



The Tusker Tribune

World Language Day
and Science
Assembly stories
will appear in the
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the Tusker Tribune!

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Spring 2023

Can You Tell Spring Fever's In the Air?



By Max Weinfeld
Tusker Tribune Staff

Spring fever is a feeling of restlessness and excitement felt at the beginning of spring. On March 20th, everyone thinks that's when spring starts, but for Somers students it starts over break.



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When taking a break from school and letting all the stress go, it increases your energy, productivity, and your ability to focus. As the days grow longer, it gives us a chance to get outside and get some much-needed vitamin D.

During the spring break week, some people can go on vacation to places like Florida, Bora Bora, Bahamas, Aruba, while others stay and have fun in Somers.

Whatever you do, it's the break you need from school. One fun fact about spring is it got its name from the 1300s. I hope you enjoy your break like I enjoy mine. What are you doing over break?



Some VERY USEFUL (and Harmless) April Fools' Day Suggestions!



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

April Fools' Day always takes place on the first day of April. The day is known as a day where family and friends prank each other.

Sometimes, these pranks can get out of hand or cause trouble. However, there are plenty of harmless and reversible pranks out there that you can do on April Fools' Day, and here are some of them . . .

- Smear some peanut butter on the bottom of your friend's shoe. It won't be long until they think they've stepped in dog poop.
- Rearrange your kitchen drawers to confuse your family (make sure to put them back, though).
- "Change the Date". Find someone and convince them that it's March 31st
- Change someone's keyboard keys around by carefully popping out the keys and swapping their places. (Don't do this with a school laptop, however . . .)

IS APRIL FOOLS' DAY A GOOD EXCUSE
TO CALL OUT OF WORK?

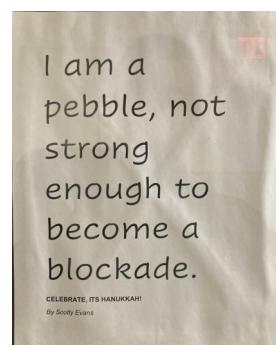


**More April Fools'
and Spring Break
features on Page
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- Put a piece of tape over your TV remote sensor. When your family goes to turn the TV on or change the channel, they'll think it's broken
- "Broken TV Prank". Go to YouTube on your TV, search "glitching screen" or "broken tv". These videos are very realistic and will convince the whole family that the TV is broken.

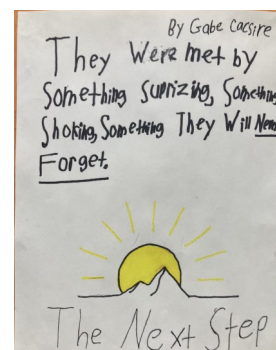
NaNoWriMo Leads

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.



Basketball Trouble
Cameron Violante

**"I learned to
never trust
anyone because
the people you
love can turn
against you."**



Make the Most of Your Spring Break!



By Victoria McGee
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's almost spring break! Do you know what that means? Warm weather! Here's a list of things you can do over spring

break.

- Have a picnic with friends or family, grab your favorite food and snacks and go to a local park, or in your backyard.
- Bake spring themed desserts, like cookies, cakes, cupcakes, brownies and many more.
- Do some fun crafts, draw or paint a picture that represents spring, or draw anything.
- Go outside and play sports, practice your skills!
- Go on a bike ride or hike.
- Plant a few different flowers to make a small



garden.

- Go to a park, or a farmers' market.
- Call your friends and go for a run, or a walk around the neighborhood or park.
- Have a break off! Get together with your friends or family and have a baking competition. See whose looks the best or tastes the best.
- Go to a barbeque, or have a family or friend get together eat and play outside games.
- Have a movie night, go to the movies or stay at your house, grab chips and candy and watch movies.
- Read new books/ ones you've been wanting to read

These are all fun activities that you can do over the spring break. I hope you have fun on your spring break! Enjoy!

Try These April Fools' Shenanigans



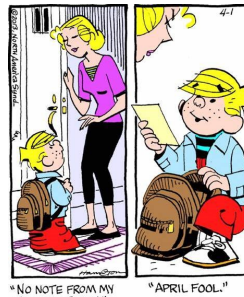
By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff

April Fools' Day is on Saturday April 1st, 2023. April Fools' is a day where family and friends play tricks on each other.

Here are some harmful pranks you can do this April Fools' Day.

One thing you can do this April Fools' Day is fake throw up. For this prank, you'll need a bucket full of water and some acting skills. The day before, make sure to pretend you have an upset stomach so it's more believable.

When you wake up the next day, tell your parents you might throw up. Then, all of the sud-



den, run to the bathroom and make throw up noises, then dump the bucket of water in the toilet. When your parents coming running, yell "HAPPY APRIL FOOLS!". This is sure to keep your parents on their toes.

Another trick you could do is "eat a jar of mayonnaise". For this, you'll need a jar of mayonnaise and some vanilla pudding. Empty and clean out the jar of mayonnaise and fill it with vanilla pudding, then put the jar back where it goes. Wait until your parents are in the kitchen, say you're hungry, grab a big spoon and start eating your "mayonnaise" out of the jar. This is sure to freak people out!

Egg Dye, Mashed Potatoes Make Good April Fools' Props



By Allison Cardillo
Tusker Tribune Staff

April Fools' day is coming up and it is the perfect time for pranks! It is also the perfect excuse for everyone to be silly and prank someone. It does not have to cost money or take a lot of time for a good prank. You just have to think of ways to startle someone.

Get your camera ready for reactions! Here are some fun suggestions for you.

- Get an Easter egg dye tablet. You can find it anywhere this time of year. Tape a tablet just inside the bathroom faucet, or unscrew the faucet cap. Next time someone turns on the water, it will come out in a very unexpected color.
- Another suggestion: serve a scoop of cold mashed potatoes and say it's vanilla ice cream, or put a scoop on top of a cupcake. Now that would be a funny reaction.
- Another idea is to make firm Jello in a drink-



ing cup with a lid and a straw and serve it as juice.

- Another classic is to put plastic wrap over the opening of shampoo or bodywash. No matter how hard they squeeze, nothing will come out of the bottle.
- My last suggestion is to cut up bubble wrap and put it in shoes and watch as they hilariously pop with each step.

Remember, April Fools' day lasts for 24 hours, so you can have a full day of pranks and jokes. Make sure if you can dish it out, you can take it, too, so be careful. We want everyone to cry

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7th Graders Head Back to the Bronx Zoo April 14!



**By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff
Important Information**

The 7th graders at Somers Middle School are going on a field trip to the Bronx Zoo on April 14th. 7th graders are able to make groups of up to 5 for the field trip. There are 10-12 kids per chaperone. Fortunately for the students, you are able to bring your phone on the field trip to use as a camera.



acres. There are over 17,000 animals spread across the zoo. There are tons of cool experiences at the Bronx Zoo, such as the carousel, nature trek, and different quests. Over four million people a year visit the zoo! The Bronx Zoo is located at 2300 Southern Blvd, Bronx, NY 10460.

History of the Zoo

The Bronx Zoo opened on November 8th, 1899. When the zoo opened, it had more than 4,000 animals and 650 different species. Several archaeological features at the zoo are official city landmarks.

The Bronx Zoo

The Bronx Zoo is one of the largest zoos in the United States. The zoo spans more than 265

Ariana Grande is a Terrific Role Model

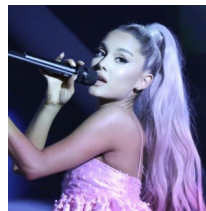


**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Ariana Grande is an American singer, songwriter, and actress. She is well known for being able to sing in four octaves and her signature whistle note. She has a very big influence on young girls all around the world.

Ariana Grande has also been nominated for 169 different awards (as of 2021)! Do you know some of the awards she's won?

Ariana started singing when she was young. In 2008, she booked a gig in the Broadway play "13". Soon after, in 2010, she landed a role on the Nickelodeon TV show "Victorious". Ariana's dad is Edward Butera, and her mom is Joan Grande. She has one sibling, an older, half-brother, Frankie Grande. Ariana also has a close relationship with her maternal grandmother, Marjorie Grande.



Ariana Grande has over 32 different awards! Some of these awards are, Billboard Music Award for Top Female Artist (2019), Kids Choice Award for Favorite Female TV Star (2014), MTV Video Music Award for Best Pop (2014 & 2018), and Grammy Award for Best Pop Vocal Album (2019).



A NaNoWriMo Excerpt About Playing Madden



**By Ryan Sullivan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

At Xander's House

Xander, Martin, and Mason are all in Xan's basement calling Jayden for him to come over and play Madden.

"Pick up. Jeez why won't he answer? He probably thinks we are still gonna play Madden at our own houses," Martin complains.

"I know. He's probably just sitting in his house waiting for us to get on. Why can't he pick up the damn phone! We are all here waiting for him and he has no idea," added Xan.

"Oh, just ask your mom to call his mom Xan. She'll pick up and send him over," suggested Mason.



"Good idea! Mom!!" Xan screeches up the stairs of the basement, the ear-ringing sound of Xan's voice echoing throughout the room. "Can you call Jayden's mom and tell her to send Jayden over please?"

"Ok, I will. Give me just a minute, though. I have to unload the dryer real quick," His mom replies back.

The boys are now excited that Jayden is coming over and they can finally start their Madden tournament. They want to listen on to the call, so they sneak upstairs and watch Xander's mom make the call, while they giggle and laugh from behind the corner, just excited that they are gonna hang out.

His mom picks up the phone, scrolls through her contacts and picks Jayden's mom. She calls her and the phone starts to ring.

Ginsberg's Supreme Court Legacy Lives On



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff
Early Life

Ruth Bader Ginsberg grew up in Brooklyn in a working-class family. She was a younger sister, however, her older sister died at the age of six. When Ruth was a child, she never dreamed of being a judge. She wanted to be a famous singer.

Path to Success

Ruth had 11 different jobs after law school

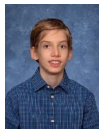


until she became a Supreme Court Justice. She had many difficult jobs over the 34 years it took her to become a Supreme Court Justice. Ruth found it difficult to get a job because she was a mom and a woman.

Impact on The World

Ruth inspired others in many ways. She fought for women's rights and equal pay. She was the first female Jewish Supreme Court Justice. Even though she was busy with her job, she always made time to take care of her kids and cancer-stricken husband.

Two Views: Do We Need More Financial Literacy?



By Lenny Novichenko
Tusker Tribune Staff

As middle school students, we should already be planning and brainstorming what our futures will look like.

Therefore, we should be thinking about whether we are adequately being prepared for adult life.

A popular argument among students for why school is a waste of time is that we are taught that Mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell, but not taught how to file taxes. Although this statement may seem silly, it brings up a valid point. Are we actually being taught enough financial skills to prepare us for adult life?

Today, more than ever, our world is reliant on financial transactions. Even obtaining the most basic human necessities, such as food and water, requires us to use money. This total dependence on finance and its applications means that being financially literate could mean the difference between life or death. Such an important topic probably should be taught more in schools, instead of focusing on irrelevant subjects, right?

First of all, what is financial literacy? According to Investopedia, a popular financial media website, financial literacy can be defined as "the ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing." Basically, this means knowing how to use and manage money in a way that allows you to achieve your goals. This could be anything from knowing what to look for when applying for a job, or knowing how to properly manage your savings.

Many people say that there is not enough financial education in school. For example, the only class in the entire SCSD where we are taught things such as how to make a financial plan and how to use different means of making payments is an elective class in high school. This class is called Early Childhood Development, and its main focus isn't even financial literacy, but childcare and parenting.

Another reason that there should be more



education in this area is that people ages 18-24 have the lowest average credit score. This might suggest that younger people are not as good at managing debt because they weren't taught how in school.

Other people say that the level of financial literacy education in the SCSD is sufficient. One reason is that we are already taught how to manage resources to achieve goals in both 6th grade and 8th grade FACS class. This sets the foundation for good money management.

Another reason why we do not need additional financial literacy classes in school is that we are already receive a lot of this education from our parents. Even if they don't teach you directly, you still learn by watching them when they go to the store, bank, etc. Young adults having low credit scores can also be explained by the fact that they have much shorter credit histories since they just haven't made many payments yet, and also the fact that people usually earn more money as they age.

So, do we need to be taught how to file taxes instead of being taught about cellular biology? It's up to you to decide. I hope that this article helped you think more deeply and form your own opinions about financial literacy.



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