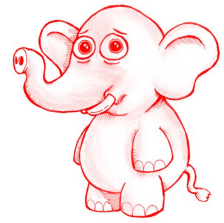


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Fall 2017

Don't Hope for Snow Days!



By Liam King
Tusker Tribune Staff

The season of winter is upcoming. Joyous heads poke out of bed when the stern voice of Mr. Matt Carr rings throughout the house.

Most predict that it is a snow day or some kind of a delay, and it usually is. Delays are fine, but snow days are not good for various different reasons.

One reason why snow days shouldn't be wished for is the most obvious: it takes away from our vacation. Why would you want to miss a day of school in the middle of winter when consequently, a day is taken away from an entire week of no school in a more convenient season?

This leads to my second reason: lack of ability to play common sports, such as football and soccer. There are three kinds of peo-

ple in a snow-day scenario: people who love winter and snow, people who'd rather play a common sport and people who like the indoors best.

I'm guilty of holding the third opinion, but that's off topic. A majority of Somers Middle School probably holds the second opinion but for some reason, everybody is still excited for snow days. This, I truly question. A third reason why snow days shouldn't be anticipated is because of possible unpreparedness.

When you get something unexpected, you normally become disoriented. Sometimes, a snow day can disorient a student so that the next day, they could forget that they have school and potentially forget an important item for their upcoming day. Although this has never occurred to me personally, I can imagine that it's quite common for this to happen.



Commons Sense Techniques to Avoid Test Stress



By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff

Are you struggling with test stress? If so here are a few easy things you can do to help. One easy thing you can do is not to over study. Studying too much can make you forget and will probably just stress you out more.

Another easy thing you can do is to take deep breaths. I know this may sound over played but it works, but only if you are doing it the right way. Take



five deep breaths with 10 seconds in between each one. I promise this will work.

One more thing you can do is to talk to your teacher if you are confused. Most likely they will be happy to help you and it will help you score higher on your test. Also tell your teachers when you have a few tests in one day. They might try to reschedule it.

The last thing you should do is to remember that we are just middle schoolers. Everyone wants to do well on quizzes and tests, but one bad grade on a quiz or test will not ruin your life. I promise!

Rice Krispies Christmas Trees!



**By: Caitlyn Stellwagen
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Making these treats was SO MUCH fun! With little ingredients, this is so easy and fun to make so I hope you enjoy it just as much as I did.

INGREDIENTS

Kellogg's Rice Krispies Cereal
3 Tablespoons of butter or margarine
1 package of miniature marshmallows

DIRECTIONS

In large saucepan, melt butter over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat.

Add Kellogg's Rice Krispies cereal. Stir until well coated.

Using buttered spatula or wax paper, evenly press mixture into a pan coated with cooking spray. Cool slightly.

Using cookie cutters coated with cooking spray, cut into Christmas trees. Decorate with frosting and/or candies. Best if served the same day.



MICROWAVE DIRECTIONS (ALTERNATE WAY)

In microwave-safe bowl heat butter and marshmallows on HIGH for three minutes, stirring after two minutes. Stir until smooth. Follow steps two and three above.

Microwave cooking times may vary And there you have it! Your very own Rice Krispies Christmas Tree!



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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

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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at **DPappas@somersschools.org**

It Takes a Team To Be a Team!



**By Anthony Moschides
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As a huge Celtics fan, I'm witnessing the biggest winning streak in the Celtics history at 17 wins and 3 losses! What a team!

This team puts in so much time, effort and heart to be this good. There are so many great players, such as Jaylan Brown, Kyrie Irving and Jayson Tatum. But it's not about these individual players – it's about all the players on the team. It's about the special talent that each individual brings to the team.

Who would have known, after one of the "to be" star players, Gordon Hayward, was injured in game one, and for the entire season, that the Celtics would have such great success? The fans all thought the season was over, but we were wrong.

The Celtics lost their first two games, but that's where the story changed, and greatness began. The Celtics have had several close games, where they have been behind by almost 20 points, but they've never given up and they just keep winning! On each game day, the whole team puts in their best effort when on the court.

I love playing team sports because of the friendships, the camaraderie, and how we encourage each other to do our best. My team sports are Somers Lacrosse and Somers Modified-Cross Country, and this winter I am trying Modified-Track.

Somers has so many great athletic teams, and not just because of the talent, but because of the individuals and of course the coaches! I recommend everyone should try a team sport at least once. You will enjoy it!



NaNoWriMo—Tedious or Exciting?



By **Nicholas Cirillo**
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's November 1st, and the first thing you hear from your ELA teacher is this: "*This month, all of you will be writing a novel!*"

They probably seem pretty excited, too, while a good two-thirds of the class is moaning and stressing before it's even begun. Even I was a little nervous, and I've loved to write for quite a while. But don't worry too much – NaNoWriMo is actually a *lot* of fun.

Now, you may have already heard of NaNoWriMo. It's a challenge to write a 50,000 word novel in the thirty days of November. But, since 8th graders are using the Young Writers Program, you can choose your own word count goal. 8,000 words? Sure! 20,000? If you want! The book is *yours*. You can choose the title, the plot, and the characters. You write the chapters, you build the universe. You can even Photoshop a book cover and upload it to the website!

I, personally, really enjoyed NaNoWriMo, and I think it was a very good learning experience to expand my writing ability.

I wrote the novel «CyberWar», a 14,000 word novel about an elite, technologically ad-



«CyberWar»

My custom cover for «CyberWar.»

vanced special operations unit fighting against a terrorist. On the other side, my classmate is writing a dystopian novel about the last civilization left in our world. So there's a myriad of choices, and infinite possibilities!

Students write during class, and you can even listen to music (as long as you have earbuds, and keep the volume low). You'll do some short "flipped classroom" lessons for homework, but you only need a few examples for each day. Just don't slack off!

The website for NaNoWriMo is easy to use, and once you set up an account and join a classroom, you can copy and paste your novel from Word onto the site!

The "NaNoWriMo 2017" section is where you can edit your novel settings, change the font, and add a cover. "Chapters and Notes" is where you can... Edit your chapters and notes! (Who would've thought?) "Writing Tools" offers optional tips and tricks, as well as a daily writing challenge.

Overall, I had a really great time writing my novel, and while some of my classmates may differ, I'm certainly going to miss NaNoWriMo... Until next year!



Music Report



By **Noah Volkman**
Tusker Tribune Staff

There is always tons of music released out to the world every single week. I, personally, am a music wiz. I know when my favorite artists release music up to before it even comes out, unless, of course, it doesn't go on pre-order. Here are some songs and albums that have come out within the last month or so, or will be coming out:

[Project Baby 2: All Grown Up by Kodak Black](#)
[Listen to the top-100 song, "Roll in Peace" with XXXTENTACION](#)



[Listen to "Build my Legacy" with Offset, here](#)

[Listen to the new hit "Codeine Dreaming" with rap star Lil Wayne](#)

Project Baby 2: All Grown Up is a re-release to a sequel. Back in 2013, Kodak came out with Project Baby. Then, in, July 2017, the sequel (Project Baby 2) was released. Now, the Floridian rapper put Project Baby 2 back out four months later. He picked and chose some songs from the original PB2, but added on some bangers

like "Codeine Dreaming", "Rugrats", and "Projects". This album includes features from Lil' Wayne, Birdman (otherwise known as Baby), Offset, from the rap group Migos, XXXTENTACION, and many more.

Rating: 4 of 5

[Glory Days: Platinum Edition by Little Mix](#)
[Hear "Reggaeton Lento \(Remix\)" with Latin group CNCO, here](#)
[Listen to "Power" with UK rapper Stormzy, here](#)
[Listen to the fun song "Oops" with pop star Charlie Puth here](#)



As Glory Days became the highest-selling album by a British girl group in the 2000s, the mix of pop and club smashes are now including three new songs, "Is Your Love Enough?", "If I Get My Way", and "Dear Lover". The expanded album now includes top-10 song "Reggaeton Lento (Remix)" with CNCO. Also, it has remixes of "Power", "No More Sad Songs", and "Touch", with verses from Stormzy, Machine Gun Kelly, and Kid Ink.

Rating: 4.5 of 5