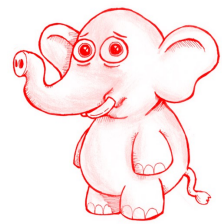


The Tusker Tribune

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Fall 2017

SMS Hat Day Raises Money to Help Texas



By Angelina Ayoubi
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Hat Day Fundraiser was a COMPLETE SUCCESS! About 2-5, (at least), children wore hats in each class. SMS managed to collect ample donations, and the school's philanthropic spirit was highly elevated!

The purpose of Hat Day was to raise funds for the disaster in Texas caused by Hurricane Harvey. Let's talk about Texas. This state had suffered a lot because of the recent natural disaster.

Hurricane season is within the summer months and those of the fall. The time hurricane season started was Thursday, June 1st, and it



usually goes until the end of November.

The typical storm season is from late June and early July, and ends at the end of October. Notice that our hurricane season is much longer than the average season. That's because of global

warming, an effect that is caused by our waste and pollution.

Since the world is growing warmer, (global warming), more hurricanes will form, making it more and more dangerous for everyone by/near the equator. Look at all of this in a more spiritual way, consider the outburst of hurricanes punishment for ruining nature, and land. Making big skyscrapers that scrape the sky, and tractors, tracking down trees to cut them off.

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Videogame Viewpoint



Xbox 1 Vs PS4



By Anthony Carino
Tusker Tribune Staff

A lot of people like different consoles, but my favorite two are Xbox 1 and PS4.

The reason why I like these consoles so much is because they both have what you want. Most of the people I asked said that the Xbox has more storage and better controllers and the PS4 has better graphics and a more organized home screen. Like I said they both have their ups and downs, but that still doesn't mean you have to like them.

By ups and downs, I mean they have their bad side and good side. The Xbox 1 has excellent storage system and really good controllers. On the

other hand, the Xbox doesn't have as good graphics compared to the PlayStation.

The PS4, like I said, has great graphics and a less confusing home screen compared to the Xbox. But its down side is that their controllers feel like you're holding a brick. I would lean to the Xbox side on this because I would rather be comfortable than be uncomfortable and storage is more useful than graphics.

Some people actually think that old consoles are the best. Also, people think that PC is the best. I like PC but only for certain games. I mostly like consoles. My favorite

games on the Xbox are Madden 18 and NBA 2K18. My favorite games on the PS4 are MLB, The Show 17 and GTA V. Overall, they are both great consoles.



Is the Giants' Season Still Alive?



**By Matt Tavares
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Is the Giants season still alive? I don't think it is. The New York Giants were supposed to have an amazing season but it ended up being a nightmare.

Yeah, yeah, we're only 6 weeks in but all of their wide receivers are injured. I think the only way the Giants have a chance to do something is if they play better de-



fense and have their offensive line play better than they have.

The biggest problem is that Eli Manning keeps getting sacked because their offensive line keeps letting players come to sack him.

If the Giants gain some confidence off their win against the Denver Broncos on Sunday Night Football last weekend, I think they might be able to win a few more games. But will it be enough to salvage the season? I'm not too sure.

Mercedes' Self-Driving Car—Has its Time Come?

The Tusker Tribune Commentary

*Snack in Class Helps
Kids Focus*



**By Shira Sofko
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I believe that we should have snack in class. We need to be able to eat; otherwise, we don't get enough brain energy to focus on our classes. Instead, our minds are mostly on food.

We are not focused on what the teachers are taking about because we are hungry. When we are hungry, we daydream on food all day. I recently interviewed one of my classmates, Julia McSweeney. "Can you focus in class before lunch?" "No I can't and it's extremely stressful! I can't even hear the teacher because of my growling stomach!"

In conclusion we should be allowed to eat snack in a class.



**By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This world is full of new inventions such as smart phones, computers, and even refrigerators.

But, the one thing that struck my attention the most was a concept car made by Mercedes-Benz a car manufacturer.



Mercedes-Benz is a company that makes luxury cars, sports cars, and family cars. For many years, people tried to make cars self-driving. It turns out that Mercedes has been work on this technology for an estimated time of 10-15 years.

The problem with self driving cars is this: let's say you are driving a new concept car and you switch the mode to self-driving. While you are in

this mode, the car gets into an accident. You go to Mercedes the day of the incident and tell them that the car had an error while in self-driving mode. The big conflict is if the software

fails, then the fault is on Mercedes or whatever car company it is. That is a big risk to take because Mercedes most likely doesn't want to pay for the damages.

It is very intriguing to read and learn about this. Let's hope that in the future, self-driving cars can be approved by the government. A cool car that Mercedes makes that is a concept car is called the Mercedes F 015 Luxury Motion. This car is built from carbon fiber and aluminum. It is just amazing to see what this world has accomplished so few times. This is our world, this is our home!

The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly 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



**The Tusker
Tribune Staff**

**Angelina Ayoubi
Julia Wilkinson
Nick Cirillo
Ezra Weinstein
Matt Tavares
Shira Sofko
Anthony Carino
Sam Sanz**



Feed by M.T. Anderson



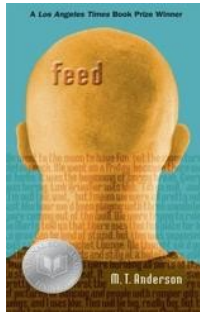
**By Nick Cirillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Imagine a world where technology - phones, computers, TV, music, advertising - is built into our brain. Now imagine, what would happen if that technology was hacked, almost destroyed? Feed, by M.T. Anderson, gives us insight into what this world could be like.

Titus and his friends take a vacation to the moon. Now, of course, with feeds built into their heads, they think it's pretty boring. But when a crazy terrorist shuts down Titus' and his friends' feeds, they are left alone with their thoughts for weeks. Then Violet, a middle-class girl who had her feed implanted later in life, starts to experience malfunctions in her feed, and she tries to convince Titus to fight against the feed and live out his life.

Of course, he doesn't listen.

The most interesting thing about Feed is the apocalyptic state of Earth. Through careful



reading, one can glean information from seemingly unimportant lines of text shoved awkwardly between paragraphs. The Earth and its animals are dying, and everyone's skin is falling off. Even Titus and his group start to have radioactive lesions (damaged tissue) on their skin, and they are so sucked into their feeds that they treat this condition as the latest fashion.

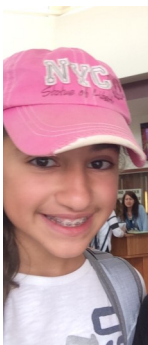
All of this happens while the US is under nuclear threat from other countries due to their inability to realize how the world is dying.

Even while this is as far from a horror novel as possible, this book is indeed one that will haunt you; one that will chill you to the bone every time you read it, and one that will make you think for a second. Are you too attached to technology to care? Could this really be the desolate future of humanity?

If you want an entertaining, slang-filled young adult novel that will leave you seeking insight on our technology, Feed by M.T. Anderson is a great choice.

Hat Day

Continued from page 1



**Our
Reporter
shows off
her hat**

Despite some of our efforts, the universe is able to spot the people who aren't doing their best to save our Earth. The hurricanes try to destroy the buildings, and man-made hazards for the Earth when they enter land, to get rid of the things that jeopardize the existence of Earth itself.

By helping Texas as we are all learning from our mistakes, and creating a safer environment for them so something like this doesn't happen again. I hope when you read this you feel motivated to help the Earth, and you do, do so yourself. More to come on the "Student Calibrator"!

Placebo Effect Uses the Mind's Power to Heal



**By Sam Sanz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Placebo Effect is a Psychological term that is used by giving a fake versus real items. In one experiment, they gave two different patients two inhalers. One was the actual medicine while the other was air. Both of the patients said they saw improvement, but actually only one had improved.

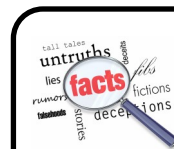
In another experiment a group of people were taking a performance test, but half of

the people were told that they had a good night's sleep while the others were told that they had poor sleep. The group that was told that they had better sleep scored better on the test.

The Placebo effect in some cases can actually weaken Parkinson's disease. When

you get a Placebo, your brain releases Dopamine which can help smooth symptoms like shaking of joints. These people still have Parkinson's, but it has less impact.

See you next time on The Fact-Folio!



The Fact-Folio

By Sam Sanz



October is Bully Prevention Month!



**By Julia Wilkinson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

There are many events that occur in October. Halloween, 2nd month of school, October fests, leaf watching, etc.

But one of the most significant event that occurs in October that (in my opinion) is hardly ever acknowledged (yet should be) is:

October is the National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month.

Not many people have ever acknowledged or even heard of such an occasion, but soon civilians will realize that this is a significant occasion. Many students

at schools all over America, whether they like it or not, get teased, and severely bullied, or suffer trauma of being picked on. All year round, and all day long.

In the 6th grade Advisory on October 5th, 2017, we observed a video on grownups who once got bullied.

Students observed that many of the adults on the film were many famous singers and musicians.



***Just because
this month is
National
Bullying Prevention
Awareness
Month, it doesn't
mean you should
be doing these
things only in
this month.***

Such include:

- *Taylor Swift*
- *Ed Sheeran*
- *Demi Levato*
- *Justin Timberlarke*
- *Alicia Keys*
- *Shawn Mendes*
- *Harry Stiles*

Many other civilians that will soon become famous could be being bullied this very second.

Many schools make a 110% effort to make their buildings school a bully free zone.

But here are a few ways *you* can make your school a free school. Here are a few ways *you* can prevent others from feeling hurt. Here are a few ways *you* can make a difference.

- Cultivate optimistic on post-its, spreading them around to students
- On a field trip, recess, lunch, or on the bus, make sure that nobody is sitting alone. Give them a friend. You!
- Include other students and classmates in fun school or otherwise activities
- Make a new friend. Even if you are not familiar with the student.

- Start a conversation with someone new
 - Stand up to students who you see are acting out falsely and change their minds
 - Say something nice to someone new every day
- Keep in mind, there are so *many* other ways you can emphasize this month. But also remember: Just because this month is National Bullying Pre-

vention Awareness Month, ***it doesn't mean you should be doing these things only in this month.***

"When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind."

