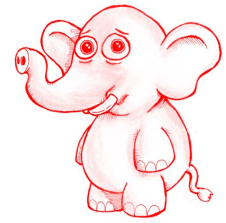


The Tusker Tribune

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Maker Space is Making a Difference!



By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff

I'm sure you've all heard of the famously fun Maker Space run by Mr. Lugo and Mr. DeVito, but something you may not know about is their newest project!

Not only are the two teachers helping kids make fun and recreational items, they are also doing something that will help someone in one of the best ways possible. They are creating two 3-D printed prosthetic hands for two different non-profit websites who find people who need them. You can help these organizations get it to the people who need them as soon as possible. The two websites are thehand-



challenge.com and enable.com. The way you can help is by going to the Maker Space during your team time or your recess time and help to 3-D print the parts needed to make the prosthetic hands.



The hands have already taken three weeks and they want more kids to help to speed up the process. Even just giving 40 minutes of your day during team time will help to ensure that these websites get the prosthetic hands as soon as possible!

SMS Goes on 'Lockout'

Status for Part of the Morning



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Today around 9:20, during second period, Mr. Getman came over the announcements with some important news: Attention. Lockout. Lockout. Once again, lockout. Thank you."

It had been unidentified why it was a lockout, but then we found out that the reasoning behind the drill was because three individuals from Lincoln Hill were seen walking towards the SIS/SMS campus. The lockout lasted through the 10:04 bell to end 2nd period, so faculty was faced with a dilemma:



let the kids go to their 3rd period class, or wait until the principal said himself that business could go on as usual.

Teachers had come to the conclusion that because the lockout drill is just that you can't go in or out of the school, it doesn't mean that you can't do other things inside the school. So what do you think? Should they have ended the lockout drill at the end of second period?

Editor's note: A "lockout" is when all exterior doors and windows in the school are locked and all outside activities are terminated. No one is allowed in or out of the building. Classes continue as normal.

**The Tusker
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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 **Somers Middle School**
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Somers, NY, USA.
Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org



The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton



By Olivia Biolsi
Tusker Tribune
Staff

In 1965, 15-year old S.E. Hinton sat down at her kitchen table and began drafting the award-winning book *The Outsiders*. It definitely deserves the attention it's gotten!

It goes like this: 14-year-old Ponyboy Curtis lives in a town divided into two groups: the Socs and the Greasers. People are in the Socs' gang if they're high class, with money and popularity and everything the Greasers are jealous of. The Greasers, on the other hand, have hardly any money and often resort to theft, smoking, drinking, and fighting the Socs to make themselves feel better.

Ponyboy happens to be a Greaser, and while one would think that automatically classifies him and his friends as a bad person, that's not the case at all. In fact, Ponyboy makes out very well in school – a future track star, honor roll, etc. Pony's parents are dead, so he lives with his two supportive brothers and a group of really good friends who are also Greasers. But, like the rest of



their social class, Ponyboy and his gang get caught up in fights with the Socs. Pony happens to be there when Johnny, one of his gang mates, (who was actually attacked by Socs a few months before and has been scared of his own shadow ever since) takes things a little too far.

Unsure of what to do as newly classified juvenile delinquents, he and Johnny go to their friend Dally, who is quite the criminal himself, for help. Then the real fun begins...

Written in a time period when real-life teenage issues were not really something to write about, *The Outsiders* captures the views of a made-up boy in a real world. A dramatic, thrilling voice rings throughout the whole story, urging you to read on.

This wild ride of a book takes you right back to 1965 where you can watch the whole thing unfold. Given the choice, I'd read this book a thousand times before putting it down. Five stars, and, of course, my compliments to the chef!

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, of course, unless, 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:

Camila by Camila Cabello.
[Listen to the top 5 song, "Havana" with Young Thug here:](#)



Daddy Yankee, Shawn Mendes, Pitbull, the list goes on; Camila Cabello has done some powerful things in the last 2 years. A former Fifth Harmony member, Cabello is doing just fine on her own.

Her debut album, *Camila*, is set for release on January 12, 2018. I don't know if I'll be able to wait the five weeks. Her top song, "Havana" is awesome.

According to many iTunes reviewers, they all say something under the premise of: "OMG OMG YESSS!", which is interesting because the other single she released as a sibling for "Havana" was "OMG" with rap group Migos member Quavo on August 5.

Rating: 5 of 5 Stars

Is E-Mailing Enough?



By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff

Somers Middle School a great place for learning and fun but, sometimes accidents happen. Whenever a big incident occurs, the school sends an email to all of the parents who's children attend the school.

Really try to think, is an email enough? Obviously it makes parents aware of what's happening and maybe they talk to their children about it, but again, it's just a lousy email.

I believe the school should have students



Weinstein's
Wisdom



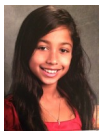
be aware of the problems too, so we can help make a difference. For example, we had a lock out today because of an event at Lincoln Hall. I think an assembly would have been good just to explain to students why the school went on lockdown.

Maybe Officer Kat could have explained how the lockdown keeps us safe and why it's important to follow.

The school doesn't have to give names but just explain what is happening and maybe students can try to put a stop to it.

A good idea would be to hold an assembly and have administration communicate with all the students. It doesn't matter how old or young you are, you can make a difference.

Are We Drowning in Trash???



By Julia Wilkinson
Tusker Tribune Staff

My brother Jay didn't finish his pizza last night. So after my dog Coco gnawed on the crust for a little bit, dad threw it into the garbage.

At breakfast the next day, my dad's toast was burnt. Mom gave him milk instead, but the whole jug was spoiled. The toast and milk jug were thrown away.

At lunch later that day, my friend Alyssa spilled her tacos. The mess was cleaned up, but the tray and its contents was thrown in the trash.

Grandma Ester gave me and Jay a snack after school. Bananas. Jay's banana fell to the floor after a few bites. That was tossed to the bin.

After swim practice, Katie's plastic bag ripped. Her suit tumbled out. She got another bag, but the ripped one was put in the garbage.

The turkey at dinner was left unfinished at the table, and was given to the garbage to devour. The next day, when lunch ended, I peeked at the garbage bins. They were stacked high with gnawed apples, spilled milk, crushed trays, squished cheesticks, and muffin wrappers.

A janitor walked up to me. "Excuse me ma'am, you ought to get to class," the janitor announced.

"Where does all this trash go?" I asked him as he began to pull to bins as large as me away. "The landfill of course," he replied.

Later that day, I looked up images of a landfill. I found pile after pile of dirt, trash bags,



food, and wrappers. There were people searching through the junk, hunting for food. They were just specks in the mountains. There was so much I didn't know back then, but now, it's unbelievable.

The citizens of the world produce more than 3.5 million tons of solid trash a day, and this number isn't going down any time soon. In fact, this number is increasing with every piece of trash people dispose of. 3.5 million tons is ten times the amount of trash than a century ago. If nothing is done about the situation, the figure will grow to 11 million tons by the end of the century.

Outside of cities like Jakarta, Tokyo, Lagos, Amsterdam, and Sao Paulo, New York, by far produces the most waste.

Dumps release methane into the atmosphere. As 6th grade students have recently learned in science, methane and carbon dioxide are what traps heat in the green-

house effect.

Many of the largest waste lands and landfills receive an average of 10,000 tons of waste per day.

By 2050, the trash will flow into the ocean, outweighing fish. Scientists have estimated approximately 5.25 trillion plastic particles or more are currently flowing the oceans. 5.25 trillion is equal to 270,000 tons.

So, Jay's unfinished pizza, dad's burnt toast, the spoiled milk, Alyssa's spilled tacos, the unfinished turkey. All of that, is contributing to world disaster.

So think about this: Do you really want our clean Mother Earth to be turned into the dirty, trash-filled Mother Earth by 3000?

