



The Tusker Tribune



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Spring 2021

Putting On a Show—Pandemic Style!



**By Dana Cohen
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As you may remember Drama Club shut down last year because of COVID 19, but this year, the drama teachers, Ms. Chan, Mrs. Williams, and Mrs. Malara, made it possible for the show to go on.

However, it did look a little different. For obvious reasons we could not hold an in-person show in the auditorium, so it had to be done mostly virtually and then videoed. We also did not do one big show. Instead, we had options to choose from. We could do scenes from Harry Potter and the Cursed Child or Aladdin Jr. or a song from Shrek, Jr.

I chose to be in the Harry Potter cast with Ms. Chan. Before we could start anything, we had to have auditions. We all read the same monologue and recorded ourselves on Flipgrid. About a week or two later, the Cast List came out, and I was the Trolley Witch in the show. But do not worry, it was not a big cast; it was only about 12 people.

When the holiday break end-

ed, rehearsals began. We rehearsed once or twice a week on zoom after school. We would play fun acting games and rehearse for the show. As more time went on, we were ready to record the show! We each came to school in small groups depending on the show we were in to record our parts. We all recorded in front of a green screen for special effects; it was cool. Even though Drama Club was a little different this year, it was still a really fun experience!

Link to showcase: <https://youtu.be/OwcK8cTNdpI>



Year-End Events

MONDAY, 6/14: 6th Grade Field Day—1:15-2:20 PM

TUESDAY, 6/15: 8th Grade Field Day—1:15-2:20 PM

WEDNESDAY, 6/16: 7th Grade Field Day—1:15-2:20 PM

WEDNESDAY, 6/16: Car Parade 7:00pm

THURSDAY, 6/17: 8th Grade Field Trip Camp Kiwi – more info to come

TUESDAY, 6/22: 8th Grade Graduation 1:15 – 2:20 Student only ceremony. Video will be made available to families.

WEDNESDAY, 6/23: ½ day & Algebra Regents—½ day for 6th & 7th graders. Only 8th graders taking Algebra regents attend school.

THURSDAY, 6/24: ½ day & Earth Science Regents—½ day for 6th & 7th graders. Only 8th graders taking ES Regents attend school.



Which Teams Are Moving On to the 2021 NBA Playoffs?



**By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

With the first ever full NBA Play-In Tournament coming to an end this Friday night, the NBA Playoffs bracket will be set, and the fight for the Larry O'Brien championship trophy will officially begin. Will the LA Lakers find a way to put another championship banner in the Staples Center? Will Brooklyn's big 3 be too much for the league to beat? Will the Utah Jazz, Philadelphia 76ers, LA Clippers, Phoenix Suns, Milwaukee Bucks, Denver Nuggets, or anyone else take the trophy this year? Who's fighting for the trophy, and what should you expect for the first round of the 2021 NBA Playoffs, beginning on May 22?

First, we should review who the 7 seed in each conference will be along with the 8 seed in the Eastern Conference, because the Play-In Tournament made things intense to say the least. The 8 seed for the Western Conference is still undecided as of when I'm writing this, but that likely won't even matter for their series vs the Utah Jazz.



As the 7 seed in the East, the Boston Celtics hold on to their Playoff spot, as the 7 seed. However, without Jaylen Brown due to injury, winning in the first round will be very tough. Next, the LA Lakers recover from their injuries, defeat the Golden State Warriors in an intense play-in game off of a LeBron James game winner, and will keep their spot as the 7 seed in the West. Finally, the Washington Wizards had a slow start to the season, but with the leadership of their stars, I will mention those people later, they were able to sneak in to the 8 seed in the East. Below here is a picture of the full bracket for the path to the NBA Finals, other than the Play-In Tourna-



ment winners, but just keep those teams in mind for the start of the Playoffs.

Now, with basically all the Playoff teams set, I will now go over the matchups of the first round, and literally every single one of these series will be an entertainment to say the least. To start it off in the Eastern Conference, Joel Embiid and the top seeded Philadelphia 76ers will play Bradley Beal, Russell Westbrook and the Washington Wizards. Next, Kevin Durant, James Harden, Kyrie Irving and the Brooklyn Nets will take on Jayson Tatum and the beaten-up Boston Celtics.

Then, we have a rematch of Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks against Jimmy Butler and the Miami Heat. To end the first round in the East, we have two surprising young teams going up against each other, Julius Randle, coach Tom Thibodeau and the New York Knicks battling Trae Young and the Atlanta Hawks.

To begin the Western Conference, Donovan Mitchell, Rudy Gobert and the Utah Jazz will face either MVP candidate Steph Curry and the Golden State Warriors or young star Ja Morant and the Memphis Grizzlies. The winner of that play-in game between Golden State and Memphis will eventually move on to the first round. Second, we have the new kid in town, Devin Booker, Chris Paul and the Phoenix Suns taking on the defending champions, LeBron James, Anthony Davis and the LA Lakers.

Next, we have a 2020 rematch between Kawhi Leonard, Paul George and the LA Clippers against Luka Doncic and the Dallas Mavericks. Finally, to end the West first round, MVP candidate Nikola Jokic and the Denver Nuggets take on scoring machine Damian Lillard and the Portland Trail Blazers.

If you want to tune in to any of these intense and entertaining Playoff series, you can watch starting Saturday night on either ESPN or TNT, depending on the game, although it is still undetermined what channel each game is on. These Playoffs easily have the potential to one of the best Playoffs in recent NBA history, so I can confidently say that we are in for a treat these next two months.



Life Is Full of Surprises. No 'Rewind' or 'Pause' Button Needed



By Joseph Guerrido
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: Joseph's response is to the prompt, "which would you rather have, a rewind button or a pause button for your life?"

If I had the choose between whether I could hit a "rewind button" for my life or a "pause" button, I would pick none.

My reasoning for picking none is that everything in your life is happening to make you a better and stronger person.

When you grow up and realize how up and down your life was, with bad things that happened, it makes you be grateful because the people who had a perfect life are not as strong as you when it comes to bad things happening.

You get kind of an upper hand in a way cause you understand how to deal with your feelings and problem solving. That's my personal reasoning why I wouldn't pick either of those two buttons. Instead, I would pick "continue" and let my life play out how it's supposed to play out and go.



Kids Today are Spoiled

By Jenna Quas
Tusker Tribune Staff



Editor's Note: Jenna's response is to the prompt, "you're in your 70s or 80s. Complain about kids today."

Kids these days! Always on those cellphones doing that app, Tik Tok, and making videos.

See, back in my day, we would play games outside and make our own toys!

And what even is Netflix? I just wish these spoiled kids would just find better things to do with their lives, like play hop scotch. Also,

they're always doing bad things that they're not supposed to do!

And "online school"? What's that? I had to walk to a school building every day!



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:
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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org.
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'Rewind' Button Would be A lot of Fun



By Sam Seagrist
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: Sam's response is to the prompt, "which would you rather have, a rewind button or a pause button for your life?"

I would choose a pause button. At first, I was going to choose a rewind button because that means I can fix all of my life decisions.

But, with the pause button, I can do anything. I would never die. I could embarrass people. I would win everything.

If someone was making fun of me, I could pause everything and I could do anything I wanted to him. If my friends want to race or something, I could pause everything and finish before all of them.



Looking to Be a 'Chosen Shoe'



By Alex Lewandowski
Tusker Tribune Staff

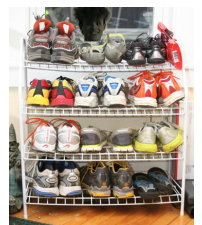
Editor's Note: Alex's response is to the prompt, "describe a day in the life of a shoe."

Ugh! I hate being in a closet all night. I need my daily exercise for today!

For some odd reason, I did not go outside today because my owner wore a different pair of shoes, which was my best friend. I'm kind of mad at him because the owner looked at me and then just picked my best friend.

But, I don't blame him. My owner wears me every other day.

Well, anyway, I probably should get some sleep so I will be rested in the morning and can run fast.



MORNING

It was finally the morning; I was all rested for today. Let's see if I get picked by my owner. Here he comes! C'mon, please? He's reaching for me! He picked me!!!

I am so glad that I don't have to sit in a closet all day.