



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 27

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

Spring 2022

Recognizing Autism Awareness



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

April is Autism Awareness Month. Autism is a disorder that affects/challenges social skills. Instead of looking/staring at someone with autism you should support them. How do you do that though?

- Be sensitive about the life adjustments they need.
- Help them work on social skills and engage in conversations.



- Don't talk over them and be careful when being social.
- Try to make sure you never make them uncomfortable.
- Treat them as you would treat anyone going through a hard time. *(information found on google)*

What is autism? Autism is a serious developmental disorder that impairs the ability to communicate and interact. Autism spectrum disorder impacts the nervous system.

Continued on Page 2

'It Was a Joke': The Common Excuse Of Middle School Dramas



**By Ruby McDowell
Tusker Tribune Staff**

We've all heard it. You disagreed. You own up for all you did wrong and ask the other person for forgiveness. Instead, they say, "It was a joke. Jeez. Chill."

I'm here to talk to you about this excuse. I want to focus on how it



The Tusker Tribune
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



is used, and how it should be used, which contrasts dramatically.

How it is used.

Long story short, it isn't used correctly. It is often used when a child KNOWS it wasn't right. They often say it after it calms down, and after the other person has apologized. It is often followed by chill.

Continued on Page 2

Sienna's 'Wake Up' Call



**By Jessica Borell
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Sinking herself in the couch and eating all the chips, Sienna decided to watch a movie. She decides to click Pretty Woman, from the 90s, she reads.

As she's watching it, she remembers halfway through she was supposed to meet her friend near the park. She doesn't want to get up. She really doesn't. She's been told she's lazy and she has gotten the question by many people, "What are you going to do with your life?", and, "You only sit on the couch" stuff. Well, that's only what she does in the day. She is kind of nocturnal in a way.

She's told her friends she can only party or do stuff at night. Who wants to live like that

though? Seeing stuff in the day is a part of life. You don't want to see everything and everyone in the dark.

Everyone else is tired, but Sienna.

Sienna calls her friend. "Hey, I'm sorry Rory but I can't make it to the park. I'm watching a movie," Sienna says with a scrappy voice.

"Sienna. I'm not going to hear it anymore! You shouldn't live at night when the whole world is asleep. Live like the rest but don't be like the rest. Not everyone parties every day. Do you even know what happens the nights you aren't home? Did you know your gramps passed away? No. You were staying out late with friends who don't care about you!"

Continued on Page 2



How 'STAR' Will You Go?



STAR: Sean Donnelly

WHY? Sean helped another student who was having a coughing fit by having them stand up straight and hold their arms out.

STAR: James McLeod 7th Grade

WHY? Helping to put up chairs on desks at the end of the day for those kids who are absent.



STAR: Joe Azzinari, 7th Grade

WHY? Joe helped another classmate with a technology need.

Wake Up Call

From Page 1

"This isn't good for you. You decided to watch a movie over seeing your friend and getting food? I would say friends in a heartbeat but, you are you. No one can change the fact that you got lazy after your mom passed. I know it's hard. You know that. Be better for yourself and others. Don't eat that whole bag of chips. I can hear you downing them. I'll be going to Lizzie's house."

Before Sienna said anything, Rory hung up the phone. Sienna suspected she did it angrily. After staring at the wall for the longest time, Sienna got up. Leaving the movie playing. Leaving the bag of chips and blanket to waste on the couch. She ran upstairs and put on jeans and a sweater. Brushed her teeth and knotted hair. Put eye shadow on, put on her Nike sneakers. Grabbed her keys and drove to Lizzie's house. Rory answered. She almost closed the door, but this is what Sienna said. "You're right. It sucks. Being lazy, you don't feel good about yourself. You don't know what else to do except eat food every second and watch TV. You literally think you've watched about everything there is but, there is more to life. I know that Rory. I'm sorry for what I did. I don't know how to move on. How did you move on?"

"I just did what I always did even with both of my parents here. I pretended my aunt and uncle were my parents. I lived on like I usually do. It's hard but it gets easier. That's all I can say," Rory replied.

That small piece of advice made Sienna a better person. A much better person. She is a humble person, a kind person, knows what to do because of a tiny piece of advice. Forty one words helped Sienna understand. She never finished watching Pretty Woman.

Reporters and Contributors

Akosua Adobea-Wiredu

Jessica Borell

Ruby McDowell

Ava Schmidberger

Joke

From Page 1

I have had this happen to me. I often think, well, a) I have "chilled" and b) They're my feelings. I can't change them. I say Jokes aren't one-sided. It's only a joke if the other person thinks it's funny.

How it should be used

It should be used in addition to an apology. For example, "I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to hurt your feelings. I truly meant it as a joke." The keyword in this situation is "meant". This shows that you understand how it wasn't perceived as a joke.

Overall, kids should be more careful with their words and see how their excuses or apologies can affect others.

Autism

From Page 1

The range and severity of symptoms can vary widely. Common symptoms include difficulty with communication, difficulty with social interactions, obsessive interests, and repetitive behaviors.

Early recognition, as well as behavioral, educational, and family therapies, may reduce symptoms and support development and learning. Treatment can help but autism cannot be "cured".

In recognition of Autism Awareness, SMS students and staff wore **blue** today in school.

What a Week!



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

Hey guys! It's Akosua! It's been a hectic week for sure!

Monday, I had a math and social studies test. Tuesday and Wednesday, the state math test. Thursday, no test (hooray). And Friday, science test!

But I'm going to share some highlights from this week. Tuesday, I received back pain from sitting in a chair for over two hours during the test (way too young for this!). Wednesday, I had a very



"wonderful" chat with my fellow amazing science teacher about how I didn't get 100 on my science classwork. Pretty much cried for a few seconds but it's all good. I also had a track meet on Wednesday. Yea.

Thursday, I technically dressed up as Vector from Despicable Me. (OH YEA!) It was such a coincidence though. And Friday... I don't know what happened on Friday because it's today! Anyways, that's my week for yall! Bye!