

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



Issue Number 18

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

Winter 2019

Ski Club Off to Jiminey Peak



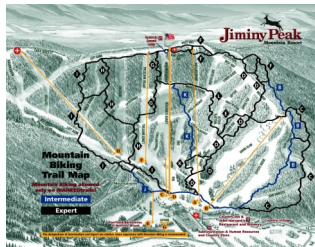
**By Will Underkoffler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This year the

Somers Ski
and Snow-

board Club is bring its members to Jiminey Peak, Massachusetts. Last year the members went to Mount Snow and we all had loads of fun. I have a few tips for everyone who is going this year:

1. Always bring extra chargers (slim power cases or whatever).
2. You'll want and need earbuds or headphones (You could even listen to music on the slopes).
3. Always bring at least 20 dollars if you're buying lunch or 10 dollars if you are not and



just want to buy snacks and other stuff during check-ins.

4. Don't miss the check-ins. Mr. Savastano is serious about being banned and it's for your own safety

5. Don't stray from your friends; you will probably be found and banned

6. Have Fun!
- Jiminey Peak is a rather small and easy ski

mountain with loads of green circle and blue square slopes (green is easy, blue is intermediate) and not many black diamond slopes (expert).

Basically, all the blacks and double blacks are in the middle of the mountain, so for all you people who don't like hard trails, stay away from the middle of the mountain!

The trip is on January 26, 2019! Bye!

It's Penny Wars/ Food Drive Time!



**By Olivia Soto
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Bring in loose change and non-perishable items to your Advisory class between now and February 14. Not only on Tuesdays, but also throughout the week. Any money will be accepted. The class that brings in the most money and/or food will win a cookie cake! The money will be donated to an organization. Remember, have fun and Good Luck!



Feeding the Community

Consistent Hydration Key to Good Health



**By Patrick Mullins
Tusker Tribune Staff**

All living things need water to live a healthy life. Water is the most im-

portant ingredient for your body. Without water, your body will not work properly.

Water takes up half of your body weight. Water is also in lymph, which is a fluid in your immune system. Your immune system helps you fight off illnesses.

You also need water to break down your food and get rid of your waste. Water is also needed for each cell to work. Doctors recommend drinking water before, during and after your

sports to not become dehydrated.

Your body can get water in a variety of ways—by eating fruits, vegetables and drinking any type of liquid like juices and milk. The

amount of water your body needs depends on your age, body, size, health, and active level. When your body don't have enough water, it becomes dehydrated. when your

body doesn't have enough water, it can't perform as good as you want it to.

Bring a water bottle everywhere you go and stay hydrated.



The Tusker Tribune Commentary: What's With the Inaccurate Weather Forecasting?



**By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Winter Storm Harper. It was a huge storm, or at least that's what they said.

It turned out to be some over-night flurries that resulted in only 3 inches of snow. During the day we got some rain, freezing temperatures, and freezing rain. The surface of the snow pretty much froze, so it became icy (good for sledding, by the way.) Why is this such a big deal? Well, we were all ex-



pecting no school or at least a delay. We were all expecting a huge snowstorm, but no. This has happened before. The "forecasters" were expecting a huge snowstorm, but they were wrong. They are even getting PAID to be wrong, and we're the ones in school getting math and ELA problems right, and are we getting paid? NOPE.

Do you think it is right to get paid if you're wrong? Remember, if you think any of this is wrong, at least I'm not getting paid to be wrong.



New Moon by Stephanie Meyer

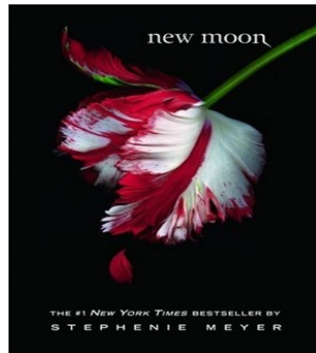


**By Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I recently finished reading a fictional book called *New Moon*. I got interested in it because I had just finished the first book of the series, *Twilight*, and really enjoyed it.

I would rate this book 8 out of 10 because almost halfway into the book it was so fun to read but the beginning was a bit slow.

New Moon is about a girl named Bella Swan who, after moving in with her dad, a police officer, met Edward Cullen and fell in love. She and Edward have been dating for over eight months and have had wonderful adventures. Pretty ordinary plot, right? But what if I told you that Bella is in danger every single second she's with Edward because he is a vampire? Now that's different. Bella is over the moon, happy to have her beautiful vampire boyfriend with her until one day, Edward tells her his family is moving and leaves taking everything that might remind Bella of him. She becomes a zombie, for months staying in bed, crying herself to sleep, and waking up screaming. That is until two things happened that changed her life. One, she met Jacob, a boy who makes her feel that



everything is alright and finds out that when she puts herself in danger, she can hear Edward's soothing voice.

Her friendship with Jacob is going great until he stops visiting and taking to her. Bella realizes that Jacob isn't just a boy, but a werewolf! Soon enough they become buddies again, but Bella decides to jump off a cliff, in an attempt to hear Edward's voice, which causes more trouble than you can imagine. Edward goes to a city with a goal to die on his mind, Alice, Edward's psychic sister, comes thinking she'll see Bella's lifeless face. Jacob

is forced to stop coming to see a Bella, and much more.

After Bella survives her jump and learns all of this, she knows that she must go, find Edward, and save him. This is how she gets pulled into a dangerous trip, family, and place. Will Alice come back to her beloved Jasper? Will Bella survive? Will Edward? Read *New Moon* to find out.

Overall, *New Moon* is a really good read for middle school students and has a very good plot. It kept me hooked and wanting to read the next chapter every single time. I recommend you read *New Moon* and fall in love with the characters, be excited every page, and enjoy yourself.

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



A Positive Outlook Can be Beneficial



**By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Before I even start, what even is positivity?

Well, positivity is the practice of being, or the tendency to be optimistic in attitude. Yeah, you've probably heard those coaches talking to you and saying, "Nice job, stay positive". That's usually what they do because they volunteer to help you practice sports.

But is positivity really the key to life? Positive thinking is actually very useful, according to James Clear, author of the book, *Atomic Habits*, that describes how to develop positive habits.

"Positive thinking" is also a soft and fluffy



term that is easy to dismiss. In the real world, it rarely carries the same weight as words like "work ethic" or "persistence."

Science is actually beginning to reveal that positive thinking leads to more than a smile on your face or some laughs. Positive thinking actually can create real value in your life and help you build skills that last much longer than a smile.

I know at first it won't be easy, but if you can train your brain to think positive then it will become a habit, and soon enough you will be able to experience the benefits that come with positive thinking.

So ultimately, positive thinking isn't necessarily the key to life, but having positive thoughts makes life a lot easier and enjoyable.

Vine Leaves Lasting Mark on Hip Hop



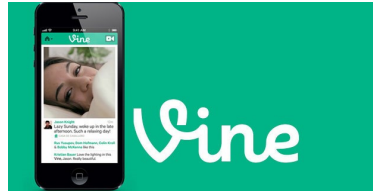
**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In 2013, the Internet was introduced to Vine, a 6-second video-sharing app that quickly became an international phenomenon. But just how often do hip-hop and Vine end up going hand in hand?

From the minute Vine first started blowing up, we not only saw rappers making their own Vines, but we heard them referencing them too. And an early favorite was Terio. Meek Mill's 2013 track "Ooh Kill Em" pretty much sampled the entire Vine. In fact, Lil Terio alone has been referenced almost 30 times in hip-hop.

In 2014, Peaches Monroe gave us the phrase "on fleek," which has also had its fair share of time in the hip-hop spotlight. Even the guy from the "Damn Daniel" Vine has gotten a lot of lyrical mentions.

One of Young Thug's earlier hits, "Best Friend" was a bit controversial when it first released, when Louisiana rapper Tokyo Vanity



claimed Thugger stole her song, "That's My Best Friend," which was based on a Vine of her own. On Young Thug and 6LACK's 2018 track "Climax," we hear a sample from Vine singer Shiloh Dynasty, whose original song "Losing Interest" first went viral in 2015. Shiloh's voice can also be heard on the late XXXTENTACION's track "Jocelyn Flores."

A lot of songs (and rappers) got big with the help of the app. Tracks like Denzel Curry's "Ultimate" got a huge boost from people looping the song's chorus in their Vines. And T-Wayne's "Nasty Freestyle."

Vine's helped plenty of dances go viral too, many of which have found their own place in hip-hop. From the Nae Nae to "Hit the Quan," which was actually inspired by Rich Homie Quan's moves from the video for his track "Flex."

The app was shut down in early 2017 with possible plans to restart sometime in the future, but until then, rappers are still out here doin' it for the Vine.

Is Takeoff the Best Migo?



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

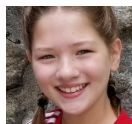
Atlanta's superstar trio Migos had a monumental 2018. Since the beginning of 2018, they've been nominated for 2 GRAMMYS, won an American Music Award and a BET award. Quavo and Takeoff both released highly anticipated solo projects in 2018, and Offset's album is on the way. Their busy year has led many fans to revisit an age-old question: who's the

best Migo?

Migos have been in the rap game since 2011, and their early mixtapes like *Juug Season* and *No Label* propelled them to the forefront of a new wave of rap. Since then, Migos has released several mixtapes and studio albums, and their distinct ad-libs and unmistakable triplet flow quickly took over hip-hop. The best things do come in threes.

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Tusker Tribune Trivia—Sports Edition



By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff

1. Which country's first ever home football international was played at the Racecourse Ground in 1877?
Wales.

2. Frankie Fredericks represented which African country in athletics? **Namibia.**

3. In a famous 2006 newspaper article, the then British Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, was photographed playing what sport? **Croquet.**

4. In inches, how big is the diameter of a basketball hoop? **18.**

5. Which sporting great was dubbed 'the boy from Bowral'? **Sir Donald Bradman.**

6. What is an NBA player deemed to be if he has received the Maurice Podoloff Trophy? **The most valuable player (MVP).**

7. Who was the first U.S. volleyball player to win three Olympic gold medals? **Karch Kiraly.**

8. How many world records did swimmer Mark Spitz set when he won seven gold medals at the 1972 Olympics? **Seven—one in each of the races in which he competed.**

9. What sport used the term 'home run' long before baseball? **Cricket.**

10. What was the first sport in which women were invited to compete at the Olympics? Tennis, at the 1900 games in Paris. **Charlotte Cooper of Great Britain was the first gold medalist.**

11. In cross-country bike racing, what do the initials BMX represent? **Bicycle moto x (cross).**



12. Which team is as well-known for their comic antics as for their on-court skills? **Harlem Globetrotters.**

13. Which country dominates Olympics basketball like no one else? **USA has won the gold 14 times out of 18 editions.**

14. Which type of ball was basketball played with until 1929? **Soccer ball.**

15. What's the second event on day one of a men's decathlon? Long Jump.

16. The Borg-Warner Trophy is awarded to the winner of which race? **Indianapolis 500.**

17. In American Football which famous Miami Dolphins quarterback retired in 2000? **Dan Marino.**

18. What number lies between 5 and 9 on a British dart board? **12.**

19. Name the England rugby league forward that joined Bath rugby union club in 2014? **Sam Burgess.**

20. Britain's Desmond Douglas was world number seven in which sport during the 1980s? **Table tennis.**

21. Which 100/1 outsider won the 2009 Grand National? **Mon Mome.**

22. The San Siro Stadium is in which Italian city? **Milan.**

23. Why did the year 1994 see no baseball World Series? **Player's strike.**

24. Who beat Ivan Lendl in a French Open final using underhand serves? **Michael Chang.**

25. Which is the only country to have played in each and every World Cup? **Brazil.**

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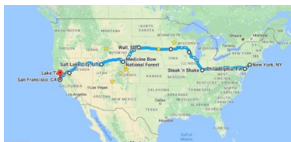
By Kaeleigh Picco Tusker Tribune Staff

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 24th, 1848

The infamous California Gold Rush began on this date. During the construction of a saw mill near Coloma, CA, the precious metal was found accidentally by James W. Marshall, who was overseeing the project. Later in the year, President Polk officially announced the discovery of gold, causing a flood of "Forty Niners" looking to get rich off the valuable treasure.



January 25th, 1959

Following in steps of the Wright Brothers, the United States took American aviation to the next level after the plane Boeing 707 accomplished the first scheduled transcontinental flight from California to New York.



January 27th, 1756

A musical genius and composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born on this day in Salzburg, Austria. Starting piano at the age of five, he created over 600 compositions. This included 16 operas, 41 symphonies, 25 string quartets, and many other works. Mozart wrote and played until his tragic death at the age of 35.

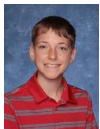


January 28nd, 1871

The Franco-Prussian war came to a close, after France had surrendered to Germany. Germany had launched a four month siege on France in the time leading to the surrender, and France could no longer hold its ground. The terms of peace required France to pay a \$1 fine, and give the greater parts of Alsace and Lorraine to the Germans.



There's a Variety of Birds in Our Area



By Christian Brooks Tusker Tribune Staff

Birds. You see them everywhere, but what do they do? How do they help our environment? How can you recognize them? I will explain everything.

To start, you should know that birds are warm-blooded animals. They are **NOT** mammals because they lay eggs and mammals don't lay eggs. A bird can eat many things. They can eat annoying insects like mosquitoes. (Yay.) Also, they eat bugs, worms, and some birds can eat snakes as well.

Birds help our environment by maintaining



a steady population of their prey, which would have excessive numbers without birds. Also, some birds help pollinate flowers.

Additionally, as I mentioned, I would help you recognize birds in our area. Now, I think you know what the Cardinal, Robin, and Blue Jay look like, right?

But there are many more birds in our area. Get to know common birds in our area, how they look and what the birds

sound like by clicking on this site: <https://www.audubon.org/news/get-know-these-15-common-birds>

The Tusker Tribune Commentary: The Argument Against Homework

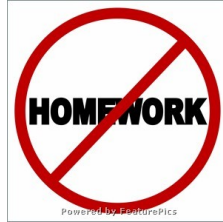


By Mikayla Haran
Tusker Tribune Staff

Let's be honest. We all have woken up one morning realizing that we forgot to do our homework.

But maybe this can be stopped once and for all. According to a recent article in the Huffington Post, extra assignments given to children, particularly younger school-age children, can lead to unhealthy levels of stress, according to research.

If bombarded with countless lessons at school and at home, students may feel stress and anxiety should they fail to complete the assignment on time. Students need to learn in a class-



room setting, but they should also be able to spend some time exploring other things outside of the classroom.

According to the article, while teachers do their best to give children homework that will engage their child, it's hard to see the value in the work kids take home. This is because some parents or tutors are the ones doing these assignments.

This means that the benefits of homework tasks as the learning tool are entirely lost.

The excessive amount of homework may also mean that the child is not able to commit as much time to every task as he or she should. This is why I believe that we should not have homework!

This Round of Playoffs Was Memorable!



By Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff

What a weekend for the NFL!

On 1/20/19, we found out which teams would go to the Super Bowl. After the two AFC/NFC Playoff games last weekend, two teams came out on top. The Patriots and the Rams ended up winning against their opposing teams—the Saints and the Chiefs.

Both games went into overtime. The Rams won with a field goal and the Patriots won with a touchdown. The first game, on Sunday afternoon, Saints vs. Rams, was a very close game. In the second quarter the Saints were up 13-0. In the 3rd quarter, it was 20-10, Saints up 10. In the 4th quarter the Rams came back and tied the score at 20-20. Then a little while later, both teams scored field goals to make it 23-23. Then overtime came.



The Saints won the coin flip. In their drive, Drew Brees threw an interception. That would turn out to be a game changing play. They Rams then scored a field goal to win the game. The next game, Sunday evening, Patriots vs. Chiefs, was also a nail biter. At the end of the 1st quarter, the score was 7-0 Patriots. At the end of the 2nd quarter the score was 14-

0, Patriots still up.

At the end of the 3rd quarter, it was 17-7, the Patriots up by 10. The 4th quarter was jam-packed with energy. The score was 31-31. Time for overtime.

The Patriots won the coin flip. Rex Burkhead ran into the endzone to win the game. The final score was 37-31. Patriots win! Can't wait for the Super Bowl! Which team do you want to win?

The NBA's Mid-Season Award Show!



By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff

Since we are now past the midway point of the 2018-19 NBA season, I thought I would do an

NBA midseason award show! How it works is, if the season ended today, these are the top 3 players for each award. I will go through MVP, Most Improved Player, Rookie of the Year, 6th Man of the year, and Defensive Player of the Year.



MVP:

1. James Harden
2. Giannis Antetokounmpo
3. Stephen Curry

The reason I chose James Harden is because he's averaging 35.7 PPG as of January 23, and I feel like whenever he plays, he has a big night. He's carrying the Houston Rockets back from a slump they were in, and they are now the 5th seed while having many injured players. This is why I'm giving MVP to James Harden.

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Migos

From Page 3

Their fame hit new levels in late 2016, when they dropped "Bad and Boujee," which spent 3 weeks at #1 on the Hot 100. And despite some controversy around one member not being on the hit song, most fans can agree that each guy brings something different to the table.

Quavo, who's often considered the frontman, is known for his hooks. He's been featured on tracks with several pop artists including Madonna, Liam Payne and Justin Bieber. In December 2017, Quavo and Travis Scott released their collaborative project *Huncho Jack, Jack Huncho*, which debuted at #1 on the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Album chart. Quavo's own solo project, *QUAVO HUNCHO* was released almost a year later and peaked at #2 on the Billboard 200 chart. Including features, Quavo's had 21 songs on the Hot 100, with 5 Top 10 hits and a #1 courtesy of DJ Khaled.



Next up is Offset, known for his ad-libs. And we also saw him collaborating on non-Migo related projects in 2017. In October, he dropped *Without Warning* along with 21 Savage and Metro Boomin, which peaked at #4 on the Billboard 200 chart. Offset's has 12 songs on the Hot 100, including his features and 2 Top 10 hits.

Last but not least, there's Takeoff, whose distinct voice provides a noticeable contrast to the rest of the group. In November 2018, he dropped *The Last Rocket*, his debut solo project, and it received a lot of critical acclaim. So far, Takeoff has had two songs on the Hot 100, his feature on Huncho Jack's "Eye 2 Eye," and his recent track, "Last Memory." So I've laid out the stats, why's it still so hard to choose a favorite Migo?

Fans are quick to point out that lyrically, both Takeoff and Offset consistently deliver standout verses. But Quavo and Offset have their own thoughts. According to Quavo, Takeoff is the best. As a group, Migos' recent albums have dominated the charts. They earned their first #1 album on the Billboard 200 with *Culture*, and *Culture II* followed a year later. And they've got the Hot 100 on lock. Migos has a total of 33 songs on the Hot 100, ranging from early breakout tracks like "Handsome and Wealthy," to newer hits like "Walk It Talk It." And based off those numbers, maybe the best things do come in threes.

Award Show

From Page 5

Most Improved Player

1. Pascal Siakam
2. Derrick Rose
3. Buddy Hield

The reason I chose Pascal Siakam of the Toronto Raptors is because last year, he was a below average bench player. This year, he's a way above average starter, and one of the key reasons why the Raptors have one of the best records in the year. He went from averaging 7.3 to 15 PPG and 4.5 to 6.9 RPG. This is why I chose Pascal Siakam as Most Improved Player.



Rookie of the Year

1. Luka Doncic
2. Deandre Ayton
3. Trae Young

The reason I chose Luka Doncic of the Dallas Mavericks is because he's already playing like a 5 year player, both physically and mentally. He has so much confidence, it's unbelievable. At 19 years old, he already got ejected from a game! So far, he's averaging 19.9 PPG, 6.8 RPG, and 5.3 APG. Also, he has 3,301,825 All-Star votes, which is second most in the Western Conference for the frontcourt, only behind LeBron James! Some people say he'll become one of the greatest players of all time! This is why I chose Luka Doncic for Rookie of the Year.



6th Man of the Year

1. Spencer Dinwiddie
2. Derrick Rose
3. Dennis Schroder

The reason I chose Spencer Dinwiddie of the Brooklyn Nets is because if

their starting Point Guard, De'Angelo Russell is having a bad game, they'll sub in Spencer Dinwiddie and BAM! He'll put up 15 to 25 points a night coming off the bench! Currently, he's averaging 17 PPG and 5.1 APG. This is why I chose Spencer Dinwiddie for 6th Man of the Year.

Defensive Player of the Year

1. Paul George
2. Kawhi Leonard
3. Giannis Antetokounmpo

The reason I chose Paul George of the Oklahoma City Thunder is because he can defend the perimeter with his speed, and he can defend the inside with his 6'9 height. He is having the best season of his career with 27 PPG, 8 RPG and 4 APG.

That is all I have, so I hope you enjoyed this NBA Midseason Award Show, and hopefully you agree with some of my picks.





Tuskers vs Huskers

Mr. Dell is getting SMS' Academic Triathlon Team ready for a rough-and-tumble match with Yorktown's Team on March 1. We'll let you know how it turned out!

From left, Octave Manteau, Sean Kim, Jeanne Manteau, Khyla Cohen, Julia Wilkinson. In back, Mr.Dell.

Williamson Propels Duke to Excellence



**By Thomas Hauser
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Zion Williamson is the top NBA prospect going into the 2019 NBA draft. Even though he is on a star-studded Duke team, which consists of Zion (ESPN #1) RJ Barret (ESPN #2) and Cam Reddish (ESPN #3), he is carrying the team by averaging 20 PPG (points per game) 2 assists and 9 rebounds.

Zion was born July 6th, 2000 in Spartanburg, North Carolina. His parents are Sharonda Sampson and Lateef Williamson. Right now, Zion is 6'7, 284 lbs. with a wingspan of 6'10. His Duke



team is #2 in the country just behind Tennessee and right ahead of Virginia.

Zion is an all-around powerhouse. He can dunk, shoot and play incredible defense. Zion is also playing his best basketball ever in the best time.

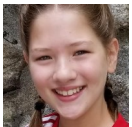
The NCAA March Madness tournament is coming up and they want to be the top seed. He is the best college dunker anyone has seen in a long time. Most basketball experts have him going #1 in the draft and

nothing will change their minds. If I had the first pick in the draft, there is no doubt in my mind that I would go with Zion Williamson.



In Case You Were Wondering . . .

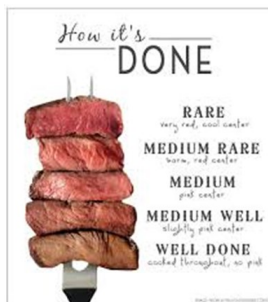
Steak vs. Pork



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

There are different types of steak—13 to be exact. They are: filet mignon, tri-tip, t-bone, sirloin, rib eye, flank, strip, beef tenderloin, skirt, hanger, beef plat, flat iron, and chateaubriand.

There are 5 ways to cook steak: rare, medium rare, medium, medium well, and well done.



There are different types of pork as well—12 types, to be exact. They are pork shoulder, picnic ham, country style spare ribs, pork-chop, loin, baby back ribs, sirloin, leg ham, rear hock, pork belly, spare ribs, and front hock.

Pork can be cooked in a variety of ways depending on what you like.

