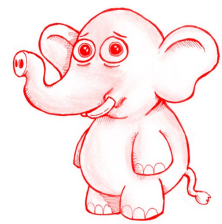


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Winter 2018

Winter Olympics Focus: The Shib Sibs



By **Juliana Spano**
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Olympics have been underway for over a week. The Opening Ceremony took place last Friday in Pyeongchang, South Korea, even though figure skating started on Thursday. My favorite figure skating duo is Maia and Alex Shibutani. They are brother and sister and they are truly amazing, and guess what? Their father grew up right here in Westchester County! They helped Team USA earn a bronze medal behind Russia and Canada.

The pair of siblings have been an ice skating team since 2004 and are three years apart in age. Their nickname is the "Shib Sibs", short for the Shibutani siblings. Their total score Friday was a 75.46, launching them 10 points ahead of second place. Maia skated wearing a fuchsia and orange long sleeve dress covered in crystals, while Alex wore a beige/skin color shirt covered in crystals with a standard pair of black pants. They both wore custom fitted skates in the colors black and white. Now onto their skating performance.

What draws many people to figure skating

is not the fancy turns and jumps, but the skaters' confidence and their stage presence. Stage presence is how well you "present" yourself on stage with facials and giving routines a little bit of your own sparkle to them. They will be performing the Mamba, the Cha-Cha and Zumba numbers as well as a free dance to the song "Paradise" by Coldplay.



The team showed incredible skill and presence during their short dance and they will not disappoint during their next performances.

Their next performance will be the Cha-Cha, and after that will come what I'm most excited for—the free skate! They are the first ice dancers of Asian descent to win an Olympic medal for Team USA! In my opinion, I think it's incredible that a pair of siblings can get along so well while trying to achieve one of the greatest honors in the world. Alex said in an interview that when he and Maia started skating, they didn't see any teams on the ice that looked like them, in the way that they are siblings since there aren't many ice teams that are a pair of siblings. The words Alex ended his interview with were, "Just find and be yourself."



I cannot wait to see what great achievements they will reach, and I am crossing my fingers that the Shibutani siblings will win Olympic gold!

Winter Break: Let the Fun Begin!



**By Angelina Ayoubi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Winter break is almost here, and everyone's excited! There's only one day left 'till we're all left to run free for a week—just to ourselves.

No school, no worries, no anything, but is that really true? It *is* winter break, but do we use the time to get ahead and prepare—or do we relax, and pretend that school wasn't a thing in the first place? That's the real question.

I know what you're thinking. *Really? You're joking, right? This is my break. If you think I am going to spend it worrying about school then—'Bye Felisha!*

Well I am not joking. And before you step



away from this article listen to what I have to say. You don't have to sacrifice your break to prepare for the next week of school. But at least know what to do when the time comes. Here is what I mean. You can relax—live in the moment, but know that school is coming, and it's simple. Just don't care. It's not that hard for some people, and yet for others it's very difficult.

Remember that you have everything under control, school is going to be easy when you get back, because everything will be swept out of your head, and you'll have a nice clean slate to draw on. So, have fun, you're not in school anymore—take a deep breath, because remember, once you get on that bus on Friday—

Let the Fun Begin!

More to come on "The Student Calibrator"!

SMS Recycling Competition Set to Go!



**By Angelina Ayoubi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

We all know recycling will help make the world a better place, but we haven't been contributing as much as we should.

The Student Body and Council, is willing to change all of that. They know have been trying to more than ever to "go green". And to do this, they are enforcing something new, and I'm hoping everyone will give it a shot! They are creating the first, SMS Recycling Competition!

Each grade in SMS, will battle it out, recycling the best they can to win the competition. The



winner of the competition will be the recipients of a reward of their choice, using the money from the recycled items. Everybody wants the money- but their can only be one winner.

Students from every grade are also entitled to a chance during their free periods, (lunch period, or team time), to help collect all the recyclables from each classroom in their wing. You can do this by going to Mr. Arnett's room in the 8th grade wing, and signing a quick sheet that will grant you availability to stay during your recess, and collect!

Winter Olympic Medal Count Update



**By Grace Stoner
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The 2018 Winter Olympic Games are in full force. Every night more and more medals are to be awarded.

Some countries have won many more medals than others, but there is still a chance for other countries to come and get the most medals.

Currently **Norway** has the most medals with, 17 in total, 6 gold,



7 silvers, and 4 bronzes. **Germany** is in a close second with, 15 in total, 9 gold, 2 silvers, and 4 bronzes. **Canada** is in third with, 13 in total, 4 gold, 5 silvers, and 4 bronzes.

As you can see, it is a close race between **Norway** and **Germany** to get the most medals in the winter Olympics. Also, **Germany** is ahead with the gold medals, with 9 gold medals. **Norway** only has 6! Currently the **United States** only has a total of 8 medals, 5 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronzes.

The Time I Fell Out of a Car



By Jo Jo Chiazzese
TuskerTribune Staff

"Ahhhhh!" I woke up to the sound of my dad screaming. "Are you okay?", my dad asked.

But I didn't answer. I didn't know what had happened. All I remember is hitting the ground. This was the start of the worst day ever...

I consider my dad one of my best friends. We are very alike and share a bond over sports cars. We talk about cars all the time and go to car shows together. Our favorite cars are Lamborghinis and Bugattis. We like Lamborghinis because they are great drifting cars. (When you brake at high speed, the car "drifts" or skids smoothly). Bugattis are also impressive because they are the fastest car in the world.



ing the horn to hurry my dad up. My dad was NOT happy when he came out because he always tells me not to beep the horn and I always do. My dad got into the car and started backing out of the driveway. I didn't have my seatbelt on because my uncle's house is right around the corner (he's basically my neighbor). I was fooling around in the car touching all of the new buttons, especially the

cars to play with, but I was mostly happy about riding in my dad's new car!

So, I rushed to get my things ready and ran out to the new Audi A8. It was cooler than a spy's car. It had black interior and black exterior with a sun roof. I waited in the car with my sister, beeping the horn to hurry

unlock button by the window, because I didn't realize what it was for. The next thing I remember is hitting the ground and feeling my stomach drop.

I woke up to the sound of my dad screaming, "Are you okay?" I guess I didn't realize that the button I was pressing was the unlock button and when I was playing around, I accidentally opened the door.

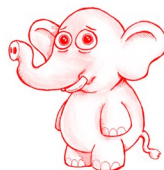
Luckily my dad wasn't going too fast because my injuries weren't critical. He brought me to my uncle's house to clean me up. I was left with some bumps and bruises, but I learned to never play around in a car especially when it's brand new and you don't know what the buttons mean.

The Tusker Tribune is featured online and is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from

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Shoes, Shoes and More Shoes!!!



**By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In Somers Middle School, shoes are a big competition in 7th grade. If you don't have shoes that are over 100 dollars, then you're pretty much not cool, so they say.

The most popular shoe brands people have in the school are Jordan's, Nike, LeBron's, Yeezys, and NMDs. If you don't compete about shoes, these brands should look like a different language to you. That's what I thought until I got my first pair of shoes over 100 dollars.



The only thing that makes the shoe good is if it looks good, if it is highly expensive and if it performs well. A thing that kids tend to do is step on other people's new shoes to scuff them up, which is just plain out annoying. The reason people do that is because they think you're showing off, which you probably are since you have cool shoes.

If you don't have nice shoes, it really doesn't matter because it is just an object. Objects can make you happy but, people in your life should make you happy.



**Weinstein's
Wisdom**

Valentine's Cards Brighten Troops' Days



**By Emily Esposito
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Since Valentine's Day just passed, we should think about members from around the country who make a huge sacrifice to go over sea's and fight for our country's rights.

A local organization right here in Westchester, NY called "United for the troops" buys some necessities the military men and women may need overseas. You can go and help pack and ship the boxes, or you can even buy some stuff that is on their wish list!

You can get some more information if you need some community service hours or if you would just like to help on your own, go to

www.unitedforthetroops.org. So far, we have collected over 300 cards! **The wish list is at right.**

The soldiers would also like some cards for Valentine's Day so just please take 5-10 minutes out

of your day and just make them a card. They would really appreciate it! Or you can donate some items to the organization.





Animal Farm by George Orwell

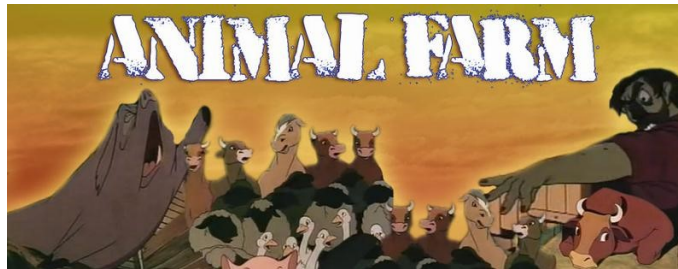


**By Nicholas Cirillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Imagine this: You are a farm animal, and your owner Jones is an oppressive, under-feeding, whip-carrying jerk. Then, an old pig named Major riles up the animals of the farm to stand up – start a revolution! Be free! Do as you please, and be free from tyranny!

The next day, old Major is dead. But his vision lives on, and the animals overthrow Jones, start a democracy – with the pigs as the leaders, as they *most obviously* are the smartest animals. Soon after starts the real meat of George Orwell's Animal Farm: What happens after.

While politics and ideas are rampant, one pig, Snowball, thinks up a grand old idea: A windmill! With such improvements, the animals would only need to work three days a week! How grand!



But Napoleon, another pig, vehemently disagrees, and overthrows Snowball and his idealism – then, in a shocking twist, orders a windmill built immediately! But, of course, Comrade Napoleon is a great leader, making things much better than things were during the age of Jones. The animals would never want to go back to Jones, would they? Never!

Even though the way of life is changing, with dealings with humans, executions against traitors, and hoarding of food-stuffs, everything is great! Jones is gone! And no animal could be happier. Everything was so much

better!

Soon enough, though, the old life is gone, and the ruling pigs seem to be more and more human. And it's too late to change anything. Such is the new, one commandment... "*All animals are equal, but some are more equal than*

Accepting Differences Can Change the World



**By Sasha Reyes
Tusker Tribune Staff**

People are different.
People are different in all ways.
People are different by race.

People are different by color of their skin.
People are different by how big of how small they are.

People are different by how they are inside and out.



Even though people are different from you doesn't mean you can't be friends with them. People get treated differently from other people because they may seem different and more unique than you. So, if you treat everyone equally than everyone would be happy.



Viewpoint: The Blake Griffin Trade

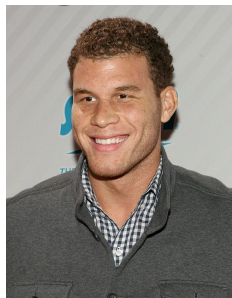


**By Jake Van Tassell
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think it's ridiculous that the Cleveland Cavaliers traded a player that you offer to pay \$174 million for five years. That's not

fair.

But they also traded him for two "OK" players who aren't that good. Blake Griffin is an all-star. But they traded him to the Detroit Pistons and the Pistons are not great. But now, Blake is making the Pistons look good because he is scoring a lot of points there and getting a lot of rebounds.



But I think it's an unfair trade because trading a good player doesn't help your team.

On the Pistons' side, they were not going to make the playoffs before, but now they are going to make it. They traded two average players and one average draft pick, so they got the best out of the trade.

In my opinion the worst thing about the trade is that the Cavaliers must be sad because they lost one of their teammates who was good. Therefore, the trade was horrible.