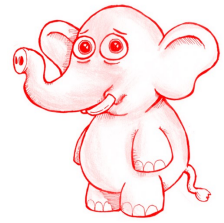


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School

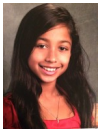


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Fall 2017

Presetting Lockers- For the Good or Worse?



By Julia Wilkinson
Tusker Tribune Staff

In SMS, everybody has a designated privilege: a locker. Though what is even more significant about containing a locker is that a locker has a code. A code only you know. A code only you can use to open your locker.

In the miniscule three minutes students contain to go to their next class, students stop by their lockers.

When students do their code, countless times students have made an error, and have to unlock their locker all over.

Usually, this wouldn't be a disaster if some students have their next class on a different floor. 6th graders have developed a solution to this dilemma: Preset your locker.

Presetting your locker is simple: Before their class, students would put their code into the lock. All they have to do now is simply lift up the latch and their locker is able to be accessed. But they don't lift up the latch.

Once students finish their class, rushing to their locker, they simply lift the latch, take their books, and head off to their next class.

This solution has helped many new students to the district, and to middle school itself. Students no longer have to risk being late to their

next class whether it is just next door or on a different floor. Students have the opportunity to access their locker with ease.

But what these students haven't realized is that other students who may not be so concerned about private spaces can access their locker as well.

Since students in 6th grade have discovered a tactic to an obstacle that has been around this school for years, trouble has developed in this solution, that is astonishing coming from 6th graders.



Towards the end of the school day, once many students have already retreated to the buses, kids go around lifting latches, hollering, "Presetting! Presetting lockers! Presetting!" These 'latch lifters' have been lifting the latches of nearly every locker in a wing, hoping a they would stumble upon a preset locker.

Well. I have three things to say. For you latch lifters, this article is being read by many faculty members, students, and even parent and guardians of students attending SMS. I'd highly advise you to cease your unsanitary crime.

For faculty members, parent and guardians, and other adults, I am informing you on these latch lifters and strongly advising that this situation be brought up among the students attending this middle school.

Finally, this message I am sending to all students who preset their lockers and wouldn't want to risk being tardy to a period. I completely understand the situation of risking being late for class, but let me ask you this question: Would you want other kids who wouldn't mind looking into your private things looking into your private things?

Now, that leads to one conclusion: Don't preset your lockers! Unless there is a solution to this disaster: Which luckily, I just happen to have!

When you've passed your second number, move on to the direction of your third number. But stop two to three dashes before your final number. This way, latch lifters won't be able to just simply lift a latch and access your locker. They don't know your third code, so they can't figure out how much dashes to move!

I hope this article will help students and faculty members alike realize how this problem has been rapidly spreading, and hope this may now cease.

Stay tuned for more news on the Tusker Talker!

The Tusker Tribune Commentary

Has Snap Chat Gone Too Far?



**By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff**

OMG, did you see my story? I just like totally took like the best like pic ever!

Do you ever like hear this all the time? Well I'm sure you do. Every single day kids are on their social media such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and many more sites, but you know the most popular social media program teens and kids use? You guessed it, SnapChat!

If you don't know what SnapChat is, which is highly unlikely, I'll tell you. SnapChat is a social media program that enables you to create a profile and post pictures/short video-clips. Before SnapChat, everyone was using either Facebook or Instagram and loved them.

But now, since SnapChat was created, a tremendous number of kids and teens have been using it.

Most parents find that it's dangerous and a waste of precious time. I'm sure it's been proven that SnapChat is a place of danger for kids and teens. SnapChat is taking over the social media industry and also destroying friendships because



people decide to make the wrong choices on it. You never know if people are lying about their age. People who are older can ask you personal questions.

The best thing to do if this happens to you is to not say anything to them. Teens get involved the most; they would even wake up in the middle of the night to update their story or profile. If you actually think about the topic, it's crazy to see how many people are on it at a time.

SnapChat is also a place where people can show off their wealth and money. Most people could find this annoying because it just goes to show you people, especially kids, don't appreciate what they have. SnapChat has pretty much hooked kids into this website to make money. The reason why people create such horrible things is for money, that's what it's all about, money.

I am not saying SnapChat just wants to make money but, it can be an obvious conclusion. My opinion is that SnapChat has taken social media too far!

First Day Sets Tone for Rest of Year



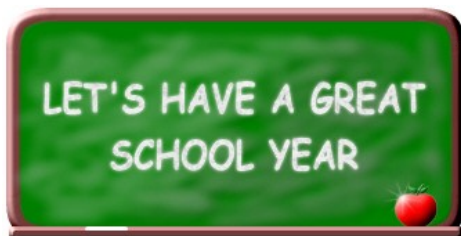
**By Matthew Horowitz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

When I got to the bus stop I was really happy to be going to 7th grade. The bus came and I saw that Steve was the driver so I knew this year was going to be good. My friends got on the bus and they were really happy to see everyone. On the way we realized that we had to pick the kids up at Green Brier. There were so many kids that we had to double up. We were not so happy about that.

When we got to school I walked off the bus and I waved to the camera in front of the school. I was very confused where my teachers were and why they do not use home room any more.

When I got into my 1/3 period

math class I saw some friends and the teacher. The teacher was nice but not at all what I was expecting. I thought she was going to be strict and mean and loud. She wasn't strict and mean but she was loud.



I waited in class for my locker to be called then she said, "Matthew Horowitz, your locker is upstairs and here is your code". I went upstairs and found my locker after about 20 minutes. It also took a long time to open it.

After period 3, I went through my normal routine. I liked some of my classes but periods 5,7,8 were the best and I had so much fun in those classes. The worst part of the day is waiting for lunch during 5th period.

The first day was good and I am excited for what is to come.

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Somers Middle School
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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at
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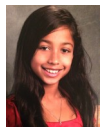


**The Tusker
Tribune Staff**

Angelina Ayoubi
Julia Wilkinson
Matthew Horowitz
Ezra Weinstein
Liam King
Sean Moran



NetFlix Show Reviews



By Julia Wilkinson
Tusker Tribune Staff

Televisions have a lot of uses to them. Many kids use a Playstation, Wii, or an XBox on their TV. Some watch YouTube. There are also Football, Basketball, and Soccer games on TV. Adults watch the news. But one of the most popular uses of a TV is Netflix.

Netflix. Netflix is one of the most common TV uses because of its variety of movie genres, TV shows, and short films.

In a recent survey of SMS 6th graders, I discovered that 74% of the students watched Netflix

I created a chart of TV shows I had discovered people like. I asked each student for their top three favorite TV shows.

- I= favorite= 3 points
- -= 2nd favorite=2 points
- /= 3rd favorite= 1 point

The following shows were the shows I had listed:

Supergirl: III----//// = 21

The Flash: IIIIIIIIIIIIII---/= 59

Green Arrow: II--///// = 16

Series of Unfortunate Events:

III-- = 16

Girl Meets World: - = 2

Best Friends Whenever: /
= 1

Fuller House:

I after I case:
IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII--- = 77

Bunk'd: - = 2

Lab Rats: $I = 3$

Good Luck Charlie: I- = 5

Jessie: $IV = 7$

Liv and Maddie: $I = 3$

Cheersquad: III- = 11

So, from observing this chart, it is evident that there are three top shows:

1. **Fuller House**
2. **The Flash**
3. **Supergirl**

Yet, let me remind you, only 74% of 6th grade had been surveyed. If 100% of the students at SMS had been surveyed, the results would have been false.

38.2% of the students who voted had voted for the TV show **Fuller House**.

28.5% of the students voted for the TV show **The Flash**.

Flash.
10.14% of the students voted for the TV show **Su-
pergirl**.

That means that 23.16% of the students voted for other TV shows.

What is the slightest bit funny is the fact



that the TV shows **The Flash** (2nd), **Supergirl** (3rd), and **Green Arrow** (tied for 4th), are all created by the same production: the CW Network. It is evident that the CW Network has very popular shows.

Now, not everybody at SMS has Netflix, but when some people download it, they are not sure what is good to watch. Here are some recommendations for the TV shows listed:

As you can see, **Fuller House** is the most popular TV show. Many people enjoy this show, and it has new episodes. But you may discover that this show is not age appropriate. This show is about a single mom raising two kids who is now living in her childhood house with her sister and best friend. All single, this single mom finds herself torn between her high school boyfriend and a dentist at her work. Who will she choose? This is definitely not a show I would watch.

The Flash is another popular TV show I would definitely recommend watching. This show is about a man named Barry Allen. When he was 11, his mother Nora was killed by a red and yellow light speeding around her. His father went to jail for her murder. He grew up in the same house as his crush and head police officer Joe West. One day, a Lab called STAR Labs released a particle accelerator. The accelerator backfired and Barry was struck by lightning, going into a coma for 9 months. When he awoke, he became the fastest man alive, and works at STAR Labs.

Labs to save civilians.

Supergirl, is my personal favorite TV show. It is about Kara Zor-EL, whose cousin is Superman. She was 13, and was sent to protect him. When her planet, Krypton was destroyed, her pod was knocked into the Phantom Zone where time doesn't pass. She was there for 24 years before arriving at Earth. Kal-El became Superman, and Kara grew up with a foster sister, and became Kara Danvers. She hid who she really was, until an accident forced her to reveal herself to the world. To most people she is a reporter at CATCO Worldwide Media, but she works at the DEO with her sister to protect her city. I think that Supergirl is a symbol of hope and courage. It is not her superpowers that make her a hero, but the need to help others even if she is putting her life at risk.

There are so many more television shows I would recommend, but that is for you to discover. Remember, what I think may not be of your entertainment.

Krav Maga: The Hybrid Martial Art



By Liam King
Tusker Tribune Staff

Krav Maga is a military self-defense system created for Israeli soldiers who, in dire situations, need to use hand-to-hand combat in the midst of a battle. It is a hybrid of multiple different martial arts such as boxing, wrestling, judo, karate, et cetera.

These fighting techniques should be familiar to you, but what if they were all combined into one single martial art? Well, then you're in luck, because Krav Maga is a thing, and that I happen to be an Advanced Orange Belt with one stripe (as of October 4, 2017).

Before I go into detail about the cool maneuvers this phenomenal style of fighting has to offer, I should probably explain that the belt ranking is based on the student's time dedicated and their skill threshold. For example, I've been a member of Krav Maga since August 2016, and I'm still less than halfway through the belt system. The order is White, Yellow, Orange, Green, Blue, Red and Black. The Advanced Belt marks the halfway point of progression through the belt. Krav Maga takes extreme dedication and practice, so if you are already considering training with me and a group of other friendly students, just know that it takes a while to master the art of Krav.

Now, onto how Krav Maga works and how it has changed my life. At the start of every Krav Maga lesson, we have to warm-up with a strenuous workout. These preparation activities usually consist of slamming a weighted ball onto to a mat, running laps, jogging up and down a stair-

case, pushups, sit-ups and much more. The difficulty of the workouts and the duration lengthen as you advance in the belt system. After all, their motto is "Stay in shape, get home safe".

Now what you've all been waiting for: some information about the fighting techniques Krav Maga has to offer. A few interesting and fun topics we cover in the course of Krav Maga are chokes from every angle, grappling on the ground, a plethora of combatives and the most exciting one of them all, gun and knife defenses.

Of course, this is just training so we use plastic guns and rubber knives. These various defenses help in real life situations that can occur unexpectedly. These techniques are repeated constantly so muscle memory takes over in an actual situation.

The last part of the class is Verbal Judo. This happens every so often, and it is probably my favorite part of the class. Verbal Judo teaches you what to do to cool down a situation verbally before it escalates to using your last resort: physical violence.

One of my most memorable topics is L.E.A.P.S, which stands for Listen, Emphasize, Ask, Paraphrase, and Summarize. I use this quite frequently and if I had not learned it, I wouldn't be the same person that I am today. An example of L.E.A.P.S is a possibly relatable school setting, maybe when one person is being bullied by another. A bystander could use L.E.A.P.S. to cool down the situation between the bully and the victim and then become an upstander.

In conclusion, if YOU would like to "Stay in shape and get home safe", all while learning techniques on how to defend yourself and become an upstander, consider Krav Maga!



The TBH Craze!



By Angelina Ayoubi
Tusker Tribune Staff

This recent fad is a new app- to give compliments?! That's right! Everyone's playing it, and I've collected all their ratings!

Ratings:

- Some thought that this game deserved 3 stars
- While others love it and rated it 4 stars
- 4-5 stars were rated through a majority

The question is: Why is everybody so captivated over a game? I think I have an answer. Girls and boys like that everyone is honest in the game. Knowing what people think is an ability that everyone probably wishes they have; and with this game it is absolutely possible!

I wanted to know more about this popular



Student
Calibrator

game, so I downloaded it. After that I asked more about it.

Well, I wish that I could see who is giving me those wonderful compliments. I don't like it to be anonymous," one student, Gemma, said to me. I kept asking around and I noticed that everybody agreed. Isn't the game supposed to be anonymous? Well, about 25% of the people I asked agreed.

"Well it's supposed to be anonymous. That's the point."

This comment surprised me because although people wanted to know who the compliments were coming from, this girl and others didn't want to.

Continued on page 5

California Wildfires Cause Havoc



**By Sean Moran
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In Northern California, wildfires are actually somewhat of a commodity, but these current ones are menacing to say the least. At least 26 people have died due to the fires, and the numbers could fly higher than that.

At least seventeen separate fires are wreaking havoc in northern California, and firefighters are doing all they can to combat the carnage.

Many structures and farms have been charred by the blazes, leaving many without a

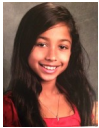


place to stay, many are also taking their belongings and fleeing the region to potentially save their own lives. What makes these blazes special is the exceptionally high winds and temperatures in the region at this time of year, and so they struggle to save what is left of many forests and structures.

Even the governor of California has declared a state of emergency in several northern counties. Many people have also been reported missing in the confusion and destruction, but some sources say things will turn around in the coming days.

Yet for now, only time will tell the fate of all affected.

Tripped Smokehead Sets Off SMS Fire Alarm



**By Julia Wilkenson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Numerous events could have occurred during Period 6 at SMS, on October 12th. There could have been a group of 6th graders in Tech or Art class. A group of 8th graders could have been having a math or science class. Half the 7th graders were enjoying the phenomenal weather outside at recess. Faculty members could have been working.

Nobody would ever expect the piercing shriek of the fire alarm at 12:39 p.m. to fill the halls with chaos.

Usually, people would have known this to have been a fire drill. It could have gone off at any moment, set off by substitute principal Mr. Arnett, or simply a faculty member.

But it wasn't. This was *not* a drill.

Gym teachers Mr. Breneman, Dematteo, and substitute Mrs. Liberty were handling a group of 6th graders ready to play a game of Hospital Dodgeball when the horror struck.

Usually, students would line up in a single file order and calmly be escorted to the nearest exit of the building.

Unexpectedly, the situation was handled indelicately.

As the piercing sound of the fire alarm struck the gym, Dematteo, Breneman, and Liber-



ty were in the locker rooms, waiting for some students to clear out into the gym. The majority of students were at the center of the gym, eagerly waiting for the class to begin.

Once the first of the alarm sounded, kids were immediately startled and panicked.

The students were almost louder than the horrific beeping itself.

Out of utter confusion from the ruckus, Dematteo, Breneman, and Liberty emerged from the locker rooms, taking control of the situation.

Exiting the gym and fleeing through a flight of stairs, the class emerged at the lower fields, where the first half of the 7th grade recess was occurring.

7th graders were shocked by the unexpected visitors during their time outside. Soon, they retreated for the hills, leading to the parking lot. The Somers Fire Department checked out the building discovering that a detector outside the custodians' office was accidentally set off. Everyone was allowed back in at 12:55, and 6th period was extended for about 15 minutes.

It is still quite a mystery on what caused the smoke detector to go off. However, here is a lesson for students: When the alarm sounds, exit the building as quickly as possible. Always be prepared.



TBH

Continued from page 4

I think that knowing who is complimenting you and what they personally think is an invasion of one's privacy.

This game may be fun, but isn't it annoying knowing what people think of you, instead of being yourself? Or you might think



about it the opposite way: If everybody likes who I am, then I am more confident, I can be myself, and I don't have to worry about people dis/liking me, or changing so people can like me.

To Be Honest

More to come on the "Student Calibrator"!