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Fall 2020



A Halloween Horror Story—The Gossip



By Emily Mladenovic
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: If Somers Middle School was part of a movie, what kind of a movie would it be?

At 6:30 in the morning, all kids wake up in horror. The horror of their drama getting spilled all around the school. The horror of waking up and the popular kids telling everyone your crush.

The horror of being embarrassed by spilling your water on yourself. This was Somers Middle School, the place where no one can be trusted, especially the 8th graders. The 8th graders are the worst because they think they rule the school. They say you can trust them, but next thing you know, your drama is practically on the school walls.

This story begins on a snowy October on the 22nd. One of the shy girls, Mia, tells her "best friend" who she has a crush on. "OMG Maria, guess who I have a crush on—Rob. Ahhhh! He's so cute!"



Maria says, "OMG, yeahh, sooo cute!" Mia knows she can trust Maria, but she says, "Please don't tell him or anybody. I don't want them to know."

They both "pinky promise" each other. The next day, Mia gets up, so excited to see her crush at school and hang out with him. But what she doesn't know is that Maria told everyone, the whole grade, and even the 6th and 7th graders!

She was furious. She went up to everyone to ask who told them. "I can't tell you—I promised them I wouldn't."

She ran up to Maria and yelled, "Why would you tell everyone? You promised! I HATE YOU, WE ARE NEVER BEING FRIENDS EVER AGAIN, ALSO I DIDN'T EVEN LIKE

HIM, SO!" Mia, still furious, walks up to Rob and says, "You know, I barely liked you. It was just a day thing!" Rob starts to blush and says, "I actually really like you, but I was nervous and didn't want to ask you."

Will there be a sequel to this movie????

Another Possible SMS Movie Idea . . .



By Sofia Calandrucci
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: If Somers Middle School was part of a movie, what kind of a movie would it be?

If Somers Middle School was part of a movie here is what would happen: The title of this movies would be, Drama-lama.

The plot of the movie would be this:

A bunch of girls are bullying this one girl, making up lies, calling her names, and making people hate her for no reason.



She needs to find a way to grow as a person and make new friends.

She has been battling with these girls for a while, but the summer helped her move on and grow, and she and her best friend end up having the best summer ever.

But then they return to Somers Middle School in the fall, and the whole girl drama issue comes back. How will it turn out?

Spirit Week's Big Dilemma



**By Jack LaRocca
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Spirit week is a week to show school spirit, spanning from October 27th to October 30th. This week hosts such days as color wars, Halloween costume day, and the newly added, DIY mask day.

In a time like quarantine, ideas like this are fun and can spice your everyday life. You would assume that when you walk into school on a day like interest day, you would see thousands of kids all dressed in merchandise of their favorite show, music group or sports team. But on the faithful day of October 29... I saw....

"NOTHING!!!" NORMAL PANTS, SHIRTS, SHOES AND SOCKS!

If you were new to this school, you would have had no clue that it was Spirit Week at all! This goes for every other "Spirit day" too! This week, I saw no one dressed for the occasion; it was a little sad. On DIY mask day, I couldn't wear a mask I made myself, so I bought a creative space themed one. When I came to school, I didn't see anyone else with a creative or colorful mask, just the same plastic, blue, plain masks I have been seeing every day.

So, what's the problem? Are the kids in our school just un-motivated to participate in these exciting events?

I think that the school should still do weeks like Spirit Week in the upcoming years,

because they do provide the unique opportunity for kids to express themselves creatively, whether they participate or not.

I think the number one factor of people not participating in spirit week is simply a lack of motivation. Since it is optional, students assume there is no point in putting in the work to dress up, just for no payoff.

A lot kids have not been participating in it because they don't want to show up being the only one who wore a pajama top and bottom to school. A lot of kids too, view Spirit Week as embarrassing. Although there is no real solution to this problem, I think spreading awareness that Spirit Week exists on the announcements, and really trying to push kids to participate in it, would make a big difference in the number of kids who partake in the fun themed week.

Although I couldn't find many people wearing clothes that match the themes for the first couple days, Fridays, A.K.A "dress-up-day" usually have a lot more participants than the rest of the days.

Seeing as 1) most people already have a Halloween costume to wear, and 2) Wearing your Halloween costume to school, is just plain old fun!

So, with this, I look forward to seeing everyone's costumes on Friday!

Editor's Note—this story was written Friday morning. The next issue of the Tusker Tribune will feature costumes and other pictures from Spirit Week!



Jack LaRocca's DIY mask.

What's Your Halloween Going to be Like?



**By Eva Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff**

No doubt about it, 2020 has definitely not turned out the way we've expected it to. Because of the pandemic, many events that were scheduled to happen this year, (like the Olympics, multiple conventions and more) were canceled due to the concern that the virus could spread more rapidly if these events were held.



So, what about Halloween? What things will change and what things will stay the same?

Well for starters, adults and kids will need to social distance. So that means if someone is going trick or treating in a small neighborhood with homes super



close to each other, they will have to social distance, although it may be hard to. This also applies to the people giving out the candy. What will they do?

There is another thing that will change about Halloween this year. The costumes!

What type of costumes will people have? Will trick or treaters have their masks apart of their costume? Or will they have their mask on to be safe?

I guess we will have to wait and see. But I do know one thing is for sure, this year will be very, very different.

Editor's Note—please celebrate Halloween safely!



NBA Season Coming Back in 2020? How Will They Pull It Off?



By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff

The 2020-21 NBA season was at first projected to start on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January 2021 or on Valentine's Day 2021, but now they're looking at before Christmas? How will the NBA pull it off and how is it going to affect the teams and the players? I will be talking about all of this today and more, and I will give my opinion on what I think of this idea.

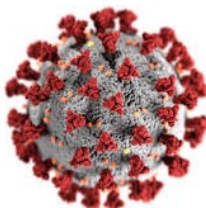
The 2019-20 NBA season just capped off on October 11, and the 2020 NBA Draft is scheduled for November 18. Free Agency will start right after that, likely to be around November 20-22.

Usually the NBA gives the players and the organization from about Mid-June to the end of October to rest and train for the upcoming season. June to October is 4 months, just keep that in mind.

What the NBA was looking to do with this crazy pandemic going on, was to start next season around MLK Day or Valentine's Day to give the players about three or four months of rest like usual. However, they are now looking to start the season on December 22 and have a 72-game regular season, a play-in game for the Eastern Conference and the West for the 8th seed in the Playoffs and have the season over before the Olympics, which begins on July 23, 2021. They do not want to have another bubble, they want teams to play in their home arena with a limited number of fans, similar to what the NFL and MLB have been doing. Let me explain what the NBA is thinking with this crazy plan that would give teams only 2 months to get ready!

What the commissioner, Adam Silver, and the NBA is thinking is that since they lost \$1.5 billion in ticket revenue, they want to start the season earlier and with fans so that they can make more money.

They're also thinking since there probably won't be a vaccine for COVID-19 by February, starting it then won't make a difference compared to starting it in December. They also want to



make sure they finish the season before the Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, while also having a fairly long season. They really want to make sure that happens because if they're in the middle of the Playoffs and the Olympics start, some players will want to play for their country and not their NBA team. Starting it in December helps a lot with all of this. However, there are some cons to starting in December.

The first negative effect of starting the season in December is how the players will feel. I know none of us know how it feels to play NBA games basically every other day, but it is probably very, very tiring. The offseason is four months of heaven for the players, because they truly need that time to rest and train.

Having that time being cut in half would probably change the way they play or make them not want to play for the first couple of months. Also, players who get traded or sign with a different team during this offseason will have about a month to figure out the team's system on offense and defense, which is crazy!

For example, say Fred VanVleet of the Toronto Raptors signs with the New York Knicks on November 25. He would have less than a month to get comfortable with the Knicks' system!

The offseason gives the players time to rest and get comfortable with their new team if they are on one. Having this time cut in half will not be the best for the players, but for the league, it will help them get a pretty much full season in before the 2021 Olympics. However, I do not think Adam Silver and the NBA should do this, and I think starting on MLK Day is a better move and having a 60-game season instead of 72 or 82, since that gives the players 3 months of rest and enough time for a pretty long season.

The National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) must approve the idea of next season starting in December, and I don't think OKC Thunder All-Star and NBPA Commissioner Chris Paul and the NBPA will approve of this.



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