

The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



Volume 5, Issue 20

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

Spring 2016

Workshops and Other Activities Make For A Terrific Author Visit by Charles R. Smith

Editor's Note: The complete text of Charley Martabano's article on Charles R. Smith's visit to SMS is printed here. We didn't get the entire article printed in the previous issue.



**By Charley Martabano
Tusker Tribune Staff**

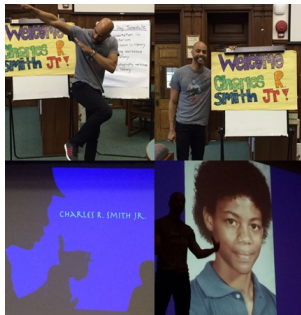
That's right folks! Thanks to Mrs. Gelman, and the PTA, Charles R. Smith got to finally return after 6 WHOLE years! Charles R. Smith came here from a hard upbringing! Gun shots were fired and the gangs would fight every hour! Charles R. Smith went to books for a cure! Charles R. Smith has many books. He showed us only a quarter of

them though, he has a total of over 30 books! It's quite amazing when you think about it.

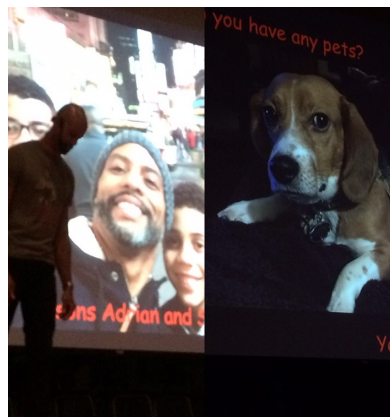
He has a very busy life! He has traveled to around 7 countries and has traveled to 42 out of

the 50 states of America! Charles R. Smith has met man famous people including Shaq and Coby Brian! All of the kids enjoyed his visit and could not wait for his return!

Charles R. Smith as a kid! He also "dabs"! Photo by Charley Martabano



Some of Charles R. Smith's books. Photo by Charley Martabano



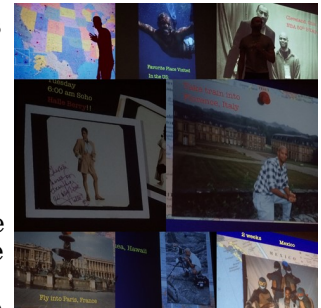
Charles' dog, Jake and his two sons, Adrian and Sebastian. Photo by Charley Martabano.

Charles R. Smith Jr. also did a couple of activities. The first activity was a pizza lunch with him so we could ask more questions! The questions were elaborate and the answers were amazing!

He also did a writing workshop where we did 3 exercises! The first involved giving a different

view of an object! Next we choose a few words and created a column using words that matched the category! The final one we played a game where we had to use an action word to complete the sentence, "I ___ to the door!"

I saw kids eyes light up as they understood the concept, he was absolutely brilliant! The final workshop, with a total of 39 kids, was the photography workshop! Charles started the class by introducing the tic tac toe grid of a camera, then sent us off to take pictures. After 3 minutes, he told us to come back so we could learn something else! We learned about panning and shape and line. Finally, we took a group photo and we left, saying our goodbyes by catching a selfie with him! It was a great experience and can't wait for other kids to meet him!



Above: a collage of people Charles Smith has met and the places he's been. Photo by Charley Martabano

Sixth Graders Tackle First SMS Rubik's Cube Challenge



**By Charley Martabano
Tusker Tribune Staff**

SMS Librarian Mrs. Cathy Gelman chose to host a Rubik's Cube tournament for the 6th graders!

There were three teams: the **Green** team, consisting of the students Charlie Stone, Juliana Bockhaus, and Ryan Allen, the **Red** team, consisting of Jesse Heller, Hudson Schantz, and Jaden Rothschild, and the **Blue** team, consisting of Matt Kahn, Ryan Grant, and Ben Defeo. The rules were:

- If a piece flies out, put it back.
- If a cube falls apart, the team is disqualified.



In the third round, Matt Kahn and Ryan Grant placed the final 3 Rubik's Cubes in the bin! Photo by Charley Martabano

- The cube must be finished clean with the sides flat.
- No flipping corners.
- The person who picks up the cube, solves the cube.

The first round started off with one candidate from each team against one another. Jesse represented the **Blue** team, Charlie the **Green** team, and Matt, the **Red** team. Whoever solved the Rubik's Cube the quickest won the round!

On 3, 2, 1 GO!, their fingers flew, twisting the sides left and right! In the end, Matt Kahn raced through and finished by a landslide! Everyone cheered

as he put the solved cube in the bin! In victory, the **Red** team did not have to do the next round, but the other teams did. Each team sat at a table with 9 shuffled Rubik's Cubes in the middle of the table, along with a bin to place them



The Green Team trying to solve them as fast as they can. Photo by Charley Martabano

in. The team that solved all 9 cubes the fastest would go to the finals. There were 2 judges, Laurel Ouimet and Zoe Hopper. In the end, the **Blue** team won by a minute and they proceeded to the final round.

The final round featured the two finalists battling it out with 9 Rubik's Cubes, and bin along with it. ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO! No one saw anything like it! Their hands were going top speed and the cubes were one colorful blur!

In just 3 minutes and 38 seconds, the **Red** team solved ALL 9 RUBIK'S CUBES! VICTORY! Everyone rejoiced and cheered!

The event was one to remember, especially for the **Red** team, for they got a pizza party and homemade chocolate chip cookies as a reward!

This was an amazing triumph!



Matt Kahn placing the solved cube in the bin during Round 1. Photo by Charley Martabano



Above, round 2, the Blue Team preparing. Photo by Charley Martabano

POETRY

In Motion

By Kaitlyn DeRosa



Flowers

Any color, anywhere
There are always flowers to share
Whether they're green, or blue
There are lots of flowers just for you!

April rain helps them grow
A big change from all that snow
They sprout in the rich green grass

Wow! Amazing flowers Mother Nature has!



By Peyton DiSiena
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello readers! Today I have a great book to share with you, especially because of the summer coming up, and it's the first book in the Trials Of Apollo series, The Hidden Oracle, written by Rick Riordan!

This series takes place after the Heroes Of Olympus series, so I suggest you read that before you read this. It stars the lovable, hilarious god Apollo, as he has been cast down

from Olympus by his father, Zeus. It also shows some new demigods, like Meg, and some old ones, like the star-

fish- ahem, *star-*

Percy Jackson, son of the Sea God! See as Apollo shows his new life as a mortal, a normal human.

If I could rate this book, I would give it a 9 out of 10. It shows lots of originality and creativity, with lots of humor.

I do suggest it for everyone, even if you don't like fantasy that much, because it

is based heavily on the modern world, and it is very easy to understand. Hope you have a great Memorial Day Weekend, and happy reading!



The Hand—a Horror-Suspense Tale



By Nitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Staff

It was a grim, rainy night. Thunder could be heard all around. The rain splattered on the roof of Rip's house.

Rip was tired. He had come back from the store and the rainstorm had started, drenching him. After changing his clothes, he went to his kitchen to fix dinner. At around the same time, the doorbell rang. *Who could it be at this hour?* thought Rip as he rushed to the door. When Rip opened the door, a man was standing, beaming as if he had won a million dollars.

"Umm...I'm kind of drenched here, and if I could just sleep here for the night and get some food to eat, would it be okay with you?" the man asked.

"Sure," Rip replied, reluctantly.

The man entered and Rip made small talk

with him until dinner was ready. The two men ate, chatting about football scores, politics, the latest songs in iTunes, among other things.

After they ate, the two men decided to get to bed. Once in bed, Rip realized that he had forgotten to turn off the light. He wanted to turn it off himself as a courtesy to his guest, but he was just too tired to get up.

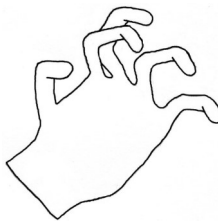
"Could you turn off the light?" Rip asked the other man.

After a few moments, the man replied, "Sure."

The man did not get out of bed for a few seconds. Rip nudged the man. "Get up," he said softly.

The man's answer came a second later. To Rip's shock, the man's finger extended and extended until it found the light switch. Then -click! - he turned the switch off.

As the switch clicked off, Rip heard a soft, eerie voice in his ear that said "Sweet dreams."



The End is Near!!!! Yay!!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



May 25th: ILS Lab Assessment
 May 25th: Chorus/Orchestra Concert
 May 26th: Living History Day
 May 27th-30th: Schools Closed

(Memorial Weekend)

June 2nd & 3rd: ES Regents Lab Practical
 June 8th: Band Concert
 June 9th & 10th: 6th-8th PE Final (in class)
 June 13th-17th: 7th Grade World Language Final (one piece per day)
 June 13th: 8th Grade Social Studies exam
 June 14th: 7th Grade Math final
 June 14: Yearbook Distribution
 June 15th: 6th & 7th Grade Math final
 June 16th: Algebra Regents
 June 16th: 6th & 7th Science final
 June 17th: Earth Science Regents (AM)
 June 17th: Geometry (PM)
 June 17th: 7th Social Studies final
 June 17th: 6th Grade Health
 June 20th: 7th Health final
 June 20th: 6th Grade Social Studies final
 June 20th: FLACS Exam



June 20th: 8th Grade Graduation practice, 8th Grade Dance at Villa Barone (7-9PM)
 June 20th: 7th Grade Splashdown trip
 June 21st: *Raindate for 7th Grade Splashdown trip
 June 22nd: ½ day (dismissal at 11:30AM)
 June 22nd: 8th Grade Graduation (2:00PM)
 June 23rd: Last day of school for 6th/7th Grade (1/2 day – dismissal at 11:30AM)



Poetic Ponderings

by Julianna Aiello

Your memory is amazing!

It hasn't failed you yet.

The only things you don't recall are the things you forget!

Kindness is like a boomerang it always returns!



Everyone is unique, everyone is the same.

We all are different in our own special way!

Try These Test Taking Techniques!



By Noelle DeMarinis
Tusker Tribune Staff

When May and June roll around everyone is psyched for summer. But, these months also include finals.

Finals are long tests to evaluate students for what they have learned over the school year. This brings stress.

Everyone, including myself, is pressured and stressed out during finals. Here are some tips to relieve this stress and ace your finals!

1. Pay attention in class. During class take notes or something that you can refer back to when studying. Plus, copy all and extra notes your teacher puts up on the board.



2. Plan your time. Start studying a week or two before the test, so you are not overwhelmed with information. If you wait to study a day before, you are not likely to do well.



3. Get a good sleep before the test. This will help you to be refreshed and ready to take the test the next day. Also, eat a large and filling breakfast. This should include berries and fruit.

4. Refresh your memory before the class starts. Use lunch period and team time. Stay calm and collected before the test.

5. Give 110% of your effort when taking the test. Do not skip any questions or cheat!

Following these simple and easy steps, you will ace your final!



The Tusker Tribune Staff

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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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