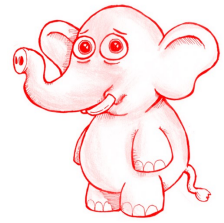


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SMS' Tribute to Stoneman Douglas



**By Juliana Spano and
Grace Stoner
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Before our unexpected week long "break", the SMS No Place for Hate Club and SMS Student Council were planning a walkout in honor of the 17 students and teachers who lost their lives during the Stoneman Douglas Valentine's Day massacre.

Due to our week, off from school, we couldn't put our plan into an action for our whole school to participate in. Mr. Getman announced in an email that we would do a walkout in April instead, but SMS students wanted to take action now!

At 10 a.m., four students came on the loudspeaker and read quotes about spreading kindness throughout our community. This was followed by a 17-second Moment of Silence.

After that, a good majority of SMS students took the matter into their own hands and took a stand against gun violence. They headed for the bus loop to start their 17-minute, silent walkout.

All students had the option to do so or to stay in the classroom for 17 minutes during second period. It wasn't just students either. There were several teachers and faculty member who took to the bus loop for the peaceful protest.

As for the other schools in Westchester County, they all organized a walkout and took part in this meaningful act of remembrance for those who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence.



**By Hester Turner and
Aleksiana Rukaj
Tusker Tribune Staff**

February 14th, 2018. This is the day that Somers Central School District will honor and respect for many years to come.

On March 14th, 2018, it had been the one-month anniversary of this horrific event. At 10am on March 14th, some students of the Somers Middle School participated in a school walk out for seventeen minutes to support and honor the seventeen students who had passed and all who were affected.

The event they commemorated took place at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. What had happened was a former student from Stoneman Douglas High was expelled years back and started the shooting leaving seventeen students and teachers dead. Though we do not know much about this topic, it is still important to enforce school safety and be aware of our surroundings.

Before the school walk out, there was a seventeen second moment of silence on the loud speaker to show our respect. As students who had participated in the school walk out, we can tell you first hand that it was a very powerful message. A student named Krista Gallagher explained how she felt during the walk out: "I felt good doing it. Even though I was cold, I still remembered why I was there and it made me feel better."

We are proud to say that everyone who had participated in the walk out was respectful and quiet and knew why they were standing out there. Somers Central School District will be showing more support by doing another walk in April.

Pro Soccer Round-up



**By Dan Podlesskiy
Tusker Tribune Staff**

There have been some recent transfer rumors in soccer.

First is Robert Lewandowski, the Polish striker. He has been linked to multiple clubs such as Chelsea, Manchester United, and Real Madrid. Not much to say about him except he is one of the best strikers in the

world no doubt.

2. Arturo Vidal, also A Bayern Munich player—the CDM (Center Defensive Midfielder). Like Lewandowski, he is also wanted by Chelsea and Manchester United but instead of Real Madrid, AC Milan wants him. Then he would become rivals of his old team Juventus who he helped get in to the champions league final in the 2014-15 season.

3. Marco Reus, the Dortmund LM (left midfielder) is stuck in the Bundesliga, with Bayern in front of them by 19

points and safe to win the Bundesliga. He may be going to Liverpool or the Spurs since Dortmund has not been as good as they were a few years ago.

4. Naby Keita, the CM (Center Midfielder), has been linked with

Liverpool multiple times and maybe finally they will get him since the midfielder they had left for Barcelona recently. Also, he is only 22 so he can get better

5. Hector Bellerin, the Arsenal RB (right back) player who is one of the quickest soccer players in the world, may want to leave since Arsenal have no chance of winning the Premier League, so he may want to join Juventus, who is just 4 points behind Napoli.



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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 **Somers Middle School**
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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at **DPappas**
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Lunch Detention Stinks!



**By Stefan Swee
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I have had lunch detention three times this year..I was there for either not doing homework, talking during a test, and/or talking when I wasn't called on during class.

The three lunch detentions have been in Mr.Pappas's room. In fact, I wrote this Tusker Tribune in the latest lunch detention.



Lunch detention starts off fine, but then it gets boring and annoying that you're not playing outside.

I walked into detention thinking the other two kids in my class would also be there because they were also talking but it was just me.

I sat down and started to eat my lunch, waiting for the other prisoners of Mr. Pappas to walk in, but they never showed up, so they got four more days of lunch detention.

I was actually kind of happy, not because I didn't like the other kids, but seeing that they got a worse punishment than me. If you want to get lunch detention, try to get it on a rainy day because it's no fun to sit inside when it's a nice out!

Blizzard of 2018 Brings Out the Best in Us



**By Liam King
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The snow storm that recently hit Somers (Winter Storm Quinn) has finally ceased, and the damage it has caused is devastating. It was so unbelievable, in fact, that I witnessed the mighty gusts of wind knock a tree over.

With wind speeds up to 55 miles per hour, it is imaginable that trees will fall. But seeing it from less than a tenth of a mile away is quite the experience.

My brother and I were shoveling snow off our deck the day after the storm had begun. Fortunately, the snow from the day before hadn't hardened so it was a relatively easy task for us. In the middle of our chore, we heard an earsplitting *CRACK* in the distance. It was a tree collapsing near the lake not too far from our house.

"TIMBER!!!" John shouted at the top of his lungs.

"Don't say that!" scolded our mom from the stairs. "It's a bad omen. You don't want that to happen to us, do you?"

"Well, it looks like one of those may," I stated as I pointed towards the thin trees in our yard.



"Let's just hope they don't. I'm going to finish off the driveway," Mom said as she walked away.

Just as she left, John and I heard a deafening screech of tearing wood. We both looked to where the source of the sound was, and sure enough, a tree in our neighbor's yard was falling right before our eyes.

"TIMBER!!!" screamed John a second time as the tree collapsed.

"Well, that's something you won't see every day," I quietly remarked as I continued my work. John decided to drop his shovel and tell Mom what we just saw a few seconds before. As he ran down, I could hear him screaming "MOM!!! MOM!!!! WE JUST SAW A TREE FALL!!!!!"

Another instance of a tree falling was when the top of a large tree in front of my house almost landed on my neighbor's front yard. Luckily, it landed on the fence, but it was quite the



close call. The town had to be called in to chop up the wood and clean up the scene.

As for power, my family only suffered for about 3 days without it. We had quite a small but proficient generator that only powered 1 outlet per room. Fortunately, my room already had an empty power strip, so we were able to plug in our chargers, the lights, and even the coffee machine!

The destruction of the town was even worse. Most of the main roads (Lovell Street and Union Valley Road, to name a few) were blocked off due to downed trees leaning on power lines. NYSEG may have taken forever to restore power, but the town's service personnel worked tirelessly clearing the roads of snow and taking the trees off the power lines. They worked in cooperation with the police and firefighters to restore the town to order again.

The ironic thing was, before the storm started, my brother said that there would be at least two feet of snow the next day. I didn't believe him at first, but it turned out he was more than right!

Despite the destruction that the blizzard had caused, there was a bright side. In the early stages of the storm, we were forced to ration our food and conserve gasoline to power our generator. This experience taught us how to cooperate in a situation where survival and conservation is necessary.

It is also enlightening to see people come together and help each other out in time of need. We had family friends come over to our house so that they could have a hot shower and a warm meal. You see this happening throughout the town, showing you that in times of calamity, the goodness of humanity reveals itself.

Unexpected Second Winter Break was Relaxing

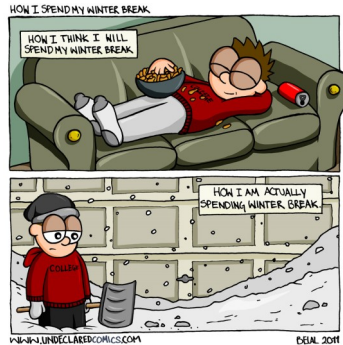


**By Caitlyn Stellwagen
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My week off was pretty good. I enjoyed it. I know I'm not the first to say that I do not like school, but when we had the week off, I thought it was a miracle.

The first couple of days, I didn't do much because it snowed a lot, so I stayed in and watched a lot of movies. But then, our power goes out and there's no cable!

My house has a generator so I'm pretty lucky. On Tuesday, I hung out with my friends for the whole day and it was really fun. On Wednesday, one of my friends didn't have power so she slept over. On Thursday, I went to see Black Panther with my friends. We couldn't follow the plot of the movie, so we just left and went back to a friend's house. Then on Friday I went to Top Hibachi with my friends and then we went to Coldstone Creamery down the street.



Over the weekend I just relaxed at my house. I really liked missing school and getting to see my friends.

In my case, I didn't really have much damage. We have a generator, so having no power wasn't really a problem. We had a few neighbors come over for a bit which was fun. The only problem was that there was no cable or internet. But I won't complain; some people didn't have heat or running water so having no cable didn't bother me.

Although the power came back on Saturday, it then went out again for about 20 minutes because a squirrel went into the transformer box and well... a lot of people didn't believe that this had actually happened. But it did.

Overall, I had a good week off. I'm happy we had a week off. I think the students needed a break from school.

World Cup Update—New Soccer Ball May Change Game Dynamics



**By Jack Healy
Tusker Tribune Staff**
The 2018 FIFA World Cup will be the 21st FIFA World Cup, a quadrennial international football

tournament contested by the men's national teams of the member associations of FIFA.

It is scheduled to take place in Russia from 14 June to 15 July 2018

So far, there is only a handful of teams left to qualify: Russia, Germany, Brazil, Portugal, Argentina, Belgium, Poland, France, Spain, Peru, Switzerland, England, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay, Croatia, Denmark, Iceland, Costa Rica, Sweden, Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal, and Iran, among others.

The majority of the teams didn't sign up or didn't make it in the tournament's qualifying rounds. These teams include, but are not limited to, the United States, Italy, Japan, Chile, and



Great Britain.

On time as always, the World Cup commemorative replica ball has been designed and is up for sale. The World Cup ball of 2018 is like no other and you can see the difference in just the last 6 world cups.

This new ball is supposed to have less of a drag and be more stylish. So, I expect that Adidas will be the number one sponsor for years to come.

The 2018 replica ball's price is a lot more affordable than the previous years. The size 2 2014 World Cup Ball was \$20. This year's is \$13. In 2014, the balls ranged from \$39.99 to \$89.99 on Amazon. This year, the ball ranges from \$14.99 to \$69.99 on Amazon. If you want the exact same ball that the players in the World Cup will be using this summer, that will cost \$304.54 at Dick's Sporting Goods.