



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 24

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

Spring 2022

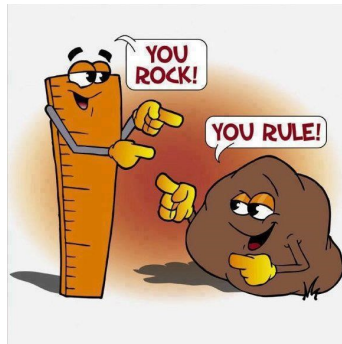
A Helpful List of April Fools Jokes



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

What's a fun and safe way to celebrate April Fools in school and at home? My go-to way is dad jokes! Here are some jokes that are sure to get your friends and family laughing.

- A and C were going to prank their friend, but they just let her B. . .
- Why do eggs like April fools' day? *Because they love practical yolks!*
- What is a gas pump's favorite holiday? *April "fuels" day.*
- What did the tree say when April began? *What a re-leaf!*
- What is the Easter bunny's favorite vegetable? *An EGG-plant.*
- Why did the donkey annoy his best friend? *It was April mules' day.*



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Childhood Memories Shape Us



By Reagan Ciccone
Tusker Tribune Staff

Do you ever get random flashbacks of childhood memories out of nowhere? Well, I do... it makes me miss being little. But there are advantages to being an adolescent.

Anyway, this isn't about being an adolescent; this is about random childhood memories.



There was this one time I vividly remember being in my cousin's house in Queens, NY, and my uncle was watching us at the time. My stupid four-year-old self was jumping on the couch and of course, I lost my balance and fell backwards. I remember landing on my head, and it hurt so badly. I can't really remember what happened next, but I have a few guesses.

Another incident I remember is when I would go to that same cousin's house, and the ice cream truck would come by. I would be so excited because ice cream trucks don't come to Somers.

Anyway, that's it for childhood memories. Maybe mine unlocked some memories of yours!

SMS Spirit Week!

April 4-April 8

Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



8th grade: pink
7th grade: orange
6th grade: yellow

Congrats, SMS STARS!



STAR: Aimee Kovacs, 7th Grade
NOMINATED BY: Mr. Mullaney

WHY? Aimee took it upon herself to put the chairs up at the end of the day for all of the tables for the absent students.



STAR: Milan Sath, 7th Grade
NOMINATED BY: Mr. Wilbert

WHY? Milan has gone out of his way to put chairs on tables, hold the door for other students, collect materials and more. He is helpful in the classroom without being asked or expecting recognition.

Focusing Tips for the Classroom



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Are you having trouble keeping focus in class? Here are some of my favorite ways to help with focusing!

- Keep your tablet away from you whenever you are not using it. If you have trouble distracting yourself with your tablet, don't leave it in front of you. Make sure you keep it in a space where you can get it if you need it. For example, you can keep it in your backpack or on your desk.
- Make sure you only have your necessary items/work out. Keep the unnecessary items in your locker, backpack, or desk.
- You can always ask your teachers or classmates for help paying attention.
- Fidget with your fingers. Make sure you still look up at the teacher though.
- Take notes. It may help you stay on task.
- Make sure you are hydrated and sleep well.
- Talk to your parents about it. There may be something in your life affecting your focus.



Jokes

From Page 1

- Why can't Elsa hold a balloon? *Because she will let it go.*
- Knock knock!
Who's there?
Wooden Shoe.
Wooden Shoe who?
Wooden Shoe like to hear another joke?
- Knock knock!
Who's there?
Beets.
Beets who?
Beats me (I don't know).
- What do you call a fake noodle? *An impasta.*

Chew on This! Should Gum Be Allowed in School?



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Gum. Should it be allowed in school?

Mr. Getman recently sent out that gum chewing is not allowed in school. Do you think that's fair?

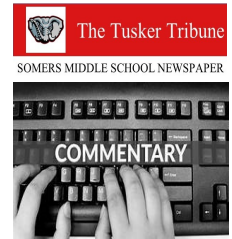
In recent studies, it has been shown that chewing gum can help with focus for students. This is shown on <https://schools.graniteschools.org/westlakestem/2017/01/17/a-brief-essay-on-chewing-gum-olivia-heiner/>, where the study shows us, "It gets someone's brain working, helps them think of new ideas. Students fall asleep in class, are easily distracted, and are stressed. All these problems can be solved, or helped by chewing gum. That is why schools should allow gum. . ."

I also personally agree that gum keeps me active during class when I am tired. My hands were tied on why Mr. Getman decided to create this rule.

So, I decided to research reasons why gum can be bad for a learning environment, and these are the reasons I found...

- Students may leave gum under desks
- Students may chew the gum obnoxiously and create distractions
- Gum can be messy when blowing bubbles

I feel that if gum was allowed, then students would not have to be sneaky with it and put it under desks/not in the trash. Students should be given a chance with gum. If a few students create distractions, the whole grade shouldn't be punished for a few people. So, what do you think? Gum, or no gum?



Two Thumbs Up for Peter Pan, Jr.



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

I went to Peter Pan Jr. on Friday night, and here is what I thought.....

The cast did amazing! Congratulations to Brynn for getting the lead role as a sixth grader! Her voice is absolutely amazing. Cassidy as Tiger Lilly was great! You could tell she put in tons of effort! The Pirates were always in sync with their dancing. The Brave Girls did amazing! So did the Lost Boys. Captain Hook truly felt like a villain. It seems so real!



The show was great! I feel if you have never seen Peter Pan, you would not get the show that much. If you had background knowledge you were set to go. The show was not too long, and we had a special surprise! Sr. Drebecz was in a blow-up crocodile! There was also a great flying scene that involved a green screen!

The stage crew and lighting did great! The stage crew was so quick with changing scenes and the props were amazing! The lighting was great as well! Tinkerbell's light was so quick and the sound effects for her were so cool! Overall, the show was great! Congrats to the

'Pulsera'? What's That?



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

So, what is this Pulsera thing you keep hearing about? Well, Pulsera is an organization that helps people in Guatemala and Nicaragua since 2009. It gives under-earning people a fair trade job.



What is a Fairtrade job? Fairtrade is an arrangement to help growing countries. It gives fair-paying jobs and good working environments.

Pulsera helps its workers with scholarships, housing programs, health care, gender equality, and more.

What can we buy to support the Pulsera Project? You can choose from a variety of colorful bracelets for \$5 each. No bracelet is the same. They are all unique. You can also buy a small colorful bag for \$10.

Each item comes with a picture of the artist who made it.

To buy these items and support the artists who made them, you must pay through Venmo. The Venmo user is @pulseraproject. In the memo line, you must put "Somers Middle School" or "SMS". Then you must take a screenshot of your receipt and print it out. You can go to any world language classroom on the second floor and show them the receipt. They will then let you pick your Pulsera(s).

Hinduism Has Many Fascinating Aspects



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you are in sixth grade, then you are learning about the most popular religions in the world. One of these religions is Hinduism.

The people who practice Hinduism believe one god takes the form of three different gods (avatars). These three avatars are Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. The main god is Brahman. Except for the main god and their avatars, most of the gods are nature gods.



What are the origins of Hinduism? Hinduism developed over 3500 years ago. This religion was developed in India. There are over 800 million people practicing Hinduism just in India!

The Hindus believe in reincarnation. Cali is the god who decides a person's reincarnation. If you live a bad life, you will be re-born in a lower class. If you lived a great life and respected your duties, then you are re-born in a high class or you stop the cycle of death. Some of the duties are to treat all living things equally, protect your subjects (if you are a ruler), and nonviolence.

If you found this interesting, I encourage you to do your own research. Just remember, it's okay to ask but be respectful.

Carrots, Hummus, and Class Projects



By Akosua Adobebe-Wiredu
Tusker Tribune Staff

TUSKER TRIBUNE

Hi. My name is Akos. I'm going to talk about my experience with a very special teacher.

It was trimester one, a few days before it ended. I was dreading the 94 that I had in a certain class, knowing I had high standards. I went to Mr. Vicious after class, crying to him. "Why oh why, Mr. Vicious?" I say.

He stares at me and doesn't say anything.

"I got a 33 on my test! How? You literally broke a student's project. Isn't that illegal?!"

"What do you want?" he replies, bluntly.

"I want my test revision grade, please."

Shoesha is standing next to me, giggling with her hand over her mouth. Suddenly, Mr. Vi-



cious pulls out carrots and hummus from underneath his desk. What?! How does he casually pull out carrots and hummus from his desk when I'm asking for a better grade? I can't believe him.

"You got what you want so can I have what I want, please?"

Mr. Vicious then gets up and shoos us to his door. "Okay, well you're gonna be late to class, so let's go," he said.

"Waittttt, does that mean you're gonna grade the test revisions?" I beg.

He stares at me again and rolls his eyes. "Yes, that means I'm gonna grade it.

Now go and let me eat my carrots and hummus in peace."

I sigh with relief and walk out with Shoesha. The minute we get outside, I start sighing.

Oh, Mr. Vicious will be the death of me.

~Dedicated to Claire ~Fictional story.

Technology is Changing at Warp Speed



By Claire Cronin
Tusker Tribune Staff

Technology has changed many people's lives in so many ways, especially school and teaching.

Every day at school, we stare at tablets for almost five hours! We stare at tablets and the only breaks we have from online work are lunch, recess, and if teachers do work on paper.



I know many people who, after school, have two hours or more of homework. COVID 19 has also affected our use of electronics. At one point, school was kept online, where every day, you would wake up and log on.

Technology has also changed so much,

it's hard to believe that the first phone that required Internet came out in 1996. Today, technology affects the way individuals communicate, learn, and think. It helps society and determines how people interact with each other on a daily basis.

It's crazy how much the Internet has evolved. Now, when many people are stuck, they go to Google, which has over one billion users!

Origins of Easter



By Claire Cronin
Tusker Tribune Staff

Easter is the holiday celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion. You might be wondering how the Easter Bunny became a symbol of Easter and

how Easter was named?

Well, that is what my article is about. It turns out Easter actually began as a pagan festival celebrating spring in the Northern Hemisphere, long before the advent of Christianity.

The earliest that Easter was traced back is all the way to the 2nd century. Easter was known as a time when all of nature is awakened from the slumber of winter and the cycle of renewal begins. Anglo-Saxon pagans celebrated this time of rebirth by invoking "Eostre" or "Ostara", the goddess of spring, the dawn, and fertility.

Easter is named after the goddess Eostre, because Eostre was all about rebirth and nature. The only reference to this goddess comes from the writings of the Venerable Bede, a British monk who lived in the late seventh and early eighth century.



Does Mindfulness Help Students?



By Eli Clavines
Tusker Tribune Staff

In FACS (Family and Career Skills) class, before the lesson starts, we do mindfulness.

Mindfulness is a type of meditation that can be practiced helping reduce stress or improve focus. It can be used for many things and help many people.

But is Mindfulness effective for students? I asked students who have

FACS as a class and this is how they feel about mindfulness.

Marissa Cambareri says, "It helps me relax when I'm stressed out. I think it is important to me because if you feel like you need a break,

mindfulness helps clear the mind."

Anya Khurana says, "It depends. If I am really stressed, doing five minutes of mindfulness doesn't make things better, but if it's nothing big, mindfulness lets me face the problem with a clearer mindset"

Evelyn Aronoff adds, "Depends what type of mindfulness it is. I don't like mindfulness with too much movement. I like peaceful music, not something where I have to get up."

I agree with most of the students I've interviewed. In my opinion, I believe mindfulness can help if I just need a break from things, but I wouldn't say it's helpful. Certain things like listening to calm music or doodling for a bit can be helpful but it's more of a short-term effect.



Reporters and Contributors

Akosua Adobebe-Wiredu

Reagan Ciccone

Eli Clavines

Claire Cronin

Ava Schmidberger