

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School

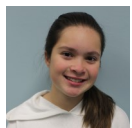


Issue Number 37

<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

Summer 2019

Important Tips for Summer Reading



By Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Summer is almost here! Summer vacation is really important for students. After all their

handwork; studying for exams, doing all the homework and exams given, and overall staying on top of schools and getting good grades, kids deserve a break.

And what better time to relax and have fun than during some of the hottest months, SUMMMER. So yes, summer is the time where students usually don't know have to know what day of the week it is or whether it's an A or C day, but it doesn't hurt to do some summer reading.



Continued on Page 2

Environmental Club Cleans Up SMS!



By Jason Pinto
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello, I am Jason Pinto, the Environmental Officer/ Chief Environmental Officer, and President of the Environmental Club.

And talking about that, I am glad to say that the club has recently opened. And so far the group has been going great!. Recycling has been much more progressive. We are always looking for more people to help out!

Love your environment



If you're interested, talk to me about joining.

Also this can be done in team time, or recess. As protectors of the Environmental Club, we keep SMS safe, and clean. For example when we are doing recycling, we see trash always on the floor, from pencils to papers, and to hydro Flasks and it's all wasted.

Also, Locker Clean up week is just around the corner! We are starting 6/20/19 What locker clean up is, is that if you have anything you had from this school year that you don't want or don't want to use, like a box of pencils, a notebook, folders, put it in the bin, and it's great that we have all of this stuff to supply for new SMS kids as well as anyone who needs school supplies.

These are some of the things we do here at the SMS Environmental Club, and we can't wait to have people to join, like you! If you wish to join once again, contact Jason Pinto or Senior Environmental Officer Peter Shay. Thank you, and KEEP SMS CLEAN!

Dear Evan Hansen: A Great Show



By Anthony Fusco
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Broadway show, Dear Evan Hansen, was spectacular. I, along with the rest of the 7th Grade ALP class went to see the musical after reading the book, on June 12th, and really enjoyed it.

Dear Evan Hansen tells the story of a young man with social anxiety disorder who so yearns to make a connection with his peers that he fabricates a relationship with a deceased student to become closer to the boy's family.

The show itself was amazing and the cast was really good; all great singers. Michael Lee Brown, Evan Hansen's understudy, performed at the show we saw, and he gave a great portrayal of the high schooler, Evan Hansen.

Brown is an incredible singer, along with the rest of the cast, and they all gave a breathtaking performance.

If you are thinking about seeing a play, you should definitely consider seeing Dear Evan Hansen. I've personally seen at least 15 shows, and this ranks at the number 1 spot.



Ten Ways to Keep Cool During the Summer



**By Alexa Chimes
Tusker Tribune Staff**

It gets very hot during the summer so you might need some advice on how to cool off. Here are some ways to keep cool.

Place a bowl of ice underneath your fan so that your fan's air will be even cooler.

If you're very hot, put some ice in four plastic bags, wrap it with a paper towel, then take a rubber band or hair ties and tie them around your wrists and the back of your knees. This helps because the ice should be on your pulse points and having something cool on your pulse points helps your body cool down a lot faster.

Fill a sponge with water until it cannot hold any more, then put it in a plastic bag and place it in your freezer to make an ice pack.

Instead of reading your book on a paperback book, download it online and listen to it so that way your hands don't always have to be holding a book and you can use them to help yourself



stay cool.

Make green tea and put it in a spray bottle to make a cooling spray that will help you stay cooler than just using water.

Freeze a Capri Sun, then let it thaw for about 20-30 minutes. After doing this, cut open the Capri Sun to make an instant slushie.

Don't wear any dark colors because they attract heat and will make you even hotter. Wear lighter colored clothes instead.

Eat spicy food! Spicy food will make you sweat more and lowers the temperature of the outside of your body.

Freeze fruit and water in an ice cube tray to make fruity ice cubes! You can put these in your drink to make your drink even colder and delicious.

If you don't have any ice pops, take a Dixie cup and pour any type of juice in it. Then place a Popsicle stick in the juice, and place this in your freezer for anywhere from 2-4 hours to make a Popsicle using a juice flavor you like!

Summer Reading

From Page 1

I agree with most students that teachers shouldn't put a minimum number of books, a specific book list, or even make reading a requirement because when they do, reading becomes a chore and something they have to do.

I think students should be able to choose the books and genres they read and how much, but students should read over the summer at least a little bit. In this article, I will tell you all about reading over the summer break and important tips to help you!

One of the most difficult things about summer reading is picking books that you will want to read and won't make reading seem as an order given by teachers. First of all, pick a new genre that you don't really know or have never read. This is helpful to do because you never know what genres you might like.

This way, you can try new books and possibly find a genre you might turn out to love. In addition, to further your enjoyment of reading, pick books that are your reading level and length.

Don't pick a book that has too many pages because then you are going to force yourself to keep going and soon you will start skipping over some of the book's parts in hopes of finishing it quickly.

Moreover, one last thing you can do, is to get good book recommendations so you don't have

to spend more time looking for books than reading them.

You can find amazing books by either searching up recommendations and reviews on the internet or asking your friends or family for books they liked.

Another challenging part to summer reading is knowing good locations and times to read. Like many other hobbies there is always a time and place for reading. One of the good times in the day to pick up a book is in the morning when you wake up or right before you go to sleep. These times are both helpful because you will either start or end your summer day in a good way. Furthermore, there are multiple places near your house where you can enjoy reading. The best locations for you is where you try something new and different. This can include sitting by a pool in the warm sun or just lying on the grass on a towel. Wherever you will look forward to going and take out your book.

Overall, reading during the summer has always been seen as something horrible and boring. It definitely makes sense, who wants to trade a night with friends just to read a book, but I want you to take a deep consideration and try to read and finish at least one book. Find a fun location at a reasonable time and make sure to have a good book you can read. Summer reading doesn't have to be a chore or requirement assigned by teachers but can be enjoyable too!

Should Extra Credit Be Allowed?



**By Isaac Like
Tusker Tribune Staff**

A lot of teachers despise extra credit. Why? Teachers don't like extra credit because sometimes teachers feel like students can just make up their bad grades with one single thing even if they have been doing bad the whole quarter.

I think they shouldn't hate extra credit because the people who really do it are good students who are just trying to do better by doing the option work.

Plenty of kids would just say "no way" and would rather just take the bad grades, so the people who do it are the people who are striving to do better.

The teachers who give extra credit are smart because they can see who is really a good student and who isn't and usually extra credit doesn't completely change your grade so I think it's a fair deal.



Is Splashdown Worth It?



**By Isaac Like
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This year looks like its supposed to rain on both the days we have scheduled the trip it is supposed to rain so the question is, Is It worth It?

Let's think who wants to go to a water park on a rainy day especially also because it's not really supposed to be warm.

I wouldn't go and not a lot of people would either, but what happens if you pay about \$70 dollars for it? Is it still not worth it?

There are no refunds so we all will be wasting our money if we don't go but I know a lot of people would rather just stay home if there was bad weather, so let's think of the pros/cons of going

Pros:

- Money wasn't wasted
- Enjoyment
- Free day off from school

Cons

- Less enjoyment than a normal trip if weather's bad.
- Boredom if rides are closed.

I would say they are about even, so it really comes down to your preference. I would go because there is no point in wasting \$70 for something you don't even do and who knows, you might have fun, or the rain might clear up!



Co-Editors

Noah Volkman
Joseph Melillo

Feature Editor

Samuel Sanz

Sports Editor

Jesse Manginelli

Photography Editor

Allison O'Connor

Copy Editors

William Underkoffler
Michael Aiello

Reporters

Vince Mooren
Anthony Fusco
Peyton Linares
Noah Volkman
Natalia Tellez
Alexa Chimes
Isaac Like
Farah Cicogna
Peyton Linares
Jack Lucchese
Chiara Ginty
Bella Del Duco

Honza Jares

Jonah Pinto
Michael Abrams
Charlotte Carroll
Mason Kaufman
John Spatola
Kavya Dave
Ellie Sheridan
Phil Gurney
Kevin Grant
Harrison Mellor
Arya Frye
Christopher Lux
Bridget Kossow
Jackson Forsberg
Joshua Burkhart
Sofia Palazzetti
Ryan Paucar
Kaeleigh Picco

NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE

The Patriot's Pen



**By Josh Burkhart
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In the Fall of 2018, the 7th grade was invited to write an essay as part of the Somers Veterans of Foreign Wars (Somers VFW) annual "Patriot's Pen". This year the topic was "Why I Honor the Flag".

When completed, the essays were reviewed and judged by veterans of the VFW. Eight participants were declared winners. The winners got to shake hands with Tim McArdle, a member of the Somers VFW, and received a certificate and a cash prize. Congratulations to all the winners: Christopher Gardner, Eric Amante, Conner Baran, Hannah Noreika, Lindsay McCullough, Farah Cicogna, Khyla Cohen, and myself, Joshua Burkhart. I am honored to be one of them.



New Pool Was Well Worth the Wait!



**By Peyton Linares
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This summer I am very excited to say that I will have a pool in my back yard and I plan on swimming in it as much as I possibly can.

My three siblings and I were extremely excited and felt very lucky that our parents finally agreed to build a pool in our back yard. It took several years from all of us to finally persuade them...well we really just had to persuade my dad, as mom was on-board with the idea for a while.

Anyway, the pool is finally done and we've been swimming for about a week. We love it! However, this article isn't about how great the pool will be...it's about the long road from when the first shovel hit the ground to my first cannonball...and all the mud in between.

It all started in October when we started to plan out where the pool was going to go, what the shape of it would be, how deep we wanted it, and so on so forth. When they started digging the hole, I was getting excited already.

The hole digging process was quite interesting as their gigantic backhoe moved earth and boulders like they were nothing. They dug up some interesting wires, and poles, and other bits and pieces of what seemed like old farm equipment.

When they finally finished digging the



huge hole, they put up the walls of the pool. Then they fenced it in with a temporary fence and left for the winter. They couldn't do anything during the winter because of the frozen ground. Over the winter, my backyard looked like a war zone, as the big dirt tracks left behind by the backhoe and the

absence of grass were all that remained...oh and the huge hole. Aside from sledding down the dirty tracks during some snow days, we didn't get much use of the yard.

Then spring arrived and my excitement started to grow once again. I thought to myself, *I can't believe I'm going to be swimming in MY pool soon.* But, those feelings were a bit too soon. Because there was so much rain in April and May that the hole and surrounding dirt areas were like a pond and forever lasting mud pit. There was SO much rain,

that there were even ducks swimming in the pool before me! As far as the mud, well it swallowed one of my flip flops, it caked my new sneakers, it found its way into the house on the bottom of everyone's feet, and seemed like it would never go away.

But eventually the sun made enough guest appearances that the pool company and patio company could get back to work. It didn't take long once they were back at it to finish up the pool.

I was so amazed how quick it actually came together. Before I knew it, and three trucks full of water later, I was about to jump in my own pool. My siblings and I stood on the edge of the pool, while my mom and dad filmed us jumping in for the first time. One, two, three...Splash!

Was the Live Action Aladdin Better Than the Original?

(WARNING SPOILERS AHEAD!!!)



**By Farah Cicogna
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I went to go see the new live action Aladdin and it was great. It was the same plot as the cartoon but with a twist. It was very interesting how in the beginning of the movie they had the genie and the princesses head maid telling a story, but you don't know it's them yet and then for them to tie it back together at the end which was interesting.

I also liked that Jasmine did not only stick to the blue crop top and pants but that she changed it up a little, like when she would meet a



prince and she usually would wear a head scarf, too.

What I did not like is that the press said that Aladdin was Naomi Scott's first Disney role when she was in a British Disney channel show and in Lemonade Mouth. Helloooo!! I mean does no one remember that? I did really like that they added a couple things about the movie like the dancing scene

and Jasmine's song at the end which I thought was really empowering for her. Overall when I went to go see it, I thought that it would not be good or as good as the cartoon but I was very pleasantly surprised and would go see it again.

Is Team Tuskers For You?



**By Chris Lux
Tusker
Tribune Staff
Team**

Tuskers mentoring is a Somers middle school club that pairs you up with a mentor from a test of things you liked compared to the same test took by a mentor. It also considers your preference for certain interests.

When you get a mentor, you can choose to meet on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday at lunch or in the morning or after school.

When you are meeting, you can go outside play catch or play basketball. You can play foosball, watch videos on your tablet, and/or you can talk to your mentor and keep things between you and them.

There are also two after school parties, one breakfast and one trip, not to mention free snacks provided.

Overall, Team Tuskers is a fun program that has a lot to offer.

If you are stressed, this is a great club for you, if you are hyper this is a great club for you and if you are looking to have a great time this is for you. So, this is why Team Tuskers is a great program that might be good for you.



Five Easy Study Tips to Make Your Life Easier



**By Jessica Masterson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

With all the stress and studying of Finals, here are some helpful hints to know!

1) Make a Time and Place for Studying

Try to designate a certain time, place, or day to study. This will help you to stay organized, and make sure you are studying when you need to. This also helps to ensure you are not cramming in information at the last minute.



2) Ask for Help when you Need It

When studying, don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it! The person you ask may be able to help you understand a lesson much better. There's no shame in admitting you don't understand a subject or unit.

3) Discover which Learning Style works best for YOU

Try studying in the way you learn information best—whether that be by reading, listening, or by creating something hands-on. This helps people understand a lesson much better.

4) Divide your Time Based on Need

A crucial thing to remember while studying is that it's not the amount of time that matters when studying, but how well you understand the lesson. Knowing this try to divide your time based on this.

5) Take Breaks

While studying, it will be very helpful to you to take a break when you need it! Since you shouldn't be trying to cram all of the information in your head, taking a break every now and then can help clear your mind and make your studying more beneficial!

XXXTENTACION's Close Friend Shot 1 Year After Rapper's Death



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Just one year after we lost the legend XXXTENTACION, his close friend, a rapper who goes by the name of C Glizzy, was shot in the head on June 18.



Glizzy is recovering in the hospital. This is tragic because this event happened exactly one year after XXXTENTACION, a rapper/singer who was on the rise, was fatally shot in an armed robbery in Florida.

C Glizzy, whose real name is Christian Moore, was shot on Saturday while outside a convenience store in Pompano Beach, Florida. While being rushed to Broward

Health North, his brother and his friend lost control of the vehicle they were driving and crashed into a highway exit ramp.

Moore spent hours in the hospital undergoing surgery to remove the bullet from his head.

8th Grade D.C. Trip Was Truly Memorable



**By Kaeleigh Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In late May, the 8th Grade Somers Middle School Class of 2019 returned home from their trip to Washington D.C. It is an event carefully planned by the school staff and administration, and happily anticipated by the students since the time they enter the middle school. Below is just a taste of what the grade visited and saw in D.C.



The first stop the 8th Graders made on the trip was to Arlington Cemetery, a national military cemetery in Arlington County, Virginia. Its 624 acres of land are the resting place of more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives in the nation's conflicts.

Later that evening, the class visited the White House on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the home of the President of the United States. It was built on October 13th, 1792, and burned down by the British on August 24th, 1814 in the midst of the War of 1812. It was rebuilt soon after and finished for the second time in 1817.



On the second day, the 8th Graders started by taking a class picture in front of the Capitol building, and proceeded inside for a tour. While there, they learned that the very dome of the capitol was built twice, the second built right on top of the first and made of cast iron.

On the third and final day of the trip, the students went to the Lincoln Memorial, and overlooked the Reflection Pool and the Washington Monument, pictured below. The Lincoln Memorial is a tribute to Abraham Lincoln and his incredible ability to keep the country united. Above the pillars of this monument are the 48 continental states with Roman Numerals to represent when they became apart of the Union.



From the Lincoln Memorial, the class got a great view of the Washington Monument and the Reflection Pool. They discovered that the Washington Monument is actually made of two different kinds of stone; white marble from Maryland and granite from quarries in New England.

NBA Awards Predictions



**By Michael Abrams
Tusker Tribune Staff**

With the NBA Season over and the Awards Ceremony coming on June 24th there is a lot of discussion on who will be the MVP (Most Valuable Player), Defensive Player of the year, and rookie of the year. Here are my picks:

5. Stephen Curry
He led the Warriors to the finals and averaged 27.3 points, 5.3 rebounds and 5.2 assists.



4. Paul George



He averaged 28.1 points, 8.2 rebounds, and 4.1 assists leading the Thunder to the first round of the playoffs before getting eliminated by the Portland Trail Blazers.

3. Giannis Antetokounmpo

He averaged 27.7 points, 12.6 rebounds, and 5.8 assists and led the Bucks to the Conference Semifinals.



2. Kawhi Leonard



He led the Toronto Raptors to an NBA championship and averaged 26.6 points, 7.3 rebounds, and 3.3 assists.

1. James Harden
He averaged an insane 36.1 points, 6.6 rebounds, and 7.5 assists to lead Houston to the Western Conference Semifinals.



Defensive Player of the year



3. Paul George

2. Giannis Antetokounmpo



1. Kawhi Leonard



Rookie of the Year

3. DeAndre Ayton
He averaged 16.3 points, 10.3 rebounds, and 1.8 assists.



2. Trae Young
He averaged 19.1 points, 3.7 rebounds, and 8.1 assists.



1. Luka Doncic
He averaged 21.2 points, 7.8 rebounds, and 6.1 assists.



6th Man of the year

3. Dennis Schroder
He averaged 15.5 points, 3.6 rebounds, and 4.1 assists off the bench for the Oklahoma City Thunder.



2. Lou Williams
He averaged 20.1 points, 3.0 rebounds, and 5.4 as-

ists off the bench for the Clippers.

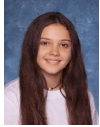


bench for the Timberwolves.

1. Derrick Rose
He averaged 18.1 points, 2.7 rebounds, and 4.3 assists off the

Those are my predictions for the 2019 NBA Awards Ceremony on June 24th, 2019.

College Softball World Series Wrapup



By Bella Del Duco
Tusker Tribune
Staff

The College Softball World Series is a huge event for softball and the colleges. It is almost like March Madness. There are a lot of teams in a tournament trying to make it to the championship and win it.

This year, UCLA won it. Their softball academy is very good, and they have really good players. They destroyed Oklahoma in the finals and UCLA was considered the underdog team. In the first game, they beat Oklahoma 5-4 and in the second



game, they beat them 16-1. UCLA was the number 2 seed and Oklahoma was the number 1 seed. So, most people thought that Oklahoma should have won the world series.

The 1 seed usually has the home field advantage. So, that was good for Oklahoma.

Another good team was Washington. I thought they were going to the finals, but UCLA beat them. They were the number 3 seed. They made it to bracket 1 and then lost.

Big Brook, A Possible Destination This Summer



By Vince Mooren
Tusker Tribune Staff

Our school year is almost over and summer is on its way. Some of us will go on vacation, some to camp and some of us lucky ones get to spend the whole summer at home.

Many people wonder what they can do all summer that will keep you busy. I want to share one of my favorite places I like to go to as a day trip and maybe give you a new idea for a summer day.

My number one day trip during the summer is Big Brook, in New Jersey. Yes, it is a brook, but what you can find there brings it to a whole other level. Here you will not just be knee deep in water and watching all kinds of creatures swim past you. Here you have the possibility of making history.

This brook is a well-known place for finding fossils. Yes, fossils. Here you can find anything from a mosasaur tooth to shark teeth. All you need is a strainer. Any kind will do, along with the love for an adventure. I use a simple beach sand



strainer and squat in the brook sifting through the mud.

My family and I usually don't go any farther than a mile into the brook and we come away with some amazing discoveries. The last time my family and I went to the Big Brook, we found 15 shark teeth, what we believe to be a dinosaur tooth, a dinosaur toe bone, a bunch of invertebrates and skates.

The best part is, if you have no idea what you are looking at, they have a guide at the opening to the brook with pictures and descriptions. There is no need to go to the Museum of Natural History, when you can go digging for your own history.

This brook is only about an hour and a half away from Somers and there is a great ice cream shop right nearby. My only suggestion is for you to bring a change of clothes. If you are not all covered in mud by the time you are done, you will be definitely

drenched.

The only trick is you have to change in your car, because the entrance is just right off a main road. Even with the mud, water, and no bathrooms it is a great place to be outdoors with nature and discover new things, I hope you stop by.

How Can the New York Yankees Get Better?



**By Jack Lucchese
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The New York Yankees have been doing pretty well so far in the 2019 season. They lead the American League East with a record of 43-27, a .614 win percentage.

Barely being ahead of their division rival Tampa Bay Rays by half a game, they still have the Boston Red Sox to worry about. They have recently added a top player in the league named Edwin Encarnacion who leads the American League in home runs. This is great because he's a good hitter right? That's partially true. The Yankees have been dropping like flies with about a team and a half worth of injured players. With their top outfielders and hitters Giancarlo Stanton and Aaron Judge coming back soon, the team just doesn't have room because of all of these replacement players. Edwin Encarnacion is joining the team Monday with Giancarlo Stanton coming back Tuesday. Any article you read says it is great news which is not really true. The Yankees have



been hitting well but their main problem is pitching. They have walked 213 batters and only strikeouts 652. They are also missing players from the pitching side of the team including Luis Severino, Domingo German, Dellin Betances, Jordan Montgomery, Ben Heller, Jonathon Loaisiga, and Jake Barrett.

The Yankees have to get more relief pitchers so they can put them in when the starting pitchers get tired or start to look like they're getting beat up by the hitters. On the other side of the injured list, the Yankee offense has Giancarlo Stanton (coming back), Troy Tulowitzki, Jacoby Ellsbury, Didi Gregorius (playing but still recovering), Miguel Andujar, Aaron Judge, Greg Bird, and Clint Frazier who got sent down to the minor leagues because of being replaced by Encarnacion.

Overall, the Yankees need to get more and better pitchers, get better at hitting with runners in scoring position, let up less runs while pitching, and start making room for offensive players.

SlashDown Has Something For Everyone



**By Chiara Ginty
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you heard of Splashdown? If not, you should get to know about it.

It's a cool waterpark that my grade and I will be taking a field trip to tomorrow.

Splashdown's biggest waterslide is called "the Magellen" and is often referred to as "The Meg". Splashdown also has many other waterslides, including "The Bullet Bowl", "The Humunga Halfpipe", "The Pirate's Plunge" and "The



Pirate's Revenge.

Splashdown also has a very cool "Lazy River" ride. I would recommend trying it if you are there! Splashdown also has a delicious food court. They have a Nathans, and a great place to grab some ice cream, when you have a sweet tooth!

If you have never been to Splashdown, I recommend spending a day with your friends or family at this amazing waterpark, as it will be a very entertaining activity for the day!

Team Tuskers Mentoring Was Very Rewarding



**By Honza Jares
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last week the Team Tusker Mentoring Club ended by a good breakfast.

We had fun at the breakfast. We got free food and we got a gift card for King Kone, which was nice from the school to give us.

A week before the breakfast, we went on a Boundless Adventure trip, which was awesome and guess what? It was



for free, too! All you have to do is sign up and meet with your mentor on a week before school, lunch or after school and that is all you have to do to be a part of Team Tusker mentoring and get this awesome trip and breakfast.

I hope a lot of you join next year because it is really fun to do mentoring. And I hope you have a awesome time like me and all the

other kids.

Minnesota Gophers Had a Great Season



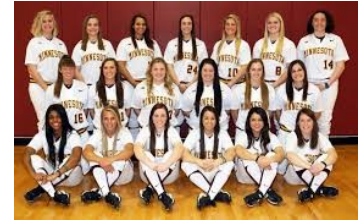
By Kavya Dave
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Minnesota Gophers Softball team had its most successful season in school history. Despite losing against UCLA in the College Softball World Series, they are recognized for the successful season.

Gophers pitcher Amber Fisher was nominated for the Honda Sport Award for softball. This was her best season ever, with 346 strikeouts. The team won 46 games this season. They only lost 14

this season. Their last game this year against Washington could have been a win. They had only lost by 2 runs. Their biggest win this season was on March 23 against University of Maryland. The score was 19-5, and they had won by 14 runs.

The Minnesota Gophers are ranked #7 in college softball. They are one of the best teams.



Two Cool Activities For Your Summer Vacation



By Charlotte Carroll
Tusker Tribune Staff

School is coming to an end and the summer time is rolling around quickly. Now just to make sure you aren't sitting at home bored this summer, I want to give you two fun local activities to do this summer.



Drive-In is an ice cream shop that also provides fresh food and drinks. The Red Rooster Drive-In also features a mini golf course with more than 10 mini golf holes. The Red Rooster Drive-In is a very

The first local activity you can do this summer is you can go to the Red Rooster Drive-In located in Brewster, NY. The Red Rooster

family friendly activity that is great if you want to grab a quick bite, a scoop of ice cream, or play some mini golf.

The second local activity you can do this summer is you can stop by Rockin' Jump located in Mount Kisco, NY. Although Rockin' Jump is an indoor trampoline park, it is something to do on a rainy summer day. They have a few different sections in the trampoline park which include a foam pit that you can jump into, an ongoing trampoline basketball game, an ongoing trampoline dodgeball game, as well as a free jumping zone. They also feature a rock-climbing wall that costs an extra fee.

Those are two fun things you can do this



Should Schools Go to Four Day Weeks?



By Mason Kauffman
Tusker Tribune Staff

What many schools have been wondering lately is whether they should switch to four day weeks or stay with five day weeks. Four day weeks is slowly gaining popularity.

Hundreds of schools in America have made the switch to four day weeks by extending the amount of time the students are at school the remaining days. They basically turn Mondays into a day



off for the students and a preparation day for the teachers. The results of doing this have been mixed. Teachers and students seem to think it a good set up while some parents think it is bad.

Some of the reasons this is a good idea are because sometimes students have late sports practices or games on Friday nights and having Mondays off gives them time to catch up and do homework.

Continued on Page 10

China Revealed



**By Conor Maher
Tusker Tribune Staff**

China has the biggest population and has one of the highest birth rate at 15.23 million births in 2018. China is a Unitary one-party socialist republic also known as communism.

China had a history similar to Japan. This was a Dynastic Rule; this means that the rulers starting in 2100 BCE were part of a very rich and powerful. Japan was separated into different kingdoms with strict rulers and Warriors or Samurai to protect the rule.

China went Imperial in 231 BCE. This means that they focus on militarism and diplomatic relations this may weaken international relationships because it may involve funding more military operations and to other countries looks



like they may prepare to start a world war.

China has had a long history of territorially battles, mostly with Mongolia and Korea. Which then had not had the Korean war which separated the country in to North the Dictatorship of the Peoples Democracy, a fancy way of saying Strict Dictatorship. Then the South very similar to our democracy with three branches or houses of power.

In China from 1912–1949 they were a Republic and that was favored as the people could vote on government officials but it only lasted 37 years. Today the government is a Peoples Republic that was formed by the Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong. So, it may not be your regular communist country but it's still a way of ruling the citizens haven't had a civil war.

Various Trades Could Really Help These Teams



**By Tristan Hamilton
Tusker Tribune Staff**

There have been a lot of big changes coming into this new NFL season and I would like to share the bigger game changing signings and trades.

My first one I'm going to talk about is Odell Beckham Jr getting traded to the Cleveland Browns. The Browns gave up to get him the 17th overall pick (which would up being Clemson defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence), a third-round pick (Old Dominion edge-rusher Oshane Ximines) and safety Jabrill Peppers, a first-round pick in 2016 who hasn't lived up to that draft pedigree. This is a very good pick up for the Browns because their other Wide Receiver, Jarvis Landry has great chemistry with Odell since college days at LSU.



Second is Antonio Brown getting traded to the Oakland Raiders. After his relationship with the Pittsburgh Steelers rapidly deteriorated (and by rapidly deteriorated, I mean completely fell apart), the Steelers finally got rid of disgruntled wide receiver Antonio Brown. They shipped him cross-country to the Raiders for a third-round pick and a fifth-round pick.

Third huge move is by the New York Jets. In March, the Jets signed Le'Veon Bell a four-year, \$52.5 million deal with \$27 million guaranteed. Nick Foles Signed a four-year, \$88 million deal with the Jacksonville Jaguars (with a max value of \$102 million), according to Rapoport and Garafolo.

Lastly, Jordan Howard was traded by the Bears to the Eagles in exchange for a 2020 conditional sixth-round pick.

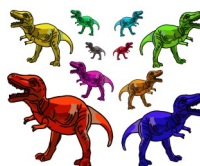


Dino Knowledge and Ark Survival Evolved



**By Kevin Grant
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The average person knows very little about dinosaurs. Most people can only name T.Rex, and most people don't even know what the "T" stands for! Some people (Most that have seen the Jurassic movies) know triceratops, stegosaurus, brachiosaurus and maybe Velociraptor and Tyranno-



saurus Rex.

However, there are over 750 different species of dinosaurs that have been discovered and named. In fact, scientists think that there are a lot more species to be discovered.

Here are a few more dinosaurs for you: Spinosaurus Aegyptiacus, Carnotaurus, Argentinosaurus, which is the largest dinosaur and animal to ever be discovered (212 feet)!

Continued on Page 11

Sea Turtles Dying From Artificial Light



**By Phil Gurney
Tusker Tribune Staff**

There is a threat to Sea Turtles. They are dying from artificial lighting.



Turtles need a quiet and dark beach to nest. Now there are many tourists and seaside houses and hotels and lights from these houses discourage females from nesting.

The female turtles are losing places to nest and sometimes they deposit their eggs in the ocean.

Not a lot of the baby turtles survive. The lights also disorient the turtles so the wander inland instead of out at sea. They often die from dehydration and predation.



Ways to Prevent This

- Don't build lights near turtle nesting grounds.
- Turn off the lights near beaches or use turtle safe lighting.

The 'Head' Incident



**By Harrison Mellor
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I see the beautiful Oasis Club. I go through the huge building, and walk outside. I see a lot of pools and many waterparks. I go down the stairs and run to the baby waterpark. I was jumping up and down 100 times, running around in circles. Mouth open and jaw drop.

Crash!

100 gallons of water in the bucket fall on the ground.

Splash!



It goes again. I go up the stairs for the little baby slide.

"On your stomach H", my cousin was saying. My hands were shaking, I had butterflies in my stomach. I was biting my bottom lip. It was swollen.

I get on my stomach, arms like Superman, I push off and go down, getting a face full of water. I got back up and went up the stairs again and back at the top of the mini baby slide. I go over the metal bar that keeps babies from running down the slide. *I feel bad for one of those babies.*

Emmett said, "Run down the slide!"

So I run down the slide, feeling sick and nauseous. My feet came out from under me and I hit my head. When I hit my head everyone said it sounded like a truck going by.

Ouch.

Dino From Page 10

Spinosaurus Aegyptiacus is a genus of carnivorous spinosaurid theropod that lived in the late cretaceous period. Spinosaurus Aegyptiacus was the first ever semi-aquatic dinosaur to ever be discovered! It is also the largest carnivore to ever walk the Earth. It was mostly piscivorous (Eats fish) but it may have also eaten small dinosaurs and dinosaur eggs.

Spinosaurus Aegyptiacus didn't have a very strong bite, but instead had huge claws that is used in combat and acquiring food that could easily kill a tyrannosaurus rex! Its main food source was the prehistoric (Dinosaur times) sawfish known as the Onchopristis. Here are a few more dinosaurs with long and complex, but fun to say names: the long-



est dinosaur name, Micropachycephalosaurus, Eustreptospondylus, parasaurolaphus.

There are three periods in which dinosaurs existed. The first one was the Triassic period, the next is the Jurassic period and the last dinosaur period was the cretaceous period.

The top dinosaur themed videogame is Ark Survival Evolved. In this game, you can find over 50 different species of dinosaurs. You can tame dinosaurs and even ride dinosaurs! You can play multiplayer with your friends and build buildings. You can explore treacherous oceans filled with megalodons and mosasaurs.

There are different maps with different dinosaurs, biomes and resources. There are also holiday events where dinosaurs can be awesome colors! I highly recommend that people should learn more about dinosaurs. The more we know, the more we can discover!

Should There Be More Field Trips?



By Khyla Cohen
Tusker Tribune Staff

June brings the final and long-awaited field trips of the school year. It is a well-deserved break after a year full of relentless hard work. Yet, in all the chaos caused by finals, I am questioning, should schools have more field trips?

In the article, "Should Schools Schedule More Field Trips for Students?" by Bambi Majumdar, it explains studies conducted where participants who have taken numerous educational field-trips have overall done better in school than compared to those who didn't have many field trips as part of their school curriculum.

Personally, I prefer learning not just in a classroom but by stepping out of the classroom



into the world at large. There are so many interesting places to visit!

Another point I think is very valuable to bring up was brought to my attention by a commenter on Debate.org who stated the fact that our generation is consumed by electronics. Field trips allow students to socialize with friends and unload energy which has been building up from sitting in a classroom for hours upon end.

More school field trips do seem like a valuable approach to immerse ourselves as students and heighten our understanding of the topics we have learned in the classroom. We have been fortunate at SMS to have the opportunity of many field trips during the school year, giving us all the ability to step out of the classroom.

St. Louis Blues Take Home Stanley Cup



By John Spatola
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Saint Louis Blues won the Stanley Cup for the first time. They beat



not have won a Stanley cup. The Boston Bruins were favored and expected to win the Stanley Cup. Almost 50 years ago they had both played against each other in the Stanley Cup Finals, but Boston had won. This time, in the first match, the Bruins won 4-2. In the second, the Blues won 3-2 and lasted in an overtime. In the third game the Bruins abolished the Blues 7-2. In game four the Blues won 4-2 again. In the fifth match, the Blues won 2-1. In the sixth match the

End of Year Calendar!

the Boston Bruins four games to three games in a seven-game series.

The final score of the last game was 4 - 1. The St. Louis Blues are the oldest team to

Four Day School Week

From Page 9

Teachers also benefit from this set up because they get an entire day without students to prepare for classes, learn new technology, grade homework and do staff development stuff. Four day school weeks also saves the district a lot of money since it is one day less of transportation costs, breakfast and lunch and heating. Students benefit by having more rest and a less stressful environment. Some superintendents say that because of this, children are better behaved and less disruptive in class. It has been shown also that attendance for teachers and for students improves with four day weeks. Academic improvement has also been shown to be better with this set up.

Some argue that having a four day week is bad because the students end up in class approximately 14 hours less over the course of the entire

year. Parents argue that they would be forced to find daycare for younger kids if they switch to a four day week. Another negative some say is that the students are in class the 4 days for an extra 20-40 minutes per day and that they may get tired. Finally another disadvantage is that some children rely on cheaper school meals and a four day week makes them have to feed the child on their own an extra day.

I think the advantages of a four day week far outweigh the disadvantages. Schools should switch because it will make the teachers better prepared for teaching class and the students will have more willingness to work because they get a three day weekend to catch up on homework and projects. I understand the extra cost to some parents because of daycare and meals but maybe the school with all the money they are saving on other things like transportation and heating can figure out a way to help these parents financially.

U.S. Women's Soccer Team Storms Onto World Stage



By Bridget Kossov
Tusker Tribune
Staff

The U.S. Women's National Soccer Team has been training with all the other teams to go to the World Cup.

This year the World cup is in Paris, France and all eyes are on the US to see if they can get the trophy. Well the US is certainly on their way there. On June 11, 2019, the United States pulled off a 13-0 victory over Thailand. Alex Morgan with 5 goals, Rose Lavelle with 2 goals, Sam Lewis with 2 goals as well, Lindsay Horan, Carli Lloyd, Mallory Pugh, and Megan Rapinoe all with one goal. It was the highest number of goals scored ever in a World

Cup match. That was a huge accomplishment for them as a team.



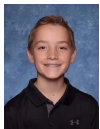
On June 16, 2019 The United States made a second appearance in the world cup, in their second match against Chile, where they won 3-0. Carli Lloyd had two goals and Julie Ertz had one goal.

A third victory came on June 20, 2019 against Sweden, which eliminated the U.S. in the previous World Cup. This year, the

score was 2-0. The U.S. won with goals from Lindsay Horan and Tobin Heath.

Who knows how far the United States will go, but everyone's expecting them to bring home the trophy.

Lake Compounce A Great Summer Destination



By Jackson Forsberg
Tusker Tribune Staff

This summer may be boring if you have nothing to do.

One idea would be going to Lake Compounce. They have thrilling rides that are fun for kids and the whole family.



They also have a lake and water park to swim in. The water park is very fun.

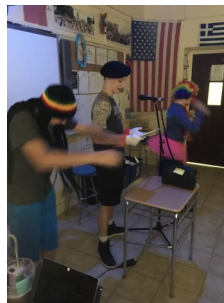
You could also go on the Phobia Phear coaster.

If you get hungry, they have great snacks, drinks, and food.

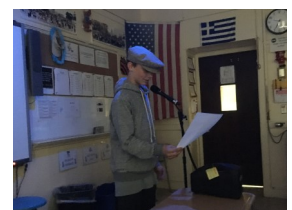
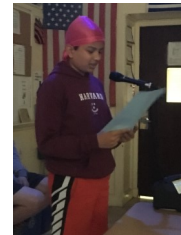
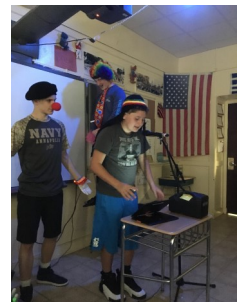
Don't eat too much before going on the Boulder Dash roller coaster, which is a very fast wooden roller coaster. There is also a Human Sling Shot.

I hope you can visit Lake Compounce this summer.

Scenes from a Poetry Slam



Students in Mr. Pappas' ELA Classes recently participated in an End-Of-Year Poetry Slam. Pictured here are some of the kids and their "funky" poet costumes.



Middle School Presents a Host of Challenges



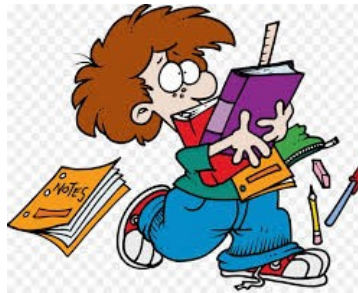
**By Sofia Palazzetti
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Middle School has three different annoying challenges that every student has to face every day of school.

The first challenge is having to memorize your schedule and where your classes are and what your classes are. The second challenge is having a locker and having to memorize the combo and having to memorize where it is. The third challenge is having a tablet. THEY DON'T ALWAYS WORK.

The first challenge: your schedule. You have to memorize WHERE all your classes are, WHAT classes they are so you know what books to bring to that class, and what PERIOD the class is. If you walk in the wrong class at the wrong time or get lost and ask for help, it's extremely embarrassing. It's happened to me before and it's not fun. On the first day of school, it's okay because teachers understand the reason for being late and walking in the wrong class. Sometimes even at the end of the year, kids still make the mistake.

The second challenge: your locker. One of the most common challenges. You have to memorize where it is, what number locker it is and what your combo is to get in. It's the same thing with your gym locker. Sometimes your locker gets jammed and you can't get in. That makes you late for class and that makes your teachers mad when it's not your fault. This is why you have to keep



your locker clean. Other times, all your stuff that has to fit in your locker like your backpack, lunchbox, sweat-shirt or jacket, and all your books don't always fit. And that leads to your locker getting jammed. Also, it makes you late for class because your class could be all the way downstairs and you have to go all the way upstairs just to get your books and go back down. It is way easier to just take your books for the classes that are on the same floor so you aren't late but kids struggle with that because they have to carry like 10 books, and they weigh like 100 pounds.

The third challenge is having a tablet. Kids struggle with this one a lot because they don't always work.

When your tablet isn't working your teacher usually sends you to the gear shack to get it fixed. Sometimes when you get to the gear shack, your tablet just magically starts working and your problem is solve. So when the people there ask you, "what is wrong with your tablet?" you say nothing. And then it looks like you went there just to get out of class. Even when you leave the gear shack after your problem is magically fixed, it stops working again. It's like when you really need your tablet it decides to not work. But when you don't need your tablet it works perfectly fine.

Middle School has 3 different annoying challenges that every student has to face every day of school.

T Series vs PewDiePie Review



**By Ryan Paucar
Tusker Tribune Staff**

T Series is an Indian music record and film production company. PewDiePie is a 29-year-old Swedish man. His real name is Felix Kjellberg and he has over 90 million subscribers on YouTube.

T Series and PewDiePie were racing to see who could get the most subscribers. T Series quickly established a lead.

Many other Youtubers have tried to support PewDiePie like MrBeast, Markiplier,



Jacksepticeye, and Logan Paul. Also, PewDiePie's fans have made efforts to gain subscribers for him like doing marches and making YouTube videos saying to subscribe to PewDiePie.

PewDiePie supporters often use the slogan "Subscribe to PewDiePie". On April 28, 2019 PewDiePie released a video telling all

his supporters to stop trying to make him the most subscribed channel on YouTube. Now that T series has such a significant lead, the competition has ended.

So Why Are We Getting Out So Late This Year?



**By Arya Frye
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

Schools around the world are coming to an end, and students can't wait for summer vacation. But do you ever ask yourself, why do some schools end earlier than others?



Well, to most people, private schools do a better job educating their students with "superior standardized test scores and outcomes". So, one reason they could end earlier is because students have already learned everything they were required to for that year, if private schools live up to doing a

For example, private schools in New York end the week of June 10, while public schools in NY are stuck in school until June 26. Now usually people would think that private schools start earlier in the year, so it's fair. But, private schools in NY start anywhere between September 4-6, which is the same starting time as a public school. So why do they have a shorter school year? And why do private schools end earlier?

better job educating students.

But according to an article by Valerie Strauss titled "No, private schools aren't better at educating kids than public schools", it states that "a new study confirmed that there is no evidence found the suggests that children benefit more from private school enrollment". So why can't we get an early summer vacation, too?

SMS Students Ready for Summer



**By Ellie Sheridan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As the school year comes to an end, many students are wishing that it is already summer. Many students are looking forward to lounging around the house or going to summer camps. Very few people are sad that the school year is over.



"I am going on vacation as soon as school gets out," one student said, looking forward to their summer. This student is only one of many that is looking forward to traveling this summer. Some people go to day camps or sleepaway camps during the summer. I, personally, am

looking forward to going to both sleepaway camp and day camps. I also know some people who don't go to camp at all. Instead they lounge around their houses or go to the pool.

Regardless of their plans for the summer of 2019, many students are wishing that school is over and it's summer.

**Thanks to all our writers this
year! Have a Great Summer!**

See you in the Fall!

**—The Tusker Tribune Staff and
Editorial Board.**



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