



The Tusker Tribune

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NEWSPAPER CLUB
TUSKER TRIBUNE

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 29

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

Spring 2023

Get Ready for Spirit Week May 8-11

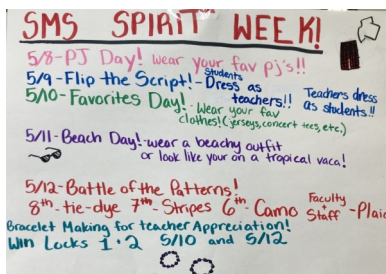


By Max Weinfeld
Tusker Tribune Staff

Spirit Week is an exciting time of the year for both students and teachers. It's a time where everyone comes together to show their school spirit and pride.

Each day of the week has a different theme. For example, pajama day or crazy hair day.

Students and teachers dress up in creative and



fun ways to show off their school spirit. There are also different activities and events that can be held, such as pep rallies and or competitions.

The activities and events bring everyone together and create a sense of community within the school. Spirit Week is not only fun and an exciting time, but it also helps to grow our school pride. It's a time to celebrate the school, the students, and the teachers

and staff.

Going Green: The Story of SMS' Solar Panels



By Lenny Novichenko
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you ever looked out the window of Mrs. Pepe's room in the language arts hallway, you might have noticed a few shiny bluish shapes, poking through a maze of HVAC ducting. These represent one part of two sections of solar panels at SMS. The other section, which is the larger of the two, is located on the roof right above the 6th grade hallway.

In the spring of 2017, 390 solar panels were installed on the roof of SMS. Our school got them for free because of state initiative to provide free solar panels to schools. This made SMS one of the first schools in the country to have solar panels. But what do these solar panels do and why should you care?

Solar panels are made up of many smaller pieces called photovoltaic cells. These photovoltaic cells are basically a sandwich of silicon, phosphorus, and boron that together create an electric field. The cells generate electricity by allowing sunlight, which is made up of tiny particles called photons, to knock the electrons off atoms. These electrons are channeled along the metal edges of the solar panel and onto a wire, creating electric current.

This process is responsible for providing 20% of the electrical power for SMS and saves SMS \$27,000 in energy costs every year.

What's the Future for SMS and Solar Panels?

Solar panels are a carbon neutral form of electricity production. They do not release any harmful chemicals during operation, and they offset greenhouses gasses, since they produce power

that would normally be produced by polluting coal, oil, and natural gas power plants. The less greenhouse gasses are emitted into the atmosphere, the less the Earth warms up. We want the Earth to stop warming up, since global warming increases the number of natural disasters, and contributes to the destruction of certain habitats, such as an island being flooded due to rising sea levels or a prairie turning into a desert.

The manufacturing process for solar panels, though, is not very environmentally friendly since it releases toxic chemicals such as hydrofluoric acid and sodium hydroxide. Luckily, solar panels last a long time. They usually only start to show signs of wear after 25 years of use, and they can still keep producing power after that, albeit with a small decrease in their efficiency each year.

The contract that SMS has with the company that installed the solar panels, SolarCity, states that the district would have to pay for the power that the solar panels produce until 2035, which means that the solar panels will be at maximum efficiency until then. After that, the district will keep the solar panels and keep getting electricity from them, but it will be free.

As the world transitions away from polluting oil, natural gas, and coal and towards green energy, solar panels will increase in popularity, and many more photovoltaic cells will be manufactured. We will need to figure out ways to manage the pollution that solar panel production produces. In addition to solar energy, wind and water will continue to be harnessed to power our world in an eco-friendly way. Who knows, maybe one day 100% of the electricity in Somers will be generated using renewable, clean resources.



8th Grade Human Rights Expo!



Understanding Our Government's Checks and Balances



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: This story was written as an outgrowth of a 7th grade social studies essay focusing on the three branches of the U.S. Government, and how the Constitution tries to keep the three branches equal in power.

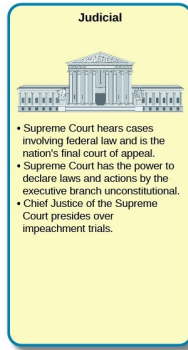
The United States Government is made up of three different branches. The Judicial Branch is made up of the Supreme Court and Federal Judicial Center. The Legislative Branch is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate (also known as Congress). Last is the Executive Branch. The Executive Branch includes the president, vice president, cabinet and much more.

The Judicial Branch is in charge of determining the meaning of laws, how to apply them, and

whether or not certain laws break the constitution. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the US. The Federal Judicial Center researches and provides education for the Judicial Branch.

The Legislative Branch is made up of two parts, the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives makes and pass laws. There are 435 representatives in the house (based on a state's population). The Senate (two representatives per state) ratifies treaties and confirms the president's appointments.

The Executive Branch's job is to carry out and enforce laws. The face of the executive branch is the president. The president is often seen as the person with the most power, however, this is not true. All branches have equal power and control in the government, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.



The History of Nike



By Terezine Parubi
Tusker Tribune Staff

Nike was first founded in 1964 as Blue Ribbon Sports by Bill Bowerman, a track and field coach at the University of Oregon, and his former student Phil Knight.

Their first retail outlet opened in 1966 and the Nike brand shoe was launched in 1972. The company was renamed Nike, Inc. in 1978 and went public two years later in 1980.

By the 21st century, Nike had retail stores



all around the world in around 170 countries. Its logo, the signature swoosh, is recognized all over the world.

By the late 1980's, Nike, Inc. had greatly expanded its business. Part of Nike's success is owed to Michael Jordan. Nike took a chance, signing him as a rookie, and he delivered. Due to his fame and success while partnered with Nike, the company was able to grow even more, and Michael Jordan got his very own line of shoes and clothing, which is still growing today.

A Brief Bio on Aaron Judge



By Svea Almquist
Tusker Tribune Staff

Aaron Judge was born on April 26th, 1992, in Sacramento, California. He is 6'7" and weighs 282 lbs. Aaron Judge is number 99 for the New York Yankees and plays right field. As of 2023, Judge makes roughly \$40 million a year.

Judge was drafted 32nd overall by the New York Yankees in the 2013 MLB draft. His first major league baseball appearance was on 8/13/2016. Since then, he has hit 226 home runs and has scored a total of 551 runs in his career. Judge has an overall (career) batting



average of 0.238.

Aaron Judge's parents are Patty and Wayne Judge. Judge also has an older brother, John Judge. Even though he does not have kids, Aron is married to Sammatha Bracksieck.

Aaron and Samantha got happily married on December 13th, in Maui, Hawaii. However, it was a private ceremony, therefore, not a lot is known about the wedding.

Following a hip injury while playing against the Texas Rangers, Judge is being closely observed by his managers to determine his status for the season.

6th Graders get shorter and shorter with each passing year . . .



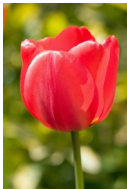
April Showers Bring All Kinds of May Flowers



By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff

Tulip

Tulips originated in Central Asia as wild-flowers. They are mostly large and brightly colored. The most common colors are red, pink, yellow, and white. Tulips are spring blossoming plant and usually grow up to six inches.



Orchid

Orchids grow on every continent except Antarctica.

They are dated as far back as 500BC and were originally found in China, Greece, and Rome. Orchids are normally colorful and have a heavy fragrance.



Daisy



Daisies originated in Europe and some parts of Asia. Similar to orchids, daisies are also found on every continent except for Antarctica. Daisies are often found as a wild-

flowers in a field or on a lawn. Daisy plants can grow up to 3 ft. tall due to their long stalks. Did you know each daisy is actually two flowers in one?

Sunflower

The wild sunflower is native to North America. Did you know a sunflower has been to space? The world's tallest sunflower stood tall at 30 feet and one inch! A unique thing about sunflowers is that they follow the



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Traditions of Italy, Mexico And France



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Italy



Italy has many different traditions. In Italian culture, families often get together, socialize, feast, and celebrate. The Italian culture is often associated with art, music, and food. The most popular Italian song is "O Sole Mio". The song has been recorded by many different artists since its debut in 1898. The most popular Italian art piece is The Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci.

Mexico

Mexico has many different traditions. Mexico is often known for its amazing food and beaches. The three most popular Mexican dishes are tacos, enchiladas, and mole. The most popular beach in Mexico is Playa Merlin (Beach Merlin) in Cancun.



France



France is well known for the Eiffel Tower and cafes, but this is not all that France is. French literature and painting are historically significant all over the world. Some classic French books are, The Stranger, The Lover, and The Little Prince. There are tons of famous paintings in France. You can find paintings like the *Mona Lisa* and *The Raft of Medusa* in Paris.

You Can Help Lessen Global Warming



By Svea Almquist
Tusker Tribune Staff

What is global warming? Global warming is the long-term heating of Earth's surface. It has been observed since the 1850's. Global warming is happening due to human activities such as fossil fuel burning and the releasing of gases like CO₂.



What are some easy ways you help stop global warming and save energy at home? There are tons of easy ways to help the earth at home. You can turn unnecessary lights off and switch to energy efficient appliances. More ways to save energy at home include using cold water when washing your clothes and hanging clothes to dry so you don't need to use you dryer as much.

Did you know by simply eating more vegetables you are helping the earth? Eating more fruits and vegetables instead of eating as much meat and dairy can significantly lower your environmental impact. This is because making plant based foods normally uses less water, energy, and land.

Jewelry Through The Decades



By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff

There have been many different jewelry trends throughout the last decade, from pearls in the 1920's to gold, diamonds, and silver in 2023.

In the 1920's, the most popular and common jewelry pieces were long pearl necklaces, drop earrings and Art Deco styles earrings. What are Art Deco style earrings? Art Deco jewelry is jewelry that often has bold geometric patterns and is inspired by architecture.



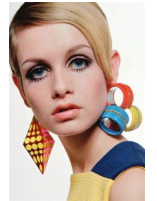
In the 1930's, pins, dress clips, buttons, buckles, and bracelets were popular jewelry items. Fur hats and gloves were also very popular in the 30's.

Precious gemstones became very rare in the 1940's, due to the war period. Therefore, semi-precious stones became very popular, such as amethysts, and aquamarines.



In the 1950's, faux pearls were very common and multi strand necklaces were popular. Brooches were also used as a staple item in one's closet.

Big dangly earrings and colorful flower necklaces were very popular in the 1960's. The jewelry was new, and consisted of low cost and low value designs. This became a trend because hippies enjoyed wearing this kind of jewelry.



Out of all the metals used for jewelry in the 1970's, gold was the most popular. The gold jewelry was mostly bulky and chunky bracelets.

1980's earrings were large and dramatic; it was the era of oversized hoops. In addition to hoops, clip on earrings were also a very big trend.



Finally, in the 1990's, chokers were back, new and improved. Chokers were a fashion necessity in the 90's for kids, teens, and young adults.



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.

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Tusker Tribune Website:

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