



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Winter 2021

Editor's Note: The next several issues of  *will have a decidedly "new year" and "reflection" focus, so enjoy reading as we embark on 2021!*



How Did I Change in the Year Of COVID?



**By Joseph Guerrido
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Well, 2020 has changed me a lot as a person in both good and bad ways. Let's get into that.

First, let's talk about the good that came out of 2020 personally for me. I turned 13 on January 5, so that's the first big thing that happened for me.

Next, when everything started to change toward the second half of the year, we started to do online school and I liked it at first. But then everyone hated it because they couldn't see your friends, but for some people, it's bad because they were at home and their grades were bad because they were trying to learn while being home.

But my grades got better and for me, doing at home learning is something I like. However, I can't wait for this to be all over so I can see my friends in school and life will be back to normal with no mask and all the other rules.

Changes and Resolutions



**By Damien Zherka
Tusker Tribune Staff**

A few things that were good in 2020 are, 1) Christmas, because I wanted a bike and I got a bike and it is very fun to ride. I also received a

gaming PC that's really fun to play on.

2) My birthday was really fun because I got to spend time with my family. And I got my 4th dog and he is very cute.

I can change as a person in 2021 in a couple of ways. I can be a nicer person and get better grades, and I can help people out.

My resolutions for 2021 are to get my work done in all my classes and get better grades in school, be nicer to people and help them and get smarter.



I Believe 2021 Can Be a Great Year!



**By Jenna Quas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

It's was the end of 2020. What a tough year!

But that doesn't mean we didn't have great memories with new friends, or new traditions with family and friends!

2021 has already started out nicely for us. The new COVID 19 shot is available to all nurses and hospital workers so they don't get sick.

Soon there will be enough shots for everyone, so we can go back to normal starting with school. We did have a LOT of time off during the beginning of the pandemic, but that didn't stop us from re-opening in September.



Ever since then, the Somers School District has worked REALLY hard to keep the schools open and running. We may have had a couple covid cases now and then, but unlike other schools, we stayed open.

They work hard to make sure all the teachers, janitors, and faculty safe during school hours.

Every class I'm in, I see a janitor walk to our door handle and clean it so we don't get each other's germs.

Also, there's tons of stations to clean our hands. This year may not have been the perfect year we expected, but we did have a good year as a district.

I will miss 2020 but I can't wait for new beginnings in 2021!

A Quick Talk with 2020



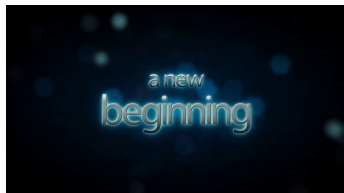
By Altina Brahimaj
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I could sit down with 2020, I would tell her it was nice but also bad year.

Now it's time to go on to 2021 and I would not miss you.

You have been both a good and bad year to all of us, but it is time to go. Thank you for all that you have done.

Goodbye 2020 and hello 2021. I hope this year will be better.



2020 Had Some Good In It . . .



By Andrew Underkoffler
Tusker Tribune Staff

One thing that was good about 2020 was, I go to spend a lot more time with my family and we play a lot of board games.

We laughed a lot and even though we could not see our friends, we still had a lot of fun. We did a lot of walks and bike rides, and we played together more than we ever have done before.

We also went to Massachusetts and saw some of our very good family friends.

I had a lot of fun playing with my friends, even though we had to wear masks like you should, and we stayed six feet apart.

I especially had a lot of fun playing with my friend Max. We went crabbing, we lifted up rocks, and I went fishing with my uncle. I caught my own fish and seasoned it.

I roasted marshmallows and then that's mostly it for what was good for 2020. I really want to see my friends in school.

List of Good Stuff in 2020 is Short But Sweet



By Andrew Reynolds
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I could think of anything good in 2020, it wouldn't be much.

This list is not long because 2020 is the worst year of all time! However, one good thing that happened in 2020 is that my family got a boat for the summer! This was the best thing that could have happened this year.

Also, I got to have a drive-in birthday party in May. I really could not have asked for a better birthday party.

Another good thing is that my brother, Jayden, survived COVID-19.

In addition, this year, I hung out with my friends a lot. I also went to Delaware and I had a sleepover on New Year's Eve that will never be forgotten because it included my friend who hadn't left his house since last March! Finally, I went sledding a lot during that huge snowstorm in December, and on Christmas, I got to see my grandma, and that was amazing!

Even With the Vaccine— PLEASE BE CAREFUL!!!



By Chloe Lee
Tusker Tribune Staff

I think people have gotten too comfortable or relaxed now that there is a vaccine.

My first reason is that the other day when, I was watching the news, thousands of people were traveling for the holidays and I do not think

that is the smartest way to do it.

The second reason is that, when you get off the planes, most of them do not take your temperature.

They should at

least do that before and after leaving the plane to make sure that you are healthy and safe.

The last reason is that some people now do not think that masks are helpful, and they take them off in public.

What I think of this pandemic is that it is a life-changing event for mostly everyone, but I think 2021 will get a little better. I mean what can possibly go wrong that's worse than last year? Hopefully, we won't find out!



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

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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.

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My 2020 Calendar—Pretty Scary!



By Giuliana Baldo
Tusker Tribune Staff

I almost couldn't think of anything good that happened in 2020, but one thing that was good is when I went on vacation to Wildwood, and I went with eight of my cousins, my mom and dad, and my two sisters. When we went on the boardwalk, we couldn't play many games because my mom didn't want us touching the controllers to use for the games, and we couldn't even go on many rides. My mom only let us go on three.

Most of 2020 is horrible, like one time in Wildwood, I got to buy two more hermit crabs for my collection of them (I have seven now) but when I came home, only four days later, they died. The man I bought them from didn't take care of them properly.

I will lay out a few things that happened in 2020 that were terrible.

2020

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

- February- I got the flu
 - March- Covid came and everyone had to quarantine
 - April- Didn't get to spend Easter with my family members because of Covid
 - July- Couldn't do anything for the Fourth of July
 - July 9th- Had to spend my sister's birthday at home
 - July 28th- Couldn't play games, or go on the rides at Wildwood
 - August 4th- Two hermit crabs I just bought from Wildwood died
 - August 26th- Didn't do anything for my birthday
 - September 5th- Couldn't do anything for my mom's birthday
 - October- My neighbor's dog died
 - November- Spent Thanksgiving with my mom, dad, and 2 sisters.
- So, 2020 wasn't my year, you could say.

Post-Pandemic: A Trip to Atlantis!



By Jordan Millar
Tusker Tribune Staff

What I would first do when the pandemic is over would be to go to Atlantis in the Bahamas.

That would be the first thing I would want to do because I go to Aruba every year for about a week and a half or two weeks.

But this year, we were supposed to go to Atlantis in the Bahamas and it was going to be my first time there. The hotel that we were going to stay at has one of the biggest water parks and pools in the world. It also is a island so there is a ocean which I really like.

It also has some water slides that start from the pool and go to the ocean and you are able to see fish and some other animals in the ocean while you are in the water slide, so I really was excited to go. However, we had to cancel it because of COVID.

That's is why that would be the first thing I would do when the pandemic is over.



Vaccine Has Made People Relax



By Peter Brennan
Tusker Tribune Staff

I do think that people have gotten more relaxed about COVID-19 because we've been living with it for a year now and with the hope of a vaccine on the rise, people have something to look forward to.

But this also means that some people will just think that they were done with all this social distance stuff, so they might go out thinking nothing can harm them, but COVID-19 is still a thing and since this is a big disease, the cure for it might cost more than expected.

And you can't forget about other diseases like the flu, or colds.

Just because there is a cure for COVID-19 doesn't mean you are immune to all sicknesses.

This ignorance could cause an uprise in other diseases for the future and if that happens, people will be mad because they thought it was over but now, they realize that it has only just begun.

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2020: Worst Year of All Time!



By Bledin Rexhepi
Tusker Tribune Staff

2020, you are the worst year of all time. I don't care if anyone thinks differently. I have plenty of reasons why you are the worst year.

I have so many reasons, that I can make 1,000,000 books out of just why 2020 is the worst year.

One of the biggest reasons why 2020 was the worst year is because of coronavirus. The coronavirus made us stay in our homes. It also made tens of thousands of people lose their jobs.

We were isolated from people because of the coronavirus. We couldn't visit our families and friends.

Besides coronavirus, a lot of people who I liked died in 2020, including Kobe Bryant, Pop Smoke, Black Panther and Juice World.

Another reason why 2020 was a bad year is because of the forest fires that were going on in Australia.



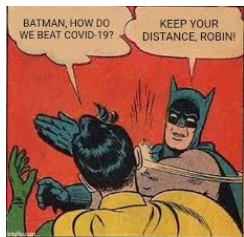
Getting Back to (Almost) Normal in 2021



By Libby Hochman
Tusker Tribune Staff

I think 2021 can be better than 2020 in many ways because, in 2021, we can all go back to full in-school learning every day.

In addition, COVID 19 could get better because of the vaccine, along with people wearing masks and always washing their hands.



Maybe we can start to see more of our family for the holidays, because this year I could not see my grandma or uncle for any holiday. I am hoping that because of the vaccine, something's can go back to normal.

I would really like to go back to school every day with everyone there because e-learning is hard, and it has been really difficult. If we keep wearing masks, keep cleaning everything and keep social distance, and more people and countries start to get and use the COVID vaccine, some things might go back to normal.

2021 would already be way better than 2020 if COVID got a bit better.

Lots of Ways to Make 2021 a Winning Year



By Tristan Iglesias
Tusker Tribune Staff

We can make 2020 better than 2021 in many ways. One big way that we can make 2021 better is by getting the Covid 19 vaccine around the world so we don't have to quarantine any more. That would be a huge change for the better?

As a kid who loves sports and exercise, that would be awesome if all the sports that got cancelled can be uncanceled. We could have them back and it would be so amazing if that happened.

Also, masks are a huge thing that I'm guessing most people, including me, think are super annoying. If we were able to get rid of those masks, it would make school, going to stores and hanging out with friends way better.

If we could get the vaccine for Covid 19, we would be able to go to school and wouldn't have to quarantine all the time. That would also mean that there would be a lot less online school, which would be so awesome because online school is a lot harder. If you get rid of it, it would be a lot better.

Those are a bunch of ways 2021 can be better than 2020.



Yes, There's a Vaccine, But Please Stay Careful!



By Emily Mladenovic
Tusker Tribune Staff

I think that people have gotten too relaxed about COVID because now, when you go out, you sometimes see people without masks.

I've seen YouTube videos where this guy goes out and asks people why they aren't wearing a mask, and some would say, "Well, there is a vaccine, so I'll just take that." That's very dumb, because we don't know if the vaccine even works so until then, no one should not be wearing a mask.

Also, even if the vaccine does work you should still wear a mask until the cases start to go down. And, just because they have made a vaccine doesn't mean that everyone will be able to get it soon. It will take months for everyone to get the vaccine, so until then, no one should be comfortable without wearing a mask.

