



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



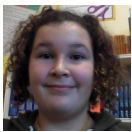
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Winter 2019



Origins of the Jolly Man in the Red Suit



**By Anna Hagen
Tusker Tribune Staff**

How did Santa-themed things come to be? Here you will find out! Santa was originally a monk in 280 A.D. near Turkey. He was interpreted in legends as admired for his generosity and helping the poor and sick.

Santas asking for donations started in the 1890's, when the Salvation Army needed money to pay for free Christmas meals for needy families that they provided. What to do? They dressed up unemployed men in Santa suits, and sent them to the streets of New York to collect donations.



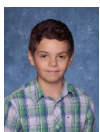
have a happy holiday!

The famous story, "Twas the Night Before Christmas", started out as a poem! In 1882, Clement Clarke Moore wrote the story for his three daughters.

Also, in 1881, cartoonist Thomas Nast drew on Moore's poem and created the Santa we know today. He also created the red suit he always wears.

Now let's talk about Santa's sidekick, Rudolph! He was created over a century after all the other reindeer by a copywriter named Robert L. May, who was just trying to get people in his store. I hoped you liked these facts and

Where do 'Questions to Ponder' Come From?



**By Nick Bachas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I was trying to think of a Tusker Tribune story idea but then I started thinking about Questions to Ponder and then I thought, where do they come from?

In Schoology, if you have Mr. Pappas as a teacher and you go to his ELA Schoology page, Mr. Pappas has "Questions to Ponder". You can answer them in discussion forums and talk with other students about the answers.

There basically questions like, If bread slices are square, why is lunch meat round? or If



the #2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still number 2? There are questions that make you think about random stuff that existed. But where does he find them? Does he think of them? Does he have a website online where he gets them? Does he have friends who think of them? Does he pay people to think of random questions in class, then write them down? Does he take a few hours out of his day to think of these random questions? I am confused.

Editor's Note: the secret will never be revealed!

Mandalorian Episode Review



**By Brady Nolan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Mandalorian is a TV series on Disney+. It is loved by most everyone who has seen it.

Everyone who has been on Instagram or any other social media app has seen the asset they hunt in the first episode. That asset is called by most Baby Yoda.

The show is about a bounty hunter from the Mandalorian tribe who is in a hunting guild. The Mandalorian is currently the most watched TV series on Disney+ and has been the highest trending TV series for a while.



Also the Mandalorian has a 95 rating on the Rotten Tomato website. The Mandalorian also has a ton of memes being made about it. The most popular is Baby Yoda and the Mandalorian saying, "I like those

odds." to storm troopers. That concludes my review on the most popular show on Disney+ and the most highly rated show that Disney has produced.

Field Hockey Builds Skills and Teamwork



**By Maddie Murphy
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Field hockey is a fun, competitive sport. You have a lot of supportive girls on your team and they are a lot of fun.

What you need to know is that there were a lot of girls on my team who did not know how to play, and had to learn once they joined. So if you read my story, you, too will know a bit more about this fun sport.

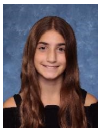
Because the sticks are kind of short, you're spending a lot of time hunched over as you move down the field. Your back and legs might hurt a lot after the first practice but once you do it every day, it turns out to be a lot of fun.

When you have a long break or go on to a weekend, I would suggest that you practice because if there are a lot of girls on the team, you won't get as much playing time so you have to work hard, give it your best.

And remember to give it everything you got. And if you're not physically in the game playing, then be mentally in the game. The coach will love that!



Lots to Do on a Snow Day!



**By Brooke Fazio
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You wake up Monday morning, having a memorable flash back from last night.

Ring, ring, ring! "This is Matt Car from the Somers Central School District calling to inform you that all Somers schools will be closed due to the weather."

You grin and go back to bed. You wake up again, it's eleven o'clock and you finally get out of bed. You go downstairs eat breakfast and do all that stuff.

That day you slept, went in the snow, played on your phone and watched TV, but have you ever wanted to do more on a snow day but just don't know what to do? Well here's a list of crazy, awesome things and normal basic things to do on snow days...



- 1) Play in the snow (obviously!!!)
- 2) Sit by a fire and read.

3) Use your sled as a snowboard and snowboard down a huge hill!!!

4) Watch a movie.

5) Play with your siblings who have been begging you for a month to play with them (if you have one or more)!

6) Bring your sled up a slide and sled down the slide on the sled.

7) Try to say number six five times in a row super-fast!

8) Build a snow fort . . .

9) . . . or a snow man

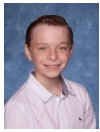
10) Prank a friend by burying someone in the snow, ask your friend to come over, then the person who's buried pops out and scares them:

11) Take a video of the person getting

scared.

And there you go! Now you can never say you're bored and don't know what to do until you finish this list!!! Bye!!!

B O O K R E V I E W Prisoner B-3087 is a Fascinating Read



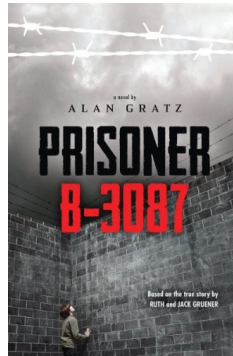
By Luke DeBellis
Tusker Tribune Staff

As a Jewish boy living during World War II, Yanek is held at the mercy of the Nazi German army that has taken possession of everything he had and murdered everyone he loved brutally in front of him.

Yanek himself, however, is taken as a prisoner of the Nazis and because of it, his future is unknown.

I recommend the book Prisoner B-3087 because it is based on the true story of Jack Gruener, a Holocaust Survivor, though the character in this book is named Yanek. It provides an in-depth analysis of how he and people like himself had to undergo the horrific war crime that was Nazi Concentration Camps.

I would not however recommend this book to younger readers due to the aggres-



sive language and violent imagery that is presented well throughout the story, the comprehension that is needed to understand World War II and the effects it had on targeted peoples, as well as the difficult vocabulary that the book features.

Overall, I would conclude that this is a very well-presented story due to the descriptive and powerful language that creates a mind-blowing and intensive visual imagery for the readers.

This story is very captivating to me and has helped me to gain a perspective on how the victims of these Nazi concentration camps truly felt and tried their best to survive every obstacle in their way. I would rate this book 5 Stars, and I would recommend that if anyone were to come across this excellent book, and they are interested in World War II, mores specifically the struggles faced by people caught in it, they should absolutely give it a try and read it.

Mets' Pete Alonso, Jacob DeGrom Win Rookie of The Year and Cy Young Awards



By Josh Feldman
Tusker Tribune Staff

What a year it was for New York Mets' Pete Alonso! Alonso made history this year when he beat Aaron Judge's rookie home run record and became the only rookie ever in Major League Baseball to hit 53 home runs in one season.

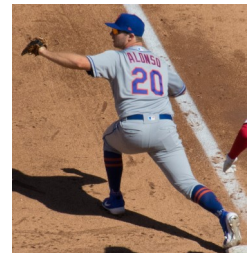
Alonso finished with a .260 average, 53 home runs and 120 Runs Batted In. Alonso led the team in both home runs and Runs Batted In this year, as well.



Alonso, nicknamed "Polar Bear" because of his power, also became the first Mets player ever to hit 50 or more home runs in one season. Alonso also won the Home Run Derby this season and participated in the all-star game, along with

teammate, Jacob DeGrom.

DeGrom had a fantastic year himself. He won the Cy Young Award for the second season in a row. DeGrom finished with a 2.43 Earned Run Average and 255 strikeouts. DeGrom finished 2nd amongst all pitchers in the national league with his Earned Run Average of 2.43. DeGrom is nicknamed "The DeGrominator" because, well, he dominates. DeGrom's most dominant game this year was when he hit a home run and struck out 13 batters in the same game!



To end, it is clear to say these Mets superstars are just at the beginning of their careers and they're only going to get better, so whoever has to face them in the future, be ready!



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Fantasy Football is a Terrific Hobby



**By Noah Hechler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The one thing I look forward to during football season is fantasy football.

Fantasy football is when you pick people in football and you have a draft. You try to pick the best players and players who you think have good potential. You get picks in the draft.

When you are done picking your team, you play everyone in your league. You play everyone until week 14 in the NFL regular season.



When it hits Week 15, you go to the playoffs or you play in the loser's bracket. Usually, everyone in your league puts up money and gives it to the head of the league and they save it for the winner of the fantasy.

When you are in the playoffs, you get two weeks to play each person. Whoever wins goes to the finals, and then whoever wins in the finals gets the money that was put up by all participants.

Besides winning the finals, you can earn money by having the best record overall, or by scoring the most points.

It's Playoffs Time!



**By Dean Barlanti
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The NFL playoff race gets fans from all over the country on their feet rooting for their teams.

It heats up right after Thanksgiving. Teams are fighting for spots in the NFL playoffs. Vicious fans from Philly and LA make themselves heard.

There are teams that are fighting for spots right now like the LA Rams and Chicago Bears (although the Bears lost to the Packers last week, so they're virtually eliminated) in the NFC and the Tennessee Titans and the Oakland Raiders. My favorite team is the Green Bay Packers and they



are 11-3 and winning their division. I am hoping that they win the Superbowl this year.

Right now, the biggest fight for home field advantage is the Seattle Seahawks and the San Francisco 49ers.

They are both 11-3 but one of the 49ers' losses was against the Seahawks, so right now, the Seahawks are winning their division. In the end, however, I think that the 49ers will ultimately win it.

What do you think about who is going or winning the Superbowl? I think that Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens and Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers will be in it. I can't wait until the playoffs start!

Jackson Dominates Against Jets



**By Josh Feldman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On Thursday, December 12th, 2019, Ravens QB Lamar

Jackson had quite the night, rolling over the NY Jets 42 to 21.

Jackson was dominant passing and rushing as always. Jackson finished the night 15 for 23 with 212 passing yards, throwing five touchdowns in the process. He also finished averaging 8.6 yards rushing

with 86 rushing yards.

During the game, Jackson broke QB Michael Vick's rushing yards for a QB record in a single season. He now holds the record with 1,103 rushing yards for a QB in a single season and will add on to it in the final three weeks.



As of now Jackson is the leading MVP candidate in the AFC. And it looks as if Jackson will finish the year with that award. Only the future knows but it safe to say, Lamar Jackson has at one heck of a year!



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 Co-editor Noah Volkman at

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Video Game Review:



**By Shannon Williams
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I would rate the game Brawlhalla 10/10 because of the awesome animations and the diversity between characters. Brawlhalla is a co-op/online game, where you can play with your friends or you can drop into random matches and fight other players. When you start playing a match, you have to choose between 47 different characters, all of them with different stats and fighting styles. Afterwards, you start playing. You are brought to a platform where you are fighting three other play-



ers to knock them into the borders around the platform, much like Super Smash Bros. You can choose between a variety of attacks, like heavy and normal attacks. You can also attack people while jumping and falling. You can charge up a heavy attack to deal usually fatal blows, depending on where you are on the map.

The art is also unique, being cartoonish while also having realistic movements. I would highly recommend Brawlhalla, and you can get it for Free on most platforms, including Xbox One, the PS4, PC and the Nintendo Switch.

Is Disney + Overrated?



**By: Ryleigh LaRegina
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Is it worth paying \$6.99 a month for an app that does the same thing as other movie streaming apps?

Disney+ is just like an improved version of Netflix. Disney+ includes Marvel, Pixar, Star Wars, National Geographic and other Disney movies. A lot of people prefer Disney+ over Netflix because they can watch old TV shows from their childhood like Victorious and other old movies that bring back memories, such as Toy Story.



Others argue that Disney+ is overrated as well as overpriced as well because you can just rent TV show series and old movies from your childhood on demand. If you also have a Netflix subscription the money can add up not including other app subscriptions you may have bought.

What do you think? Is it worth paying the money for Disney+ or would you rather use what you already pay for?

Remember These Tips to Get Through the Second Half of 7th Grade



**By Maximo Chanlatte
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Step 1: Keep an organized folder/portfolio and locker. If you don't, you can't find things and then you fall behind and then your grades drop.

Step 2: Study in advance. If you don't study and you have a busy night, you end up not knowing the material and fail the test.

Step 3: Don't tell anybody anything personal.

If you do, the story changes and 999 other people get involved.

Step 4: Do your homework on time. If you don't, things do not end well, and your teachers get annoyed.

Step 5: Don't stand in the middle of hallway. It blocks people from getting to class and people get annoyed and start to hate you.

Step 6: Be nice. If you're mean, you won't have friends.

Step 7: Stay healthy. "If you don't, you get sick, miss school, and must do homework with a 2559-degree fever, and then, you have to catch up on schoolwork and tests

Step 7: Remember your locker combo. If you don't, you end up in a bad situation that stresses you out even more than regular **7th grade stress**.

