



The Tusker Tribune



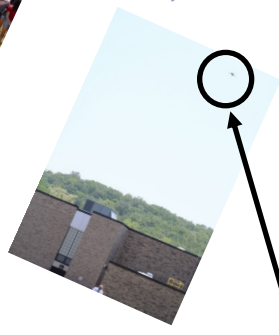
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Spring 2021

Class of '21 Hams it Up for Drone Photo



Photos by Cheryl Astrologo

The
drone
over SIS

So... I'm Going to High School Next Year



**By Emma Gordon
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If you're in 8th grade this year, then you are most likely going to go to the High School next year. Maybe you forgot in the midst of this crazy year; or maybe you have already started the summer reading.

But no matter what –not to sound ominous- the High School is waiting for you to come next year. Just like how it's waiting for me.

And honestly, the first thought that comes to my mind about next year...is that I'm going to have absolutely no idea on how to get anywhere in the High School! I can barely even find the auditorium there without getting lost! But I also predict (and hope) that I'll easily figure it out; kind of like how I did when I first came to the Middle School.



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Now You See It . . .



The Pathways yearbooks are IN! The SMS Yearbook Club is giving you a sneak peek (kind of . . .). They'll be distributed June 15

What Happened to the Los Angeles Lakers?



By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff

In the 2020 NBA offseason, the Los Angeles Lakers picked up a few top tier role players in an attempt to make a better overall team after winning the 2020 NBA Finals in the Disneyworld bubble. However, did



those changes to the Lakers make them even worse?

Today, we will review the past year of the LA Lakers, LeBron James, Anthony Davis and the future

of what LA can change to improve as a team.

To start, if you haven't heard already, the Lakers were eliminated in the first round of the 2021 NBA Playoffs by the Phoenix Suns, and it took Phoenix six games to knock LA down. But to take a step back and to lead up to this end result, the LA Lakers made three key additions in the 2020 offseason, adding Montrezl Harrell from the LA Clippers, Dennis Schroder from the OKC Thunder and Marc Gasol from the Toronto Raptors.

As well as this, LA signed Andre Drummond from the buyout market in late March. On the flipside, they lost Dwight Howard, Javale McGee, Danny Green, Avery Bradley and Rajon Rondo. Many of those players made a major impact to their 2020 championship run. With the core of the team already assembled around LeBron James, Anthony Davis, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, Kyle Kuzma and Alex Caruso, the media had even higher expectations for this new and improved Lakers team.

Before the All-Star break in early March, the Lakers had a 24-13 record even through calf and Achilles injuries of Anthony Davis. Then, on March 20, against the Atlanta Hawks, LeBron



James went down with an ankle injury that kept him out until May.

Throughout that time, the Lakers went 18-17 to finish with a 42-30 record and the 7th

seed in the Western Conference.

Then, in an intense play-in tournament game, the Lakers took down the Golden State Warriors to take the 7th seed and take on the Devin Booker and Chris Paul led Phoenix

Suns.

Now that we're up to date, let's quickly go over what the future of this team may hold. First off, the Lakers have some players to think about in free agency this summer. Alex Caruso, Dennis Schroder, Andre Drummond and Montrezl Harrell are among those players who may be switching jerseys, and the Lakers will have to think about who should have a spot in the purple and gold.



Kyle Kuzma, Drummond and Schroder are in trade or sign-and-trade talks for a potential third star either at the point guard or shooting guard spot. Having another playmaker, leader, shooter or defender in the backcourt with James and Davis can benefit the whole team. With Kyle Lowry showing signs of frustration and giving up in Toronto, a sign-and-trade including Schroder is definitely possible. Even Damian Lillard has been thrown into potential trade



offers around the media. However, I won't go too in depth of offseason targets because it is always so unpredictable.

As LeBron James keeps aging and the Lakers roster changes every single year, the road ahead for the Los Angeles Lakers may not be flowers and rainbows, but if general manager Rob Pelinka, head coach Frank Vogel and owner Jeanie Buss play their cards right, LA could stay on track and become true championship contenders once again.

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:

Somers Middle School, 250 Route 202, Somers, NY, USA.

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

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

High School

From Page 1

One year not knowing how to get to the library, the next knowing the school like the back of my hand.

The next thought that comes to my mind about next year are all of the new things that I'll get to try! All the classes that I get to choose to take, not to mention the many different clubs that the high school has to offer. I'm especially excited about joining the drama club, and the film club next year.

Another thought that comes to my mind about next year is how everything will suddenly count for the rest of my life and all of the countless hours I'll have to spend on homework...

Oh! And I heard that the food's pretty good there, too!

The last thought that excites me for next year is something that a lot of people with older siblings can relate to... being able to embarrass your older siblings! Whether you were still able to in Primrose, SIS, and SMS because they're 1 or 2 years older than you, or whether they're going to be a Senior next year and you finally get to annoy them, it will be very nice to finally have a chance to annoy and embarrass them! Especially when my brother will be forced to drive me to school...

And as for those of you who have a younger sibling, don't let them read this. It'll give them ideas.

In conclusion, I predict that my departure from the middle school into the high school will definitely be very eventful and exciting for me. There are some things I'm excited for (new clubs) and some things I dread (homework). But overall, I'm very excited to start this new chapter of my life and head in to the unknown.

OH! AND I FORGOT TO MENTION NEEDING TO WAKE UP EARLIER!!! LET ME GET INTO THE NEXT FIVE PARAGRAPHS OF THAT...

Waking up for school like



Pause Button Doesn't Change Who You Are



By Phil Santore
Tusker Tribune Staff

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

If I could choose to pause my life right now, I would over the rewind button. And I would choose the pause button because I can stop right now and look on to see what's going to happen in my life.

I can also look back on what has already happened in my life and see what I can do better in the future and what decisions I made and whether they were right or wrong.

I'd rather pause than rewind, because stuff that has happened to you in your life make you the person you are today, and rewinding your life to change stuff that has happened in your life, and that can change the person you are now.



Kids Today Take Away From My Peace and Quiet



By Max Khorram
Tusker Tribune Staff

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

Kids today are so annoying. Whenever I'm in the town pool relaxing, kids always come in and splash all around in the pool while I'm trying to relax, even though it says "no splashing".

When I'm sleeping, all I hear is kids outside running around and being loud and annoying.

When I'm driving in the neighborhood, kids jump in front of the car because they are not looking on both sides of the road before they go on the road to cross.

Whenever I am on the tennis courts playing tennis with my friends, kids al-

ways run on the court in the middle of our game and mess up our game. I can't do anything peaceful because all I hear are kids running around and being loud.

Kids are so annoying sometimes.



Easter Bunny is Pretty Frightening



By Lou Hochman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: Lou's response is to the prompt, "make me scared of the Easter Bunny."

The Easter Bunny has long claws that are as sharp as knives. He has a lot of teeth that are very sharp and dangerous. His eyes are red and gloomy.



He is 7 feet tall and he is jacked. At night-time, he comes into your house and takes all your candy. He walks up to you when you're sleeping and screams into your ear. When you wake up from the scream, he vanishes, and you have nightmares forever about the bunny.

Every Easter, you never go to sleep because of the bunny. And even when it's not Easter, he still might come into your house and do the same thing. Every time he does this, the kids tell his parents but the parents don't believe them. They think the Easter bunny is a nice caring animal, but he is nowhere close to that. This is a vicious animal that will haunt you forever.

My Hand Has Unique Features



By Kayla Tompkins
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: Kayla's response is to the prompt, "look at one of your hands and describe it."

I am looking at my left hand and it looks big. Oddly big.

You would think that because I have big hands, I would be tall, but nope, I am 5'2". Please someone, give me height!

My hand has lines in it and a scar on it because of my cousin's cat scratching me. I also have freckle on it that I remember poking with a pencil, and then a freckle has been there ever since. I also can light my candle with it because my hand does not fit in the jar.



I think it's kind of weird we had the option to write about our hand but I am. My nails are painted hot pink and one of them chipped on my left hand, and it is annoying, but you can't really tell.

I have really long fingers and nail beds, which most people think is weird but I think I have nice hands overall.

Took a Day off to Play Cricket



By Xander DiPasquale
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: Xander's response is to the prompt, "my teacher isn't in school today. He/she is _____."

My teacher is not in school today because he was playing cricket. I do not know why he was playing cricket. It sounds so boring running back and fourth and just catching a ball. I am going to ask him when he comes back why he was playing cricket.



As the day goes on, my friends and I still wonder why our teacher is playing cricket. We think maybe is really good at it, Maybe he is watching his kids. And then it hit us—this was his championship.

So after we told everyone, it all clicked. He has been talking about it for weeks and weeks. So we found the channel on TV and watched the game. Our teacher is pretty good. He even hit the game winner.

When he came back, we all congratulated him for the win. So we celebrated the rest of the day and that is why our teacher was not in school.



Year-End Events

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

TUESDAY, 6/14: Yearbook Distribution during lunch periods.

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.

FRIDAY, 6/25: 1/2 Day, then all done!

Reporters

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