



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE

Spring 2022

The Origins of Passover



By Claire Cronin
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: Passover begins April 16.

The first Passover happened long ago in country of Egypt. A powerful king, called Pharaoh, ruled Egypt. Worried that the Jewish people would one day fight against him, Pharaoh decided that these people must become his slaves.

The Jewish people were forced to work hard, and they built palaces and cities and worked without rest. The Jewish people cried and asked God for help. God chose a man named Moses to lead the Jewish people. Moses went to Pharaoh and tried to reason with him, but Pharaoh refused and would not listen, and so God sent plagues.

First, the water turned to blood. Next, frogs and, later, wild animals, ran in and out of homes. Balls of hail fell from the sky and bugs, called locusts, ate all of the Egyptians' food. Then death came to Egyptians' first-born sons. However, death "passed over" the homes of the Jewish people, so their sons did not die.

Soon after, Pharaoh gave in and freed the Jewish people. They had no time to prepare food and no time to allow their dough to rise into puffy bread. They had only enough time to make a flat, cracker-like bread called matzah.

Each year during Passover, the Seder symbolizes the miraculous journey from slavery to freedom.



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:

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Tusker Tribune Website:

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The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Happy
Spring
Break!



Easter Has a Long History



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Easter is coming up this year on Sunday, April 17th. Have you ever wondered how Easter came to be?

Easter is a holiday celebrated by Christians all over the world. The 40 days following up to Easter is called Lent. During Lent, most Christians give up something. For example, chocolate, meat, candy, gum, and much more. On Fridays during Lent, Christians don't eat meat.

How did Easter come to what it is now? Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. It is believed that Jesus was sacrificed on the cross around age 30 to open the gates of heaven. After three days Jesus came back to life and off the cross and went to his apostles and told them to spread the gospel. He then ascended into heaven.

On Easter, Christians go to church. On Easter, people who want to become Christian and/or receive their sacraments do it during this mass.

A traditional way to celebrate is an egg hunt. Families also gather to celebrate. To those celebrating, have a Happy Easter!



An Easter Tale



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

(This is a fictional story.)

I wake up still tired from the night before..... **WAIT! IT'S EASTER!** "Mom! Mom! Mom! Wake up! We have to see what the Easter bunny left!" I say jumping up and down.

"Ok, ok, call your dad and tell him to come over," my mom says, still half asleep. I go get the house phone and type in my dad's phone number.... **9145895064** I type in. Its ringing. I jump up and down impatiently.

"Happy Easter! How did you sleep?" My dad says.

Continued on Page 4

'Synchro' Takes Skill, Discipline and Enthusiasm



**By Charlotte Senitta
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Ever heard of syn-
chronized skating?

Probably not.

Comprised of a
team of 16-20 girls, synchronized
skating---more commonly known
as synchro---puts 16 of those
skaters on the ice to perform a
prepared routine of certain ele-
ments of different levels and difficulties, all set to
a certain theme.

There are different levels, or lines, to com-
pete in, ranging from the lowest to the highest,
beginner to adult. I currently skate for Team Im-
age on the Juvenile and Intermediate lines.

Juvenile is the beginning of the qualifying
lines. These lines are different from the ones be-
low them because they can all qualify for the U.S.
Synchronized Skating Championships in early
spring, and the highest of these (Junior, Senior,
etc.) can both be selected to represent their coun-
try by competing internationally and qualify for
the World Synchro Championships at the end of
the season.

The U.S. Synchronized Skating Champi-
onships is one of the most anticipated events of the
synchro season. It's the last competition for all the
teams (besides those picked to compete at Worlds)
so it's always an emotional and exhausting trip to
the final run-through of your program.

This year, it was held in Colorado Springs,
Colorado, and concluded just a few weeks ago.
There are three sectional championships held
about a month before --- Eastern, Midwestern,



and Pacific --- in their respective locations, where
teams from that area compete against
each other to qualify for nationals (U.S.
synchronized skating championships).
Only the 4-6 highest ranking teams, de-
pending on the discipline, are chosen to
go. That's why Nationals is the end-of-the-
season goal: because only the best get to
go.

Last year many of the competi-
tions, including Nationals, were cancelled
due to COVID, which has been a big factor in af-
fecting the season. For the few that were still on,
you could only enter by submitting a video of the
team's performance so it could be played on a live
stream for everyone to watch. Alongside new so-
cial distancing rules, masks were to be worn on
and off the ice.

But this year, things got much better. We
started to travel to in-person competitions again
and when we did off-ice outside, we could take our
masks off. One of the biggest breakthroughs we
had at the end of the season was being able to do
several run-throughs and practice with our masks
off. This helped us work on our expression skills,
especially since Nationals was coming up and the
new rules said that we didn't have to compete in
masks. That provided my team with a little bit of
hope for next season, that maybe it will be normal
again.

So, since the season's finally over (if you
don't count Worlds), stay ready for next season
and the first competition, the 2022 Boston Syn-
chronized Skating Classic.

[https://usfigureskatingfanzone.com/watch/?
Archive=2978&type=Live](https://usfigureskatingfanzone.com/watch/?Archive=2978&type=Live)

Digging Deeper into a Pediatric Physical Therapist's Job



**By Reagan Ciccone
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do some of you think
about your future and what
you're going to be? Well, if
you do, have you ever

thought about being a physical ther-
apist for kids? I interviewed my
mom who is one, to see what it's like.

"How is it like teaching kids with special
needs physical therapy?" I ask.

"It's particularly challenging, but extreme-
ly rewarding. You must be very patient and crea-
tive because most of the kids don't know how to
talk.

"What does a normal workday look like for
you?" I question.

"I start out with preparing for the day, I
have to first pull out my schedule, then set up the
activities in the gym. Then I go pick up my first
student in the cafeteria. I bring them to the gym



and help them psychically like with
jumping, which may seem easy to most
kids, but can be challenging for others. I
make sure they have fun while working
on their physical therapy goals.

"At the end of the class, if they
want to, I let them have a reward in the
end such as a sticker. Each student has
different goals, so I need to set up differ-
ently for each child," she replies.

"What is an example of a hard session at
work and how to you deal with it?" I ask.

"If a student is not cooperative or has diffi-
cult behavior such as hitting, and if they have a
difficulty going back to class. Dealing with this, I
usually find a toy or something they like to help
them calm down. If that doesn't work, I get help
from the other therapists," she responds.

That's it for this article. I hope after read-
ing this, you'll consider becoming a physical thera-
pist.

SMS Spirit Week!!!!



Mrs. Schettino shows off her Somers Gear!



6th grader Svea Almquist on Throwback Day.



6th grader Katelyn Mariani on Throwback Day.



Aviana Iscaro, Melanie Rudyk, and Svea Almquist on Tie Dye Day.

Photos by Anna McArdle and Ava Schmidberger

We may have additional Spirit Week photos when we return from break!



Olivia Mercado and Sophia Klugers on PJ Day.



Sophia Valenzuela and Victoria McGee on PJ Day.



*At left, Madison Kaplan and Isabella Collins
At right, Madison Kaplan, Isabella Collins, Sophia Valenzuela, Eliana Contres, Svea Almquist, Melani Rudyk, and Sophia Klugers.*



TUSKER TRIBUNE

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The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

How 'STAR' Will You Go?



Grade 6:



Kwaku Wiredu-Mensah



Grace Feeney



Kiara Stuart



Kaylee Ball



Henry Donsky

Grade 7:



Ashley Contreras Valencia



Phillip Rosado



Katelyn Kourakos



Giovana Rosa Martins



Arbana Ndrecaj



Sofia Borrelli

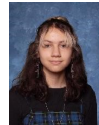


Allison Kaminski

Grade 8



Maylin Mora



Natalie DeSanto



Anelise Bobadilla

*A STAR award stands for **S**tudents **T**hat are **R**ole **M**odels and these students have been caught doing something that deserves the STAR recognition for March! Great job to all of our Stars – keep up the positive behavior – it makes our school a better place!*

Note: names of STARS published in previous issues of the Tusker Tribune are not included on this list.

Easter Tale

From Page 1

"Happy Easter! Good. Can you come over so we can look for eggs and open our baskets from the Easter bunny?" I ask impatiently

"Sure Monkey, I'll be over in 30 minutes."

I go to my mom's room and let her know he's on his way. I go to my sister's room wake her up, then get ready to take pictures. I put on my beautiful yellow dress, and shoes, and brush my hair. Then 30 minutes later . . . my dad arrives.

My sister and I rush to the kitchen and open our gifts. I get bubbles and candy; so does she.

We dash outside with our baskets. Mine is a fluffy unicorn. "1....2....3... go!" I scream. My sister and I go running for eggs. I love the yellow ones. We were down to the last egg and my sister and I couldn't find it! Finally, there! I found it. I run to the egg and go back to my parents. "All done!" I open all the eggs and get tons and tons of jellybeans and M&M's It was the best Easter ever.

Books to Read: Just in Time for Break!



By Akosua Adobeawiredu
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hi. Um. So, I want to give some book recommendations to y'all since I have a few (I'm not a nerd, lol). If you actually take the time to look, there are some actually interesting books in the world.

1. **It Ends With Us** by Colleen Hoover. UGH. THIS BOOK MADE ME CRY! The mixture of all the components in what a book should be like is so good. And all the plot twists and the flow with the character's past.

SMS Shows Support For Ukraine



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

On Friday, April 1st, 2022, SMS wore yellow and blue to support Ukraine. I wish the best of luck to

Ukraine in dealing with Russia's war crimes. Lots of countries and companies have been cutting off Russia. Did you wear blue and yellow?

Sr. Drebcyz was wearing a traditional Ukrainian piece of clothing. Melanie Rudyuk was wearing a soccer jersey from Ukraine! Mrs. Noble had a yellow shirt. Mr. Paulmeno wore yellow and blue. Mrs. Kilmer had yellow and blue on as well.



Sr. Drebcyz and the Service Club were selling blue and yellow ribbons for \$1 each. All the money went to support Ukraine and its people. Did you buy any?

What are ways you can donate to help Ukraine? You can send in money to UNICEF, which has a dedicated website to Ukraine:

<https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/en>

If you don't want to donate using this particular site, you can also just look up Ukraine support

non-profits. Amazon is also helping raise money.



American League Favorites



By Samuel Dwyer
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: This is the first of two articles about the 2022 Major League Baseball Season. It focuses on the American League. The next story will focus on the National League.

With the MLB lockout finally ending, baseball fans can get back to watching games. Favorites to win the A.L. pennant have emerged. The Rays, Blue Jays, Yankees, White Sox, Astros, and the Mariners all have strong cases for why they're the best team.

The A.L. East should be a close race throughout the whole entire season with multiple strong teams. With the Blue Jays signing Matt Chapman, they now have one of the best infields in baseball. Who knows how far they could go?

The Rays don't have many superstars, but the way they play the game is very impressive.

The Yankees have many superstars all over the ball field, but injuries have cost them the past few years. If they stay healthy, who knows how far they could go? With the White Sox in a weak division, they're huge favorites to win the A.L. Central. Lance Lynn was an important addition to their pitching staff which might help them go even farther in the playoffs this year.

The Astros lost key superstar Carlos Correa, but they're still the favorites to win the A.L. West, but watch out for the Mariners, as they hope to break their twenty-year playoff drought.



Books to Read

From Page 4

2. One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus. This mystery is so cool and honestly will have you playing detective till we figure out *who really killed Simon*.

3. The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon is such a heart-felt book that shows that there's hope and love in even the worst times of your life. Also, the two main characters have such a great vibe.

4. A Good Girl's

ONE OF US



Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson. Now wait wait wait, I never said I wanted to murder anyone (!lol!). This mystery will keep you invested in the book till it's done, and you'll literally never want to put it down. There's literally a plot twist in every chapter and it always makes me gasp again.

5. Lastly, November 9th by Colleen Hoover is also such a

great book. I also cried to this (ik ik, I'm such a cry baby). "Your past will come back to you" is such a huge thing in the book. Not gonna lie, after this book I felt much more mature and like a new person.

Anyway, I'll give more book recommendations in the next few newspapers, y'all!

