



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Winter 2020



Candy Grams Brighten Dreary Days



**By Joe Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

During the week before Winter break, the International Club was selling Candygrams to raise money to support the club.



could also choose to write a message on a little Valentine's Day card with your name on it, or, if you're a bit of a secret admirer, you could stay anonymous.

The International Club is dedicated to delivering them to the correct people and did deliveries to all the students on the morning of Valentine's Day. They raised a little over \$500 and are looking forward to more fundraisers throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining the International Club and learning about different cultures and countries, then this is the club for you!

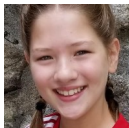


During the lunch period for each grade, there were student representatives at tables in the back of the lunchroom selling candygrams to students and teachers.



For \$2, you got a bag filled with Starburst candy, a lollipop, and a Fun Dip. You

Coronavirus Explained



**By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Coronavirus, deadly or nah? Highly contagious or not? Should we be worried?

I'm sure that when we hear "coronavirus", we think "deadly", "contagious", "new disease" that scientists have never heard of.

The first one is partially true; coronavirus has an estimated mortality rate of about 2%. There are over 1,000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus, from its first outbreak, and there are other cases world in countries such as Australia (15), Belgium (1), Cambodia (1), Canada (7), Finland (1), France (11), Germany (16), India (3), Italy (3), Japan (28 cases, plus 135 from the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship).

The coronavirus is mainly spread from coughing and sneezing, but according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, you



must be within about 6 feet to even have a slight chance of catching it from a human-to-human encounter. However, the last statement is not completely true.

Coronavirus is not a completely new disease; it is part of a large family of viruses that can cause many illnesses ranging from the common cold to diseases as deadly as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome.

The novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain of the virus that has never been identified in humans before. Many of the coronaviruses can be passed along from animals to people, according to the World Health Organization, other strains of the coronavirus like the SARS-CoV and the MERS-CoV, have been found that they can spread from animal to human.

Many of the most common signs of being infected are respiratory systems, a fever, coughing, shortness of breath and finding it difficult to breathe.

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CHANGE YOUR PASSWORD

The Somers Technology Department is issuing a mandatory password change policy for all **student accounts** effective immediately. In order for student accounts to remain secure, it is imperative passwords get changed AT LEAST twice a school year.

Please follow these instructions for **STUDENTS** to change their password as soon as possible:

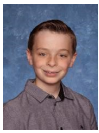
Go to Office 365 – portal.office.com – From the Office 365 landing page click on settings (at the top right) and change password.

Once your password is changed to a new secure password it can be used to access Office 365, Schoology, Infinite Campus, etc.

Your password should have at least 6 characters, a number and a capital letter. If you have any questions or problem, please go to the Gear Shack for assistance.

If you don't change your password by **February 28th** you will be locked out of your account. After you change your password the first time, you'll get notifications before it expires

Be Aware of Vaping Dangers



By Luke Debellis
Tusker Tribune Staff

Attention all parents! A new epidemic is spreading! Drugs like vaping and other smoking devices are thriving on young kids' minds. There have been over 19 deaths already in the United States, and over 1,000 kids' lungs damaged by this terrible product. If you want your child healthy make sure they don't do these types of things because it can cause irreversible damage. Vaping products are sold everywhere in the U.S. I



know many kids who vape and especially some kids who go to Somers Middle School and the high school as well. This is just a message to tell you that vaping can kill. It can take your life away from you in an instant.

So please make sure that your child even yourself, are far away from entering a world of displeasure and discomfort. Vaping is the new epidemic and if you want to save yourself from a world of hell, then don't vape and make sure no one around you does!



Video Game Review:



By Shannon Williams
Tusker Tribune Staff

I have recently started playing a game called Battlefront II, and I am *loving* it. I really like this game, because when it first started, it was a mess.

Now, the game has multiple new characters and it is adding more all the time. Unlike some other FPS games that includes an online and Story Mode, Battlefront II aces at both.

The Story Mode is fun and incorporates different aspects of the Star Wars saga into the story. For instance (if you haven't seen *The Return of the Jedi* then don't read on), in one of the first missions you go on as Inferno Squad Commander Iden Versio, you get to watch



the characters' faces twist in dismay as they watch the Death Star explode. In my opinion, the Story Mode is just as good as the online mode.

Speaking of which, there are many modes to pick from when you're playing the online mode. Whether you're playing the long game mode of Galactic Assault or Capital Supremacy, or the short game modes of Strike or Ewok Hunt, there are multiple eras to pick from in *Star Wars*; Galactic Republic vs. Separatists, Galactic Empire vs. Rebels, or First Order vs. Resistance.

Finally, the graphics and small details are amazing, and when you're playing anything there are a variety of character types to pick them. To conclude, Battlefront II is one of my favorite games of all time, and I rate it 10/10.

Coronavirus

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In many of the most severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome (which is an effect of another strain of the virus), kidney failure, and even death, but then again, there is a 2% mortality rate.

When trying to prevent the infection from spreading, wash hands because it can kill the virus on your hands. Another way to prevent it is to practice respiratory hygiene like covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough. Finally, main-

tain social distance. No, the World Health Organization isn't telling you to become an emo social reject, but they're telling you to try and keep a few feet within someone who has a fever and is frequently coughing or sneezing. This is because the droplets that come out of their mouths may contain tiny amounts of the virus that you could catch.

Now just because people cough and sneeze and have fevers does not mean they don't have coronavirus. The coronavirus is on the rise; be careful and be safe!

Source: www.who.int

Why Can't Math be Like the Olden Days?

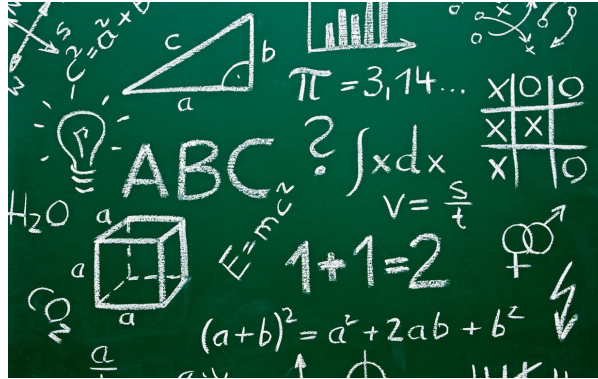


**By Emma Gordon
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On Tuesday, February 11, like a lot of other kids, I did the New York State Math Test Practice Questions on my tablet.

I went to my 3rd period class (Mr. Mullaney) instead of Advisory. However, I am not participating in taking any of the State tests, so the practice questions weren't really that important to me.

As you may already know, the main reason for the practice questions was because this year we're taking the State Tests on our tablets. So, I turned on my tablet and went to the practice questions and they were.... impossible. I couldn't even finish them!



First of all, the calculator couldn't be moved around on your screen, so it's hard to see the question sometimes. So, if you don't have a calculator, it's hard to take the test.

Second, it's hard to show your work, and showing your work is required. Yeah, I get that you can use the drawing setting, but it's challenging to focus on what your drawing when you're trying to figure out how to work the confusing thing. It's also very uncomfortable with or without a pen.

So why can't we do the work on paper? Do we really have to "modernize" every-

thing, including math? Math should be done on paper with a pencil. I mean, isn't the whole point of this test: to see what we know?

Not to stress over trying to draw our "7" s so they don't look like "7"s on the tablet. So, one question. *Why?*

Troop 228 Performs Valuable Community Service



**By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Over February break, Somers Boy Scout Troop 228 had two opportunities for community service.



One of them was at Rhinoceros Creek, where we cut vines off trees, because we learned that the vines were hurting the environment. Rhinoceros Creek is made up of two groups of land on

either side of Route 202, both groups of land adding up to over 55 acres of land.

With a guide from the reservation, Troop 228 set out in search of vines, clippers and loppers in hand.

For the second service opportunity, Troop 228 took to the trails behind Somers Intermediate School and got



to work cleaning. We moved logs and cleared thorn bushes off the trails. Loppers and clippers in hand again, the members of troop 228 cleared the Green, White, and part of the Blue trails from behind the school, to make them safer for the intermediate school students.

There are also plans to go back later in the year to repaint the trail markers.

The

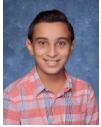
hours earned from these projects can count towards NJHS and other memberships that require community service.

All in all, if you need service hours, or are just looking to help the community, join Somers Troop 228!



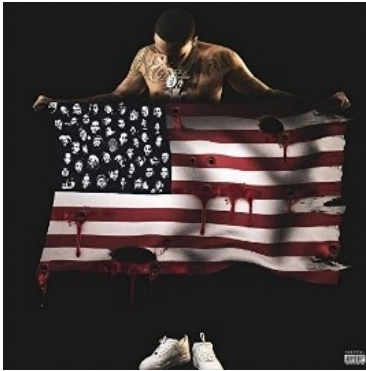


Music Report



I am returning to the music review world of the Tusker Tribune.

As I have in the past, I will review new albums/songs being released tonight at midnight and I will leave links so you can listen to them.



PTSD – G Herbo

Genre: Hip-Hop/Rap

Noah's Review: Being that I'm not a huge listener of G Herbo, I'd say that this is very acceptable. Not ground-breaking, but I've heard worse.

Joe-Quote: "I'd listen to that."

Rating: 6/10

Favorite Songs: "PTSD (feat. Chance the Rapper, Juice WRLD & Lil Uzi Vert),"

"Glass in the Face (feat. A Boogie wit da Hoodie)" and "By Any Means (feat. 21 Savage)."

The Other Side – SZA & Justin Timberlake

Genre: Pop

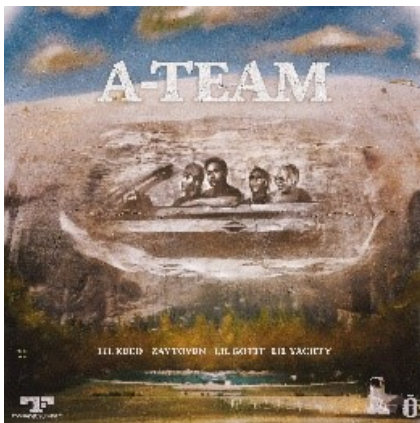
Noah's Review: It's funky and a great first single for the upcoming Trolls sequel. I just hope it doesn't get as overplayed as "Can't Stop the Feeling!" did.

Joe-Quote: "repeatedly nods head to the beat."

Rating: 7.5/10

A-Team – Zaytoven

Genre: Hip-Hop/Rap



Noah's Review: I've been a big Zaytoven fan for years now, and I really like that he's taking upcoming rappers Lil Keed and Lil Gotit under his wing for this project to hopefully help them grow as an artist.

Joe-Quote: "Fire (accompanied with two OK emojis)."

Favorite Songs: "Reloaded" (with Lil Gotit), "A-Team" (with Lil Keed and Lil Yachty) and "Fashion Nova Men" (with Lil Gotit feat. Foolio).

Rating: 7/10



NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE

Co-Editors:

Noah Volkman
Joseph Melillo

Reporters:

Joseph Melillo
Allison O'Connor
Shannon Williams
Luke DeBellis

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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Co-editor Noah Volkman at

volkman.noah@somersschools.org

or Advisor Dean Pappas at

DPappas@somersschools.org



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