

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Spring 2019

Music Students' Broadway Trip Was a Hit!



By Deanna DeCamp
Tusker Tribune Staff

On Friday, April 26, 2019, students who have participated in chorus, orchestra, or band this school year had the option of going to see a Broadway show on this date. It was a fun way for students who all have a love for music to go and bond over a Broadway show. After back and forth between different shows to go see, all of the music teachers decided that we were going to see the Broadway musical..... 'Frozen'!

We all left the school at the beginning of 8th period and got back around 12:10 AM the following morning. As you can see, it was a long but very fun night. We took Coach Buses down to NYC with friends and family, where our first stop was at Carmine's for dinner on the Upper West Side of the city. After a fulfilled dinner ranging

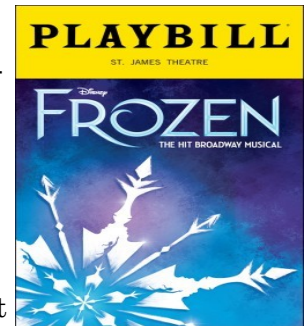


with friends and family, we could tell it was going to be a great show. And sure enough, it was. From acting to singing to dancing to humor the show was truly spectacular. I won't spoil too much of the show in case you decide to go see it, but all I will say is that you are in for a treat if you see this

show because they also have amazing special effects.

I know what you may be thinking, 'Frozen' is a baby show, so why did middle schoolers see it? And honestly, at first, I almost thought the same thing. But if you see this performance, your ideas will change completely. Plus, Aladdin is one of the most favored Broadway shows out right now and that is also a Disney movie that is great for all ages, just like Frozen.

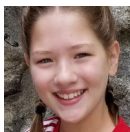
On behalf of the entire school who went on this trip, I would like to thank Mrs. Williams, Mr. Maino, and Mrs. Malara for putting together this wonderful experience for all of us. I recommend this show for people all ages because it is a great show for everyone.



from salad to pasta to chicken parmigiana to a fudge brownie for dessert, it was time to see the show.

As we walked into the grand theatre and found our seats

How to Say 'Hello' in Different Languages



By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Hi" is easy and simple. "Hello" is a little bit too formal. But both are ways to start a conversation, no matter where you are. So here are versions of "Hi" and "Hello" in various languages:

Aloha—Hawaiian
Hola—Spanish
Ciao—Italian
Chalon—American Indian
Namaste—Hindi
Konnichiwa—Japanese
Salut—Italian
Bonjour—French
Guten tag—German
Yeia sas—Greek



It's ITZY! (2019 K-Pop Part 1)



By Andre Possante
Tusker Tribune Staff

Even though we have not reached the half-way point in 2019 yet, K-Pop has been exploding with idols and groups making epic comebacks. (Which means they released mini albums/ep's, albums, or songs).

For example, BTS and Halsey teamed up to produce "Boy With Luv." It was released on April 12, 2019. But so far, this year has been filled with K-Pop girl groups blowing up the internet.

We'll start with early 2019. A new girl group formed by JYP Entertainment called "ITZY" debuted in early February. They published their first single "DALLA DALLA" on February 10. It



was a hit single, and it currently has over 100 million views.

The "ITZY" YouTube channel has over 1 million subscribers. ITZY has 5 members: Yeji, Yuna, Lia, Ryujin, and Chaeryeong. Considering JYP Entertainment's K-Pop groups put out songs and albums

fast, I'm sure it won't be long until we hear another song from ITZY.

So far, fans of the group do not have an official name yet, like other fans of other groups have fandom names. ITZY is so far making history in the K-Pop World. It's very exciting to see what they produce next.

Three Trending Products (Just In Time for Summer!)



By Drew Maciulewicz
Tusker Tribune Staff

Starting off with **Automotive Accessories**. Cars are becoming digital because they are becoming more popular among customers. One in particular is called the **Ztylus Stinger**. This product helps you in case



you get into a car accident and the doors of your car are jammed. It's a glass breaker so you can escape the car. This could save your life and it's not even expensive. This product costs \$15 and can be ordered from

Amazon and **Walmart** The Ztylus Stinger can also slice through seatbelts.



Next is **Smart watches**. Of course, you have heard of a smartwatch, but did you know about 1.2 billion Smartwatches are sold each year? A smartwatch is a portable device worn around the wrist. They have touchscreens, offer apps, and they can even record as well as have a way to check your heart rate and other vital signs.



Phone lenses can make your phone camera better than a normal camera. Phone lenses can make the zoom on the camera magnified and help capture better photos. These lenses also have many different settings to choose from. And they are very affordable (\$1-5).

UEFA Champions League Down to Final Four



By Matt D'Ippolito
Tusker Tribune Staff

The UEFA Champions League consists of 32 teams that have a will to win. There are eight groups of four teams. Their schedules consist of the team playing each team in their group twice. After the games are played, the top two teams from each group advances to the round of 16.

As of now, only four teams remain: Barcelona, Ajax, Liverpool, and Tottenham. Barcelona was up 3-0 to Liverpool, but Liverpool came back to win 4-3, and Ajax is beating Tottenham 1-0.

Barcelona played on Tuesday and Ajax played yesterday. Barcelona had a great edge over

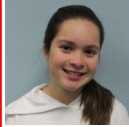


Liverpool by being up 3-0 and that Liverpool's best player (Mo Salah) was out with a head injury, but Liverpool powered through.

Will it be a monster comeback by the 2 teams that are losing, or will Barcelona win for the sixth time? Up to now, Liverpool has punched their ticket to the final by making the biggest comeback in champions league history on Barcelona, and Ajax is playing Tottenham on Wednesday to see who the challenger to Liverpool is.

I believe that Ajax will pull it off to win the title for the first time in 25 years. About 90% of ESPN analysts had Barcelona winning it all. Who do you think will win? The fight for the title is about to be good!!

Locker Decorating: Gift or Nuisance?



**By Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You might know that on birthdays, Somers Middle School allows the student to decorate their friends' locker when their birthday dates come around. They get to stay after school and decorate the locker with candy, wrapping paper, bow, pictures, and more. There are many reasons that back up that the opportunity to decorate lockers is a gift to the students but also some that show it might not be as great. In this article you will learn both sides and then you can you can decide whether birthday locker decorating is a gift or just a nuisance to everyone.



Locker decorating is amazing, and students are so lucky to have this choice available to them. This is a lot of people's opinion and for a good reason too. First of all, locker decorating is a fun way to show your friends you appreciate them and are glad to have them as a friend.

Locker decorating also gives students a way to recognize their friends' birthdays and celebrate a student's special day. Furthermore, the birthday girls' or boys' favorite part, is that they get a lot of candy! Another reason it is very good is that it gives students something to look forward to and a memory they will always remember. My birthday already passed but I remember how happy I was to open my locker and see the amazing inside, with all my friends around me. Getting your locker decorated is really an incredible experience and not a nuisance in any way.

On the other side, birthday locker decorating can become negative and even end up hurting students. For example, for someone to get their locker decorated in the inside, they must share their combination. This can end in the combination to the locker in the hands of someone who she/he is not close friends with and then a wrong person can open a student's locker. In addition, to be able to decorate a locker, students have to have a parent with them and sometimes this is very hard to get. Parents may have to take time of work or friends might need to decorate at an earlier or later date than the student's birthday and make them sad or disappointment. Not only that but students might not get their locker decorated at all. You can imagine how that will hurt and affect someone. Locker decorating might not be as much as a gift as we thought.



Overall, I think that the opportunity to decorate your friend's locker on their birthday is amazing and the students at SMS are lucky to have it. Now, I'll ask you again, what do you think? Is locker decorating on birthdays a nuisance or a gift?



All About Orcas



**By Jordan Della Vecchia
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You might know them as killer whales. But their scientific name are Orcinus orca. Orcas are very interesting animal. Here are some facts.

- Orcas swim in family groups called pods.
- Orcas can grow from 23-32
- Orcas can weigh up to 6 tons!
- Orcas size are relative to a bus.
- Orcas are the largest of the dolphins and one of the world's most powerful predators.

They're immediately recognizable by their distinctive black-and-white coloring. Orcas use echolocation to communicate, hunt, making sounds that travel underwater until they encounter objects, then bounce back, revealing their location, size, and shape.

Though they often frequent cold, coastal waters, orcas can be found from the polar regions to the Equator. They're at the top of the food chain and have very diverse diets, feasting on fish, penguins, and marine mammals such as seals, sea lions, and even whales, employing teeth that can be four inches long. They are known to grab seals right off the ice. They also eat fish, squid, and seabirds. Orcas family pods can grow up to 40 orcas.

Orcas are very protective of their young, if an intruder come even near an orca or even worse, their young the orca will kill the intruder. Unfortunately, hunters hunt for orcas and capture them on boats separating them from their families.



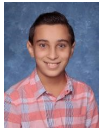
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Behind the Rise of Lil Nas X



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hip-hop's newest viral star, Lil Nas X, has been all over the internet thanks to his country trap hit, "Old Town Road." And while he's no stranger to online fame, he's had quite a ride to the top. Lil Nas X had dropped several other tracks online in the year leading up to "Old Town Road," including his EP *Nasarati* in July 2018. "I was living with my sister, and she was ready for me to go, basically. So, it started off as this loner cowboy kind of vibe," Lil Nas X said. He started rapping in June, a month before the release of his EP, and many of his early songs were very different from the hit that helped him blow up. He had covered Lil Yachty's "NBAYOUNGBOAT" with Sonic sound effects, fittingly titling it "Sonic S***."

"At first, I thought, 'I'm just going to rap,' but then later on down the line, literally probably two, three songs before 'Old Town Road,' it's like, 'I'm doing to do what I want to do. I'm going to make the music I want to make, and if people like it, then they like it. If they don't, then they don't.'"

But making catchy songs wouldn't be enough to get on major platforms. Lil Nas was also mastering the art of self-promotion, thanks to his sizeable Twitter following and some clever memes. "Old Town Road" originally dropped in late 2018, and its unique country sound and trap beat helped get it the attention it needed to go viral.

"A lot of my music before 'Old Town Road,' I was just trying to make music where I thought this is what everybody wanted," Lil Nas said. Lil Nas X had found the beat, which was produced by YoungKio, on YouTube. And the track features a sample from the Cleveland rock band, Nine Inch Nails' song "34 Ghosts IV." The song quickly blew up on TikTok, the video sharing app responsible for several other songs' popularity. And "Old Town Road" was racking up millions of views. "I was pushing it on my account for I guess a few months until it finally

picked up on TikTok. Then, I didn't have to do much after that because it's been skyrocketing ever since to this day," Nas said.

And all those clicks paid off. By the time "Old Town Road" dropped, his antics helped get the song way more attention. In March of 2019, Lil Nas X signed a deal with Columbia Records, and by then, "Old Town Road" was all over the internet. When it was first released, he had tagged the song as "country" on platforms like SoundCloud, which many noted as a clever way to trick the algorithm and stand out in a different arena.

While it may have been country trap, whether it was considered a country song was up for debate. In late March 2019, Rolling Stone reported that Billboard had removed "Old Town Road" from its Hot Country Songs Chart, saying that it "does not embrace enough elements of today's country music to chart in its current version."

"Before it was even taken off the country charts, I was just happy to be on Billboard at all. Even after they did take it off, I was like, 'Okay, at least I'm still on Billboard.' Then, I started to think about, I was like, 'Why?' After listening to other songs that's on that chart, it's like wait a minute, something's not right, basically." But on the track's remix,

there's a feature from Kentucky country star Billy Ray Cyrus (father of Miley Cyrus), who co-signed the song's country credibility on Twitter, saying, "It's was so obvious to me after hearing the song just one time. I was thinking, what's not country about it? What's the rudimentary element of a country and western song? Then I thought, it's honest, humble, and has an infectious hook, and a banjo. What the hell more do ya need?"

With or without its country credit, by April, "Old Town Road" was an unstoppable presence, and on April 8th, it leapt to #1 on the Hot 100. In an interview, he said that, "Honestly, it makes me feel great that I was able to put completely different worlds together and make a song that so many people like."



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'Greek Freak' Keeps Excitement Going in NBA



**By Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff**
Giannis Antetokounmpo, better known as the "Greek Freak", is dominating the NBA right now. He's only 24 years old and already made a name for himself as an NBA All Star.



Giannis is a 6 ft. 4in., 242 pounds, NBA All Star born in Greece. This season he is averaging 27.7 points. He is also averaging 12.5 rebounds and 5.9 assists this season as well.

Giannis is a 3x All Star and a 2x All-NBA. I will also be going over the best games he's had so far this season. Yesterday, May 6th, Giannis and the Milwaukee Bucks played the Celtics. In that

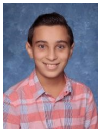
game Giannis got 39 points and 16 rebounds. The Bucks also beat the Celtics 113-101.

Giannis also scored 41 points in his game against the Pistons. The Bucks also won that game. The final score was 127-104. The Bucks are really outshining with some help of Giannis of course. The Bucks are also in

first place for the Eastern Conference. They have 60 wins and 22 losses. Now that's enough of the stats.

Now I will talk about some facts. Giannis has a Greek name and a Nigerian name. His Nigerian name is Ougko. He has two older brothers (Francis, Thanasis) and two younger brothers (Kostas, Alexis). That's all for this week. Do you think Giannis will remain a top player for the rest of his career?

Kid Cudi Hums His Way to Recognition



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Fans love how Cleveland rapper Kid Cudi bares his soul through his music, but one thing stands out – his humming.

The internet is full of memes celebrating Cudi's hums – and he's probably very aware. On his 2016 track "Surfin'", Cudi praises his hums, rapping, "Magic I feel in my palms / make 'em go dumn with them hums." In fact, Mr. Rager has been humming his entire career. An early example can be found on "My World" off his debut album, *Man on the Moon: The End of the Day*. Several tracks on *Man on the Moon 2* featured the hum, but "Ghost!" is a fan favorite. On "Going to the Ceremony" off *Satellite Flight*, we hear it in the opening seconds. 2016's *Passion, Pain & Demon Slayin'* begins some hums on songs like "Frequency." But what is it about Cudi's hums, or humming generally that evokes such a gut-reaction response?

Dr. Suk-Jun Kim, composer and senior lecturer at the University of Aberdeen in the United Kingdom, says, "humming is an intimate act because you barely hum to strangers. But it is directly tied to memory." He authored the 2018 book, *'Humming'* where in it he writes, "Humming is inviting. In an instant, humming puts us into a socio-acoustic cocoon as it erects a wall of intimacy and emotion."

"What I mean by socio-acoustic is that sound allows us to understand our relationship to the world. So, when you hum for strangers it's like opening up and inviting them into your personal space." For nearly 10 years, Kim has been collect-



ing sounds from hundreds of people for something he calls the Humming Project. "With this project I'm interested in collecting memory of a community, so I use humming to reveal such memories." In doing this he shows how close act of humming can link people together through common songs like old childhood lullabies. Jun hadn't heard of Kid Cudi prior to his interview about Cudi and his humming, but after listening he found out that Cudde's hums fit perfectly into his artistic research. "I think Cudi's humming is very intimate because he allows us into himself and shows us his loneliness and anxiety," like on songs like "The Rage," and "through the late night." Cudi knows his music resonates on a greater level.

He has been public about his own struggles with mental health – notably checking himself into rehab in October 2016, posting on Facebook, "Yesterday I checked myself into rehab for depression and suicidal urges. I am not at peace. I haven't been since you've known me. If I didn't come here, I would've done something to myself." And therefore, fans love him – his music resonates. "My mission statement since day 1, and I'm getting so worked up talking about this, all I want to do is help kids not feel alone and stop kids from committing suicide," Cudde said. On Hot 97, collaborator Travis Scott said, "Kid Cudi is like, really one of the main dudes that I looked at and listened to all the time. He saved me from doing random bad things to myself."

And for many, their love for Cudde begins with his hums. Cudi recently performed at Coachella 2019 and seems poised to have a great year – hopefully we'll get some more hums from him in the process.