

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Fall (Winter) 2018

Winter Track Starting Soon



**By Matthew Hirsch
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In the winter, Somers Middle school has some modified sports that you can play.

One of them is track and field. Track and Field is a sport where you go to a track. A track is a 200- or 400-meter loop around a field. At the track you compete in certain events. Some of the events are sprinting, hurdling, distance running, pole-vault, high-jump, and long-jump. You try and get the best time that you can.

At the end of the track meet, the officials determine which team is the winner. It is a lot of fun and it is a good sport to play. I would encourage all people who like to be athletic to join winter track.



It's Ski Club Time!



**By Sara Hanford
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Ski and Snowboard Club is a club for students 6th - 8th grade here in SMS. This awesome club is for students who love to ski and snowboard. However, if you are interested in joining there are some important facts to know about this club.

The club advisor is Mr. Savastano, a 6th grade science teacher on the Red Team. Mr. Savastano organizes and goes on this trip and has done this for many years. If you have any questions about the club you can ask him.

Every year, the club



visits a mountain on one Saturday during the winter and goes skiing for the day. Kids can go skiing with their friends and choose whatever trails they want to go on. This year the Ski and Snowboard Club's trip will take place at Jiminy Peak in Hancock, Mas-

sachusetts. This enjoyable day will be Saturday, January 26.

Ski and Snowboard Club is one of the most popular clubs in SMS. If you are planning to sign up, it is important to remember the huge commitment you're agreeing to make. If you sign up, you are required to attend the ski trip on January 26. This is just one commitment you will have to agree to.

You can find more information about the club on the Somers Middle School website: <https://www.somersschools.org/cms/lib/NY01913963/Centricity/Domain/9/Ski%20Club%20packet%202018.pdf>

The school only allows just over 100 students to sign up for the club and the club fills up over the course of usually about three days. If you are still interested in this club you can contact Mr. Savastano at Jsavastano@somersschools.org and sign up by filling out the papers which are located outside his classroom door.

Ski and Snowboard is a great opportunity to have to hang out and ski with your friends.

A Brief History of Lil Names In Hip-Hop



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

"Lil" is a short word with a long history in hip-hop. From Lil Wayne to Lil Pump, the prefix is everywhere. So, what's the story behind its rap use?

Lil is often given to a person small stature, youth, or in

the same likeness as Jr. Here's a rough history.

The first Lil in recorded rap history was Lil' Rodney Cee, a member of the Funky 4+1 More, who dropped their hit single "Rappin' and Rocking the House" in 1979. Throughout the '80s, Lil names were relatively rare, but a few rappers kept the

nickname alive—like Lil' Rahiem who was a member of Boogie Boys, and scored a major hit called "A Fly Girl" in 1985. In the early 90's, more Lil's started popping up. There was Lil' Mac from New Orleans and his debut album *The Lyrical Midget* in 1990.

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The Banach-Tarski Paradox



By Sam Sanz
Tusker Tribune Staff

Source: [Video \(It's decently long\)](#)

You need to use your imagination for this first part. Imagine you have a sphere and you cut that sphere in a certain way and assemble it back, but there is a problem. You finished the circle same mass and size, but you somehow have pieces leftover. You can manage to make one more sphere, same size, same mass. It can be a way to infinitely clone or copy something. It's possible mathematically.

(Imagine) First, we need to take our sphere and add a center point in one color. Now we need every possible combination of moves going up, down, left and right or a combination from that



Nerd's Words

point. If you would label every final move with different color for either down, up, left and right. It would be a mess. It would be infinite, but not enough...

We also need an infinite amount of starting points to do what we did before with the combinations. Then you got it. You also have poles that have one or more dots there. We take out the up points, the down points, the left points, the right points, the starting points and the poles. If you rotate the left piece to the right, you have about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sphere now if you add the right piece and the poles. Then take the up piece rotate it down add the down piece and the starting points you have 2 spheres.

Now that's a lot of stuff to explain and I recommend watching the video up at the top. He explains it way better than me. Thanks!

A Memorable Visit to Syracuse University



By Grayden Carr
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last Friday afternoon, my family and I drove for a 3-and-a-half-hour car ride to go to Syracuse to see my brother in collage. My brother, Tyler, has been in collage for about two months.

When we arrived at Syracuse, we went to check in at the hotel. Then we went to go to my brother's dorm. As soon as we got to the dorm, my family and I went into the building. My brother was standing right there, and I was so happy to see him. His hair was long from the last time I saw him. He took me up to his room. He was on floor four.

When I walked in the room, I was very surprised that it was clean. He had a nice setup with his bed and his TV. But his bed was high on from the floor. I could not



even get on the bed! I had to use a stool to get up on the bed. I don't know how other people get up on the bed.

My favorite part, besides seeing my brother, was watching the football game, Syracuse vs 22-ranked North Carolina State. We had good seats. In a stadium I like seats where you can see the whole field.

The game was moved back to 7PM Saturday night. That means that the game ended around 10PM.

At the game, I got to sit with my brother in the student section. I like how the whole stadium was filled for a collage football game. This football game was long and featured a lot of scoring. The first half was two and a half hours long! So it definitely didn't end at 10. Although the score was pretty close, it ended with Syracuse winning, 51-41. Now Syracuse is ranked 19.

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:

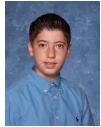
Somers Middle School

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

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What Makes You Laugh?



By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff

So, the other day, you made that guy sitting next to you nearly cry of laughter. I betcha that happens every

day.

The one thing that doesn't happen every day, is wondering, what makes you laugh? What would make someone laugh?

Sure, go up to someone and ask them what makes them laugh, they'll probably say, "Oh, I like jokes, jokes make me laugh". No, that would be too simple. What I mean is, what goes on in the body to allow the sound of laughter to leave your body? What basically happens inside your body when you laugh?

Actually, laughing is good for you, no joke (no pun intended). Laughing stretches out the diaphragm muscles and ultimately allows you to breathe better. You'd use more than 25 to 80 muscles in your body while you laugh. It depends on individual humans, as laughter is not usually



the same for all. A few would use only a few muscles, as low as 15, to laugh and a few others would literally roll on the floor and laugh out.

According to Dr. William Fry, laughing is sort of like internal jogging, and, laughing for 1 minute (60 seconds) is like spending 10 minutes on the rowing machine. When you laugh, you gasp for air and you clear your lungs and you

actually exhale the air that stays behind as a result of normal breathing. Surprising, right?

So, if you don't like exercising, watch some Try Not to Laugh videos. Haha, I bet some of you are getting a good laugh out of this, but, just remember, every time you laugh, you are stretching your diaphragm out and getting some awesome cardio in as well!

Editor's Note: For your entertainment, check out this "Try Not to Laugh" video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7j2LcVREaCs>

A 'GOAT' Among the Rams



By Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff

Todd Gurley of the Los Angeles Rams has had a great season so far. He has rushed for 988 yards as of Week 9. He also has 402 receiving yards as of Week 10.

Gurley has had some outstanding games so far. He rushed for 208 yards and scored two touchdowns in Week 6 against the Broncos. This week, Week 10, Gurley rushed for 120 yards and scored a touchdown. As of Week, 10, Gurley has scored 17 touchdowns. That means he is not far from setting the record of most touchdowns scored in a season by an RB.



The current record is held by LaDainian Tomlinson and is 28 touchdowns. That record was set in 2006 and is still a thing today.

Gurley is also quite a receiver. He has 40 receptions in the regular season and has caught 4 touchdowns from QB, Jared Goff.

Last year he held the record of most touchdowns scored by an RB. He also set most scrimmage yards in 2017. He is projected to do far better than last year. He already has 988 yards and 17 touchdowns. Only time will tell if Gurley will break these records and achievements. Do you think Gurley will break these records?

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NFL Week 10—Pittsburgh Steelers



**By Pat Carino
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This week the Steelers played the Panthers in the 10th week.

This game was a big game for Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger. He went 22 for 25, 328 yards, 4TD passes and ran one in himself.

Every week he progressively gets better. For example, in Week 8 he had 257 passing yards, Week 9, he had 270 passing yards and then in Week 10, he had 328 passing yards. That is very good for those who have him



in their fantasy lineup. This week in the ESPN Fantasy app, he dropped 45 points.

Ben Roethlisberger is among the top 10 best QB's in the National Football League. In Week 11, the Pittsburgh Steelers play the Jacksonville Jaguars at 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 18. My prediction is that Ben Roethlisberger will throw 2 TD passes and have 290 passing yards. I think the Steelers will beat the Jaguars in Week 11. I think Ben Roethlisberger's stats will keep progressing throughout the rest of the season.

Lil From Page 1

Lil' Dap was one half of the rap duo Group Home and made his debut on Gang Starr's album *Daily Operation* in 1992. And Lil' Fame from the New York rap duo M.O.P. in 1993. Junior M.A.F.I.A.'s Lil Cease and Lil' Kim were the first mainstream stars with Lil names, the latter spreading the nickname across the world with Top 40 hits. In 1999, Cash Money's teen rapper Lil Wayne scored his first major hit. He's gone on to become the most successful Lil rapper of all time. The man's got five Grammys, 20 Top 10 hits, over 100 million records sold worldwide and 5 albums in his famous *Tha Carter* series.

Wayne's prominence became a jumping off point. According to data, before Lil Wayne's rise in 1998 there was only about 20 artists with "lil" in their name. 20 years later, there are over 600 "lil" artists. In 1999, Houston's Lil' Troy dropped his hit "Wanna Be a Baller."

That following year, Lil' Bow Wow released "Bounce With Me" with Xscape. His nickname came when Bow Wow was 6 years old after he had impressed Snoop Dogg during a concert in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio. Lil Bow Wow saying, "I had done a couple of little shows, and I finished the tour out with Snoop. That day he said, 'Your name is gonna be Bow Wow. We're gonna change it.' I didn't like it; he did. Since everybody had dog names, it kinda just flowed. I was like 'well, OK, that's fine,' and I just kept that name ever since. I ain't gonna change it."



Crunk music pioneer Lil Jon began as a DJ and an A&R executive for Jermaine Dupri's So So Def Records, in the mid-nineties. He later formed Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz with Big Sam and Lil Bo. But his days as a "lil" trace back to high school, saying, "I started hanging out with another John and he had another friend named John also. The other John was huge, so they called him Big John, and I was the smallest, so I was Lil Jon." Baton Rouge's Lil Boosie dropped his debut studio album *Youngest of Da Camp* in 2000, at the age of 17. And Master P's son Lil' Romeo released his self-titled debut in 2001 with his platinum hit, "My Baby."

In 2006, Lil B and the Pack started getting attention with "Vans." The Lil's of today include Lil Yachty, Lil Baby and the late Lil Peep, who got his nickname from his mother.

Other lil's have some very random origins. In an interview with Lil Xan, he explained the story behind the drug-inspired name. "...and one of my friend's was just like 'Yo I'mma call you Lil Xan 'cuz you like, talk a lot of Xans (Xanax)'. And of the new school, Lil Uzi Vert is arguably the most notable, touting hits like "XO TOUR Llif3" and a chart-topping debut album in 2017 (*Luv Is Rage 2*).

"I was rapping one day and some guy was like 'Damn, you rap fast like a little machine gun, like a Lil Uzi or something.' And I was like 'ooh Lil Uzi' and like vert is vertical like straight to the top."

Other notable lil's include Lil Mama, Lil' Mo, Lil Scrappy, Lil' Flip, Lil Rob, Lil Skies, Lil Reese, Lil Mosey, Lil Twist, Lil Snupe, Lil Duke, Lil' Fizz, Lil Windex, Lil Wop, Lil Durk, Lil Toenail, and many more. Who's your favorite "lil"?



By Kaeleigh Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered what happened today-ten years ago? Twenty years ago? Thirty? In *This Week in History*, I will tell you about the events that happened that particular week that could have impacted our everyday lives, or are just really interesting to learn about.

November 14th, 1840

Have you ever heard of the famous French painter Claude Monet? On this day in 1840 in Paris, France, he was born. Below is some of artwork:



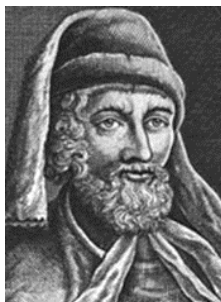
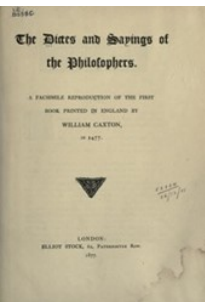
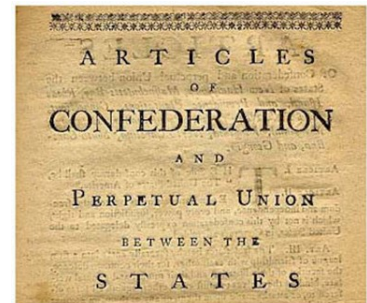
Water
Lily Pond,
1899



Woman with a Parasol,
1875

November 15th, 1777

I'm sure most of us have heard about the Constitution, an incredibly famous document stating the rights and laws of all American people, but this work of brilliance didn't happen overnight. The Articles of Confederation, or a "first draft" of the Constitution, was adopted by the Continental Congress.



November 18th, 1477

Who loves to read? How about in another language? Up until this date in 1477, there were *no books* in English. Crazy right? William Caxton printed this book, naming it *The Dictes and Sayengis of Phyloserhers*. It was the first printed book in the English language.

November 21st, 1620

On this day in history, the Mayflower Compact was signed by Pilgrims in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. This compact was the first agreement for self-government to be created and enforced in America.

