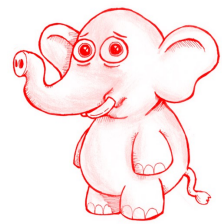


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Spring 2018

7th Grade Zoo Trip Means Spring's Here!



**By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Most people know that the seventh grade is going to be going to the Bronx Zoo on Friday, April 20 to see the animals. Sounds like fun, right?

I believe it will be an amazing experience for us students. Even though I have only been to the Bronx Zoo once, I can even tell you it is extremely fascinating to watch the animals in their habitats.

At the zoo, there are some exotic animals there like tigers, lions, and other animals you do not see every day. That one time I went to the Bronx Zoo with my family, something weird happened. I was about 6 years old at the time and loved animals, which I still love to this day. My family and I were walking down to the lion exhibit;



**Weinstein's
Wisdom**

it; we turned to see one huge lion that had a beautiful mane and a fierce look on its face. The lion was so cool but something was wrong. The lion would not stop looking at me. It stared and stared. I kept glancing at the lion and he did not stop staring.

About five minutes later, he pranced over to me and put his paw on the glass and I put my tiny hand on the glass. It covered

probably $\frac{1}{4}$ of his humungous paw. A friendship between boy and lion had been just awakened. I heard my mother call to me to say that we had to leave; it was sad to see the lion look at me. He looked lonely as soon as I took that first step away from him.

Remember to get your group of 5 or less and writes your names down on a slip of paper. You can drop them off in Mrs. Manko's room. Can't wait!



State Tests Add Another Layer of Stress for Kids



**By David Allan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are the NYS tests worth taking? Well some people may say of course, and I don't get that.

Who wants to take a test that doesn't even mean anything and do it? The math and ELA tests are each two days days LONG and it used to be 3 days. While it's good that the test is shorter now, the grade you get on the state test doesn't do anything. It used to give the teacher a grade on how well they teach their class, but it doesn't do that any more.

We already must take a ton of tests and each year, we have to stress out even more about



two two-day state tests in the same month! If you can opt out of the State test, then I would suggest you do.

When you walk into school, you will have to find your testing room and sit there for 2 whole HOURS and that is boring, if you finish early, because all you can do is sit and wait. You can't have any smartwatches like Apple watches because apparently you can have some answers on there and be cheat-

ing.

But on the bright side you can bring in some candy to eat during the test.

The state tests are the stupidest thing I've ever heard of and they should get rid of them and research a new way to score how well we're learning.

Purloined Pass Predicament



**By Aleksiana Rukaj
Tusker Tribune Staff**

"Do you think she'll notice?" Catherine said, glancing at the lunch room monitor as we casually walked out of the room. "Only if you keep talking! SHUT UP!" I whisper-shouted. We were trying to leave the cafeteria without a pass.

"Ok, ok."

We needed to get to our locker to go see if the new *Selina Gomez* tickets went on sale yet. Whenever we asked a monitor, they would ask why we needed to go to our lockers and we didn't have a good enough excuse.

We finally made it through the doors without being noticed. Catherine threw her hands up in excitement and started dancing.

"Don't celebrate too soon," I said demandingly.

"Oh, right. I forgot that we still don't have a pass!" she exclaimed.

"How are we supposed to get upstairs, pass the principal's office, walk around the front desk and go to our lockers?" I cried. This may not seem like a big deal to you, but if we are walking the halls (not including passing time for each class) without one of those purple passes in our hands, we are dead.

"Relax," Cat said, nonchalantly pulling out a piece of paper that was identical to the color of the passes.

"Niiice!" I complimented. Right then, Mr. Campladince walked by. He scouted us with an disapproving look in his eyes. Catherine threw up her hand to indicate that she had a pass. I hesitantly did, too. He then walked away.

"Close one," I sighed.

Luckily, Mrs. Carathing (the principal) wasn't in her office. We passed by calmly. We tried to keep our distance from the front desk but failed.

"Where you off to ladies?" Ms. Sanlight called out to us.

"Lockers ma'am," I quickly said.

"Passes?" she questioned. We lifted our hands, so she could see our fraud passes.

"Alrighty," she winked at us. She was nice. Too bad we had to do this to her.

"We are clear!" I exclaimed. I flashed a smile which quickly became a serious look as the roughest and meanest teacher walked the halls.

"We're done!" Cat said through her teeth.

"Catherine, Emma," Ms. Karathaleed smiled.

"Ms. K!" Catherine started. "Lovely to see you here, walking the halls of the seventh-grade wing!"

Smooth.

"Pass?"

Uh-oh. She had her hand out like she wanted to examine our pass.

"O-our names aren't on it." I stammered.

"Yeah, the monitor was in a rush, so she just gave us any purple piece of paper that she had in her sight-line," Cat finished up for me.

"Which monitor was this?" I could feel my body shaking. Could she notice?

"I don't know, her name tag was flipped over!" Catherine was a good liar.

"Oh. Ok. Have a nice day girls." I had a sense of relief, but not for long.

"Wait. Describe this monitor for me."

I felt like I had peed my pants!

"Uh.... She was t-tall and skinny. Oh, and she had purple nails," I felt like I was trying to get away with murder.

"Ok, that will be all ladies,"

She walked away, but I waited for her to turn the corner to start breathing.

"That was another close one," I sighed.

"Too close. Our regular passes would have a line for our names and another line for a signature." I smiled at her. She could be so oblivious sometimes.

At her locker we grabbed a fine-line marker and a ruler and made two lines identical from each other.

"I don't want to forge a signature!" I yelled as Cat handed me the piece of paper.

"No! Just write 'staff' on it!"

I still felt iffy, but I went with it anyway.

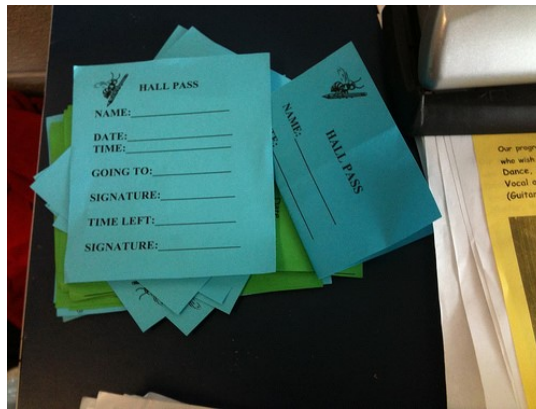
My hand was shaking like a little kid doing the shimmy dance.

Cat grabbed the sheet from my hands and wrote our names. I grabbed my phone (hands still shaking) and clicked the home button. I searched *IHEARTRADIOSSALE.NET*. We both held our breath. Once I clicked the go button, I felt like I was going to faint.

Cat read what the phone said allowed and her voice arose as she got farther into the paragraph.

"iHeart Radio presents \$80 tickets for the *Selina Gomez* tour!" As soon as she read that, I clicked the 'check' button that I had waited to click all weekend.

Continued on page 3



Bored: The Poem (An Ode to Post-ELA Exam Inactivity)



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

During the NYS Test, I wrote a page-long poem about how bored I was on the scrap paper I was given. This is that poem...

I am bored.
I am so bored.
I am beyond bored.
Not 'board' as in 'board game', but BORED.

I am bored now
I was bored an hour ago
And I will be bored for the next hour, if not more.
I'm bored when I'm hungry.
I'm bored when I'm freezing and shoveling snow
in April (which I shouldn't be).
I'm bored when I do my homework.
I am extremely bored, and I can't do anything
about it.

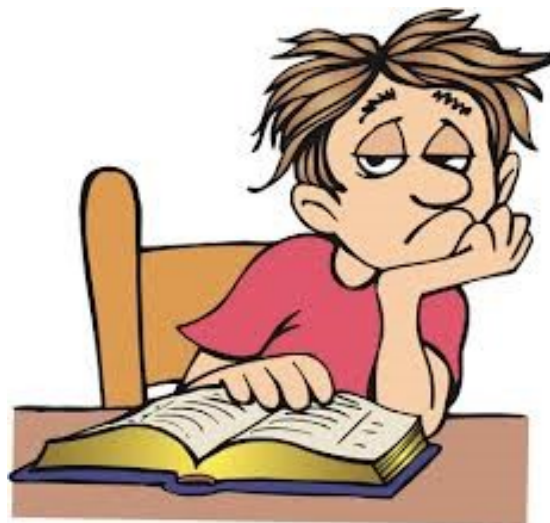
I am just so bored.
Bored out of my mind.
So bored.
Please help by calling 1-800-IMB-ORED
Or order online for \$19.95 + \$9.95 shipping and
handling for some of your own boredom.
Could I be more bored?
Yes.
Oh, yes, I can.
It's completely and entirely impossible for me to
be more bored.
But by "more bored", I only mean a little more
bored
Because I am already extremely bored.

On a bored scale of 1 to 10
I'm at a 23 right now.
Get me out of this rat trap!
Bored.
Oh, so bored.
Bored, bored.
Bored, bored, bored.
Come aBORED on the S.S. Boring, if you dare.

B
O
R
E
D

I'm just SO BORED.
Please!
Please!
BORED!
Bored!
Bored, Bored, Bored.

I'm almost out of space on this paper.
Save me before I run out of space.
Oh my lord, it's the last line and I'm nowhere
close to leaving!
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!



Passes *Continued from page 2*

My phone lit up once more and said 'you have purchased *Selina Gomez* tickets fo-' and then it glitched out.
"What is going on?" Catherine asked sassily. The phone screen changed to 'the *Selina Gomez* tickets are all sold out, better luck next time- *iHeart Radio*.
"This can't be happeni-" I was rudely cut

off by Ms. K, who snuck up behind us and had a monitor by hand and asked, "Is this her?"

I looked at Cat and gulped. We were done! "I told you already, Caroline! I didn't write any passes to any students today!" the monitor whimpered. "Am I going to lose my job?" she whispered to herself.

"This must be a mix up!" I started, but then realized that this monitor had purple nails and she was tall and skinny.

UH-OH!



Music Report



By Noah
Volkman
Tusker Tribune
Staff

Barbie Tingz, Chun-Li – Nicki Minaj

Last time Nicki Minaj released music was in February 2017, with three new singles featuring Drake and Lil Wayne. Hopefully now that it has been about a year since Minaj said her new album would drop, it'll come out soon.

[Chun-Li - Nicki Minaj](#)



Nice For What – Drake

Drake's second hit this year with producer Murda Beatz



was special. I can assume the album is coming this summer.

[Nice for What - Drake](#)

GOTTI – 6ix9ine

Up and coming rapper 6ix9ine has a deluxe edition of his album DAY69 coming out tomorrow



with a new track called "GOTTI". Could it be a diss to Yo Gotti? I guess we'll never know because 6ix9ine is facing 3 years in jail. Take DAY69 in. It could be 6ix9ine's last album for a while. I think that by the time he's out of jail, people would've forgotten about him.



All's NOT Normal . . . A Mystery



By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff

You wake up. Continue your morning as usual but, it's not your usual morning. Your whole town is under a lockdown.

No one is aware why except the mayor who is contemplating whether to tell the whole town that there is some type of chemical in the air and a single breath taken outside could kill.

It seems as if no one lives in this town. No cars, no people, no nothing, just houses and people peering out their windows trying to spot any sign of danger moving through their town.

The kids are nervous, they are confused. They want to go to school and see their friends, but they can't. They are confined to their homes until going outside will not kill you.

The mayor is mad, mad that it took three people to get killed to realize that anyone who would walk outside would die. How did this happen? Why is this happening?

Then he turned on his TV and realized the whole country was under lockdown and no one knew why this chemical was invading us. Everyone except for him.



**The Tusker
Tribune Staff**

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