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Fall 2021



*Enjoy the Break! Next issue
will be January 7, 2022!*

Overall, SMS is Pretty Inclusive



By Ruby McDowell
Tusker Tribune Staff

Inclusive Schools Week last week was, well, a fruitcake toss day.

What I mean is that it wasn't something you should be proud of. It was one of those holidays. Like "National Dogs day" or "Zucchini Day". Nobody did anything that was out of the ordinary-inclusive. However, two sixth graders share their thoughts on how the school is inclusive.

One student, Niamh O'Connor, says, "Yes, the school is inclusive. No-



body does anything uninclusive." Now, I can't put words in somebody's mouth, but I think sometimes, some people are unintentionally excluding people.

Another student, who prefers to remain anonymous, said, "Yes, I do believe the school is inclusive. The majority of people are open to new friends, which makes people feel welcome. But, some people close up to new friends when they have a couple and that's when rumors spread."

I'd like to expand on the part when they say "Some people close up to new friends when they have a couple".

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Daniel Craig's Last Bond Movie Doesn't Disappoint



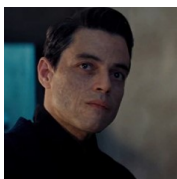
By Jason Graessele
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hey there and welcome to Jason's movie review.

The movie is James Bond—

No Time to Die. Just so you

know, this has tons of spoiler alerts, so if you want to have surprises, do not read this!



sounds like "Lucifer" and yes, that is what they meant.

THE VILLAN: Safin is the villain of the 2021 film No Time to Die. His full name is Lyutsifer Safin. I know that is sounds like "Lucifer" and yes, that is what they meant.

SAFIN'S BACKSTORY. Lyutsifer Safin was born into a family of chemists who sold the things they made to a criminal group called Spectre. One of Spectre's agents was named Mr. White. Mr. White turned on the Safin family and poisoned them with dioxide. This turned Lyutsifer against Spectre. Now yes, Spectre is a bad group, but Safin is a bad person.

THE HERO: "Name?" "Bond, James Bond." James Bond is one of the most well-known and famous assassins ever. James Bond has been



around for sixty years. However, James has, well, also had a way with the women. One of the extremely famous lines he has is "Martini, shaken not stirred."

He is played by Daniel Craig

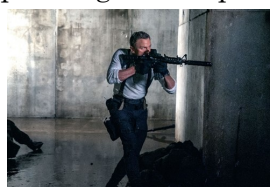
and unfortunately, this was Craig's

last James Bond movie. RIP DANIEL CRAIG BOND!

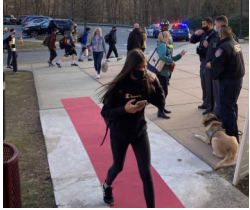
In the end of the movie, Bond opens the doors to Safin's facility to let missiles from the Royal Navy in to destroy it. However, he had to kill Safin. He was in the poison garden's pool, (which is dangerous). James went into the pool and shot Safin. James went to the roof of the building after being poisoned, and told his significant other that this would be his last mission and to tell his daughter he loves her.

Then you see the building with Bond in it blow up.

While Craig is gone, at the end of the credits it says, "James Bond will return". Here's hoping.



First Responder Day at SMS!



First Responders from Somers' Police and Fire departments, as well as Westchester County Police SRO's, were on hand at the entrances to SMS on Friday to applaud students as they came into the building.

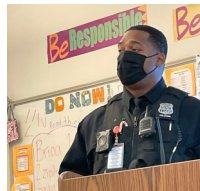


*Photo by
Ruby
McDowell*



Inclusive Schools

From Page 1

I think some people actually pretend to make new friends, but only to later alienate them. I think these people should just avoid making "New Friends" all together.

However, I do think Inclusive Schools Week is important. I just think everyone should be a little quieter during announcements.

Wait Until AFTER the Holidays to Get a Pet



**By Lucas Ziegler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever considered getting a pet? Have you thought between buying or rescuing a pet?

I would say a rescue is always a better option because that's one less animal on the street that needs a home. You also have many more options when picking a rescue animal since there are so many in need of a loving family. You're also saving an animal's life because many are put down if they're not adopted, unlike buying an animal which is bred to be a pet and is much more expensive.

My dog, Gabe, is a rescue from Puerto Rico. He was rescued from the streets during the hurricane and brought to NY. There are a lot of papers and checks done to make sure that the dog goes to a nice family. Our family went through it, but it's worth it because our dog will always be with us as part of our family.

If you're thinking to get a pet as a present for Christmas, think well! Pets are less of a present and more of a companion. You may be excited at the beginning but when you realize it's a lot of responsibility, you may have second thoughts.

Pets are living things. A pet is a long-term commitment; that's why it's important you think about it and make sure it's really what you want. A pet may be expensive, is a lot of work and responsibility.

You are going to have the pet for a long time, so don't take it lightly!



Holiday Cheer From SMS Chorus, Band and Bell Choir



On Thursday morning, the SMS 7th and 8th Grade Chorus, Chamber Orchestra and Bell Choir serenaded students and faculty with holiday melodies.



Winter's the Perfect Time for Fun Activities



**By Eve Clark
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If you are like me, you are always looking for something to do in the wintertime.

Well, I have the perfect list of fun things to do in wintertime, so you never get bored! Coming in at number one on the list is ice skating, I personally have no idea how to ice skate, but it seems cool and exceedingly difficult. It's also way too cold for my liking.

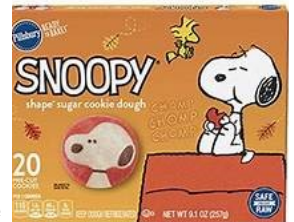


Next up on the list is fort building. I love this one because



my brother and I used to do that when we were little with the couch cushions, and then watch Home Alone.

The third thing is making cookies. My favorite are the Pillsbury shape cookies. (I like the Snoopy ones the best.)



And last, but not least, **READING A BOOK!** Reading a book that makes you happy is the best feeling in the world, especially when it's in winter or by a fire.

My Favorite Places to Go In Winter



By Sofia Borrelli
Tusker Tribune Staff

One of my favorite places to go to in the winter with my family are snow-tubing and skiing resorts. I also love to go see the Christmas tree lighting in Somers or in Yorktown.



The reason that these are my favorite places to go to in winter are because they have a special meaning and give quality family time.

When we went snow-tubing/ skiing, my whole dad's side of the family went with us and we had so much fun! My cousins live far away, so the time together was really special.

My family loves to go see our town's Christmas tree lighting because it's our way of starting off the Christmas season. Like I said before, we have family time without my parents having to worry about work.

But my all-time favorite thing to do in winter is the Christmas parade in Yorktown and driving around seeing the Christmas lights with my family. The reason this is my favorite thing is because, when we lived in Yorktown, we used to go to the parade every year, and we still do except this year and last year because of COVID. But I have so many fun memories at this parade for the many years I have gone.



Since COVID, my family has done our own light tour by driving around looking at all the lights our neighbors have put up. We would also get hot chocolate on the way home.

This season has held so many great memories and is why it is my favorite time of year.



Secret Santa Tips



By Akosua Adobea-Wiredu
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hey guys! So...yes. Holidays are here. Christmas is right around the corner. You know what that means? Gifts. Especially from Secret Santa with your friends.

But the thing is, how do you know what to get them without actually asking them? Because we all know that the minute you ask, your cover gets blown. So lemme give you some tips.

- Ask the whole group what they want so that then it won't seem like it's towards some specific
- Observe the type of things the person is into
- Think about what matches their style



I am participating in a secret Santa and what I mostly do is ask everyone what they want so I can keep a mental note in my head and go to any store (specifically Five Below, lol) so I can get it.

If you feel as if you're having trouble with your secret Santa, you can always email me at

@adobea.akosua@somersschools.org.

I hope you get the right gift! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Excerpt from She. Suffered. Stockholm.



By Akosua Adobea-Wiredu
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Prom tickets. Prom tickets. Come and get your prom tickets."

I chuckle. "Emory, isn't it a bit too early to start selling prom tickets? It's only March and you're selling prom tickets. What's the rush?" I ask.

Emory shrugs while waving the tickets in the air to get people's attention. "I don't know, Mel. The prom committee just said to start selling them now so that's what I'm doing."

Prom. One of the biggest events in our high



school life. After that and graduation, we're gone. To college life.

A deep voice coming towards me interrupts my thoughts. "Hey baby, what's up?"

"Adrian! Hii. Nothing much, just thinking about you," I blush while saying. Complete lie, by the way. Adrian wasn't

who I was thinking about at all.

"Aww. You know I love you, right?," he said in a seductive voice.

"Yea, I know," I say awkwardly.

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Stockholm

From Page 4

We sit on the lunch bleachers gawking at each other tensely. That sums up our relationship. Constantly having nothing to talk about apart from how we love each other and the kids we tutor after school. It's not real love. And this isn't a genuine relationship where I actually like him but I know everyone will be disappointed if we break up. After all, everyone's certain we're gonna be prom king and queen.

"Hey lovebirds, I hate to interrupt your little convo but your football crew summons you, Adrian. Seems like they're dying slowly without you so you'd better hurry up," Emory teases.

And as always, football always gets in the way of our alone time. "Right. Thanks, Emory. Bye, babe."

As Adrian jogs toward his football crew, Emory snorts. "Girl, have you told him yet? You look so miserable and empty with him. And forget what others will say. This is y'all's relationship, not the worlds'," Emory says, matter-of-

factly.



I groan. "I don't know, I just...I'm always known as the perfect student, girlfriend, and daughter so I don't wanna ruin that."

"Yea, yea, your reputation or whatever. If you keep thinking about what others think, you're never gonna be happy. Trust me." Emory actually knows about that whole ruining your reputation thing because he was once a perfect guy in everyone's eyes until he came out as gay.

His dad was disappointed, especially since he made a lot of sacrifices while raising him on his own. His mother was sadly out of the picture when Emory was ten because of cancer. But Mr. Stoll couldn't live with Emory knowing that he's gay. He just wouldn't allow it. But Emory moved in with his boyfriend, Max, and he's really happy even though not everyone accepts his choices.

"Okay, I'll tell him tomorrow morning. I promise. For real, this time," I say, determined.

"Girl, you said the same exact thing this whole week," Emory teases. I hit Emory playfully and rolled my eyes.

"If I tell him, you owe me 10."

Emory raises his eyebrows. "Yea okay, whatever you say."

A Passion for Video Games



By Col Shala
Tusker Tribune Staff
Hello, this is Col

again.

Today, I am going to talk about my love for video games.

I have been playing video games since I was five years old. I am 12 now. Video games have always been a thing I have loved to do. I just finished Far Cry 5 and GTA 5.

Video games are a fantastic way to socialize and reunite with old friends. But besides that, I have a story to tell. One day, I went to my friend's house and his younger cousin was there, too, because it was my friend's birthday and my friend's cousin was not having it.



He came in upset and stormed up to my friend's room, where we were hanging out and playing video games. He started screaming, "I wanna play!!!"

I said to my friend, "What are we going to do?"

My friend played the most classic trick in the book, giving a younger sibling or cousin a

turned off controller so the entire time, he thought he was playing and we thought we were chill—until his cousin pressed the "option" button and realized he wasn't playing at all. So he was not having it, but my mom came to pick me up right before he had a temper tantrum and, sadly, I didn't get to see it. I was lucky.



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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.

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