



The Tusker Tribune

38

NEWSPAPER CLUB
TUSKER TRIBUNE

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 28

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

Spring 2023

What's With the Weather?



By Cooper Hewitt
Tusker Tribune Staff

Recently, we had amazing weather, sunny skies, 80+ degree weather, and ice cream!

But last week, and it's predicted for the next bunch of days, it has dropped 20 degrees and we are now starting up sports in mid 60-degree weather, which is not bad but still not what a lot of us wanted.



The forecast from last Sunday through the end of this week (about 11 days), is that it has not gotten above 65 degrees at the most. At night, it's been going down to between 38 and 45 degrees.

That's not good for bird nests, baby bunnies, and the spring environment.

Also in the upcoming weather, there will be showers tonight, tomorrow, and Sunday.

Warm weather was on top just two weeks ago, but this week it is not feeling it. The reason I have is from the internet (Google search) "It's because there is a west-to-east factor involved. The Atlantic is a warm ocean, but NY weather comes from the continent. Europe, on the other hand, gets its climate system from the influence of the warm, Gulf-stream affected, ocean."

I know this is not the best ending but, it

Stress Takes Its Toll On Kids



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

School brings a lot of stress and anxiety onto students. Students are often given tons of deadlines at once while still participating in clubs, studying, and after school activities such as sports. People tell children that "that's what life is" and "suck it up" but forget how much we do in a day, how little sleep we get, and how young we really are.



I became curious as to how many people felt this way, so I sent out a survey to 40 different middle school kids, (boys and girls in each grade) and 30 replied. Here's what I found out....

- 67% of kids often get anxiety when forced to present in front of the class
- 80% of kids don't feel respected by the school staff
- 67% of kids believe school causes unnecessary stress
- 50% of kids often find themselves anxious or stressed about overdue assignments



After collecting this information, I came to the conclusion that school does cause kids unnecessary stress, and more steps should be taken by the district to fix this.

Some Suggestions to Make Recess Better



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

How can recess be improved at Somers Middle School? Mr. Arnett recently asked for SMS kids to express their opinions on how recess can be improved. Here's what I think:

- **New Basketball Hoops**

I believe new basketball hoops should be put in. The current hoops outside are double rimmed and falling apart, they are also very hard to shoot on as the backboard box is not there.



- **New Boxball Balls**

A problem that kids often run into is there not being enough boxball balls. There are only about 3-4 boxball balls outside, and not all of them always have air in them.

- **Gaga Pit**

We are often told not to use the gaga pit. The school went through the trouble of getting one for us; we should be able to use it.

However, this relates back to number 2—there also are not always enough balls outside to be able to play boxball.

We Saved A Lot of Trees by Doing State Tests On Computer



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

For the first time, the New York 2023 State Tests were administered online to Somers students, with the ELA test given last week and this week, and the math test being given next week. This is the first time the current middle school students have done this.

I believe that online state testing is a better alternative to taking the test on paper. However, like many other things in life, there are some pros and cons.



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



There were quite a few good things about taking the ELA state test online. Students were able to type their essays instead of writing them. If you made a mistake or wanted to change some-

thing, you can easily do that on your computer.

Another pro of online state testing is the ability to split your screen.

It was much more convenient to be able to see the question and the essay at the same time rather than flipping your pages back and forth.

The most important thing about online testing is how much paper it saves. One tree is cut down for every 250 students that take (both parts) of the state test. That may not seem like much but think of how many students are in each school, and how many schools there are in NY state. That's a lot of trees being cut down!



Did You Know This About Taylor Swift?



**By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Taylor A. Swift is 33 years old. Taylor was born on December 13th, 1989. Fun Fact: One of Taylor's albums is called 1989, after the year she was born. Taylor is above the average height, at 5'11". Her parents are Andrea Swift and Scott Kingsley Swift. Taylor also has a brother, Austin Swift.

Taylor Swift is an American singer, songwriter, and all-around icon. She has over 40 different awards, and over 75 million monthly listeners on Spotify and Apple Music. Taylor has re-

leased 56 singles as a lead artist, and eight singles as a featured artist.

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! She is also currently having a tour called "Eras". Eras tickets sold out in less than 24 hours!

Taylor is ranked as the 9th most popular person in the US, right behind Addison Rae and Justin Bieber! Her fame began because of her unique music that reflects her life experiences.



Harry Styles Continues to Impact the Music World



**By Terezina Parubi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Harry Styles is an English singer and songwriter. His career began in 2010, when Simon Cowell helped form the boy band One Direction after seeing each boy audition individually.

Harry Styles was born in Redditch, England on February 1st, 1994. Did you know Harry is 6 feet tall?

Anne Twist and Desmond Styles are Harry's parents. He also has two siblings, a sister, Gemma Styles, and a

brother, Mike Twist. Harry has dated many famous people, such as Taylor Swift and Kendall Jenner.

Harry Styles has released three studio albums, one video album, twelve singles, ten music videos, and one promotional single.

Of all those songs and albums, 17 of them were in the top 40 of 100 top hits. He was the first One Direction member to have a solo song reach the top 10 hits in the UK.

Fun Fact: Harry Styles is rated one of the top five most handsome men in the world.





John Green's The Fault in Our Stars

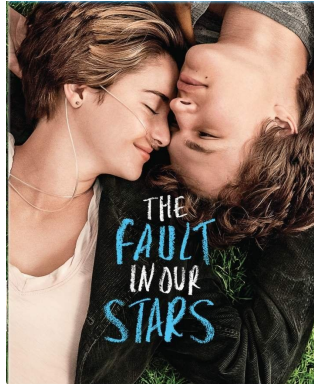


**By Alexa Ernst
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This heartbreaking love story is an amazing book by John Green. He has told one of the best love stories the world has yet to see.

I suggest reading this book if you love tragic love stories. It all starts off when we meet Hazel Grace Lancaster. She is a 16-year-old cancer survivor.

We start off with her getting ready for attending her cancer sup-



port group, where she catches a boy staring at her. He introduces himself as Augustus Waters, a 17 year old who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma (bone cancer) a little more than a year and a half ago, while Hazel was diagnosed with stage IV thyroid cancer (lung cancer).

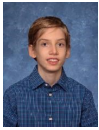
When they meet, their stories intertwine! Their chemistry is terrific! You have to read it yourself to find out where their paths take them.

John Green needs to start on book two!

Weather Comic by Cooper Hewitt



Tiny Rocks are a BIG Problem in Space!



By Lenny Novichenko
Tusker Tribune Staff

In December of 2022, an external cooling system on the International Space Station was hit by a tiny piece of debris, which caused a leak that was visible on a NASA live stream.

Flakes of frozen coolant flowed out of the hole, causing a space walk (astronauts going outside the space station) to be cancelled. Scientists believe that this impact was most likely caused by a micrometeorite, or a tiny piece of a larger space rock.

Although this impact did not cause any injuries, and the leak was quickly repaired, it delayed the astronaut's progress on the ISS.

Debris and micrometeoroid impacts have affected space travel from the very beginning. There is very little gravity and virtually no air in space, which allows any object moving through space to accelerate to very high speeds using very little power. This is why it only takes the ISS 90 minutes to circle the Earth once.

Space is also a very messy place. Humans tend to leave a lot of their broken or abandoned satellites in space, which means that they too speed around the Earth at high speed, often breaking up into smaller pieces. In addition to that, meteors are constantly entering Earth's orbit. The shooting stars that you sometimes see at night are just meteors getting pulled down to Earth by gravity.

This all creates a dangerous situation, with space junk and rocks flying around the Earth at around 15,700 miles per hour. For reference, an average airliner flies at about 500 – 600 miles per hour. If a particle larger than a few millimeters hits a spacecraft in the wrong spot, it can spell disaster. An object colliding with a

spacecraft can leave a hole more than 4 times its size.

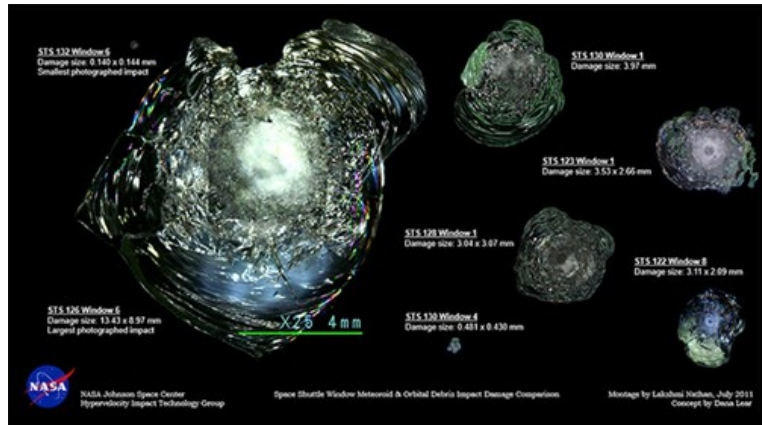
For example, a 1.6 mm piece of debris collided with a space shuttle radiator, leaving a 6 mm hole. Other times, space debris crashed into space shuttle windows, but due to thick glass they didn't penetrate. If they did, it would have caused the space shuttle to lose all of its oxygen. Fortunately, from the dawn of space exploration, scientists have been working on new methods and materials to shield spacecraft from this fast-flying threat.

Sensors on the ISS constantly monitor its surroundings, so it can swerve out of the path of any large debris. But to avoid damage from smaller objects, scientist have to study the effects of actual impacts. One way they do this is by looking at the damage to spacecraft that have returned to Earth. You can see pictures of this

damage for yourself by going to the website <https://hvit.jsc.nasa.gov/impact-images/>.

The downside to this is that there are many variables in space that scientists can't control, such as debris type, size, weight, speed, and impact angle. The solution to this problem is to conduct experiment in laboratories on Earth. One such laboratory is at Texas A&M University. Its main feature is a 2-stage gas gun, which uses high-pressure gas to launch model debris at insanely high speeds. It can launch projectiles of up to 12.7 mm in diameter at up to 8 kilometers per second. Using data from these 2 testing methods, scientists have been able to develop new materials and shielding to protect spacecraft.

The most famous type of protection is called the Whipple shield, which uses one or more layers of metal or other materials to make impacting objects shatter into pieces too small to go through the last layer. The original Whipple shield was invented in the 1940s, and variations of it are still being used today.



Reporters/Contributors

Alexa Ernst
Cooper Hewitt
Madison Kaplan
Lenny Novichenko
Terezina Parubi
Ava Schmidberger



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:

DPappas@somersschools.org.

Tusker Tribune Website:

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

BE TUSKER STRONG!

SEE SOMETHING?
SAY SOMETHING!
SCAN NOW TO
SUPPORT A TUSKER!

BE AN UPSTANDER.
BE PART OF THE HERD.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SAFETY CONCERNS? WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND? FOUND A HATE SYMBOL?
DO YOUR PART. STAND UP TO BULLYING, BIAS, AND HATE.
<https://anonymousalerts.com/somerscsd/default.aspx>

IF IT CAN'T WAIT, TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT TODAY!
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

More to Rihanna Than Music



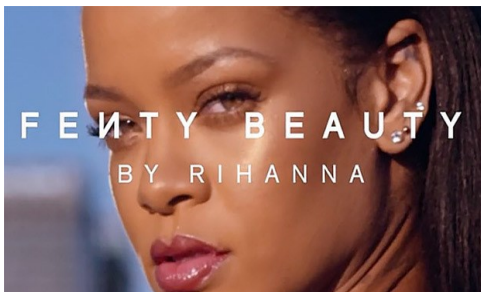
By Terezina Parubi
Tusker Tribune Staff
Robyn Rihanna Fenty performed at the Super Bowl on February 12th.

Rihanna is an icon, entrepreneur, Barbadian singer, and actress. She was born on February 20th, 1988 in Barbados.

Rihanna has a makeup brand called Fenty Beauty and a skincare brand called Fenty Skin. The brands were created with the promise of inclusion for all women.

The brand has more than 50 different foundation shades, as well as more than 50 different concealer shades. The brands' products are considered to be on the affordable side.

Rihanna has two brothers, Rorrey Fenty and Rajad Fenty. She also has three half siblings from her father's side, a half-brother and two half-sisters. Rihanna is currently married to Rakim Mayers, also known as A\$AP Rocky. Rihanna has one child, a son. However, the public doesn't know much about him. All we know is that the baby is a boy who was born on May 13th 2022, and is now 11 months old.



Reptile Trivia Facts



By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff

Turtles



Turtles are a type of reptile called *Testudines*. They have a special shell developed mainly from their ribs. Modern turtles are divided into two different groups: the side neck turtles (*Pleurodira*) and the hidden neck turtles (*Cryptodira*). The heads of each turtle group react differently. There are over 360 different species of turtles (extinct and alive). Turtles are found on most continents and islands. Sea turtles are also found in the ocean.

Lizards

Lizards are a widespread group of *squamate reptiles*. There are over 7,000 species. They live on every continent except for Antarctica, due to the harsh weather.

Lizards range in size from geckos and chameleons, which are a few centimeters long, to the 3-meter long Komodo Dragon.



Snakes



Snakes are long, limbless, carnivorous, reptiles. Many species of snakes have several more joints than their lizard ancestors. This allows them to swallow things larger than their head. Snakes evolved from lizards. Lizards turned into legless lizards, which eventually evolved to snakes.

Our Skeletal System is Remarkable



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

The human body is made up of multiple different systems. One of these systems is the skeletal system.

The five main functions of the human skeleton are: to support and protect, to help with movement, storage of organs, blood creation, and homeostasis.

The axial skeleton is made up of 80 different bones within the center of your body. Some of these bones are the rib cage, backbone, and skull. The axial skeleton is important because it provides support and cushioning for your spinal cord, brain, and organs throughout your body.

The appendicular skeleton is made up of 126 bones. Some bones in the appendicular skeleton are the femur and radius. The appendicular skeleton is important because it supports the attachments and functions of the upper and lower limbs in your body.

Human Skeleton Fun Facts:

- The human body consists of 206 bones
- There are 54 bones in the human hand
- There are 26 bones in the human foot
- The femur is the longest and strongest bone in the human body
- The smallest bones are the stapes; they are located in your ear.

