark/index.html>

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