



The Tusker Tribune

NEWSPAPER CLUB



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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Winter 2022

Snow Day Photos!

Friday, January 7, Somers was given a break from a hectic week, when a quick-moving storm dumped several inches of snow, resulting in the first snow day of 2022. Some of our readers sent in photos of either the snow covered landscape, or of kids enjoying the day.



Photo at left by Nova Laubis

Below, sixth graders Chiara Sable and Julia Greco having fun in the snow. Photos courtesy of Marlene Sable.



Below: Ryan and Kaylee Ball. Photos courtesy of Patricia Ball.



At right, Grace Feeney enjoys the snow day with her dog, Bella.





A Quick Tutorial on Sharks



By Sam Giliberti
Tusker Tribune Staff

You know what a shark is, right? A fierce bloodthirsty animal? Well, what if I were to tell you that they are not bad at all?

In this little story, I will show you why sharks are not as deadly as they seem and some things that you probably didn't know.

First off, they will attack you only if you provoke them, get in their way or they are hungry and angry at the same time, which rarely happens. However, today, people are polluting so much, and people are being so greedy that we are overfishing and the sharks are coming a lot closer to the shore and there are a lot more shark attacks, only in the past year.

Usually only five-10 shark attacks happen every year or two, but now, it has become 50-100 every year. So, this is mother nature's way of giving us karma.

What do you do in a case when you are part of a shark attack?

If you ever see a shark coming right at you, then **DO NOT PANIC!** Sharks have special neurons in their brain and they can sense movement. What you need to do is stay calm and they'll leave you alone, but if the shark bites you, then the shark will start shaking its head, trying to rip your limb off. Now, you just let it happen **OR** you punch its gills, nose or poke its eyes. You should probably punch its gills or poke its eyes because those are its weakest spots.

Where do you find sharks?

Sharks are worldwide but some of them are only in a certain area. For example, the Greenland shark, as you'd expect by the name, only lives near Greenland, and some sharks you may never see—like the frilled shark which lives deep in the ocean which is also known as a living fossil. The only way that scientists discovered it was because when it died, its body floated up to the surface and they found it.

How endangered is a shark?

A shark doesn't give birth to many offspring and there are a huge number of sharks that are killed just for their fins. In Japan shark fin soup is a delicacy and they kill 10 to 100 million sharks every year, so if sharks go extinct, then all of the ocean will be filled with shrimp and it will be red and that is called red tide.

This is why sharks aren't scary and are very important in our ecosystem.

A Look Back at the 2020-2021 School Year



By Col Shala
Tusker Tribune Staff

2020 through 2021.

Don't you love those years? No, you don't and millions of people will agree with me. I hope that 2022 will be a better year than the past two years.

Hi, my name is Col and today, I'm going to talk about the past two years. I'm running out of ideas, so I'm just gonna stick with this.

I really loved the beginning of 2020. I loved it so much for one reason and one reason only—it was because for the beginning, we didn't go to school for a whole three months! Nothing to associate with it, no homework, no schoolwork, no tests, no projects. But then, a stupid app called Zoom appeared out of nowhere and ruined COVID for me personally.

I love the fact that I didn't have to go to school for more than a summer break, but then, throughout 2020 and 2021, we started to go back to school, wore masks, and 6th grade for me felt like 5th grade. You're sitting in one classroom for the next six



hours while teachers test you, make you do homework, and classwork. We didn't have any movement between classes except for the very end, but even then, we didn't even get to see different people in each class. It was the same people every day for the next year and throughout that time, I will guarantee you that more than 75% of the children on Zoom were just watching YouTube, playing video games or watching any type of media platform.

I know for a fact that I paid very little attention on Zoom. You sit in your room, look at your all of your electronics, your bed, and everything slowly becomes more tempting to just do whatever you want.

I can't count the amount of times I just started watching YouTube during class. That was the most boring year I've ever sat through.

I'd love to hear your story. How did you cope with 2020-2021? This has been Col. Goodbye.

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.

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

Things I Oddly Dislike . . .



**By Eve Clark
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I have a lot of things that I hate but some of them do not make sense. Like, for example, Seattle,



I do not know how it came about, but I hate it. Seattle is just so sad and gloomy, it feels lonely.

Another thing I weirdly hate is knees, which all my friends make fun of me for, but I do. I do not understand why you can move



them and when someone breaks or hurts their knee, it makes me want to faint.



I also hate pencils without erasers. Like, what is the point of trying to erase something without an eraser, and make that horrible sound that makes you cringe? It's like nails on a chalkboard.

Finally, I hate shrimp. Shrimp just has a bad texture—it feels like veiny rubber. I do not understand how people eat it. What are some things you oddly hate?



Get Ready for the Transition to High School!



**By Akosua Adobea-Wired
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hey guys! It's me, Akosua. For all our fellow eighth graders, high school's approaching! Meaning we must pick our classes, electives, and plan out the next four years of our lives. Seems stressing, isn't it?

Well, don't worry! High school sounds like it's going to be the doom for us, but I'm sure if we take it step by step and don't get frantic, we'll all be good. After all, we're in this together! ****6th and 7th grades, take notes*.***



The classes we have are pretty cool! Being able to choose what type of science, math, ELA, and social studies makes me feel so grown up and mature, *lol*. And we can hang out with our friends at lunch! And ending at 2:10 will give us more time for homework.

Now, there's no WIN or Callback, so the classes are fewer overall. High School seems like it may be a roller coaster, but when you get used to it, it'll be just fine.

See you guys soon on the next newspaper!

Appreciating Older Gaming Technology



**By Col Shala
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Technology. Doesn't everybody love it? Media, video games, TV. Why wouldn't you like it?

My love for technology is a little different. I've loved it since I was five. I would go through all of my mom's old video game consoles. I always loved the way they were built and designed. My mom had a PSP ever since they were came out because my mom's father was rich, so basically, whatever console/video gaming system came out, they would get. I love looking through them, playing the games, fixing the consoles, and clearing them.



I used to go to my cousins' house every day because my grandma would take care of me when my mom went to work, and my cousins and I would play PS2 and PS3 games all day. This has also fostered my love for hundreds of games and if I were to list every game I've completed, we would probably be here for hours. I love video games and I still play with the old consoles. To this day, I have a PlayStation portable from 2007, and even on my modern Xbox, I still have games that were made from back in the 2000s.

I always wondered how they made these games, so one day, my PS4 broke. I thought I would try to fix it, instead of being sad, so we opened the whole thing up with a little bit of help from my parents (after all, I was only seven years old) and we tried our hardest, and we still couldn't find any problems. In addition, a lot of it was glued together instead of with screws, so we couldn't take a lot of it apart.

My mom felt really bad and so during the next Muslim New Year, when we received gifts, I discovered Fortnite. Unfortunately, I played it for like five hours a day, and the console broke. Fortunately, we had a warranty, so they fixed it for free.



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