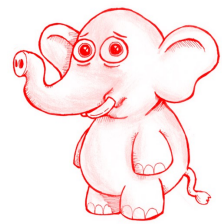


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School

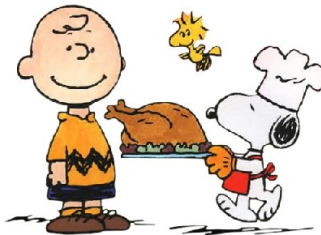


Issue Number 10

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

Fall 2017

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Some Great Relaxing Reads for the Holidays



By Izzy Youngs
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you need a book recommendation list here is a bunch of good books for you to read.

1. Drums, Girls, Dangerous Pie- Jordan Sonnenblick
2. Wonder- Raquel J. Palacio
3. The Haunting of Sunshine Girl- Page Mckenzie
4. Prom and Prejudice- Elizabeth Eulberg
5. Odd Birds- Ian Harding
6. If You Come Softly- Jacqueline Woodson
7. Haddix- Margaret Peterson
8. Force out- Tim Green
9. The Running Dream- Wendelin Van Draanen
10. The Awakening of the Sunshine Girl- Page Mckenzie

My favorite book out of all of these is Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie. It had a lot of conflicts in it that made it interesting to read.

Hope you can find a good book to curl up with, relax, and read!!!!



Turkey Day Advice



By Olivia Biolsi
Tusker Tribune Staff

Thanksgiving is wonderful. A time to give thanks, a time to stuff yourself and be fat. A time where the only way you're allowed into someone's house is if you have a pile of food to contribute.

A golden feeling warms every house, exploding in burst of joyous laughter and drawing eyes all around to tables laden with food.

Eventually, you'll be so stuffed you'll weigh 20 pounds more than you did before and have to sleep it off until two the next day; in which case I urge you to not eat for the next few weeks.

It really is a miracle what an apple pie can accomplish when there's four of them inside of you.

So cherish Thanksgiving, a glorious and blessed holiday destined to go down in your best of memories.

But as you pile seconds and thirds, fourths and fourteenths onto your plate this year, I'd like you to be a little extra thankful for one thing in particular —

That you're not a turkey.



Lockers: Functional or DANGEROUS?

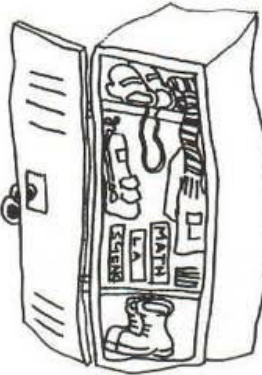


**By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You never think much of it but it could be potentially dangerous.

It's the school locker. Yes, believe it or not the lockers at Somers Middle School and even lockers in general can be dangerous in many ways. From experience, I know that the double stacked lockers are a bad idea. I've had books and water bottles dropped on my head, I've been hit with the corner of the locker above me and people's lockers can't even fit all of their belongings.

As for the people with "top lockers", recently, my backpack string was hanging out of my locker. Not a big



deal, right? Well it wasn't until it got stuck in the "bottom" locker underneath me. I tried to tug on it to get it out but I couldn't. Thank goodness, the girl whose locker it was was still in school and coming to pack up or else I would've had to get the locker key from a teacher.

Just last week I brought my big, winter coat to and surprise, surprise, it barely fit in my locker. And when I would open my locker, I would have to stuff it back in. What about the kids who bring instruments to school or who has a project that they need to put somewhere before they hand it in?

Overall, I think that lockers are more irritating than functional and I don't think it would be a bad idea for SMS to invest in some "full lockers."

What Makes Christmas Special to You?



**By Aleksiana Rukaj
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Though it seems as fall has just begun, to many children, it has just ended.

Waiting for the inevitable Christmas to come is like waiting for rain in a drought! When you're under the age of 8, Christmas seems like a holiday where you get free presents without it even being your birthday! It's different for every family though.

Like in mine, we really do pay attention to what Christmas is here for. Sure, we all love to get presents, but for some odd reason, one of my favorite things about Christmas is the atmosphere! The music, the singing, the decorations and of course, the tree!



I love to see my family and my friends. Whenever my cousins come over to help us decorate the tree, or

when my grandmother spent Christmas with my family makes me love the thought of Christmas more and more!

What puts the cherry on top is the famous ham that my mother makes! It is the most amazing thing I have ever tasted! And even though I don't like cranberry sauce, I always try some because my sister makes it!

That is what makes Christmas special to me. My family and the memories that we make!

**The Tusker
Tribune Staff**

Juliana Spano
Aleksiana Rukaj
Izzy Youngs
Donovan Smith
Ezra Weinstein
Jessica Caico
Sean Moran
Octave Manteau
Angelina Ayoubi
Samuel Sanz
Olivia Biolsi



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**

Generosity, Courage Keys to Class Officer Success



**By Angelina Ayoubi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I'm Angelina Ayoubi, a class officer who represents the 6th grade at SMS. As a class officer I am to behold the qualities that a true leader must possess. These qualities include courage, which is crucial in circumstances that mandate you to voice out the concerns and opinions of fellow students in your grade, and to others in hegemony along with you.

To qualify as a class officer one must exhibit certain qualities that encompass courtesy, respect, and ambition. These are some of the most pivotal qualities to the position as class officer.

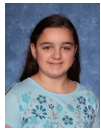


Generosity is another key element in this leadership tenure. Having the will to help others is important if you want to be a good leader and make a difference. These are the qualities that I know a class officer should embrace, and I know I have.

I am so excited to begin my exciting journey as the new 6th grade class representative, and I'm eager to plan and execute the ideas that some of you are yearning to put into action. With all the enthusiasm and positive energy around us, I am sure that the gushing innovative ideas will enable us to have a remarkable school year.

Have an amazing day, and the happiest Thanksgiving Holiday!

Plenty of Options for Budding SMS Musicians!



**By Jessica Caico
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you have any interest in exploring your very own musical talents? Well if you do then you should join one of the music programs at our school.

Our school offers band, chorus, and orchestra. Before you consider committing to one of these, you have to make sure one of your parents can drive you in before school, or you could take the high school bus and then take the shuttle to the middle school.

If you would like to learn how to play a string instrument, you should join the orchestra. We are an orchestra of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. We have rehearsals at 7:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday mornings before school. We have a one period lesson on either of the days depending on your instrument.

We also have one playing test per quarter. Our orchestra has violinists, violists, cellists, bass

MUSIC MATTERS!



players, and one harp player. We perform in a winter concert and a spring concert along with both the chorus and band. But, don't worry you can be in two or even all three!

Chorus (and Drama Club) is run by Mrs. Williams. There is a 6th grade chorus that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.; and a 7th, and 8th grade chorus that has a full rehearsal Thursday, just girls on Friday, and just boys on Tuesday. We have to complete one homework packet every quarter but it doesn't take very long. We go on a fun trip every other year and see a different Broadway play every year. We sing three to four songs every concert and have a lot of fun!

If you are interested in it you should go see Mrs. Malara. I hope you join one of our school's music programs next year! They are a lot of fun and you get to meet so many different people from all different grades!

Music 'Can' Change the World



**By Donovan Smith
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Wondering how you can make a difference in this world? Well I am going to share one way.

A group of my friends (Jake Gannon, Michael Abrenica, Evan Carway, Ryan Eade and Eddie Baranowski) and I are doing a community service project for Junior National Honor Society. At the SMS Chorus/Orchestra and Band concerts (November 30th and December 13th), we



are going to have a table set up outside the auditorium to collect canned goods and spare change.

Our theme is **Music Can Change the World** (can as in canned goods) and (change as in spare change). All of the canned goods and change collected those nights will be donated to the Community Center of Northern Westchester. It is a local agency that provides food and resources to people in our local communities who are in need.

Continued on page 4

By Sean Moran
Tusker Tribune Staff
Astronomers confirm
an asteroid that recently
passed earth has its origins
from outside our solar sys-
tem.



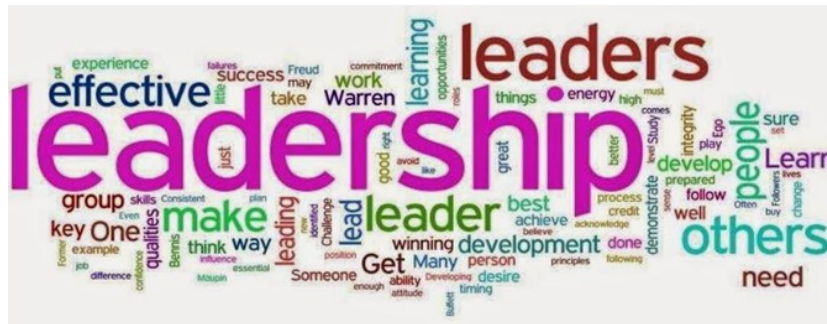
It was determined to be of this origin because of its dark red color and other factors such as the lack of gas surrounding it.

10 days. The asteroid has been named Ouamumuia, which is Hawaiian for "messenger". It is about a quarter mile wide, and over two miles long.

Some astronomers expect to know its approximate origin by the end of 2017, but some are skeptical of this statement.

A Recipe for Class Officer Success

- Three cups of leadership skills,
- A drop of kindness,
- A pound of dry responsibility,
- Two tablespoons of fairness,
- A teaspoon of patience,
- Half a liter of firmness and empathy,
- And finally, fourteen ounces of full understanding.



NB: *air dry could be safer

But seriously what do these qualities really mean?

A class officer, contrary to many beliefs, is a delegate, or representative to their whole grade. So naturally, a class officer cannot be someone who prefers on group over another. In other

Another quality a class officer needs is to be ready to listen to everybody's concerns, not just those of his or her friends.

A class officer also needs to be understanding. Understanding of the office he or she holds. Understanding of the weight that has been placed upon his/or her shoulders.

A final quality that a class officer needs is a firm mind, a grounded mind. Someone who knows what is possible and what is not. Someone

who can tell if a scenario is going well or not. Someone who knows which battles to fight and which are worthless.

A brilliant class officer also needs to be kind, as a class officer with empathy would be more willing to listen to ideas and try to help. Add a drop the of patience so that the class officer does not rush and make mistakes.

A final but not least quality of our dream class officer is strong leadership skills so that she/he can bring the class together and move the class ideas from fiction or dreams to reality.

So, please stop by either or both nights and bring in canned goods and/or spare change (and enjoy the fabulous concerts!) and make a differ-

ence!

By the way, if you have a sibling at SIS, we are taking our "Music Can Change the World" show on the road and we will be at the SIS Winter Concert on December 14th too.

One small act makes a ripple and can change the world. You can be that change!

Stop Playing ROBLOX!!!



**By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff**

School is a place of learning and part of growing up. I understand that school work and projects can be boring but, it is not okay to play video games in class.

I'll share a little secret. On the first day of team time, the teacher let us play games on our tablets if all our work was finished. Two days later I arrived at team time and opened my tablet to play a game because all of my school-work was finished. Apparently, we could only play games on the first day so I got in trouble. Now I am aware and don't play games in class



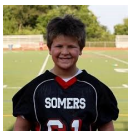
**Weinstein's
Wisdom**

because there are huge consequences. I have experienced people playing games in class when they weren't supposed to but, being me, I didn't want to "tattle" on them because I didn't want to be like my sister.

A few times, people have yelled across the room saying "HE IS PLAYING GAMES". Honestly, just walk up to the teacher and tell them. It is hard to tell when your friend is playing games. It is a really challenging decision to make. It's either keep your friendship or have your friend pissed at you.

Bottom line is, don't play games in class you might learn something.

Rodent Testing is Actually 'Bad Medicine'



**By Samuel Sanz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Imagine you are helping test a cure for cancer. What do you do first? Test on mice.

Testing on mice can hurt the medicine industry. Rodents are 95% of animal test subjects and they are easily bred and housed. They are also very inexpensive. Dogs and cats could contribute to medicine, but they are only used in 1/2% of animal testing.

More than 80% of mouse-tested medicine doesn't apply to humans. These failed experiments



The Fact-Folio

By Sam Sanz



can cost over a million dollars. That is why medicine companies make fewer medicines every year.

The failure rate with lab rats is because they have a metabolism that's seven times faster than that of a human. In addition, humans are about 300 times bigger than lab



rats.

In a study for cancer research, scientists tried their medicine on mice and it worked but when they put only 1/500 of the same dose in humans, they had multi-organ failure. This is why testing on mice is a NO.

New Quarter; New Goals! Get With It!



**By Angelina Ayoubi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

It's the beginning of the new quarter, and our schedules change.

As we are going further into the year, our lockers are getting messier and messier! We even may start to show our bottom or top locker partners less consideration. You shouldn't have to be so nice to your partner to the extreme that you end up late for class, but you shouldn't have to live miserably with the crowded space to the point where you're stressed and you go to the *wrong* class. I know that the last days of marking period 1 were stressful for all of us because of all the tests and our first marking period grades, but there's a way through it, and finding what works for you is the best way past it.

Some 6th graders have started gaining ad-



**Student
Calibrator**



vantage of the library...TO HELP THEM ENORMOUSLY! They've been making Quizlets, Kahoots, and testing each other. Some have even tried reading books on the topic!

I have tested all of these strategies out and I thought they are an excellent way to study! Quizlet helps you memorize terms, words, and other vocabulary, while Kahoots are a fun way to challenge your learning skills with your friends. You can access either of these on the internet, which is another great advantage. Good luck to everyone finding their classes, and getting accustomed to the new schedule!

P.S: Mrs. Kilmer is giving out Student of the Month Awards, which we should all be working for!

More to come on the "Student Calibrator"!