

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School

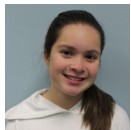


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<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

Fall 2019

Check Out the Great Jack O' Lantern Blaze!



By Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Are you looking for a fall activity that you can do and enjoy during October with friends, family, and even both? You might want to check out this year's Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze, it takes place on various days from October 3rd to the 31st.

The Blaze is a favorite fall spectacle where you walk through Van Court Manor as you see many amazing views and creations... all made from pumpkins! The whole place is covered and lit up with more than seven thousand hand carved jack o'lanterns.

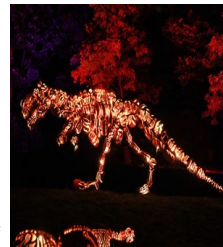
The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze has been happening for over fifteen years and it has been getting bigger and better through the years. In addition, every year, the blaze is created and made with a certain theme in mind. In the past this included the Jurassic Park theme with multiple dinosaurs carved, and the Undersea Aquarium theme, too that featured pumpkins and carvings shaped like fish and more ocean creatures!

Not only that, but some of the pumpkin creations have professional synchronized lighting so that hundreds of pumpkins appear to be moving. Each event draws in as many as 160,000 visitors who are new to the event or regular visitors to the Blaze when October comes around.



This magnificent event is made possible by over one thousand volunteers who all help to scoop, carve, place, and light up the pumpkins. Every week before the Blaze event, 15-20 volunteers spend several days scooping the pumpkins to get them ready for carving. And every night three hours before The Blaze opens to visitors, volunteers walk around the manor and light up all the pumpkin attractions. They don't only have to do it once throughout October but multiple times throughout the seven weeks the Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze is open.

Overall, the Great Jack O Lantern Blaze is extremely recommended and a great place to go to during October. I have personally gone there on various years with my family/friends and promise that it is great experience! For more information on The Great Jack O' Lantern Blaze, visit <https://hudsonvalley.org/events/blaze/>



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA

PRESENTS

7th Grade

NEON
S.M.S.
SOCIAL

Pizza, Music and Fun

\$15 ADMISSION | 7PM - 9PM

Friday, October 18, 2019

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

What Is It About Socials?



By Kayla Tompkins
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last year was the 6th Grade Social. It was OK but kids weren't really amused because there were a lot of teachers and rules that didn't make it fun.

When they played the songs, there were parts bleeped out and it made the song not as good.

The teachers would yell at kids if they got on each other's backs (piggy back ride) and it would be annoying because we were just trying to have fun and the teachers were yelling at us too much.

We weren't allowed in the hallways or anything and it was annoying.

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Teamwork; Practice Keys to FC Cosmos' Success



**By Adrianna Cooke
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Soccer is very important to me. My team is especially important to me.

My team helps me get the ball into the goal since I play striker. Without my team that would not be able to happen. My team so far in our league is doing well.

We have moved up to the Premier League. We have been winning a lot of our games.

On my team there are mostly 7th graders but two are in 6th grade.



Our Coach, Amanda DeCosta, makes us run for 10 minutes around the high school turf, Upper Reis Park, and Van Tassel Park. This gives us the stamina for the games.

On Mondays, we work on our skills, Wednesday is workout Wednesday, and Friday, we work on everything we did on Monday and put it into our scrimmage on Friday. We also go over plays on Friday. Usually when we go over and do the same play in the games, we score the goal.

STAR Testing: Good or Not For Students?



**By Tessa Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Every year, we take STAR tests and some people wonder why we must take them.

Is it good for our education or does it really matter? On the one hand, STAR testing is good for students because some of the questions challenge you to work harder and try your best. It is also helpful because the test asks you questions you don't already know or have learned. In addition, STAR testing doesn't affect your grade, but it shows what you know or need to improve in either math or ELA.

However, some cons of STAR testing are people can just guess quickly and don't read the questions on the test because that person wants to finish. It could also be stressful.

In my opinion, I think STAR testing is good because it helps me learn new things I have never seen before. It also shows how I need to improve in different subjects. STAR testing makes me think really hard.



Socials

From Page 1

Kids just wanted to have fun and teachers weren't allowing them to have fun.

This year is a neon theme and kids weren't too amused about it, so not that many will probably show up.

I haven't decided if I'm going to go or not.



The Tusker Tribune of Somers Middle School

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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.

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