

The Tusker Tribune

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Testing Mayhem!

ELA, Math and Social Studies State Tests Add 'Fun' to Spring



By Katlyn DeRosa
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's that time of the year, state testing season.

Last year, many people 'opted-out' of the state tests. In fact, over 200,000 students statewide opted out of both the ELA and Math tests.

I was one of the few students who took the tests and they are not a bad thing like they make it to be. I can assure you that it is just like any other test, just maybe a little longer and harder. So there is nothing to worry about.

You have been preparing for this all year with everything you had learned and guess what? *You will do fine!*

For the most part, the ELA Tests consist of some stories, poems or articles followed by either multiple choice, short

answer or long answer. The first day will be all multiple choice, the second day will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and long answers, and the third day will be a combination of short answer and long answer.

The math tests are just like any other math test you have taken! Just a bunch of math questions that you will have to answer. Just a little bit of my opinion: You can't 'opt-out' of the Regents in high school or the SAT/ACT tests (The tests that you have to take to get into college) so why get out of this one?



Editor's Note:

Remaining Testing Schedule:

- **MATH—4/13-14/15**
- **SOCIAL STUDIES—4/19**



Poetic Ponderings : Thunderstorms!

By Kaitlyn DeRosa, Tusker Tribune Staff

Calm and peaceful,
Scary and powerful,
Like tigers on the prowl

Dark and quiet,
Like the starry night
You can sense it coming
But you are never prepared
When it strikes.

BOOM! CRASH!
You hear its sound
Like a loud drum solo



Then its electric fingers
With a flash
Sneak to the ground
Without a sound.

Sparkling, blinking, sizzling
Through the clouds
What a show!

Then you hear it's wrath once
more . . .
Gasp!
Its rumbling shakes the floor!

NBA Star's Anti-Drug Message Based on His Own Life



**By Remi Saad
Tusker Tribune Staff**

From the Somers Middle School Auditorium on Tuesday, April 5th, there was an assembly in SMS's auditorium with former NBA basketball player Chris Herren.

We are very lucky to have him come to our school and talk about his experience and about the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and smoking. He has had a strong influence on all the students in SMS and SHS.

Mr. Herren has a wife, and two children, but he has had a troubled past with drugs. He first started out with showing a video about his past with basketball, and how he lived during what he went through. The video showed clips of his past and when he was playing basketball, and he is a great player!

The video also showed him talking with students from other schools about drugs and his life story. He has talked with the army, and multiple other schools. He has been around the world talking about how dangerous drugs are. He also talked about his experience with other schools. He has made a significant influence on anyone he has spoken to.

Mr. Herren started smoking pot at age 14, during 8th grade, and also started taking drugs during the sum-

mer of 8th grade. His main focus was, why would anyone want to take drugs or take alcohol in order to fit in?

He mentioned that one time a person asked him,

"What would you do if one of your kids come home high or drunk?" His first response was, "I won't care who got them to do it, what I would care about is why would they do it in order for them to fit in? If they were to show up high or drunk, I would do something about it and make sure that it never happens again."

He has been on and off drugs, and has been to rehabilitation twice. He has been arrested twice, and was in a car crash twice because of heroin.

In my opinion, it was a very moving, thoughtful, and emotional presentation. I learned a lot from listening to him, and I hope you learned something too. He explained a lot of things and I hope he changed your perspective of looking at drugs, alcohol, and smoking, and the devastating impact on what it can do to someone's life. Even though Mr. Herren has had some trouble in the past, he has made a tremendous difference on every school he visited.



If I Stay by Gayle Forman

**By Peyton DiSiena
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer**

Hello readers! I hope you are having a great week.

Today I will be talking about a wonderful book called If I Stay by Gayle Forman. This book is about Mia Hall, a girl who is involved in a car accident that kills her immediate family. Mia herself is in a coma, and the story is told from her point of view while



she's in the coma, as she "sees" what's going on around her.

This story is very sad but heartwarming in the end. I don't want to spoil it and tell you if she pulls out of her coma or dies.

So go ahead and read If I Stay now! Happy reading!



Matt Kushner's 'Time Warp' Series

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

Chapter 6

Several guards rushed into the storage room for the time machines. A plan entered my mind. I picked one up, and showed the guards.

"Shoot me, I activate this." I looked at them, expecting an answer. But, no answer. Instead, they pointed their guns at me. And shot. I shot my other hand to the box, but it had a hole straight through the center. Looks like I had a flawed plan after all.

"Follow us." Two came from behind and took one arm each. I still wouldn't budge. "Or die." Now I had to move. Or else I would... well... die.

We walked through the main factory room, and went into a small hallway. The sides were littered with more doors like the one I just entered. They probably held loads more of the time machines like the one that I used. Each of them had a little sign next to it reading, *Storage Room 3426* or something like that. And then we reached the end of the hallway.

"In there." The guards pushed me into a small room. It had a desk, and two chairs. If I wasn't mistaken, this was an interrogation room. At gunpoint, I was forced into the farthest chair from the door. The defenders (of sorts) handcuffed me to the chair, took all my belongings, and left me alone.

I sat there for a long time, for anything in

between one and five hours. I came to know the wall and it's every detail very well. The dirt speck there, the other dirt speck there, the-

"The Wechsler agent! I've been looking all over for you. First the pizzeria, then that employee (which, of whom, may I add, was one of my favorites) at the electronic shop, and then this intruder alert! And what I'm really intrigued about, *agent*, is that you have no weapons on you! What type of Wechsler agent are you? A ninja?"

The strange man laughed at his own joke. He then sat down, and looked at me, probably sizing me up, deciding what type of 'Wechsler' agent I was.

"First question. How did you get into town? You know? Border patrol didn't see any unidentified or new people come in, or out, of town. So. How'd you get here?" I looked at him, unwilling to answer. In no way was I going to

tell him how I got here, or the mystery of how the hobo got a hold of one of the time box-machine things.

"I can call my guards on you. You know, these robots are very good at their job. Aren't you, Rex?" The mystery person pointed to a guard behind him. "I call them the D.E.F.E.N.D. (Deadly EnForcEr Node Device) Units. Never have messed up-" The man seized up and his head fell onto the table. Rex looked at me. It spoke.

"Follow me." I guess this is the first time a D.E.F.E.N.D. unit messed up.

A "D.E.F.E.N.D."
Unit



The Delicious History of Kit Kat Bars

By Hunter Duffy
Tusker Tribune Staff

We all know Kit Kats as the milk chocolate, crunchy treat that has entertained those for generations. But we do not know how they started.

The Kit Kat was first released in 1935 in London as the "Chocolate Crisp". Then, in 1937, Nestle named it the "Kit Kat". Originally in a red wrapper, in 1944, they put it in blue packaging during World War 2 since the candy was dark chocolate rather than milk chocolate, which was



in short supply. Five years later, the red wrapping was back.

Next, in 1958, they released their first black and white TV commercial, followed in 1969 by the first color TV commercial. After that, in 1987, their famous Panda commercial aired. Twelve years later they released the Kit Kat Crunchy. Then in 2010 it was the 75th anniversary of the Kit Kat.

That brings us to today where the Kit Kat is still a great snack for ages and hopefully always will be.



Theatre Review: MacBeth



ByNitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Macbeth" was one of William Shakespeare's most famous tragedy plays. It was written between 1599 and 1606. It is, by far, his shortest tragedy play, because it has only five acts. (A tragedy play will always conclude with some misfortune happening to the main character, and **usually** has at least 5 acts.)

It is set in Scotland and is believed to be a cursed play albeit its popularity; the legend goes that any actor who refers to the play as "Macbeth" will be cursed. Therefore, all performers, playgoers, and troupes refer to it as the "Scottish play".

At the beginning of the play, three Witches agree to meet Macbeth, who is a general in the King Duncan's army, in a heath, or open area, once he has returned from battle. The witches then vanish like a puff of smoke. When Macbeth sets foot upon the heath with his friend Banquo, the Witches reappear in front of them, startling Banquo, and tell Macbeth their prophecies.

Macbeth is surprised to find that one of the prophecies states that he is to become the King, even though the rightful heir is Prince Malcolm. Upon hearing this, Banquo asks the Witches for his prophecy and finds that his children are to become Kings as well!

But when Macbeth asks for an explanation of the prophecies, the Witches vanish as they did earlier. Macbeth decides to invite King Duncan to his estate and sends a letter to his wife, aptly named Lady Macbeth, that some Witches have prophesied that he is to become King sometime, and that (King) Duncan is to visit.

Lady Macbeth is surprised at this prophecy, but you could say she made an evil laugh as well. It is revealed that Lady Macbeth is a scheming person. She hatches a plan to make Macbeth the King by murdering King Duncan and then she can control the Kingdom through Macbeth. Then it is made known that Macbeth

is too good-natured to ruthlessly win the position of the King. Lady Macbeth decides to go forward with her plan.

When King Duncan and Banquo arrive at Castle Macbeth, Lady Macbeth instructs Macbeth to "wear an expression that suits the occasion." In other words, she wants Macbeth to make it seem as if everything is normal and nothing shady is happening.

When King Duncan goes to sleep, Lady Macbeth forces Macbeth to take some daggers and stab Duncan to death. In the morning, Duncan is found dead and bloody. Lady Macbeth and Macbeth then become King and Queen. Now Lady Macbeth begins "phase 2" of her plan. She forces Macbeth to kill his friend Banquo as well, in an attempt to get rid of all witnesses to the crime. But her plan backfires. The leader of the Fife clan, Macduff, gets wind of King Duncan's murder and correctly deduces that Macbeth committed the crime. In the dead of night, Macduff kills Lady Macbeth. The next morning, he challenges Macbeth to a duel. Macbeth loses the duel and gets his head chopped off. Soon after, Malcolm becomes King, and, as they say, "everything was happily ever after".

Macbeth is a great play! Its riveting storyline kept me hooked to the last letter. I couldn't wait to

get to the climax and I enjoyed reading it greatly. Although some parts of the play had some confusing English (Look at this: "I wouldst want thy to" means "I really want you to"), overall, it was fairly easy to understand. I would, without a doubt, recommend this play to other readers (and actors).

In conclusion, Macbeth is so good, it should be required reading for all middle school children.

Abridged version of the "Macbeth" Script: <http://www.charlton.uk.com/attachments/download.asp?file=85&type=pdf>

More info: <https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macbeth> (Wikipedia)



Picture from the 1971 movie
"MacBeth" on IMDb



Unforeseen: Chapter 2

By Steven Robeson

When I left the spacecraft 10 years ago I never realized that it would be the last time I saw it, and the last time I would see my family.

Sure, I survived the crash, but would have wanted to? I can't really give you answer to that. Back then I would have said yes, but now I wouldn't be so sure. I was hopeful when I got out of that wreck. Now that hope has shrunk into a tiny glimmer that comes out only when I'm the happy of the happiest.

The crash was quick. I jumped into Earth's atmosphere, and put the air brakes on knowing that I was going too fast for a safe landing. For some reason I relied on those petty little flaps to slow me down, but surprise, surprise, they didn't work. They instantly broke off as soon as I engaged them. Knowing that the only way I could possibly get out of that alive, I quickly pulled to the right and landed in a lake.

"Hello?" I scream into the abandoned building. It echoes. I don't even know why I try; I mean it's not like anything lives here. The only living things here are the plants and the occasional cockroach. I stumble back to my shelter.



The floors creak I walk into the building- Actually, I would even call it a building. It's the remains of a building, a few pieces other buildings, and some electronics from the crash. I look at one piece of equipment. It

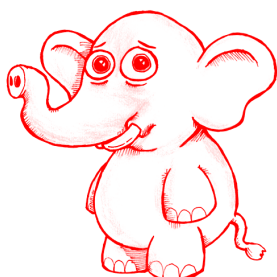
still reads the mission assignments.

HELLO {NAME}. TODAY'S DATE IS {DATE}. IT IS CURRENTLY {TIME}. I never noticed the message is glitched. I assume it's because the radio was destroyed when we crashed. Mission assignments: {ASSIGNMENT}. Good luck!

I still wonder if the spacecraft is still around. They relied on me to get that power core. I'm sure they sent someone else to get it. Hopefully everything is ok up there. I hope my family is ok. My wife, my son, my daughter, and even my dog. And my friends. And everyone else.

Suddenly I hear static coming from an old radio. Not the radio I got from the crash, but a cheap, old radio I took from a building. When I took it I assumed that, if anyone lived here, they would use a radio to communicate. The static stops. And someone starts talking.

"Hello? If anyone is out there... please help! I'm at the Great Atomics nuclear power plant- yes, ground zero. Come quick!"



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Movie Review:

Batman Vs Superman: Dawn of Justice



By Daniel Téllez
Tusker Tribune
Staff Writer

A movie finally exists where Batman fights Superman on screen. How can you not be excited for that? Seriously.

What is it about?

Batman VS Superman: Dawn of Justice is the sequel to Man of Steel. If you watched that movie you probably know that at the end, Superman fights this evil flying guy and destroys buildings (others people's property), and like half of Metropolis.

We see Bruce Wayne (Batman) was there when all of this went down. He wants to fight with Superman because he thinks Superman can destroy the whole world if he wanted to, which he absolutely could.

There's also Wonder Woman, and Lex Luthor. At the end, they do fight, but is it any good?

The Good

Yes, of course it works and the movie is great. The best part of this movie is definitely Batman. Ben Affleck as Batman is amazing. When the fight goes down, it goes down and it's absolutely thrilling.

I liked the tone in this movie. It's a dark tone, but it works phenomenally. I counted, and there is like one joke in the whole movie. But for this movie, it works.

There are also a bunch of cameos from the Flash, Aqua Man, Wonder Woman and Cyborg. That got me excited for the rest of the



movies to come.

The Bad

Batman kills people. I'm pretty sure Batman kills people in this movie. I'm pretty sure people got shot and died. If that's going to make you mad, then that's going to make you mad.

The movie tries to cram a lot of stuff into two hours and 33 minutes. I feel like they could have taken a bunch of unnecessary scenes out throughout the movie.

The other big problem is that there are a bunch of missed opportunities that could have made this film incredible.

However, the movie is still very good. No hate.

At the End

I thought this movie was absolutely phenomenal. I would see it right now. I saw it in IMAX 3d and it was amazing. Sure it has some flaws. But it's great.

Go see it. Whether you'll love it or hate it, at least you'll have a good time.

Editor's Note: Watch the trailer by clicking on this link: http://viewpure.com/Cle_rKBpZ28?start=0&end=0