



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Enjoy the break! Next issue will be published on January 8, 2021!

Good Riddance, 2020!!!!



Enjoy this TERRIFIC performance by the SMS Bell Choir! While the traditional tour to schools and around town couldn't be done, the group still gathered to make some magic. Thanks, Mrs. Malara!

Somers Middle School Bell Choir



Editor's Note: The next several issues of The Tusker Tribune will feature articles based on broad overarching topics. This week, students write about the biggest surprises in their lives, the importance of honesty, and a favorite song. In addition, Benji Cutler gives his predictions for the upcoming NBA Season! So enjoy reading and Happy Holidays!



Collision With Wall Sticks in My Mind



**By Chloe Lee
Tusker Tribune Staff**

One day I was watching TV. I was thirsty, so I went to go get water. When I was walking back, I slipped and fell on the wall in a corner.

The house was silent, and I was lying on the floor. The next thing I knew, I was in the hospital feeling nauseous. I needed to get stitches so they had to do that/ I was scared but they let me sleep so I would not feel as much pain.



In the middle of when I was sleeping, I woke up to something moving. I thought I woke up but it was dark so I was thinking I opened my eyes in my brain or something and I saw a needle poking through. I went back to sleep not thinking about it much.

I woke up laying there and a little dizzy, but I was ok. We left the hospital, and I was telling my mom about the needle that I saw before but she just said that it went too far deep.

A few months went by so you can barely see anything. Now you can't really see it that much, but this is the day that I would never forget.

New Dog Was Definitely a HUGE Surprise!



**By Jayden Newman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The biggest surprise in my life is when my parents surprised my brother and me with our dog four years ago in third grade.

I think it was the biggest surprise because it was just a normal day. I went to school as if everything was normal.

But then I saw my mom's and my dad's cars in the driveway, and that was very unlikely because my mom did not say she was staying home and she usually comes home at 4 and I get home from the bus at 3, so I was confused.

So I walked throw the door and saw a tiny black dog with a little bit of white fur on its belly. I stopped under the door frame so confused as to what was happening.

Then I yelled, "IS THAT OURS?" My mom said, "Yes" joyfully. I ran up to the dog so happy and started to pet it.

Her name is Onyx.



Honesty Will Last Your Entire Life!



**By Dean Palazzolo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think it is better to be honest.

First, popularity is going to get you nowhere in life. You can be popular in middle school but then when you get older, the popularity is gone.

I think being honest is the most important thing in life. Being an honest person will get you somewhere in life. Being popular isn't that important; it won't get you a job or a house. People will just know who you are.



Being honest can get you a lot of things. Popularity comes and goes but being an honest per-

son will stick with you your entire life and a lot of people like honest people.

Also, being an honest person means other people can trust you with something they only want you to know, and no one else.

Being popular is a big thing. I mean, yeah, everyone wants to be an actor and make money and be famous, but being honest is a bigger thing.

Lucy and Charlie Have Doggone Good Lives!



**By Kieran Ryan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The biggest surprise of my life is when my parents got me and my sisters a puppy. So when I was about two, we had a babysitter for when my parents went out, and they said that they were just going to the grocery store, but about an hour after they left, they walked in with a puppy.

It was a little black Labrador Retriever named Lucy. and she was so crazy and she would chase us around the house, and I would try to play hide and seek with her, but she found me every time in a matter of seconds!

But then the same thing happened about 2 years later, and we knew we were getting a puppy this time. So this one was a rescue, so he came in a big truck.

Now everyone was cutting line and pushing and shoving to get their dog first, but the man saw me and since I was so little, he let me get my dog first and his name is Charlie.

When we first brought him home, he was scared because his last owner abused him and threw him and all his siblings in the dumpster. But he got used to us and he knows we will never do something like that to him.



Swimming with Dolphins an Unforgettable Experience



**By Anelise Bobadilla
Tusker Tribune Staff**

We were on a cruise for a friend who just graduated from high school.

That day, the ship was heading to St. Kitts, which I was really excited about. The water there was as clear as tears. It was blue and turquoise.

Earlier that morning, my parents called me and my sister into their room. They explained to us that we were going to go swimming with dolphins! I was extremely excited. That was my favorite sea animal, so you could imagine how happy I was.



To get there, we had to ride on this little boat, where it would take us to the dolphins. It was a little shaky but beautiful at the same time. Once we got there, we had to put our life vests on and wait in line to swim with the dolphins.

Finally, we walked into the water and there were so many fish swimming around! We were able to swim with a dolphin named Gaia. She was adorable. She had freckles on her stomach and on her nose. We held onto her top fin and swam to the other side. I held onto a boogie board while Gaia pushed my feet to the other side. It was such an adventure and such a surprise!

New Go Kart an Awesome Birthday Gift



**By Vince Pomponi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The biggest surprise of my life was my 12th birthday, when my parents surprised me with a gas Coleman go kart!

I had no clue that they got me this go kart because at first, my dad wanted to get it for me and my mom was totally against it, so I thought *that ship has sailed*.



So I asked my mom for a PC or Air Pod Pro or a gaming set up. But then, about a month later, she asked me, "Hey Vin, what do you want for your birthday?"

Then I brought up the go kart to see if she would let me get it, and she was like, "That's what you want for your birthday?", and I said, "Yeah."

Then, one night, I was getting back from baseball practice and it was the day before my birthday, and she asked me, "Do you want

your gift now or tomorrow on your birthday?"

I said, "Now!"

So she had a bag full of candy and at the bottom, there was a box and inside the box was a piece of paper, and the paper said, "arriving on 10/15/20" and my birthday is 10/14/20. So, the day I got it was a day I had just gotten off the bus for school, and there was a huge box containing the go kart in our garage! That was a really huge surprise!

'House of the Rising Sun' is a Terrific Song



**By Simon Szabo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

So, first, my favorite song is "House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals. This is my favorite song right now because right now, I am learning the guitar and this song was the very first song I learned and it was stuck in my head because the guitar solo in the song, in my opinion, is very good.

I also love this song because when my dad was teaching it to me, he played it first to see how good it sounds and that is what got me into learning the guitar.

Sometimes, when I play a video game or something, this song comes up and I get so into the game because the song is so good for any moment.

That is why I picked this song, because I love many songs, and this was one of them that came to mind and I think that everyone should at least listen to the song.

Click on the link to hear/view the song . . .
<http://www.viewpure.com/4-43lLKaqBQ?start=0&end=0>

Surprised by the New Dog



**By Kate Seeger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

About one month ago, I was at school! I got a text from my mom saying, "Tell me when you are going to be home."

Then my sister, who is in the high school, says, "When are you going to be home?"

I said, "In a few minutes. Why are you asking?"

My sister said, "Oh, I was just wondering."

So, I was like, "OK" and I was kind of confused as to why my mom and sister were so interested about when I was going to get home. I thought maybe something bad had happened.

When I was getting off the bus, I saw my mom at the door with something that looked like a dog!

I was thinking to myself, *there is no way we got a dog. It's probably our neighbor's*.

Anyway, I ran to the dog. It was such a cute dog. Then I asked my mom, "Whose dog is that?"

She paused and said, "It's yours!"

I could not believe what I had just heard. I was shocked. I was like, *there is no way we got a dog!* I was so happy. I was about to cry.

Finally, I took the dog inside and played with it all day.



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Reporters

**Analise Bobadilla
Benji Cutler
Chloe Lee
Jayden Newman
Dean Palazzolo
Vince Pomponi
Kieran Ryan
Kate Seeger
Simon Szabo**

NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE

The **Tusker** Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper.

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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories.

If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at

**DPappas
@somer schools.org**

Website:

<https://www.somer schools.org/Page/11489>

The NBA is Here, in Time for Some Holiday Cheer!



By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff

The 2020-21 NBA Season officially begins on December 22, and the NBA Preseason has been in action for a week now!

It's crazy how quick the transition from last season to this season was! With the season just around the corner, the offseason has been simmering down and now it is very quiet. The only big move that could still happen is James Harden being traded to a contender but as of now, we know what all the NBA teams and what the NBA Playoffs somewhat will look like.

Today, I will make my NBA Playoff predictions for both conferences. If you don't know yet, the top eight seeds in each conference make the playoffs, but this year, seeds 7-10 in each conference will participate in a play-in tournament to decide who will make those bottom two seeds.

Again, these are just predictions so if you disagree with them, that is completely fine. With all that said, let's get into my predictions.

Eastern Conference

Milwaukee Bucks

Major Additions: Jrue Holiday (SG/PG), DJ Augustin (PG), Torrey Craig (SF/PF)

Brooklyn Nets

Major Additions: Landry Shamet (SG/PG), Kevin Durant (Back from Injury – PF/SF)

Boston Celtics

Major Additions: Aaron Nesmith (SF/SG), Tristan Thompson (C), Jeff Teague (PG)

Miami Heat

Major Additions: Avery Bradley (SG/PG), Precious Achiuwa (PF/SF), Maurice Harkless (PF/SF)

Toronto Raptors

Major Additions: Aron Baynes (C), Malachi Flynn (PG/SG)

Philadelphia 76ers

Major Additions: Tyrese Maxey (PG/SG), Danny Green (SG/SF), Seth Curry (SG/PG), Dwight Howard (C)

Indiana Pacers

Major Additions: Cassius Stanley (PG/SG)

Washington Wizards

Major Additions: Russell Westbrook (PG), Deni Avdija (SF/PF)

Atlanta Hawks

Major Additions: Onyeka Okongwu (C/PF), Danilo Gallinari (PF), Rajon Rondo (PG),

Bogdan Bogdanovic (SG/SF), Clint Capela (Back from Injury – C)



Orlando Magic

Major Additions: Cole Anthony (PG)

Western Conference

Los Angeles Lakers

Major Additions: Montrezl Harrell (C/PF), Wesley Matthews (SG/SF), Marc Gasol (C), Dennis Schroder (PG)

Los Angeles Clippers

Major Additions: Luke Kennard (SG/SF), Serge Ibaka (C/PF)

Denver Nuggets

Major Additions: Zeke Nnaji (PF/C), RJ Hampton (PG/SG), JaMychal Green (PF/SF)

Dallas Mavericks

Major Additions: Josh Green (SF/PF), Josh Richardson (SG/PG), Tyrell Terry (PG/SG)

Portland Trail Blazers

Major Additions: Robert Covington (PF/SF), Enes Kanter (C), Derrick Jones Jr. (PF/SF)

Utah Jazz

Major Additions: Derrick Favors (C/PF), Udoka Azubuike (C/PF)

Houston Rockets

Major Additions: John Wall (PG), Christian Wood (PF/C), DeMarcus Cousins (C)

Phoenix Suns

Major Additions: Jalen Smith (PF/SF), Chris Paul (PG), Jae Crowder (PF/SF)

Golden State Warriors

Major Additions: James Wiseman (C), Kelly Oubre Jr. (SF/PF), Brad Wanamaker (PG/SG)

Memphis Grizzlies

Major Additions: Desmond Bane (PG/SG), Mario Hezonja (PF/SF), Xavier Tillman Jr. (PF/SF)

Those are my predictions for the 2020-21 NBA Playoffs and Play-in Tournament. December 22 is the day when the action begins with the Brooklyn Nets taking on the Golden State Warriors at 7:00 PM EST and the Los Angeles Lakers taking on their city rivals, the Los Angeles Clippers at 10:00 PM EST.

Just three days after that, the Christmas Day games will take place, and you can see what games those are right below this. This season will have surprises, exciting moments, incredible moments and moments that will make NBA fans glad that basketball is back.

I will see you when the NBA season is underway, and Happy Holidays everyone!

