

The Tusker Tribune

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Winter 2019

8th Graders All Set for Social Action!



By Kaeleigh Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff

8th Grade English students have had an exciting and eventful year so far— from writing novels in November, to participating in the Scholastic Writing Awards in March, to now starting a unit surrounding social action.

In the beginning of the module, students were each assigned an article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR for short) to artistically interpret. Some of the works are shown at left along with the first five articles of the document.



After examining and studying the UDHR, 8th Graders spent a week, known as “Spark

Week”, researching and learning about different human rights that are being abused today world wide.

Now, the students are in groups based on which issue compels them most, and have begin to research that issue in depth. Come April 11th, they will present their research on the issue and organizations that help solve this issue through power points, verbal presentations, and videos during the Social Action expo at the middle school library.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 1: You have the same human rights as everyone else in the world, because you are a human being. These rights cannot be taken away from you. Everybody, no matter who they are or where they live, should be treated with dignity.

Article 2: You should not be treated differently, nor have your rights taken away, because of your race, color, sex, language, religion or political opinions. Your basic rights should be respected no matter what country you are born in or how rich or poor you are.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4: Human beings must not be owned, bought or sold. No one has the right to enslave anyone else. Slavery is a crime.

Article 5: Torture is forbidden at all times and in all circumstances. No one should suffer treatment or punishment that is cruel or makes him or her feel less than human.



How Powerful are Drawstring Bags?



By Michael Aiello
Tusker Tribune Staff

Drawstring bags are commonly used for field trips, small traveling, and even more. Do you have trouble carrying all your books from 1 class to another? Believe me, I had the same trouble. There is a simple solution. Drawstring bags.

They carry majority of your books, and any other supplies you need for class. Apparently, Somers Middle School has banned drawstring bags

which to be honest was an unnecessary move. So, the real question is, how powerful are drawstring bags? They can be useful for *Storage*, *light weight*, and *durable + cheap*. Drawstring bags should be unbanned and be used by anyone who needs them.

Let's go over the first topic. *Storage*. Sure, lockers are useful storage wise but, lockers are not *portable*. I have so many books on the second half of school. 2 binders, 1 laptop, planner, folder, and any other books from previous classes.

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Drawstring

From Page 1

It is too much to hold and I don't want my laptop to break. That is why, I recommend a drawstring bag. They have a spacious compartment which can be used to store all your books and supplies. I find that to be useful. It is efficient to keep *majority* of your books in a bag so, you can walk freely and not be stressed if a book might fall. Some drawstring bags have clear plastic so you can always check if you misplaced something or if you forgot a book.

Do you know how strong these bags are? Strong enough to hold some shampoo bottles, books, calculators, tablets, laptops, etc. Drawstring bags are known throughout the world for their strength and abilities.

My second topic is how *light* drawstring bags are. This makes these bags worth a-lot compared to other bags. In the old days, we had to store our books inside boxes, cubbies, lockers, and the terrible list goes on. We should be able to have a portable solution. Luckily, we have drawstring bags. The bags are insanely light and have multi purposes. Your books are secured with double cotton strings which tie up the lip. The only way to un-tighten the bag is to dig your hands inside the lip and push outwards. These

bags are designed to be comfortable too. They are light in weight which lowers the pressure on your shoulder. People might say that "drawstring bags are weak and useless" it turns out they are wrong. These bags can prevent a shampoo bottle from spilling, light and comfortable to ease the pressure on your shoulder, and strong enough to carry all your day-to-day needs.

My third topic is how *cheap* and *durable*. You can find these bags that are at cheap prices and

find a large selection of drawstring bags. These bags are common so get your hands on one today!

Drawstring bags are also durable. Typical bags like polythene and paper bags usually become useless after the first use. Their quality is decaying quickly and are just thrown out almost every day. Luckily, drawstring bags are made from plastic so you can recycle them if they are too annoying. You can also put your creative side to the test by designing your drawstring bag! You can paint it and possible put it up for display. You can also buy drawstring bags in bulky form and yes, they are cheap. Going back to recycling, we can re-use the drawstring bags. We can stop killing trees to make expensive useless paper bags.

Drawstring bags are my favorite type of bags. Sure, they don't have many compartments like a regular bag but, let me ask you this. When you use a typical bag and got a leak, did your bag soak it all up and then the bag gets wet or, repel the liquid and keep it from leaking even more? I bet you that the first answer is the correct one.

Drawstring bags repel liquids and prevent it from leaking or soaking up your clothing. Let's say you went to a water park and need a bag that won't get soaked but be able to store the bathing suit. What would you choose? I would choose a drawstring bag because once again, the bag is designed to keep the liquid inside the bag.

The bag is useful for storage. People who like to be organized, I think you would love this bag. Sort all your belongings into a perfect way so you can go on your merry way. Drawstring bags are also light and relieves pressure from your shoulders so you can forget that you even had a bag on your shoulders. Finally, drawstring bags are cheap, durable, and reusable. We can stop wasting supplies and stick to strong bags. Take my advice. Unban drawstring bags and make it available to people who need them.



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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.



March 1st, 1961

President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps, where young Americans volunteered to go to developing countries to help assist with education, health care, and basic human rights.



March 3rd, 1847

Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, was born on this date in Edinburg, Scotland. The creation was patented in 1876 and cost \$100,000. Bell had never suspected that his idea would morph into a device that about 5 billion people own today.



March 4th, 1933

Recently elected President Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave his inaugural speech on this date. Tasked with the job of saving America from the Great Depression, Roosevelt states in his address, "Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself..."

March 5th, 1770

This date commemorates the anniversary of the Boston Massacre, an event that sparked the American colonists into rebelling against English control. A group of citizens had been harassing several British soldiers, who then opened fire on them. Five were killed and six were injured. This infuriated people across the colony, and the British began to be depicted as the "bad guys".



How TikTok Helps Artists Get No. 1 Hits



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In the past year, we've seen several tracks rise to the top of the charts, in part thanks to the lip-syncing social video app TikTok. In August 2018 TikTok acquired Musical.ly, a platform which was pretty much identical, but just a month later, TikTok already had more monthly downloads than Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. And all those downloads did a lot to sway the tide of what songs blew up. YouTube duo iLOVEFRiDAY's diss track "Mia Khalifa," hit the charts thanks to TikTok.

In an interview with Taylor Lorenz, a staff writer at The Atlantic who writes about how social media platforms affect society and culture. According to Lorenz, TikTok's enormous scale has made it easier for the app to become such a force



in today's cultural landscape. Lorenz said, "so much of the virality of TikTok content has to do with the audio. And so it makes sense that people would use it as an audio discovery platform." And she's right.

"Mia Khalifa" started blowing up online after TikTokers kept sharing videos of themselves playing the track under the #hitormisschallenge. The hashtag has over 80 million views on TikTok, and the song even found itself bouncing on and off the Spotify U.S. Top 50 chart.

"Everything we do has a reason, it's just like people be like 'ah, you dissing for clout,' but everything has a reason, everything is orchestrated," said SmokeHijabi of iLOVEFRiDAY. Besides "Mia Khalifa," a number of other songs started popping off thanks to viral challenges, too.

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Top Takes Hibachi to New Heights



**By Deanna DeCamp
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever been to a Hibachi restaurant? If you have and you didn't like it, then you most definitely haven't been to Top. Top is the best Hibachi restaurant in Westchester. It also has sushi if you prefer that better than Hibachi, but if you ask me, Hibachi is a lot better.

Top doesn't just give you the food you ordered. Your meal also comes with fried/Mexican rice, noodle, vegetables, and shrimp. They also give you soup and salad before they even start cooking your meal on the Hibachi grill. They give you so much food, that you often have to take most of your meal home to eat across the next few days.



Their food is so delicious for everyone. Even though I don't like sushi myself, I know that many people love their sushi as well. It is also a bar and lounge, so if adults



want to hang out one-night, Top is also a great place to go. Even if you don't like Hibachi, I recommend trying Top.

Top Hibachi also isn't just about the food. It's also about the hibachi entertainment they have. Sometimes you can try to catch zucchini in your mouth, or you can try to get water squirted into your mouth. A couple of years ago, they even gave my brother a balloon animal and a balloon sword, and for my friends and I, balloon-made crowns. Top is fun and delicious at the same time.

Top is a great place for everyone. Even if you don't like Hibachi, I definitely recommend trying Top. Especially for its entertainment and delicious food that I have never heard bad things about. Furthermore, if you haven't been to Top, you should try Top today.



TikTok From Page 3

Chicago rapper CalBoy has been rapping for a minute but hit it big after his track "Envy Me" blew up towards the end of 2018. It has skyrocketed since September of that year thanks to the #NayahXTweaking challenge that started on Dubsmash. In an interview with Nayah Rice, who started the challenge on social media, she said that "when I heard it, I was like, 'oh I can dance, I can snap to that.'" And then like, I just basically went off after that. I just made moves, comprehending to the sound."

Pretty soon the dance migrated off Dubsmash, while people posting themselves dancing to it on TikTok with hashtags like #EnvyMe. "It was a cold beat. I didn't even know what to say on the beat because it was so cold," Calboy said. At the end of 2018, "Envy Me" entered the Billboard Hot 100 chart at #91, peaking at #41. And the more lip-syncing videos people post of a track, the further we can expect a song to get on the charts. Lorenz said, "TikTok is a really effective distribution network, because of all the mechanisms that it has for discovery within the app. Within TikTok also, there's also a lot of song discovery mechanisms so you can search music really easily and find stuff that resonates."

Wisconsin singer Ava Max experienced something

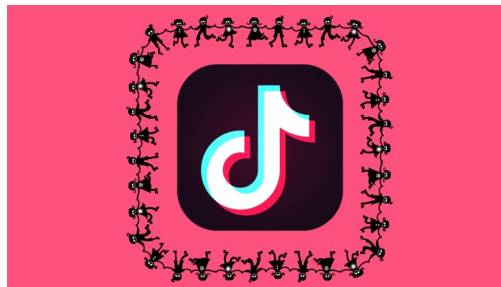
similar after her own track, "Sweet But Psycho" got a bump on the charts a Snapchat filter and a TikTok challenge. In an interview, Max said, "I like to make my songs theatrical always so it's kind of over exaggerated but in a way I'm really reclaiming the word psycho." The track dropped in August 2018, but by October, "Sweet But

Pyscho" had experienced a jump in listens after it was used in a Snapchat filter. On TikTok, #sweetbutpsycho hashtag has over 50 million views, with fans continuing to upload new clips daily.

But in terms of who gets paid from TikTok that's where things get complicated. Many artists have yet to see any money from their viral success. Despite iLOVEFRiDAY's original popu-

larity on YouTube with "Mia Khalifa," they've reportedly worked out a deal with TikTok that lets the service use their song for free, in exchange for promotion of their upcoming projects. Xeno Carr, one half of the duo, told Pitchfork, "At the end of the day, the relationship with TikTok is more important than asking them to pay me for a record. It's giving us exposure, and that's what we need to push the brand forward."

Of course, going #1 after you went viral online is nothing new. We've seen everyone from Soulja Boy to Blueface get hits from people reporting them on social media. And now, TikTok is the latest in a long line of platforms helping songs on from meme to mainstream.



Uniqueness Awareness Week Next Week!

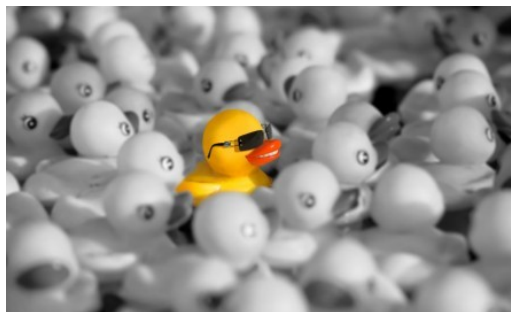


By Arjun Ojha
Tusker Tribune Staff

Starting on Monday, March 11th, SMS will have Uniqueness Week. Uniqueness Week takes place from Monday March 11th to Friday March 15th. Uniqueness Week is a week where you do something different every day. It lives up to its name: Uniqueness Week.

Monday is **Pajama Day**. Also, \$8 Dodgeball tickets continue to be sold until sold out. In addition, an "Individual Music Playlist" will be playing in the cafeteria at lunch.

Tuesday is **Pride Day**. You can wear Neon Colors to show respect for the gay-straight alliance. Activities on Tuesday include observing the flags of identities on display in the cafeteria at lunch, music from LGBTQ+ artists playing in the cafeteria at lunch, High School Speakers and the last day to purchase \$8 dodgeball tickets.



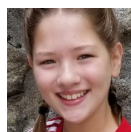
Wednesday is **Culture Day**. That is where you wear your heritage color to represent your history. Activities include being part of the school wide "Pledge for Equality" to show respect for human rights, "Music of the World" playing in the cafeteria at lunch and observe the country flag collage on display in the cafeteria.

Thursday is **Somers Day**. That is where you wear Somers Gear (Red and Black) to represent SMS. Activities include the Dodgeball Tournament in the cafeteria/gym from 3:05pm to 5:30pm. Food and drinks will be sold by the PTA. The snow date is Friday.

The last day is Friday. On Friday, you wear **Camo or Red, White and Blue** to show American Patriotism. Activities include the announcement of the Dodgeball winners and MVP, Mr. Mullaney sings the National Anthem, observe the Banner of Freedom on display in the cafeteria and Mr. Wienecke speaks on Freedom. Mr. Wienecke is the head of Living History Day.

The overall message of Uniqueness Week is **BE YOU, BE TRUE**.

Tusker Tribune Trivia



By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff

Who is the only athlete to win the Olympic marathon twice and in successive Olympic games?
Abebe Bikila

Which athlete has won the maximum number of gold medals at a single Olympics, and how many?

Michael Phelps. He won 8 gold medals at the Beijing 2008 Olympic games.

Who was the 16th president of the United States?
Abraham Lincoln

The Statue of Liberty was gifted to the United States by which country?
France

Where did the game of badminton originate?
It originated in the British era in the Indian city of Pune (or Poona, as it was known back then).

Who improved the design of the modern-day incandescent light bulb?

Thomas Edison

Who was the first actor to have played the role of James Bond in the movie series?
Sir Sean Connery

Which was the country that first made the use of paper money?
China

What is the highest mountain in Africa?
Mount Kilimanjaro

In what year was Alaska sold to the U.S.?
In the year 1867

Where did the Olympic Games originate?
Greece

If you boil water you get ... ?
Steam

Tired people need ... ?
Sleep

If you freeze water you get ... ?
Ice