

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



Issue Number 11

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

Fall 2018



SMS students in Mrs. Faivre's class enjoy a pre-Thanksgiving feast. The kids engage in a lot of activities throughout the year, which are open to all students and staff at SMS. Events are posted outside of room 311.

'Boundless Adventure' Was Terrific!



**By Deanna DeCamp and Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Recently, 6th graders went on a trip to Boundless Adventures, Purchase NY. Many 6th graders enjoyed this trip and had a blast with all of their friends. Some of the teachers participated too!

Everyone agreed that this was a trip to remember. All of the teachers agreed this was the best trip sixth grade has ever been on. The point of the trip was to build confidence and cooperation along with having fun.

You could see all the students climbing throughout the courses in the trees, fighting through the cold. It was very cold, but the weather conditions weren't the best. With the thin gloves Boundless Adventures Staff recommended us to use, our fingers became numb. If you ever go there, make sure to bring your own gloves to use instead of theirs.

Another tip for if you go there in the fall or winter make sure to wear plenty of layers and a hat can make a major difference.

Although these may be the downs of the trip, there were so many fun things to do at Boundless Adventures.

The place had courses for everyone. If you wanted to

take on a challenge, they had some for you. Or if you wanted to do one nice and easy, you got it. The courses had different colors to represent the easy and harder courses.

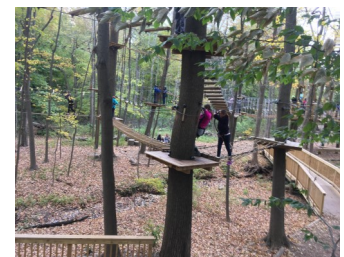
The courses went from yellow, (the easiest)

green, (a little bit harder than yellow) blue, (a little bit harder than green) and black (the hardest). One of the best parts was the ziplines. Each course had a minimum of at least one and they gave you a trilling ride to the next part of the course.

Another fun part of each course were the swings. They were not the kind if swings you sit on, but they were the kind of swings once you step on it and it starts to take you to the other side almost instantly.

A special shout out to Mr. Dell for organizing this whole trip and to all the other teachers and staff who helped chaperone this wonderful trip. On behalf of the 6th grade, we would like to say thank you for making this amazing trip happen.

Editor's Note: Check out Boundless Adventures' Website here:
<https://boundlessadventures.net/>



Think About Why You're Thankful at Thanksgiving



**By Anastasia Fiorella
Tusker Tribune Staff**

We just had Thanksgiving, which brings us to the main question, what are we really thankful for this year?

Sure, we're thankful for our family, friends, pets, shelter, food, water, etc. of course, the usual, but let's get into a more meaningful answer this year.

What was the most important thing that makes you really grateful this year? It could be from your favorite sports team that won a big game, to you getting a 100 on one of your hardest tests you took this year.

Whatever it is, that's what you could be thankful for this year. Instead of having to say the same old answers, without even thinking of a new, meaningful answer.



Of course, one of the best things about Thanksgiving is the turkey! When you wake up in the morning to the turkey in the oven, cooking, all the food prepared and ready to eat for dinner. From the turkey to the stuffing, (which is my favorite part) to the best part of all... The DESSERT!! When you smell the pumpkin pie in the morning, you'll know for sure it's Thanksgiving!

However, it's not just about food; it's about being with your family who all got together just to celebrate Thanksgiving with you.

Don't get too upset now that Thanksgiving is over because remember, Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) is the kickoff to Christmas/Hanukkah!

How Did Ad-Libs Take Over Hip-Hop?



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The ad-lib is an integral part of hip-hop. It is the second layer of words and sounds that can serve as a calling card, a shameless boast or a primal scream. Today, ad-libs are so ubiquitous that they've become the focal point of certain hits. With Lil Pump, Migos, Playboi Carti and many other artists dominating the charts with songs where the ad-lib is as important, if not more so, than the bars they are accompanying. But how did we get here? Well, it starts on stage.

Many point to James Brown's screams and grunts as the major inspiration for hip-hop's energetic ad libs. As a genre, hip-hop draws significant inspiration from the godfather of soul, and in some of rap's earliest recordings, hype men and DJs can be heard in the background dropping ad-libs designed to keep the crowd rocking. Artists also used call and response for the same effect.

On many occasions, the crowd's answers made it onto the final record as a variation of an



ad-lib. Throughout the '80s and '90s, iconic hype men such as Public Enemy's Flavor Flav, the Lost Boyz's Freaky Tah and Flipmode's Spliff Star turned ad-libs into an art. Producers like Pete Rock and label executives like Diddy also joined in with their signature ad-libs. From the mid-90s to the early 2000s, other purveyors of ad-libs, like Missy Elliott, Cam'ron, Jadakiss and more added their own spice. DJs and producers like Clue, Timbaland and others were also known for their quick sayings. These sounds weren't the main course, but a

Southern wave would begin to change that.

Ad-libs have been a part of Southern rap since Miami bass in the 80s, when the crowd's chants often made it onto the final tracks. Additionally, MCs like Master P and Pastor Troy were also extremely influential but Crunk music, lead by Three 6 Mafia and Lil Jon, would turn it up a notch.

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2018 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



**By Deanna DeCamp
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Every year Macy's has a Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City on Thanksgiving. This takes place from 9:00 AM through 12:00 PM Eastern Time.

They have new floats every year and old ones that everyone's glad to see again. They even do Broadway shows from 9:00 AM through 9:30 AM. From 9:30 AM through 12:00 PM, Macy's shows performances and most of the balloons. This year was different than most of the other years of this spectacular parade.

One thing that was different is that it was **EXTREMELY COLD!** It was one of the coldest Thanksgiving since 1901. You could see everybody bundled up freezing on this cold day. Many people were jumping up and down trying to keep warm. Watching at home still made me cold just watching. Although going to the parade may be an enjoyable event, if you don't like to be cold, I recommend staying home watching with the family all cozy in pajamas with hot chocolate.

Another thing that was different is that because of the wind speeds, from 9:30 through 10:30 the floats were very close to the ground. The Grinch was one of the new floats which toppled over due to the wind! After 10:30 the wind started to die down and the floats went a little bit higher, but the wind was still at a high level. The Thanksgiving Day parade has been going on since 1971 and there was a threat that they would have may-



be had to cancel it this year. But that didn't happen.

Some famous floats included The Grinch, Olaf, Spongebob, The Elf On The Shelf, and even a Nutcracker. There were many other floats too. The floats are a huge part of the parade every year and its very enjoyable to watch. There wouldn't be a parade without these floats. These floats are **GINORMOUS!** They even said that the power rangers float arm was as big as a school bus!

There were even some performers. Some included Ashley Tisdale John Legend, Ally Brook, Mackenzie Ziegler, Johnny Orlando, and even Teagen Marie. They were on floats that didn't fly. Some floats included Build a Bear, Sesame Street, Sour path Kids, Girl Scouts, Exotic Animal floats, Hawaii Float, Snoopy's Doghouse and even a brand new fantasy chocolate factory Float. They were many other floats that didn't fly too. They have been showing Snoopy's Doghouse float since 1961.

The Broadway shows that performed the first half our of the parade were Mean Girls, My Fair Lady, Summer The Donna Summer Musical, The Prom, Head Over Heal, Dear Evan Hansen and even the newest Broadway Show King Kong. They show a glimpse of each show with a song and a few lines from the parade.

To end the show Santa comes out on his magical sleigh. They say this is the heart of the show to wrap up this spectacular parade. This parade is amazing to people all ages. Kids love it and it makes adults feel like kids again. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is an event celebrated by everyone.



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**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.



December 1st, 1918

Iceland gained independence from the Scandinavian country of Denmark on the first day of this month.



December 2nd, 1804

A famous day-for better or worse-in French history was this date. Napoleon Bonaparte, an infamous military general and dictator, was officially crowned Emperor of France by Pope Pius VII within the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France.

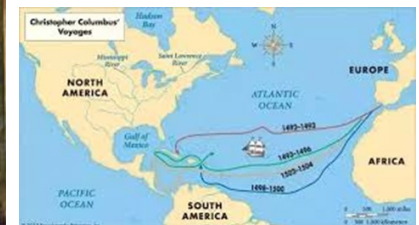


December 4th, 1791

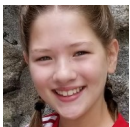
If you enjoy reading the Tusker Tribune, you may enjoy reading other newspapers as well, like the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*. However, have you ever wondered when the idea of the newspaper was introduced? On this date in history, *The Observer*, now the oldest newspaper in the world, was first published in England.

December 5th, 1492

The nation that shares an island with the Dominican Republic, Haiti, was discovered by Christopher Columbus on this date.



Stunning Rare Octopii Spotted Off California Coast

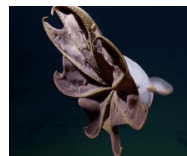


**By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Dumbo Octopus is a newly discovered species.

The attack style is way different then a regular old octopus. Instead of squirting ink, the Dumbo Octopus has developed sharp spines on its tentacles to help defend itself.

Also, the Dumbo Octopus uses its tentacles to crawl across



the seafloor. There are more than a dozen known species of Dumbos. While most are small, measuring between 8 and 12 inches long, some can reach upwards of 6 feet in length.

The Dumbo octopus was not the only thrilling discovery. A few days later, another rare species was spotted, a cephalopod. *Hericules* (The founder) came across a massive nesting ground where over a thousand deep-sea octopii were huddled in the rocks with their eggs.

What You Need to Know About Hanukkah



By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff

Holiday season is around the corner, especially for me since I celebrate Hanukkah. Hanukkah starts on sundown of Sunday, December 2nd, and ends on Sunday, December 9th. First, I'll tell you the basics of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

Hanukkah is a holiday that lasts for eight days and eight nights. The word "Hanukkah", meaning "dedication", is often called the "Festival of Lights" and is celebrated with the lighting of the Menorah, which has 9 places to put a candle in, including one tall one in the middle to be lit for every



day of Hanukkah. On the first day, you have one candle and the one in the middle, the next day, one more lit candle and the one in the middle, the third



day, add one more lit candle and the one in the middle, etc. Also, on Hanukkah, we eat traditional foods, but all of them have to be cooked in oil, such as potato latkes, donuts

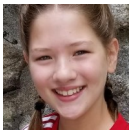
(usually jelly-filled), and dairy foods.

The major event that originated Hanukkah took place around 200 B.C. in Judea, also known as the land of Israel, when it came under the control of Antiochus III, the king of Syria. In 168 B.C., his soldiers descended on Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, massacring thousands of people and destroying their Second Temple.

After the massacre, it was very dark, and the Jews needed light, but they only had enough oil for one day. Then, after 8 days, the candle was still lit! So that's why we only eat foods cooked with oil and it lasts 8 days. It was a miracle that created the spectacular holiday of Hanukkah!



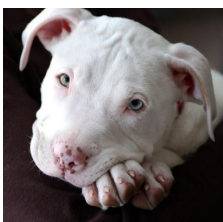
Pit Bull Post Makes Waves on the Internet



By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff

Are you being mean on the internet? Well this guy is. His name online is JHickman.

My friend and I were looking at the comments of a story called **How did pit bulls get such a bad rap?** The guy JHickman commented this "This article is a disgusting con. I hope Cesar is sued into oblivion for his role in promoting these killer dogs. You pit bull promoters will burn, burn, burn in hell, for the lives of children that you have helped murder. Your immortal souls are stained with the blood of children, children who were ripped apart and died slowly, in agony, by YOUR DAMNED DOGS."



Isn't that just rude? Some people replied and told him how he was a bad person. My favorite one is by a person named Bluey:

"HICKMAN !!! You're an absolute tosser, mate. You definitely don't have any purpose being on here other than you're bored and wanna run your mouth and talking about those poor little kids in that way on

here like that was disgusting. You should be ashamed of yourself 'cause I'm pretty sure their family wouldn't appreciate you running around like that speaking on their behalf. So, get lost. It's obviously

you have never owned a pit bull or large breed dog before mate.

"Cesar, me, us, we are trying to educate and show people that all animals are different and require different approaches and sometimes different people. Probably the same reason I should never get a horse."

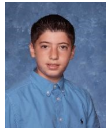
"Sorry guys about that, lol. I love what you do mate if people would just listen and open their eyes. This is Ruckus, he was my best mate and I was his. Special bond." Now that is a good person, am I right?"

So, the point is, don't be mean online! Be nice and if someone is being mean, just point them out and make them feel like, "Whoa. I should have really thought that through. Why did I do that?"



The Tusker Tribune

Commentary: School Tablets and Blocked Games



**By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

As you all know, Somers Central School District issues Atlas Tablets to students in grades 6-12.

Every two years, a student is issued a new tablet, and they are said to be "better" and "faster", but we all know the school tablets don't work very well.

Students also use the school issued to play games at home, and during class.

So, was it the right move to block these games? Or has SCSD sentenced students to boredom during indoor recess? As many students probably know, some kids make the choice to play video-games on their tablets, so the Gear Shack has de-



cided to make a move on this and blocked the popular game Surviv.io and has blocked the gaming site Crazy Games.

However, the Gear Shack has not completely banned these games. You can still play them if you aren't connected to the school's WiFi. Students play these games during indoor recess and some think it was stupid of the Gear Shack to block

these games.

Teachers say that the tablets are to be used for schoolwork only and occasionally allow students to play educational games. So, has the Gear Shack gone too far? What do you think?

Alex Smith's Injury Highlights NFL's Dangers



**By Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Washington Redskin's Quarterback, Alex Smith, broke two bones in his right leg November 17 during a game against the Houston Texans. He broke his fibula and tibia.

The injury is strikingly similar to Joe Theisman's career ending injury. Theisman also broke his fibula and tibia in his right leg. Hopefully, in Alex's case, this is not career ending. He is most definitely out for the season.

While he was being checked out on the field after being injured, all players were on one knee and prayed as Alex Smith was hauled to the exit on a stretcher. Even the whole Houston Texans bench went over to wish him luck. Colt McCoy took Smith's spot to finish the game. He nearly led a comeback but in the final ten seconds, the 63-yard field goal, that would win the game, was short and missed. The final score was 23-21 Texans.



As of now, McCoy will be the starting QB for the Redskins. The Redskins are bringing back some QBs including Mark Sanchez. Sanchez is known for the infamous "Butt Fumble" where he fumbled the ball after falling into his own lineman's "behind". Enough said. The tackle on Alex Smith was made by Texan's J.J. Watt and Kareem Jackson. Many said his leg bent in an abnormal way. "It was just an eerie moment", Theisman, said. He was also quoted saying "it was surreal, you see him go down in a pile and then there's a shot that showed his leg bent. The camera turned away right after that. I feel so bad for him."

Hopefully he will back as soon as possible.

MJSS KNOW-IT-ALL

Dear Miss-Know-It-All, I just recently got braces and I'm really afraid that my friends will judge me or make fun of me. I want to believe that they will be nice and understand, but I can't be positive about that. What should I do?

Miss Brace Face

Dear Miss Brace Face,

I know all about braces. In fact, I have a pair myself. The most important thing to have when you first get them is confidence. Confidence is a power boost when you feel sad or insecure.

If your friends make fun of you then you know that they are not your real friends. There will always be people trying to bring you down but know that you are beautiful, and your real friends will tell you that. Please be confident and rock your new look!!!!

MJSS KNOW-IT-ALL



With warm regards, Miss Know-It-All

You may send your questions to "Miss Know-It-All" at Tuskertribune@somersschools.org

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

DPappas@somersschools.org

Coming up next week . . . In the **The Tusker Tribune!**

- A new "Nerd's Word"!!!!!!
- Why Surviv.io should be banned
- Another "Sports Stuff" by Mike Abrams.
- A tribute to Stephen Hillenberg
- All about Throwing Cards
- Hip Hop and Harry Potter . . .



Ad Lib

From Page 2

To hype the verse up even more, we'll go behind the verse and we'll like lay, 'What! What! What!' and that's basically what you would do in the club," Lil Jon explains about his process of ad-libbing.

By 2005, Jeezy's deep laughs and 'aays' had hit the mainstream. Jeezy's ad-libs became his signature. In 2007, Kanye West famously used them on "Can't Tell Me Nothing." Jeezy's style was complemented by other Atlanteans like his rival, Gucci Mane. Both Jeezy and Gucci played major roles in ushering in today's trap sound and the ad-libs of Gucci's proteges became their most memorable features. Drake's appearance on Migos' breakout hit "Versace" pulled the group's ad-libs into the mainstream. 2 Chainz, Rich Homie Quan and many others were also extremely influential. Around 2012, it was obvious that the game had changed.



Atlanta wasn't the only home to influential ad-libbers. In the aughts, the Bay Area's Lil B released dozens of ad-lib heavy songs like "Wonton Soup" and "Flex 36." Lil B was inventive, name-dropping celebrities like Dr. Phil and Martha Stewart. Halfway across the country in 2012, Chicago's Chief Keef continues the trend with his hit, "I Don't Like." Artists like Lil B and Chief Keef influenced newcomers such as Playboi Carti and Lil Uzi Vert. Uzi's ad-lib filled verse on Migos' "Bad and Boujee," hit number one on Billboard's Hot 100 in 2017.

Today's artists are mixing up these influences from all over the map, bringing ad-libs into the spotlight. Over the last 5 years, Travis Scott, Rae Sremmurd, Cardi B, Smokepurpp and many more have prioritized ad-libs. On this topic, Smokepurpp said in an interview, "Me and (Lil) Pump were like, all we listened to was drill Chicago music so like they were always like 'let's get it!' and then we were like 'screw the 'L', 'esskeetit!'"

In 2017, Lil Pump reached number three on the Billboard Hot 100 with "Gucci Gang." And in May 2018, Childish Gambino features ad-libs from Young Thug and others for "This Is America." According to his creative director Ibra Ake, Gambino used the ad-libs as a unifying force. Ake said in an interview that "he just kind of wanted to make a 'We Are the World' song with rappers and really not them rapping just their ad-libs kind of reducing the features to jazz.

From James Brown to Donald Glover, ad-libs prove that the beauty is in the smallest details.

The Truth About Pit Bulls



**By William Underkoffler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What the world needs to know is that most dogs are not dangerous. The Pit Bulls are among those misunderstood "dangerous dogs". In fact, the Pit Bull is the best family dog, there are more dangerous dog breeds than them, and they are the most abused breed of dog. Therefore, the Pit Bull is not the most dangerous and scary dog.

It is wrong to stereotype Pit Bulls because they are one of the best family dogs. For instance, my little brother did something horrible to our Pit Bull. He thought it was a great idea to clamp his new pair of high powered pliers onto our dog's ears! (it wasn't) Then to top it off, he laughed while our poor dog ran around in pain. Our dog didn't even bite him! This demonstrates how calm these dogs are around humans.

Secondly, I interviewed a fellow Pit Bull owner and she told me that her Pit Bull looked ferocious but was super gentle, as he was best friends with her other dog, a Yorkshire Terrier, so he knew his own strength. This is an important feature to have for the nanny dog. Thirdly, from an article called "For Over One-Hundred Years, Pit Bulls Were Our Babysitters". The article said, "for generations if you had children and wanted to keep them safe, you wanted a Pit Bull, a dog most reliable with children." This demonstrates how long people have trusted this dog. Lastly, some more evidence from the article mentioned earlier.

The article said, "In temperance test (the equivalent of how many times a child can poke a dog in its eye before it bites them), the first most tolerant was the Golden Retriever, the second was the Pit Bull." This demonstrates how these dogs are the very best around humans (unless the human threatens their owner) and is also always ready to fight to the death for their beloved owner. Although the Pit Bull has the worst reputation of any dog breed, they are the best family dog.

It is wrong to stereotype Pit Bulls because they are the most abused breed of dog. For example, I was browsing the internet and what I found shocked me. I had searched up "abused dog pictures" and I saw that about 80% of them were Pit Bulls. This shows how this dog breed is abused more than any other dog breed. Secondly,



from an article called "Saving Michael Vick's Dogs", I found something very disturbing. The dogs that he used for dogfighting were sick, malnourished and scarred. This shows that the dogs were not very well cared for, yet they were in good condition for a dogfighting ring bust. Also, from the article mentioned earlier, there was some even more disturbing news. The stats for the wins and losses for Vick's dogs were that seven out of the ten fights recorded were lost, and dogfighting is to the death. This shows that people just throw these dogs into the tiger pit.

Again, from the article mentioned earlier, the most disturbing news. The dogs were chained to car axles near wooden hovels for shelter, also, if a dog didn't want to fight they were beaten, shot, hanged, electrocuted, or drowned. This shows that these people care nothing for these dogs, only for the money they make from the dogs winning the fights. Until people stop abusing these dogs, it is wrong to stereotype Pit Bulls because they are the most abused dog.

It is wrong to stereotype Pit Bulls because there are other dangerous dogs that are much more dangerous than them. In an article called "Rottweiler is Top Dog for lethal accidents", I found some interesting facts. The Rottweiler has been responsible for 33 lethal accidents from 1991 to 1998. This shows that the Pit Bull is not the most dangerous dog breed. Another interesting fact from the article mentioned earlier, Huskies have been responsible for 6 fatal accidents from 1991 to 1998. These dogs are not usually abused because they are so expensive so, they attack simply because they are just mean. Lastly, some more facts from the article mentioned earlier. The German Shepherd has been responsible for 4 lethal accidents from 1991 to 1998. Like the Husky, these dogs are just mean, the Pit Bull must be abused a lot before it becomes dangerous. Even if Pit Bulls are "dangerous", there are more dangerous dogs.

In conclusion, Pit Bulls are not the most dangerous and scary dog. They are the very best family dog, there are other way more dangerous dogs, and they are abused more than any other dog breed. Here is a challenge to you my readers: if you think Pit Bulls are bad dogs and you were not persuaded to like them by my essay, then get to know one and I promise you'll fall in love with them.