

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Fall 2018

Inclusive Schools Week: What's It All About?



**By Kaeleigh Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This past week, December 3rd through December 7th, was Inclusive Schools week, promoted by the No Place for Hate Club and Student Council.

You may have seen the signs around the halls, advertising this event, but did you understand why the school was doing it?

During Inclusive Schools Week, we are reminded as a school district to accept all students and peers as a part of the Somers community, no matter one's religion, nationality, or learning ability.

On Monday, December 3rd, the school was encouraged to wear red for school spirit. Also on Monday, Student Council representatives appeared at all three lunch periods. They walked around, asking kids what they think makes them "YOU-Nique". Students responded with a variety of answers, from favorite color to what sport they played.

Today, December 7th, we are asked to wear outfits to show what makes us "YOU-Nique". Personally, I love musicals and shows, and I think that makes me unique.

Recognizing uniqueness helps us understand what makes our peers special, and no matter how different you may feel, you will always be a part of the SMS community.

The Jingle Ball



**By Alexander Susca
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I've been waiting for this for three years! Every year, I ask to get tickets, but I can't because they're sold out.

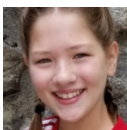
This year, they were sold out too, but somehow, we got tickets after they sold out. The Jingle Ball is at Madison Square Garden (and other places in different states)



Hosted by Z100 radio station, Jingle Ball features artists like Shawn Mendes, Camila Cabello, The Chainsmokers, Cardi B, Calvin Harris and more.

If you can't be there, you can watch it on December 7th, on the CW at 7PM. I'm really excited and I can't wait to go there. It's going to be really fun and I think anyone could enjoy it. It happens every year, so if you can't make it this year, it happens every year.

Eid al-Adha Observed by Muslims



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

Eid is a Muslim festival. Mainly Eid al-Fitr or Eid al-Adha.

This religious holiday, called Eid, is the first and only day in the month of Shawwal, during Muslims are not permitted to fast. This year, it was celebrated from Tuesday, August 21 to Wednesday, August 22.

The holiday celebrates the conclusion of 29 or 30 days of dawn to sunset fasting during the entire month of Ramadan.



The day starts with prayers, and then you visit family and friends and exchange gifts and food. After that you wait until 8 p.m. to eat, then you go to bed and start all over again.

The holiday is also known as the Feast of Sacrifice or the Month of Fasting. Eid al-Adha commemorates when God appeared to Abraham. (Which is known as Ibrahim to Muslims). The festival depends on the sighting of the new moon.

Why Surviv.io should stay BANNED from SMS



**By Michael Aiello
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Surviv.io is a game that goes into the category of *Battle Royale* (meaning multiple people fight each other or in teams to get 1st place).

As you probably know, *Fortnite* and *PUBG* also go into the *Battle Royale* category. Did you know that there is a pacifist type *Battle Royale* and a violent *Battle Royale*? Surviv.io goes into the violent category only because of the guns and the gore (very little gore but there is blood).

The game could also affect the brain and let's not forget kids play Surviv.io during class!

Surviv.io should stay banned for eternity at SMS. Some classic games that have gore are *Tomb Raider*, *Halo*, *Call of Duty*, etc. Gore is blood that has been shed, especially as a result of violence. Surviv.io has violence including guns, punching, throwing axes at each other, knives, and grenades. When a player is at 20 HP (Rough estimate) the player begins to bleed and crawl to safety. If the guns are not enough to add into a game, let's add some blood for a 12-year-old to play!

Sure, Surviv.io has blood and guns, but after all, it is just a game. What if people's brains get affected? That is true! There are many positive and negative effects such as: boosting memory, behavior change, function changes, etc. Video games do boost memory so people who are old can use vid-

eo games (but that is getting off topic).

Video games can affect the brain's functions and the behavior by "the regions of the brain that play a role in attention are more efficient in gamers compared with non-gamers, and they require less activation to stay focused on demanding

tasks." -Medical News Today. Sure, it does make it efficient, but it can also make the brain become addictive to the video games!

Going onto that, some people are so addictive to Surviv.io that people are playing it in class and whenever they can! I have spotted people playing it at the library when they are supposed to do

work.

The peers have their own rules to this scheme, so they do not get caught. 1. Have work out so it makes it seem that I am doing work. 2. I need an excuse, so I do not look bad. 3. When a teacher comes by, I need to switch to my work tab. This step-by-step process is common around the school at SMS.

Surviv.io is an addictive, gun based game that has gore, that peers and people play to have fun. It might look friendly because of the cartoon style but next time you see it come up, try it and you might see how bad it is. It is not that I'm salty about losing most of the time, it just that Surviv.io is a game that is just rated for teens and instead we have 12-year-olds playing a battle royale game! Did you know that the first Battle Royale game was *Musical Chairs*?



The Tusker Tribune Commentary: Cellphones and Vaping in School



**By Seth Cheung
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Once upon a time... oh wait this isn't a fantasy story; it's real life.

Every day, I walk around the school wondering, why it is so important for someone to be carrying a phone around in their pocket. They think that teachers won't know about it but it's hard when after class, they brag to everyone that they have their phone. It's been clear that we aren't supposed to have our phones on us, but everyone disobeys that rule. Walk into a bath-



room and you see at least one or two kids on their phones talking to each other. In my opinion I think there should be more security around the bathrooms to not just catch students using their phone but also vaping. And yes, vaping, a harmful substance that kids have gotten their hands on, does occur.

It's become a problem in our local middle and high school. So think about it—do you really want this to be happening or should someone stop it?



Bizarre World Records



**By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Can you believe this? A man named David Alexander set the World Record for the most T-shirts worn at once. He weighs 210 pounds shirtless, and he tipped the scale at 285 pounds, with 121 T-shirts!

Too much time on his hands? A man named Les



Stewart from Australia set the World

Record for typing all numbers, from 1-1,000,000 in word form. Yes, you read that right, in words. He was a typing instructor on a police force, but then he got sick and had to be removed from the force. After seven manual typewriters,

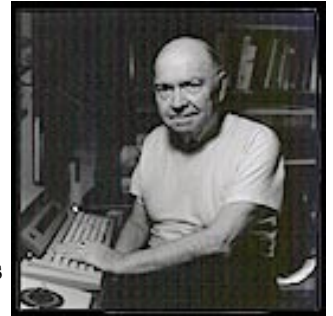
1000 ink ribbons, 19,890 pages, 16 years and 7 months later, he had himself a World Record. He said his secret was to type 20 minutes on the hour, every single hour.

Again, too much time on his hands? Robert Shields of Dayton, Washington, for 20 years of his life, has maintained a diary. Every single thing that has happened to him, since day 1 of his



diary. Every day, he spends 4 hours holed up in his office, blasting music and types. How many words? I don't know, around 35 MILLION. He did this from 1972 to 1996. Then, he was sadly disabled by a stroke.

Sweet Tooth? Pastry Chef Alain Roby got his World Record fame by creating the World's Tallest Chocolate Skyscraper.



20 feet and 8 inches of pure dark and white chocolate. It is located in a toy shop in Manhattan. It is made up of 1,000 kg of chocolate. That's a lot of chocolate! This "sweet" Skyscraper took Alain Roby over 30 hours to complete, and it was modeled after none other than the Empire State Building.



This concludes Most Bizarre World Records. Bizarre, right? These people seem to have a lot of time on their hands. Hats off to them for creating these truly remarkable World Records that may be beaten, but never forgotten.

Check out These Cool Game Websites

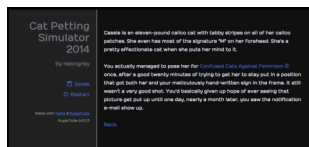


**By Sam Sanz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

After scavenging through the internet for a while now I have seen some strange and cool websites. I decided to make a list with working links.

#1 Cat Petting Simulator

I personally do not have a cat, but I still like this simulator. You get to name your cat and go through a story choosing what to do and see if you win.



#2 Can You Draw Logos From Memory?



Most people can recognize a company's logo, but can you draw it? This fun quiz does just that! From McDonald's to Nike you have a bunch of logos to do. You get to see the logo once you're done. I did

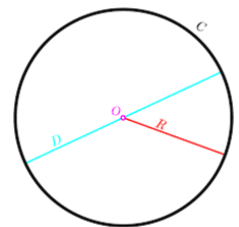


**Nerd's
Word**

not do very well. This was my Nike logo.

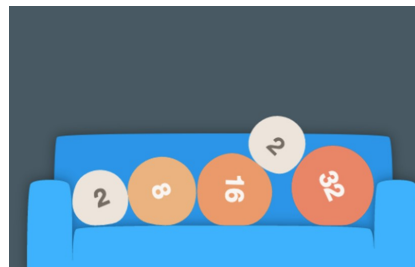
#3 Draw A Perfect Circle

Nobody can draw a perfect circle, but how close can you get to a perfect one? This game measures how much of the perfect circle you can draw. (My record is 89%)



#4 Couch 2048

The classic game of 2048 where you combine numbers is reimagined. Circles fall from the sky on to a couch and you drag them to combine. I enjoy this more than the classic version. (Record is 128)





**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 5th, 1901

Snow White. The Lion King. Pinocchio. Peter Pan. All movies have their roots, and Disney's perhaps runs the deepest of all. On this date in history, Walt Disney was born in Chicago, Illinois. He began his career in Hollywood in 1928, creating the cartoon "Steamboat Willie", starring Mickey Mouse.



December 7th, 1787

On this day, Delaware, a northeastern state in the U.S., became the first to adopt the new constitution of the United States of America. Today it is known as the "first state".



December 7th, 1941

This sorrowful date commemorates the attacking of Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, by the Empire of Japan. The naval base was bombed by two hundred Japanese aircraft, leaving 3,000 Americans dead. The next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.



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Hip-Hop's Love for 'Harry Potter'



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

In June 1997, author J.K. Rowling introduced us to a young wizard named Harry Potter who attended Hogwarts

School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. And since then, the world of hip-hop has been in love with the world of magic.

The movie stars Daniel Radcliffe as Harry, a boy who survives an attack from He Who Must Not Be Named and is destined to learn magic at Hogwarts in order to defeat him. The multibillion-dollar franchise spans across seven books, and eight movies, with the final film released in 2011. But the world of Wizardry found its way into hip-hop back in 2003, with one of its earliest mentions. According to data, the Harry Potter franchise has had hundreds of mentions in hip-hop about various topics.

And it's not just Harry who gets all the love; so does his red-headed best friend, Ron Weasley. And then of course, there's their always-

reliable friend Hermione Granger, the super smart daughter of non-Wizarding parents who's got something to prove.

There're also a few bars dedicated to Hogwarts' headmaster, Albus Dumbledore. The houses at Hogwarts have gotten their fair share lyrical mentions as well. And of course, so does He Who Must Not Be Named, a.k.a. Voldemort.

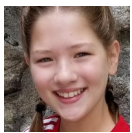
Hip-hop's shown love from every part of the series from Harry's owl, Hedwig...to a not-so-friendly game of Quidditch. And even Dobby, everyone's favorite house elf. A few artists have also men-

tioned some handy spells by name, like "expelliarmus," used to disarm enemies, and the levitation spell, "Wingardium Leviosa" in our favorite raps, and so does Daniel, going on Jimmy Fallon's show a couple years back at rapping the "Alphabt Aerobics" exercise.

What's your favorite Harry Potter book? Favorite Harry Potter movie?



Tusker Tribune Trivia



By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff

1. What is the first letter of the Greek alphabet?

Answer. Alpha

2. How many milligrams are in a gram?

Answer. 1000



3. Who is the world's fastest land animal?

Answer. Cheetah

4. Who is the world's largest land animal?

Answer. Elephant

5. Which bird has the largest wing-span?

Answer. Albatross

6. From which language did the word "Ketchup" come from?

Answer. Chinese

Mahomes Possible NFL MVP for 2018



By Isaac Like
Tusker Tribune Staff

Patrick Mahomes was a fantastic rookie coming out of Texas Tech University. Now he's one of the top candidates for the NFL's 2018 MVP vote. He was recruited by the Kansas City Chiefs as the 10th draft pick in 2017, but didn't start for the Chiefs officially until this year.



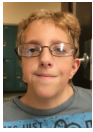
He started playing very well and in the fantasy perspective, he is the perfect quarterback, dropping on a regular basis from 20 to 35 points, which is incredible.

Born in 1995, Mahomes has been playing football since 2000. He makes the perfect passes and has helped the Chiefs drastically. Right now he has thrown 41 touchdowns and only 11 interceptions in his whole career

(2017-2018).

Mahomes comes from a background of sports. His dad was a former pro MLB player playing as a pitcher. He has gotten 4,207 rushing yards for his team and is turning out to be a star player who can help his team contend for a Super Bowl title. He is an amazing young star we look forward to seeing in the hall of fame.

10 Facts You Didn't Know About the NBA

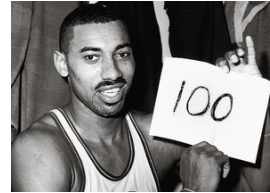


By Mike Abrams
Tusker Tribune Staff

SPORTS STUFF



1. LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Michael Jordan, Carmelo Anthony, and Joel Embiid are the only players to never average under 20 points per game.



6. The Philadelphia Warrior's center Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points in a SINGLE GAME.



an NBA Championship.

2. The L.A Clippers, Denver Nuggets, Minnesota Timberwolves, New Orleans Pelicans, Memphis Grizzlies, Toronto Raptors, and the Charlotte Hornets have never won



7. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar holds the record for most career points scored with 38,387.

8. Russel Westbrook averaged a



triple-double two years in a row.

3. LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, and Tracy McGrady are just 3 of the many high school draftees (from high school to the NBA).



4. The NBA bans Headphones.



5. Bill Russel of the Boston Celtics won 11 NBA Championships.



9. Steph Curry scored a record-breaking 402 three pointers in the 2015-2016 season.

10. The Golden State Warriors went 73-9 in the 2015-2016 Regular Season.



Mullins a Bright Spot in 49ers' Dismal Season



Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff

Nick Mullens, QB of the San Francisco 49ers, passed for over 400 yards during Week 13 of the 2018 NFL Season.

Mullens passed for 414 yards in a loss against the Seattle Seahawks. This will probably ensure that this young QB will remain as the starting QB. Mullens is 23 years old. This game outshines all his other games this season.

In all his other games he hasn't had more than 270 passing yards.

He was drafted by the 49ers in 2017. He was drafted as a 4th string QB. This is incredible performance for a 4th string QB.



I think this story sounds a little like Kurt Warner's. Warner was a backup QB turned superstar.

The rest of the 49ers aren't doing so great. The 49ers are 2-10 and lost in Week 13 43-16 against Seattle. They are 2-3 at home games and 0-7 in away games. They also have a 3-game losing streak.

This is another year that the 49ers haven't had a winning record since 2013 when they went 12-4 and were placed 2nd in NFC West. The last time the 49ers won a Super Bowl was quite a while ago. The last time they won a Super Bowl was in 1995 and all five of their Super Bowls were spaced out throughout the years of 1982-1995.

Hopefully they win their next game.

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate: The Game That All Gamers Are Waiting For



By Andre Possante
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you are a gamer and you have a switch, you probably are super excited for a new video game called Super Smash Bros. Ultimate. Technically it is not new game entirely, but another game in the series. Super Smash Bros. Ultimate is set for release TOMORROW, December 7th, 2018 and will become the 5th installment in the series. It will be released on the Nintendo Switch. Most gamers think it will be the best game in the franchise, hence the name: "Super Smash Bros. *Ultimate*" And here's why.

To start off, if you don't know what Super Smash Bros. is then that that's okay. Super Smash Bros. is a game made by Nintendo, and the first installment was released for the Nintendo 64 in 1999. There is not really a main objective; all you are supposed to do is pick a character, then fight with CPU or friends by pressing different buttons on the controller. Then along the way you will unlock more characters as you complete achievements or complete adventure/single player mode. (All what I just said is based on the newer games like: Super Smash Bros Brawl and Super Smash Bros. for Wii U) There is usually some fun, extra or side modes to play as well.

Anyway, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate is what some gamers are calling Nintendo's Masterpiece. It will contain 74 characters in total and will have 12 characters playable for the starting roster, all of them being Nintendo classics and favorites. Some of them are: Mario from Super Mario, Link from the Legend of Zelda, Pikachu from Pokémon, and Samus Aran from Metroid. Returning favorites from the Super Smash Bros. series are also available in the game. Lots of players are excited for returning characters like: Pac-Man, Mega Man, Marth from Fire Emblem, Snake from Metal Gear, Pit and Palutena from Kid Icarus, Ness and Lucas from Earthbound, and Fox and Falco from the Star Fox. And that's just to name several.



And of course, with it being a new game, there is a bunch of new characters, that gamers are practically dying to play as/with. Some of their favorites coming to Super Smash Bros. Ultimate are: Daisy from Super Mario, Ridley from Metroid, Wolf from Star Fox, King K. Rool from Donkey Kong, Isabelle from Animal Crossing, Inkling from Splatoon, Incineroar from Pokémon, and Simon and Richter Belmont from The Castlevania Series. There are so many fighters/characters here that gamers truly believe that

when Smash Bros. Ultimate said, "Everyone is here!", they meant it. Also, fans of the series are also getting very excited for the DLC that will be available later after the game's release. (DLC stands for Downloadable Content) Nintendo has already confirmed Piranha Plant from Super Mario as a free DLC fighter, if the Super Smash

Bros. Ultimate game itself is bought by January 31st. But there is more DLC to come, we are told.

Because of so many characters available there are also lots of stages and modes in Ultimate. So far there are at least 100 stages present in the game, which is way more than any other game in this series had before. Gamers are excited to get to try these stages, because most of them will be brand new, based off some of their favorite series. And players are also exhilarated for the new mode(s) coming to Ultimate. Most gamers are happy about the new adventure mode coming, "The World of Light". Fans are hoping that it will be as good as the adventure mode in Super Smash Bros. Brawl for the Wii, because of all the detail and cutscenes, it is crowned the best adventure mode so far in the Super Smash Bros. series.

Right now, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate is looking to live up to its title and with all of these returning and fresh components in the game, people can hardly wait till its release. I hope you learned a little bit about Super Smash Bros. Ultimate and its series from this. And if you own a switch, you should go get this game when it comes out, because it is really supposed to be "Nintendo's Masterpiece".

The Remarkable Story of George H.W. Bush



**By Arjun Ojha
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On November 30th, 2018, we got some very sad news. Our former president, George H.W. Bush died.

He was born on June 12, 1924 and died November 30, 2018. He was 94 years old. George H.W. Bush was the 41st president of the United States of America. His presidential term was from January 20th, 1989 to January 20th, 1993. G

George H.W. Bush was not only a president but a vice president under Ronald Reagan and a Seaman 2nd Class who flew torpedo bombers in World War II. He had a wife named Barbara Bush. He also had six kids. His kids were George W. Bush (72), 43rd president of the U.S., Jeb Bush (65), Pauline

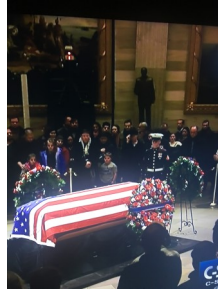


Robinson Bush (died from leukemia when 3 years old), Neil Bush (63), Dorothy Bush Koch (59) and Marvin Bush (62).

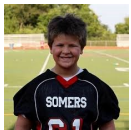
Since he was a president, he decided that he wanted to be buried in Houston, Texas. As Commander in Chief and a veteran, he was entitled to have an American flag over his coffin.

Also, since he was a president, he lay in state in the Capitol rotunda in Washington, D.C. on December 4 and 5. He then had his funeral at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. At the funeral where his family members as well as all living former presidents—Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter—along with the current president, Donald Trump.

Following the funeral in Washington, D.C., George H.W. Bush was flown on Air Force One back to Texas, where he'll be buried next to his wife and his daughter, Robin.



Fortnite Season 7 Looks to Be Another Success



**By Sam Sanz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Today Fortnite Season 7 was released by Epic Games. Season 6 ended off with a snow storm in the distance.

On the last day it started to snow on Spawn Island. It turned out the snow storm was a snow island with a castle on top of it. This island crashed into the map by Greasy Grove

The New Locations consist of Happy Hamlet, Frosty Flights, and Polar Peak. Overall the last 2 locations are ok, but Happy Hamlet is a great

location towards the bottom of the map. It has a clock tower just like tilted towers in the middle. Also, about half of



the map is covered in snow and ice that make you slide.

The battle pass is packed with some good skins.



**Nerd's
Words**



Above: the skins

The 3rd skin and the last skins are the tier one skins. Both are progressive skins. Then we also have a yeti, a skier, a sort of Santa Claus and a cute onesie skin. The tier 100 skin is the King of Frost who looks cool. They also added the Durr Burger toy and a hockey puck toy. They also added weapon and vehicle skins.

They also added air planes found at frosty flights. These planes hold up to 5 people including the driver. The double-barrel shotgun, shockwaves, clingers, chiller traps, Port-a-forts and shadow stones were all removed.

Overall, I think this would be a good season for Fortnite. Thank you.



**Top left:
Happy Hamlet**

**Middle left:
Frosty Flight**

**Bottom left:
Polar Peak**