

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School

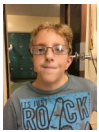


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Winter 2019

Rolling Fury Takes Hoops to New Heights



By Michael Abrams
Tusker Tribune Staff

Did you know that people who use wheelchairs can play basketball? In fact, there is a league called the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA). The divisions are the Men's (1, 2, and 3), Women's, College (Men's and Women's), Junior Varsity (ages 14-18), and Junior Prep (ages 8-13).

About the Game

Clearly there is NO DUNKING in Wheelchair Basketball. The hoops in prep are 8.5 feet high while the other divisions use the regulation 10ft. Along with the hoops, we use a full-size court. There are special chairs that have slanted wheels to make sharper turns. There is also a bar to protect the players' feet and legs.

The NY Rolling Fury

I play for the NY Rolling Fury prep team. We play our tournaments in Connecticut, Phila-



The NY Rolling Fury. From left: Michael, Chris, Kenny, Sebastian, Coach Chris, Max, and Adan.

delphia, Pennsylvania, Richmond and Fairfax, Virginia, and Baltimore, Maryland. Our current record is 9 wins and 7 losses, and we're ranked 10th in the National prep division. Our biggest goal for the season is to go the National Finals in Chicago, Illinois in April.

I interviewed the coach of the Fury, here is a little bit of it.

What do you think is the best part about coaching this team?

Coach: Well, helping kids in a way that no one has or will. Providing them with a platform where they can have friends with other kids just like themselves.

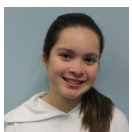
They also get exercise in ways most kids never would. Also, it shows them how to win and lose with grace and with a smile.

-How has coaching wheelchair basketball affected your life?

Coach: It's brought a lot of joy. Being a positive role model in kids lives, watching them grow in positive ways into independent young adults makes me feel great.

And that's a summary Wheelchair Basketball!

Egypt Project Reveals a Fascinating Civilization



By Natalie Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Recently, sixth graders finished working on their presentation and on either Wednesday, 12/19/18 for the white team or Thursday, 12/20/18 for the red team, they shared what they learned.

As part of the current sixth grade curriculum, students learn about a specific topic in Ancient Egypt and become experts on that. The goal that they had to reach was to make a project and present it to other sixth graders, teaching them about the topic they learned about. The whole point of the project was that the teachers were no longer the ones with the knowledge to share. The stu-



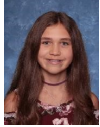
dents now were.

There was a lot of effort, planning, and time that went into this project from the kids and teachers. First of all, each student was paired up and given their topic. The topics included Mummification, Religion, Women's rights, Cleopatra, King Tut, Art, Egyptian homes, Daily life, Nile river, Hieroglyphics, and more.

After getting one of these topics, students then took up at least a week researching and taking notes on their assigned topic. Then, they worked in the library for the remaining time making their demonstration, script, and poster or slideshow.

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MLK Day Commemorates Civil Rights Fight

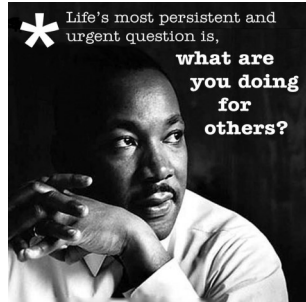


By Anastasia Fiorella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Lots of kids know that this coming Monday is a day off. But do they know why?

Well, this Monday is Martin Luther King Jr Day, also known as MLK Day.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated on the third Monday in January. This year it falls on the 21st. We celebrate on this day every year because his birthday is on the 15th so, every year we celebrate his birthday on the third Monday.

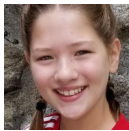


Imagine that everyone in the U.S. celebrated your birthday every year! One of the main reasons that MLK is so important, and we should all celebrate, is because he was a civil rights activist. This means that he was against the color barriers and peacefully fought for people's rights and, have everyone all use the same water fountain, restaurants, schools etc., and not have separate facilities for the black and the white.

"Separate but equal" is not the same as EQUAL. So, on the third Monday of January, remember why you have the day off!



Tusker Tribune Trivia



By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff

Q. Which is the only American Football team to go a whole season undefeated, including the Super Bowl?



A. The Miami Dolphins, in 1972.



Q. How many NBA championships did Michael Jordan win with the Chicago Bulls?

A. Six.

Q. Which is the only team to play in every soccer World Cup tournament?



Q. Raging Bull, the classic 1980 movie is about which real life boxer?

A. Jake LaMotta.

Q. At the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, gymnast Nadia Comaneci became the first gymnast to score a perfect 10. Which country was she representing?



A. Romania.

Q. Which American Football team won the first two Super Bowls (in 1967 and 1968)?

A. The Green Bay Packers.



Q. How is soccer player Edson Arantes do Nascimento better known?

A. Pele.



Q. Who has won more tennis grand slam titles, Venus Williams or Serena Williams?

A. Serena Williams.

Q. Which racing driver holds the record for the most Formula One World Drivers' Championship wins, with seven titles?

A. Michael Schumacher.



Q. Which NFL team appeared in four consecutive Super Bowls from 1991 - 1994 and lost them all?

A. Buffalo Bills.



Eminem's Influence on JUICE WRLD



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's no secret that Chicago MC Juice WRLD is a huge fan of fellow Midwest rapper Eminem. In October 2018, Juice made it clear during an hour-long freestyle over Shady's beats.

Taking his first name from 2Pac's 1992 movie, *Juice*, the rapper also follows Slim Shady's footsteps, especially how he mocked pop culture's establishment in the late '90s.

Another inspiration is Juice's extensive references to prescription drugs – found throughout much of Em's early work. In April 2018,



Eminem celebrated 10 years of sobriety, which is a long way from the addiction that almost took his life. Juice has his share of reckless drug use on his

own raps. And like Eminem, this leads him to explore his own mortality.

The rehab setting in "Lean Wit Me" appears to take inspiration from Eminem's "When I'm Gone." Finally, Eminem's influence can be found in Juice WRLD's lyrical violence against women.



For the record, Juice WRLD has not been accused of any violence against women and these seem to be fictional metaphors. Eminem, on the other hand, has had to grapple with the real-life effects of his lyrics—notably on his song, "Kim," which he performed at a show with his ex-wife in the audience to disastrous results. According to Kim, she got into a car accident on the way home from being so upset, then when she got home, she slit her wrists as a suicide attempt and ended up in the hospital.

NFL Conference Championship Predictions



By Pat Carino
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Conference Championship matchups for the 2018-2019 NFL season are terrific!

The Los Angeles Rams, New Orleans Saints, Kansas City Chiefs and the New England Patriots are in the NFL Conference Championship.



The Rams play the Saints at 3:05 PM and the Chiefs play the Patriots at 6:40 PM on January 20. I believe that all the games are going to be close scoring.

I am favoring the **New Orleans Saints** to win the Super Bowl. I also think it will be hard for the Saints to beat the Rams. I hope that the Chiefs win against the



Patriots. I think the Chiefs are going to win because Patrick Mahome's stats are great. In the past three games he had over 50% completed passes, threw for over 250 yards each

game and only threw 1 interception.



Here are my predictions:

Conference Championship:

Rams vs Saints: 28-26 Saints.
Chiefs vs Patriots: 35-28 Chiefs.

Super Bowl

Saints vs Chiefs: 35-16 Saints



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The Tusker Tribune Commentary: Food in Class



By Bridget Pittman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Why I think food should be allowed in class. I think that food should be allowed in class because, 7th graders have lunch 6th period.

For some people, that may be late. Some people may think that it is early. But asking some of my peers, all in all they liked the idea of having food in class.

Chloe Monachelli thinks that, "having food in class will help people focus, because it will help people focus because they won't be as hungry."

Another peer of mine, Chiara Ginty, says that "also there can be rules with having food. Like having soft food. Or non-sticky ones. Along with no nuts or things that people could be allergic to."

I think that we should have food in class because 7th graders have lunch 6th period, which is kind of late. It may also help people focus more, and that there can be rules so that the snacks are safe.



By Mikayla Haran
Tusker Tribune Staff

Let's be honest. We seventh graders get hungry while we are waiting for 6th period to roll around. Which is why I think we should be allowed to eat in class. There's a lot of research to back this up.

According to Healthy Eating, "Snacking is important for children because they have smaller stomachs than adults and cannot necessarily eat enough to stay full in one meal or sitting."

"They should be able to snack every three to four hours over the course of the day."

Snacking throughout the day not only ensures kids stay full, it also helps them learn healthy eating habits, like eating appropriate amounts and only when they're hungry.

"Small, healthy snacks throughout the day prevent patterns of boredom eating or eating based on emotional factors."

In addition, according to Debate.org, 82 percent of students polled agree that food should be allowed in class.

"Some students get hungry in class and can't help that. They need some food in their system, or they won't be able to function properly in class. The more you get hungry and don't eat you start starving and can't do things like normally. Watch what your student is doing or if you trust them just let them eat and make sure they don't leave a mess if they do just have them to clean it up."



Ancient Egypt From Page 1

Kids had the option of making trivia games, a replica of the pyramids, making Egyptian like necklaces or bracelets, and any fun idea they came up with.

Overall, I would say that this project was a big success. Kids learned a lot about Ancient Egyptians. A lot of thanks to every patient teacher, Mr. Behling, Mrs. Kilmer, and Mrs. Schettino for all the help they gave us through the journey into Ancient Egypt!

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:

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

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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.

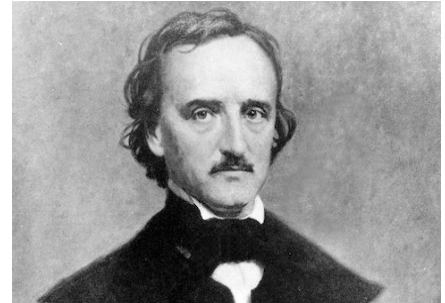
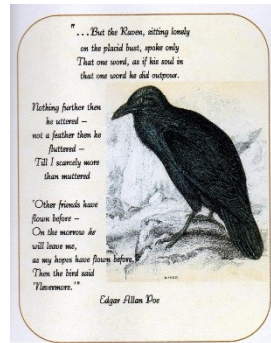


January 17th, 1942

This date celebrates the birthday of Mohammad Ali, a famous boxer born in Louisville, Kentucky, to parents Odessa Grady Clay and Cassius Marcellus Clay Senior. His birth name was Cassius Clay. Ali went on to win the World Heavyweight Boxing Title three times.

January 19th, 1809

Another famous birthday, Edgar Allen Poe was born on this date in Boston, Massachusetts. Known as a poet and suspense/mystery writer, some of Poe's most famous works include *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*, and poem, *The Raven*.



January 20th, 1945

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated as President of the United States. This was his fourth and final term serving. He was first elected in 1933, brought America out of its depression, led it through World War Two, and died while in office in April, 1945. Following his death, Congress amended the Constitution to limit presidents to two consecutive four-year terms.



January 22nd, 1901

Queen Victoria of England died on this date, ruling for 64 years, which up to that date was the longest reign in English history. During her rule, Britain established itself as the most powerful empire in the world.



SMS Author's Day Teaches Valuable Lessons



**By Chloe Monachelli
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I believe that Author's Day is a great event that should be done every year. Personally, Neal Shusterman was a great role model to look up to. He talked about many topics as well.

One of the topics Neal talked about was about how he may not always have the perfect idea for a book right away. Also, about how he has been rejected many times before he succeeded. This showed me that every time I fail, I'm one step closer to succeeding.

Neal didn't just give up when he was rejected; he knew that he could do it and he did. This part of Author's Day really stuck out to me and taught me a very valuable lesson.

Secondly, Neal Shusterman talked about some of his books and what they were about. In my reading career, I have had trouble finding books that would keep me interested in what I'm reading. However, when Neal talked about some of the books that have become very popular, it

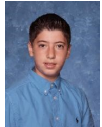
gave me some new book choices that sounded very interesting to me. Neal definitely helped me find some new books that I would not want to put down. (I read one of the books he talked about and loved it.)



Lastly, Neal also answered many questions that my classmates and I had. Some of the questions I asked about reading have been in my mind for a while now. It was a relief to have my concerns answered by a professional! Neal Shusterman answered my questions that helped me understand reading and writing.

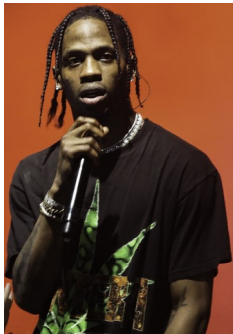
In conclusion, I believe that Author's Day is a great event that should be done every year.

Suggestions for Your Playlist



**Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are you one of those people who think your playlist is always outdated? I know I am.



Some of the songs I have on my Spotify playlist are so old that nobody has ever really heard of them.

Some examples are "Revenge", "NUMB", "Roll in Peace", "the remedy for a broken heart", and "I don't wanna do this anymore", all by XXXTENTACION.

Some more songs I have are "See You Again" by Charlie Puth and Wiz Khalifa,

"SICKO MODE" by Travis Scott and Drake, "whoa" (mind in awe) by



XXXTENTACION, and "Hope" by XXXTENTACION.

Yeah, I know, some are pretty old and I bet some of you guys are thinking, "Wow man, those are some old songs, get with the program."

I don't really care how old the song is. In fact, I'm constantly finding some songs to listen to that are pretty old. Some of them are pretty good actually. Now, I'm just going

to give you some suggestions of artists to listen to. Some are XXXTENTACION, Charlie Puth, Travis Scott, Drake, French Montana, Liam Payne, blackbear, and Post Malone.

These are some artists I listen to; maybe you'll like them, too.

