



The Tusker Tribune

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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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NJHS Deadlines Approaching



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The deadline for NJHS is fast approaching. The deadline to join the schology page is March 1st and the deadline for your application is March 17th. Sixth graders that are applying must complete 10 service hours. Seventh and eighth graders must complete 15 service hours.

Finding ways to volunteer can be hard, especially between the ages of 10-14. Some places you can volunteer at are, an animal shelter, a food bank, a school, and at home.

You can volunteer at a ton of different animal shelters here in Westchester. Two good shelters to volunteer at are, SPCA Westchester and Veterinary Clinic, and Humane Society of Westchester. Feeding animals, cleaning them and playing with them are a few things you may have to do when volunteering at a shelter.

Feeding Westchester is a food bank in Westchester County that you can volunteer at. Another food bank in Westchester is Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. Food banks are a great opportunity to put in

hard work and time for people in your community.

A great place to volunteer as a student is at school! You could stay after school and help some teachers make copies or clean up their classroom. Another way to get service hours is to write for the Tusker Tribune! You could also stay after school with a janitor to help clean up. You could organize a fundraiser through the school or for the school as well.

If you are unable to go out of your house to volunteer, Color-a-Smile is a great organization. If you visit their website, you can print out photos and color them for the elderly. For every six pictures that you color, you get one service hour. This is a great way to makes someone's day if you are unable to go somewhere to volunteer.

Somers To Offer Boys Volleyball



**By Max Weinfeld
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you love to play volleyball? Boys/men's volleyball is one of the fastest growing sports in the US. And there's good news! Boys volleyball is coming to Somers.

Last year, I applied to try out for the modified volleyball team at Somers Middle School. After an initial denial to my application to try out, a heartfelt appeal, a physical fitness test, and a lot of waiting, I was finally approved to try out. Too bad it was the last week of the season.

The good news is many improvements are coming to the volleyball program at Somers due to the rising popularity of both boys and girls volleyball. The Athletic Department is working towards establishing a Boys Volleyball team at Somers High School. If you are interested in playing, please reach out to the Athletic Department and join us in a great game.



Celebrate Women's Achievements



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Women's History

Month. It's a time to remember what women went through and are still going

through to show they are equal and should have equal rights.

Didn't women already fight for their rights? Don't they have equal rights now?

In 2020, for every dollar the average man earned, the women would earn 82 cents. If a man earns \$100, women will earn only \$82.

There are still people out there saying women belong in the kitchen. We can't force them to change their thinking, but really think about it. Imagine, no school, no sports, no playing. Housework. That's all you do.

During Women's History Month, we can give extra recognition to the women who helped us get where we are. We can even talk about the women inspiring little girls in modern days. Female Gamers, You Tubers, lawyers, shop owners, and even self-made millionaires.

These women show girls they can be and do anything they want in life. All they have to do is dream and work hard.



Is Technology Helpful Or Harmful?



By Claire Cronin
Tusker Tribune Staff

Technology affects the way people communicate, learn, and think. It helps society and determines how people interact with each other on a daily basis.

Technology plays a particularly important role in society today. It has positive and negative effects on the world and it impacts daily lives. Technology is a very useful tool, but technology could also hurt you and the world more than it helps. Many people worry about technology affecting children's behavior and are concerned that it shortens attention spans, increasing risk, and results in a lack of privacy, falling grades, bullying, and social interaction issues.



Others see technology in a more positive way—technology helps connect people together and it's an easy way to get information straight away. Supporters believe it can have limitless learning and provide many possibilities for kids in the future.

Technology is very important in everyday life. It provides quick transportation, and you can easily talk to someone just by tapping your phone. But technology is also harmful on the earth today. Technology uses a lot of natural resources, meaning that certain natural resources used to build some technologies are disappearing quickly. Cars, another form of technology, also pollute the earth, sending harmful gases into the atmosphere that hurt the earth and contribute to climate change.

Reporters and Contributors

Alicia Cardillo
Isabella Ciavardini
Reagan Coccone
Ashley Contreras
Claire Cronin
Xavi Dosil
Samantha Harris
Cooper Hewitt
Anna Huber
Ruby McDowell
Ava Schmidberger
Max Weinfeld



Today's Books Need Illustrations



By Ruby McDowell
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you have read some older books, you might have noticed something that is not in many newer books: Illustrations.

Unlike the colorful works of Todd Parr, these illustrations represent a wood carving and have no color. However, they provide a powerful view into the world of a book. Many times, when reading a newer book, I am sometimes confused by references that are made off the author's vision of a character. Illustrations, however, can show an author's vision of a character, providing a richer experience.

Illustrations also make the book easier to read. They can help you understand uncommon words. For example, if a book said, "She attached the horse to the crossties to brush his golden coat" And you didn't know what crossties were, an illustration can prevent confusion.

Additionally, when reading a long passage of text, illustrations can help break it up and prevent the reader from losing interest. Overall, illustrations are a great asset to chapter books and we should bring them back.



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Florida is the Perfect Vacation Spot



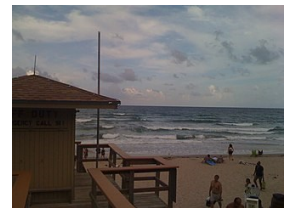
By Samantha Harris
Tusker Tribune Staff

I love Florida. I love Florida so much that I must go every year. It's the best vacation place I've ever been and have been going ever since I was 3 years old.

My mom's parents and my dad's parents have houses in both Florida and New York. In the winter, they go to their house in Florida, and they spend the summer in New York.

My mom's side of the family lives on the west coast in Sarasota. My dad's side lives on the east coast in Boynton Beach. When there's good weather (which is all the time in Florida) we can go to the pool, beach, play pickle ball, tennis, and so many other activities. I love tanning there and I've learned that if the UV is above a 7, then it's perfect for tanning.

I go to my mom's side during winter break in December and go to my dad's side during February break. This year, however it was different—it got swapped. Also, this year, I went with my brother and not with my parents so it was different.





THE Vacation of a Lifetime



**By Allison Cardillo
and Isabella Ciavardini**

Two best friends, Lindsey and Riley, are 17 years old and have been wanting to go on vacation together since they were 10. Now that they are old enough to go alone, they can have their dream vacation together, a cruise.

It was the beginning of summer and the two girls were so excited to be going on a vacation together in just three days. The two girls were on the phone for hours packing their bags.

When the day came, Lindsey picked Riley up and they went to the cruise. They lived in Connecticut and the cruise was in New Jersey, so it was quite the drive.

Before they knew it, they were on the cruise of their dreams. When they got to their room it was beautiful. On the bed was a basket filled with chocolate and fruits. Of course, Riley dove right in!

They looked at each other in amazement and said it was time for the WATER PARK! When they got there, they saw the biggest water slide ever. They ran as fast as they could to be the first one online. It was our turn and WEEEEEEEEEEEE!



Down the slide they went with screams and laughter!

The next day, they went to the beach. The two girls saw a sign that said "Jet Skis Rented Here". The girls ran with all their might. When they got closer to the retail area, they filled out a waiver. Before long they were out on the ocean on a jet ski when suddenly, Lindsey pushed Riley off the jet ski as a joke. Then, when Lindsey went to pick Riley up out of the water, Riley was not there within seconds, Lindsey called rescue boats to try and find Riley.

After an hour, Lindsey lost hope of finding Riley. Lindsey was crying. She thought she would never see Riley again. Meanwhile, Riley, who just got pushed into the middle of the ocean, is swimming for her life. Riley is trying to get back to the cruise ship, but a shark started chasing her. She is swimming for her life. Finally, the shark leaves Riley alone.

After 24 minutes of swimming, Riley makes it back to the cruise ship. There, she finds Lindsey. The two girls were so happy to see each other that they could not be mad. Later that day, the girls decided to never push each other off a jet ski again. The two girls thought they would never forget this vacation.

Lion King Jr.: Through Cast Members' Eyes



By Reagan Ciccone
Tusker Tribune Staff

I am sure you have heard by now about the amazing production that Somers Middle School is bringing to us. During the dates of March 9th through March 11th, cast and stage crew members who are part of the Somers Middle School Drama Club will be putting on a performance called "The Lion King Jr." This is an extremely exciting time for everybody who has been participating, but what did it take to get here?

Who taught us what?

First off, it has been an honor working with the drama club teachers, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Malara, Mrs. Chan, and Mrs. Bieber. Each one of them worked so hard to put together this amazing show and worked even harder to teach us everything we needed to know.

You may be wondering, well what did they do to help? From late December through early March, we had scheduled practices with certain teachers depending on what they wanted us to work on. Each teacher played a specific and significant role and helped the cast members one by one piece together the show.

Mrs. Marla was our vocal coach. She helped us learn the songs, made tweaks in areas she felt were needed, and helped us overall learn what we must sing.

Mrs. Bieber was our choreographer. What does that mean? Well, she was the teacher who put together all the dances and helped us learn them step by step.

Mrs. William's mostly worked on blocking and aspects of choreography. She helped the main roles speak



their parts with emotions. She helped the cast know where to go or how to move while they were speaking their lines.

Mrs. Chan created the design ideas for all the costumes, makeup, and hair. She worked hard to put together a perfect costume that would

suit our characters and the roles we play in this production.

When did the practices take place and how long did they last?

As I had mentioned earlier, practices took place throughout late December and Early March, but when did they take place? Practices took place right after school. In other words, practices started at 3:05. The days we would go to practice would vary based on the role we play in the show. Sometimes certain roles would need to meet on Monday, and Tuesday but not Wednesday, and then go again on Thursday. The only day we never had practice was on Friday.

Typically, characters with speaking lines had more blocking with Mrs. Williams because they needed to learn their lines and how to act on them. Ensemble parts usually would go to music or choreography.

During December and parts of January, practices would typically run until 4:00, when the late buses would come, but as time progressed, practices ran later, usually up until 4:30.

During the last two weeks of the rehearsals, practices run late. The week before the shows, the practices would run until 5 o'clock and to 6 o'clock as well, but because we had a snow day on Tuesday, we had to stay until 7:15 on Wednesday and Thursday to make up for the lost time. During this week we would be running over the show and making sure everything is perfect.

On the week of the show though, we have something called "tech week." Every cast member, including the stage crew, must stay after school Monday through Wednesday until 8:00. This is because the stage crew needs to practice their cues and the lighting needs to be perfect.

Now that you know how much work it took to piece together this amazing production, please come to see our show! Our performance dates are **Thursday, March 9th at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 10th at 7:00 pm, and Saturday, we perform twice at 2:00 pm and 7:00.**

You can purchase tickets at <https://search.seatyourself.biz/webstore/accounts/somersms/buy-tix>. I hope to see you at the show and once again thank you for reading.



Are You Ready For Lion King Jr?



By Ashley Contreras
Tusker Tribune Staff

Since December, the SMS drama club has been working hard to put on an amazing production of Lion King Jr.

Tickets are now on sale and the show will be taking place in the SMS auditorium on the following dates:

March 9th (7:00 PM)
March 10 (7:00 PM)
and March 11th (2:00 PM and 7:00 PM).

The show will include fun songs, dances, some happy playful scenes, and some deep, emotional parts. The stage crew has helped us create props, scenery, and beautiful costumes.

Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Bieber, and Mrs. Chan helped us so much. They make sure our choreography, songs, and costumes are ready for the show!

You can buy tickets here: <https://somersms.seatyourself.biz>

We have been working very hard and hope to bring you an awesome production!

Formula One Racing Season Starts This Weekend



**By Xavi Dosil
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Formula 1 is a racing competition that has 23 races per season. This coming weekend, the 2023 season will start. This year, they have three races in the USA.

Races will take place in Miami, Austin and Las Vegas. They also have races in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, England and Canada.

This week, the 2023 season will start in Bahrain. There is also a new driver from Formula 2 named Logan Sargeant. Sargeant is the only American driver in F1 currently driving.

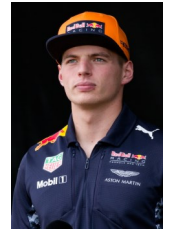
However, there are also the legendary drivers like Max Verstappen and

Lewis Hamilton in the league. Last year, Max Verstappen won the title race. The races will all be streamed live on F1tv and be broadcast live on ESPN, ESPN2 and ABC.

The biggest race on the F1 calendar is the Monaco GP. It is unique because it takes place in May on a street circuit that is two miles long. But as for the timing (estimated), most F1 races take place in the morning, three take place over night and five take place in the afternoon.

Now, do not expect to watch ESPN to produce their own coverage. ESPN sources every race from Sky Sports in the UK due to them having award-winning coverage.

Hopefully, this season will be an amazing one. My pick for the championship is Max Verstappen.



Weekly Book Recommendation: The Hate U Give



**By Anna Huber
Tusker Tribune Staff**

It's time for another weekly book recommendation! This time, the book I will be recommending is The Hate U Give, by

Angie Thomas.

Starr Carter is compelled to split her time between two worlds. Her first world is her home in Garden Heights, a gang-controlled low-income neighborhood. Williamson Prep, a posh, majority white high school, is the other world she calls home.



After Star and her childhood friend Khalil Harris leave a party when shots are fired, a white police officer



kills Khalil. The only person who truly knows what happened that terrifying night is Starr, but if she speaks up, her two worlds will be destroyed. This is a great book that covers a wide range of topics, including racism, community, poverty, and police brutality.

Some quotes from the book "The Hate U Give":

"At an early age, I learned that people make mistakes, and you have to decide if their mistakes are bigger than your love for them."

"Sometimes you can do everything right and things will still go wrong." "The key is to never stop doing right."

"You can destroy wood and brick, but you can't destroy a movement."

Thanks for reading! Stay tuned for next week's weekly book recommendation.

A Brief Bio on Taylor Swift



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**
About Taylor

Taylor Alison Swift is 33 years old and was born on December 13th 1989. Taylor is above the average height, standing tall at 5'11". Her parents are Andrea Swift and Scott Kingsley Swift. Taylor also has a brother, Austin Swift.

Career

Taylor Swift is an American singer, songwriter, and global icon. She has 40 awards, over 75 million monthly listeners, and a net worth of more than \$400 million! Taylor has released 56 singles as a lead artist, eight singles as a featured artist, and 36 promotional singles. That's 100 songs! She has also released 10 original albums, two recorded studio albums, four extended plays,

four live albums, and 19 other minor works. Taylor has had five concert tours, performed in 21 music festivals, 204 live events, and four one-off concerts!

Taylor is ranked as the 11th most popular person in the US, right behind Millie Bobby Brown and Kylie Jenner

(famousbirthdays.com)! One reason for this is her unique music, it reflects her life and tells her story.

