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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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At Last! Two New Teams in the Super Bowl!



By Thomas Mauro
Tusker Tribune Staff

This NFL season has presented us with the most random Super Bowl in a while, and I love it.

I'm sick of Patrick Mahomes, Jackson Mahomes, Tom Brady and whoever else fills up my screen every year in early February.



This year, both QB's—Matt Stafford and Joe Burrows, are in their first ever Super Bowls. The Bengals are in their first Super Bowl since 1988 and the Rams are in their first since 2018.

This is the youngest coaching matchup ever, with both coaches being under 40. The Rams have home field advantage in a game that is supposed to be neutral, and I don't like that, but I dealt with it last year, so I can do it again.

Both of these teams were underdogs coming into the playoffs being that the Bengals were the 3rd seed in the AFC and the Rams the 4th in the NFC. Neither of these two teams have great franchises and that makes it more interesting. I love when two teams with uneventful histories meet in the big game because it doesn't always happen.

Every Super Bowl since 2015 has featured either Mahomes or Brady and I'm excited to see a change. I hope you all enjoy the big game on February 13th and thank you for reading.

A Commentary on the SMS 'Pie' Event



By Akosua Adobea-Wiredu
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hey guys! It's me again. Akos. What a stressful week!

But you know what we can really talk about that we'll never stop talking about? The "pi". *math joke, lol*. The pie in the face thing. Like bro? Throwing pie in people's faces? *What has the world become, lol? *



Anyways, y'all know that someone paid \$100 for Mrs. Racioppo to get pied in the face. \$100 dollars?! Like bro, I can use that money to pay bills! *lol jk, I don't pay bills*.

Y'all should vote for Mr. Arnett, though! He seems really into it. Who knows? Or Mrs. Pepe. I sure would love to see my Spanish teacher have pie crumbs all over her face. That'll be an iconic moment forever. Bye!

Editor's Note: The Student Council Pie Event was scheduled for today, however, the snow day caused its postponement. We'll provide pictures and the video when the event is finally held.

Try These Useful Studying Tips



By Mischa Berek
Tusker Tribune Staff

At some point, your teacher writes on the assignment board that there's a test. Now you must study for this test.

You get home, sit down, take out a pen or pencil. But what do you do next? Here are some ways to study:

It mostly depends on what subject you are studying for. If it's Spanish, you might want to get some index cards. If it's math, it's probably best to have someone write some equations down and you answer them.

The first thing you need to know is not to cram for this test. Cramming for a test isn't the best thing to do because then you're going to have a hard time remembering what you originally studied for. You want to start studying days, may-



be even weeks before so you can take in the information.

The next thing you need to know is how to take notes. If you don't take notes, then you probably won't have any study material. To take good notes, they must be neat or at least good enough for you to read. Without neatness, you'll probably get confused and that won't be good. It'll be better if you highlight the important information so you can have a good idea of what to review.

Another thing you must know is to work in a peaceful environment. You don't want it to be distracting because then you won't focus on your work. If it's clean, not noisy and there are no distractions, then you're all set. Take some breaks so your brain has time to take in the information.

These are some good study tips for you to remember.

You Don't Know Me

A Short Novel-in-Progress



TUSKER TRIBUNE

By Nova Laubis
Tusker Tribune Staff
Chapter One

Creaakkkk!
Dang it! I wish these floorboards weren't so creaky! I am just getting up to use the bathroom and I'm gonna wake the whole family up! What time is it anyway.... jeez, its 12:36 AM!! Almost there.....

"Oh, hey dad, you scared me! What's up? Dad? Hello? Were you sleep walking again? Cmon quit standing in the bathroom doorway! I gotta p—"

Little does Clair know her dad is dead. In Fact, dead exactly at 12:35 AM. Death in a horrible way, as little Clair screams, cries, and feels confused, shocked, and ultimately, horrified.

Oh, didn't I tell you that it was 12:36 and he died at 12:35? Sorry I'm new to this narrator thing. Anyway the—actually I'm going to let you see how the story plays out. I hear a creakkkk, and for once, I am actually thankful for our noisy floorboards, because through my teary eyes, I feel



I am being watched.

Seconds later, I hear police sirens and I could have sworn I heard the lightest sound of footsteps walking away, and I thank my dad in prayer that he called the police.

Frightened Clair. I think she's about nine years old. Anyway, she tells the police and investigators everything she knows and answers all their questions truthfully....except one question no one could seem to answer.

"Clair, turn around" the investigator said. He then pulled a sticky note or a Post-it note off my back and I don't think he realized, but, he read it aloud. The words on the note said the following: "*I was this close, and I chose not to*"

Meanwhile, Eric and his dad talk. "God job son! You got your first kill! I was about your age...11, or 12 when I had my first kill, too."

Eric's father was a very powerful man. He was involved in good things, and bad, but one thing that made him even more dangerous was that he knew people. If you mess with him, they will come for you.

Run, Pray, Survive—Part 2

A NaNoWriMo continuation



By Anya Khurana
Tusker Tribune Staff
"AHHHHHHHHH!"
BANG! BANG!

I looked over at Sarah, confusion, dread, and fear filling my face all at once, my body and mind not being able to make out what emotion I wanted to feel right now.

The announcement still screeched over the loudspeakers, like an ambulance siren: *We are going into lockdown. This is not a drill. We are going into lockdown. This is not a drill. We are going into lockdown. This is not a drill. We are going into lockdown. This is not a drill.*

The announcement kept on repeating, like it somehow already knew that a lot of students needed a lot of time to process it. Needed a lot of time to process what exactly was happening. I mean, we've had drills for this type of thing before, but they always told us exactly what time the drill would be, so we were never really surprised.

"Oh my god," Sarah gulped. "That wasn't something falling down the stairs. That was gunshots. Come on. We have to hide!" Sarah pleaded



with me to follow her and she yanked me by my hand, leading me into the back corner of the classroom, as far away from the door and windows as possible.

You know, when I think about it, Sarah saved me in a way on that day. Without her, it probably, no, definitely, would have taken me a long time to process what was happening. Maybe it would have been too long and then it would be too late. So without Sarah, I would have just been sitting in that stool, frozen until it was too late. For that, I thank Sarah for being so quick to jump into action and guide me to safety.

As I followed Sarah into the back corner of the classroom, I looked around with a dazed look on my face. Some kids were still frozen in place, trying to figure out what the hell had just happened.

In fact, Mr. James, our tech teacher, seemed to be doing the same thing. Just standing there, listening to the announcement trying to process but as soon as he saw some kids rushing to the back corner of the classroom, he snapped into action, too.

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The Joy of High School Scheduling!



By Anya Khurana
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you're in eighth grade, just like me, then you might be deciding what classes you're going to take in high school already! Pretty scary right?

But don't worry, I'm here to tell you that it's not scary at all! In totality, it's just a meeting with our counselor, Ms. Kurchak, about what classes you're going to take in ninth grade. It's super relaxed, and you shouldn't be nervous at all!

For some classes, your 8th grade teachers even give you recommendations—for example, science and math—so all you need to do is decide what electives and what type of English and social studies you want to take.

I know, it sounds overwhelming but it's really not that big a deal and you will be totally fine! In fact, I already had my meeting with Ms. Kurchack and it actually turned out to be fun! I loved how I have so much more freedom over what classes I want to take next year.

So basically, don't stress about it at all and if you ever do, there are so many people you can go to for help! For example, your parents, our counselor, or even just a trusted teacher! All you have to do is ask!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40-8:55	Classroom	Classroom	Classroom	Classroom	Classroom
8:55-9:00	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
9:00-9:30	Assembly	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
9:30-10:30	Literacy	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
(9:45-10:15)	Swimming	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:30-10:45	Maths	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy
10:45-11:45	Maths	French	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
(11:05-11:45)	Maths	French	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
11:45-12:15	Lunch	Science	PPA Time	PPA Time	PPA Time
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch	Science	PPA Time	PPA Time	PPA Time
1:00 - 2:00	RE/SEAL	Science	PPA Time	PPA Time	PPA Time
2:00 - 3:00	Class Story	Class Story	Class Story	Class Story	Class Story
3:00-3:15	Class Story	Class Story	Class Story	Class Story	Class Story

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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at: DPappas@somersschools.org.
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Run

From Page 2

"All right everyone, just try and stay calm. Quickly head to the back corner of the classroom and stay far away from the doors and windows. Turn off the lights and lock the door and then be quiet and try to stay hidden!"

That shook the last few students, who were still frozen, out of whatever daze they were in. They all headed to the back of the classroom where the rest of us were already standing, some already crying.

I looked across the classroom and everything seemed to go into slow motion. Students sprinted across the classroom as waterfalls of tears streamed down their faces. The agonizing screams across the school still rang out as we could hear the repetitive bang of the gunshots.

I whipped my head towards Sarah and saw that she also had water dripping down her face. I touched Sarah's tears, feeling the sadness in the form of a tear drop. Seeing Sarah cry made me want to cry too, but I willed myself not to be-

cause crying meant not thinking clearly and thinking clearly in a situation like this was essential. If I wanted to survive, I had to have perseverance.

"W-w-why is t-t-this happening?" Sarah stuttered, too scared to speak clearly.

"I don't k-k-know," My voice trembled. I tried to take three deep breaths, but it barely helped. My breaths were shaky, and I felt like the walls were closing in around me. Like I was trapped, like there was no escape.

I seemed to be stuck in a whirling void of fear, sadness and dread as I heard gunshots coming closer and closer. I tried to cover my ears. To block out the bangs and the agonizing screams of people getting shot but it was too loud. Pretty quickly, I got to the point where I felt like I couldn't take anymore. Where I was almost at the point of having a panic attack and hyperventilating. It felt like my heart was going to burst.

The only thing that stopped it was the sound of glass breaking as bullets demolished the window on the tech classroom's door.