

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



Issue Number 8

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

Fall 2018

Dr. Seuss' friends Arrive at SMS!



**By Andre Possante
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last Tuesday, October 23rd, the first SMS Drama Club Meeting for 2018-2019 was held. Everyone was excited about discovering what this year's play was.

The auditorium was packed with familiar faces, and new, incoming 6th graders joining the Drama Family. And then the big moment was uncovered. This year, the play is... (Drum Roll please!) ...The Seussical!

That's right, Dr. Seuss's friends, such as Horton and The Cat in the Hat, are coming to SMS! But if you're not in Drama and you want to participate, don't fret! All you need to do is go to Room 111 or downstairs to the band room, and



you can talk to Mrs. Williams or Mrs. Malara and they will get you filled in on the information.

Auditions will be held during the following week on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. (November 13th, 14th, and 15th).**

Also, when you talk to Mrs. Williams or Mrs. Malara, they will invite you to the SMS Drama Schoology Page, where

you'll find the Audition Songs, Character List, and info about what's going on in the Seussical Universe!

So if you haven't signed up for auditions yet, and have a passion for music like me and everyone else involved, then what are you waiting for?

Tribute to WW2 Veteran Bob Reidy



**By Joseph Gherardi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Bob Reidy was a World War II Veteran who served for many years. He was my neighbor. He was a great man who loved telling stories of war days, his life as a kid, and he loved to paint.

Bob would give beautiful paintings to everyone on his block on Lee Road. Bob lived to be 95 years old. He and his wife Jean were co-founders of Deans Pond Association. Bob loved our visits so much that he had a slate path put in to bridge our adjacent homes.

Bob went to Cornell University and became a civil engineer. He then became a lieutenant in the US Navy. He mostly toured the Pacific Islands. He would tell us about the times he built the barracks and roads in the Philippines during WWII and during which, at times, his unit was under enemy fire. He built so much more, such as a 62 year marriage with his wife Jean! Bob had so much love for his country.

His patriotism was contagious. Even at ninety, Bob was an active member of the Somers Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Girls' Modified Field Hockey Undefeated And UnScored Upon!



**By Kaeleigh Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff**

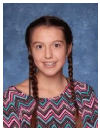
This past Friday, November 2nd, the Somers Girls Modified Field Hockey Team accomplished something incredible. After beating the number one Lakeland Bobcats 3-0 at Somers High School turf field two, the team is officially undefeated and unscored upon throughout the whole season!

However, the win was bittersweet for the fourteen 8th graders that will not be playing for the team next year. Being an eighth grader myself on the team, I think I speak for everyone when I say that this year was a special one, and we couldn't have done it without teamwork, determination, and Tusker pride.

A special thanks to Stacey Lockhard, an amazing teacher and coach, team captains Lauren McCartin and Gretchen Gilroy, our goalie Kamryn, and every single player, all of whom did awesome. Go Somers!

Continued on Page 4

Somers Cheer Team Rocks Jets/Broncos Game



**By: Eva Weinberg
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On Sunday, October 6th, the Somers cheer teams' grades 3-12 went to MetLife stadium to cheer at the Jets-Broncos NFL Football game.

The cheerleaders preformed with many other cheer and dance teams which were all led by the NY Jets' own Flight Crew Cheerleaders.

All cheer and dance teams had to be in New Jersey at the MetLife Stadium by 7:00 AM in order to start practicing. All cheerleaders for Somers had to arrive in their uniform.

The Flight Crew went over the routine three times with the music. The cheerleaders practiced running on the field (before we did the dance) and off the field (when the dance was done).

After the Somers cheerleaders finished practicing, they all went back to the parking lot where all their parents were located. In the parking lot, there were hundreds of people tailgating including all the



Somers cheerleaders' parents. All the parents, cheerleaders and siblings ate food for about an hour.

After that, all the cheerleaders had to go back into the building where the football players run out of. They stood back there for around 20 minutes waiting for the Jets and Broncos players to finish practicing.

When the players ended their practice, all the cheer and dance teams ran onto the field. All the cheerleaders/dancers looked at the crowd with smiles across their faces. Some Somers cheerleaders were shown on the stadium's Jumbotron!

After their performance was done, all cheerleaders and dancers ran off the field. After that, all the cheerleaders went up to their seats where their families were. From that point on, they enjoyed the game!



How is XXXTENTACION Still Releasing Music?



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Jahseh Onfroy, A.K.A. XXXTENTACION, passed away June 18,

2018 after being shot several times in the chest in his black Lamborghini while leaving a Fort Lauderdale, FL motorcycle shop.

Although XXXTENTACION, also referred to as "XXX" or just "X", passed almost five months ago, many songs have been released under X's name, and it is his voice.

The rapper/singer has had music released posthumously with other musicians, and honestly, this music is still amazing. It's even ru-



mored that an entire album will be coming out by X (which if it does, you know I'll be doing a review on it).

Song highlights of his post-death music include **"Falling Down"** with Lil Peep (who is also deceased), **"Arms Around You"** with Lil Pump, Maluma and Rae Sremmurd member Swae Lee, and **"Don't Cry"** with Lil Wayne. None of these songs sounded like his style when he was alive, and all have a different style. **"Falling Down"** has an emo-rock-rap feel, while **"Arms Around You"** sounds like a poppy Miami-dancehall bop, and **"Don't Cry"** is a fiery track with pain in X's voice as he weeps, "Don't cry, don't go..."

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

DPappas

@somersschools.org

Hip Hop's Love of Spongebob



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

On April 30, 1999, the first episode of SpongeBob Squarepants aired on Nickelodeon. And with the beginning of the show, also came the beginning of SpongeBob's rap career.

According to data, the cast of SpongeBob has made hundreds of appearances in hip-hop lyrics since the series premiere. So, I decided to revisit a few of my favorites.

The main character of the show is SpongeBob Squarepants, the energetic fry-cook and jellyfishing enthusiast. The earliest hip-hop reference to SpongeBob was in 2004 on D-12's "Keep Talkin'."

Since then, SpongeBob alone has been referenced over 100 times in songs ranging from Smokepurpp to Wu-Tang. Producer Izak even sampled SpongeBob's voice directly as his producer tag, most famously in YBN Nahmir's "Rubbin Off the Paint."

During an interview on this topic, Izak said, "Like, every time I, like, see reaction videos on YouTube and people be like, is that SpongeBob? And then the beat comes and then they'll be like, 'Oh! Okay, cool,'" he says.

But SpongeBob isn't the only person in Bikini Bottom who's made it in the rap game.



SpongeBob's best friend Patrick also has a few cameos in hip-hop lyrics. SpongeBob's neighbor and coworker Squidward has several hip-hop mentions himself, even though he probably wouldn't be too happy to hear them.

Other character references include Mr. Krabs and his daughter Pearl. In late 2017, the "SpongeBob Squarepants Musical" premiered on Broadway. The play featured musical credits from T.I. and was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Original Score.

So it's safe to say that hip-hop's love for 'SpongeBob' is definitely mutual.

MISS KNOW-IT-ALL

Dear Miss Know-It-All,
I'm stressed having to juggle homework, tests and sports. Any advice on what I should do?
Sincerely,
Miss Stressed

Dear Miss Stressed,
I know what you're dealing with. When you have a lot of things to do during the week things can get tough. I know that from my experience, panicking never works. Try coping with your problems by taking deep breaths or talking to someone about it. Tell yourself everything is going to be okay and if it helps just walk away from the problem for 5 minutes. I hope this advice will help you in the future, feel better!

Wishing you the best,
Miss Know-It-All

MISS KNOW-IT-ALL



You may send your questions to "Miss Know-It-All" at

Tuskertribune
@somersschools.org

'Cell' - ebrate New Books!

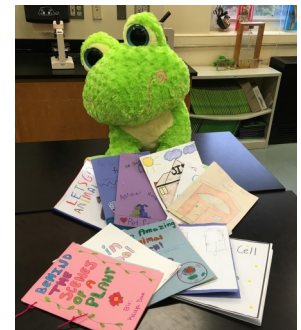


By Alex Bian
Tusker Tribune Staff

Celebration, Inc. is issuing new books for children all about the 101 of cell organelles including but not limited to the lysosome, the nucleus, the mitochondria, etc.

They made two types of books for children about plant or animal cells. The books even have analogies to help the younger children to understand what the organelles do.

There are a variety of analogies from houses to Hogwarts and maybe even tea mugs. They may look low quality, but each book is made by their best and maybe



brightest children (all the children in Mrs. Manko's class).

Sometime soon when all the books have been completed, the manager of the company (Mrs. Manko) will distribute the books to all the 3rd and 4th graders in SIS. Just saying we're not sponsored or getting any money from this article.

Show Your Friends These Tricks!



By Sam Sanz
Tusker Tribune Staff

Magic tricks are an odd subject. Probably most of you reading this do not know much or any magic tricks. I didn't know any either, but I decided to search some up.

The 3 Piles

For this trick you need 21 playing cards and a volunteer.

1. Fan the cards out facing them.
2. Tell them to choose a card and to remember that card and put it back anywhere.
3. Then, split the cards 1 at a time into 3 piles facing up and ask your volunteer to remember what pile their card is in (1st card in 1st pile 2nd card in the second pile and so on) until you have 3 piles of 7 cards.
4. Then ask the volunteer to tell you which pile their card is in.
5. Sandwich that pile in between the other piles.
6. Do that 2 more times and gather them up using the sandwich technique and if you did it right, their chosen card will be the 11th card in the pile.



Nerd's Words



How To Make a Gyro-Copter

People on the 7th grade red team know this. In this trick, you can make a paper helicopter.



1. Take a small piece of paper (about 4x2in.)
 2. Cut in half the long way only half the way (to the middle)
 3. Fold each flap to different sides
 4. Add a paper clip to the bottom of the non-cut section
 5. Throw it in the air and watch the magic happen!
- P.S The more paper clips you have, the faster it spins

How to Win Tic-Tac-Toe (A lot)

1. Go First!
 2. Pick any corner and start there
 3. If the player goes somewhere else besides the middle, then go from corner to corner until you collect the win.
 4. If he goes to the middle go to the opposite corner if your partner draws in a corner, then draw in the last corner. You will get the win
 5. If the partner gets a side square after the middle it will end in a tie.
- Whether you want to surprise your friends, yourself or win in tic-tac-toe these tricks will help. Thank you.



Reidy From Page 1

While Bob was a resident at The Montrose Veterans Home, he traveled to Washington DC to be honored with other WWII veterans. The ceremony was hosted by former US Senator Robert "Bob" Dole.

We were able to spend Bob's 95 birthday with him at our annual, "Jean Reidy, Lee Road Block Party." He enjoyed listening to children read to him, chatting and catching up with neighbors, and being around "family". His painting of The Elephant Hotel adorns our family room wall and many other walls in the homes of Somers

neighbors. We will think of him always, as he left behind his stories, paintings, and patriotism.

Editor's Note: Some information provided by the Somers Record. Bob Reidy died on October 10, 2018.

Veteran's Day is this coming Sunday, and is observed as a Federal Holiday this coming Monday.



The Tusker Tribune Staff

Co-Editors

Noah Volkman
Joseph Melillo

Feature Editor

Samuel Sanz

Sports Editor

Jesse Manginelli

Copy Editors

William Underkoffler
Andre Possante
Michael Aiello

Photography Editor

Allison O'Connor

Reporters

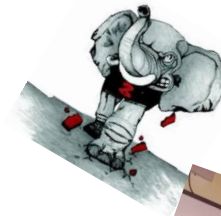
Kaeleigh Picco
Eva Weinberg
Andre Possante
Noah Volkman
Alex Bian
Joseph Gherardi
Jesse Manginelli
Olivia Soto
Natalia Tellez

Sara Hanford
Sam Sanz





SMS Spirit Week!



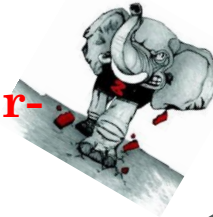
Photos by
Allison O'Connor
and Natalia Tellez





SMS Spirit Week!

6th Graders Show Their Spirit!!!!!!



By Natalia Tellez & Sara Hanford
Tusker Tribune Staff

SMS spirit is in the air! Especially, in the 6th grade wing and classrooms.

On Pajama Day kids were invited to stay cozy and wear their pajamas. 6th grade girls mostly wore either their PJ pants, sweatpants, or onesies. Everyone was saying that it is so cool to wear their pajamas to school because they were so comfortable.

Color Wars Day was not the first time 6th graders competed against the other grades even though some people in the grade didn't agree with the colors we had to wear (Yellow and White). Even though 6th grade didn't win, it was still an exciting experience.

On Halloween, students wore their costumes and animal ears. Also, people had panda, Doctor Suess, koala, and many more onesies. At least two groups of friends did group costumes. They dressed up as M&M's and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Throwback Thursday made kids dress up with clothes from the 80's and 70's. Less people participated but many girls wore scrunchies, tie dye shirts, leg warmers, and high ponytails.

On Somers Colors/Pep Rally day, everyone wore any colors they had. People involved in sports wore their jerseys and sweatshirts. For my grade, if people didn't play sports, they had their siblings' clothes like football jerseys.

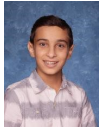
Spirit Week in SMS is different from Spirit Week at SIS because instead of Superhero Day we have Throwback Thursday. Also, in SIS costumes were only allowed to be worn for part of the day, in SMS costumes are allowed the whole day.

Overall, Spirit Week was an awesome experience. Kids went all out dressing up for each special and unique day. Shout outs to Oliva Soto, Jailyn Jurabe, Kristen Strang, and the Wilke-Olsens twins who were all really in spirit each day of the week. 6th grader Deanna DeCamp says, "Spirit week is a fun way that we can all dress up in our unique ways. My favorite day was Halloween. I got to dress up and have a great time with my friends." Make sure to look for photos of students in 6th grade who dressed up during Spirit Week. This spectacular week was a big hit.

Photos
by Sara
Hanford



Rappers' Words Could Mean Jail Time



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Your court rights begin with, "You have the right to remain silent" but for many rappers, that right is already lost.

In 2010, Lil Boosie was indicted for 1st degree murder and prosecutors built a case against him using his rap lyrics. Prosecutors say specific Boosie lyrics equal intent. Defense attorneys say it's just a rapper doing his job. Boosie benefited from his fame and great representation and went on to be acquitted in 2012.

But many smaller artists aren't so lucky. For example, a judge doubled Dallas rapper YBN NyNizzle's six-year sentence for distributing drugs after citing lyrics from his song, "Tru Gizzle," saying the lines matched up with a separate crime that NyNizzle was suspected of, but never charged with, for ambush robbery where a victim was shot. Yet these bars, having nothing to do with his original drug case, still affected his prison time.

University of Georgia law professor Andrea Dennis notices that "most of these are just average, ordinary young African-American or Latino men. And these are cases that may include charges of homicide, assault, drug distribution, threats or intimidation..."

She was also the author of a 2007 study on the practice of rap lyrics in court cases. In it she found that "when courts permit the prosecutor to admit rap music lyrics as criminal evidence, they allow the government to obtain a stranglehold on the case." Prosecutors can use lyrics to paint a picture of the defendant and play to jurors' prejudices. "This notion that African-American men are aggressive and dangerous and hyper-masculine and, in short, criminals or bad men," Dennis continues. In NyNizzle's case, the judge told him that he was "bragging" about killing someone, even though it was just a rap lyric.

This, too, falls into a pattern of using racial stereotypes against rappers, like in the Vonte Skinner case in 2008. Prosecutors read 13 pages of Skinner's violent, graphic rap lyrics. These were lyrics that had been written months and years before the shooting, and prosecutors read them to show Skinner's alleged propensity for violence. However, hip-hop often relies on bravado, storytelling and exaggeration, making lyrical evidence questionable at best.

Take Rick Ross for example. In "Hustlin'" he raps, "I know Pablo Noriega, the real Noriega/ he owe me a hundred favors," Rick Ross has never met the late Panamanian leader, Manuel Noriega, saying in a 2006 interview, "I don't know Noriega personally, but I know people who have met Noriega."

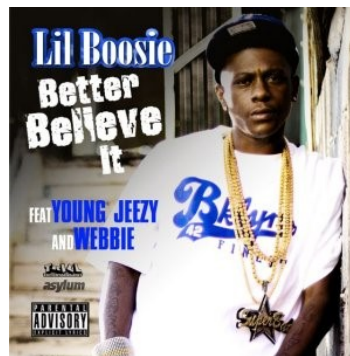
At times, but of course not in all cases, hip-hop can be more like the WWE than UFC. It's very much an industry expectation that the artist is at least trying to maintain an appearance of keeping it real. This disconnect is what causes us to look at lyrics differently. About this, Professor Dennis says, "I think some people just take the position that they're just rhymed words over a beat." Three specific words are what prosecutors hope will link Torrence Hatch to the alleged killing of Terry Boyd. Those words include '187', 'murk' and 'cake.'

Even when the lyrics seemingly line up to the crime it's not so clear cut. For example, take rapper Tay-K. The judge cited his song, "The Race," recorded and released while on the run from two charges of capital murder, as a partial reason for denying him bail and it didn't stop there, as he was found guilty for these charges and is currently serving jail time for life. On this topic, Professor Dennis said, "I wasn't surprised that the prosecutor argued that "The Race" is actually an admission or confession to having engaged conduct. Prosecutors often use police officers to explain the lyrics to juries. Prosecutor Dana

Cummings presented a Baton Rouge police detective who said the words '187' and 'murk' translate, and 'cake' is slang for money.

Professor Dennis tells us this isn't the right approach because cops can lack the necessary context needed to adequately explain these lyrics. "They're just saying these are lyrical representations of true life," she explains. In an interview with in-jail rapper Antwain Steward, he was asked if that since song is just a made-up story, why does he write a story like he writes it, and he responded by saying, "That's my lane. I'm in the lane of hardcore rap. That's just what it is."

Your court rights end with, "anything you say can and will be used against you," and for rappers like the above-mentioned Twain Gotti, Boosie, NyNizzle and many others, that couldn't be truer.



NBA Right Now: It's a Busy Season!



By Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff

Los Angeles Lakers 'superstar' player, LeBron James, has scored more than 25 points in 7 out of his 10 games in the regular season. He even scored 35 points when the Lakers played the Spurs. James Harden from the Rockets has also had some outstanding stats. He scored more than 20 points in 4 out of 8 regular season games and scored 30 or more points in 2 of his games.

Russell Westbrook is also having his fair share with amazing games. Russell Westbrook of the OKC Thunder got 15 rebounds and 8 assists against the Celtics. The OKC Thunder are 5-4 as of right now.



The two best teams however are the Raptors and the Warriors. The Raptors 10-1 and the Warriors are also 10-1

Injuries

Dirk Nowitzki of the Mavericks is out

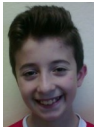
until late November due to an ankle injury. Devin Harris also from the Mavericks will be back soon (Nov. 10 probably). Isaiah Thomas of the Denver Nuggets has been out since March and will most likely not play for the whole season due to his hip.



Some Warriors stars are out as of right now. Andre Iguodala, Draymond Green, and DeMarcus Cousins are all out. Iguodala hurt his calf and will be resting this Monday. Green injured his foot and his return will be day-to-day. Cousins injured his Achilles and will be out definitely. Russell Westbrook of the OKC Thunder hurt his ankle and his return will be day-to-day.

Stay tuned for future editions of "NBA Right Now".

The K-Pop Phenomenon



By Andre Possante
Tusker Tribune Staff

Well, there comes a time in your life when you learn about very unnecessary hard math.

Then there's the time that you'll learn about stocks and taxes. And then there will be a time when you learn about K-Pop. Oh wait, guess you'll be learning about that today!

I bet that most of you have heard something about K-Pop. You've probably heard about it and said something along the lines of, "Oh isn't that some dumb Korean type of pop?"



Well today, this article is going to teach you all you need to know. First you should obviously know what it is. K-Pop is Korean Pop. As simple as that.



Second, South Korea is a country up there with the US that has a popular music genre listened to around the world (K-Pop).

Third, you might think nobody listens to it, but that's not true. People in America love it, and K-Pop bands like "BTS" and "BLACKPINK" have made songs that have hit high into the Billboard charts. Some of these songs are: "DDU-DU DDU-DU" and "Kiss and Make Up" by BLACKPINK "Fake Love" and "IDOL" by BTS.