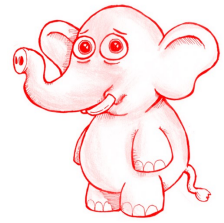


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Spring 2018

Autism Awareness Day Tomorrow: Wear BLUE



By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff

Tomorrow, we are all to wear **BLUE** to show Autism Awareness! Any type of blue should be fine but royal blue shades are better than lighter. The Autism walk is being postponed and I will let you know when it will be. Don't forget to wear blue tomorrow!



Bronx Zoo Was a 7th Grade Highlight!



By Lindon Ulaj
Tusker Tribune Staff

Many students have talked about the Bronx Zoo trip throughout the year. It's an exciting trip. Mostly every 7th grader goes on this trip. Most of them do.

With this trip, in science we are doing a project, in which we choose one animal to research on.

This trip was very fun, I got to see animals I have never heard of or seen before. Unfortunately, the tiger cage was closed, which was disappointing because they are interesting to watch.

However, the Tiger, the lions were interesting because of the way their fur and tails were shaped.

Also, there was a park, with an obstacle courses, which occupied my group for awhile.



time!

The zoo had many features to it, such as the movie theatre which gave a documentary on gorillas and their habitats. There were many more exhibits, too, but the gorilla exhibit stood out to me the most. The bus ride was also very fun because we were with all our friends, and the buses were coach buses, not school buses. It was a great



By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff

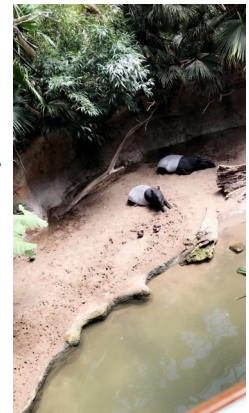
The 7th grade Bronx Zoo trip last Friday was a success! I've talked to many of my fellow students who have all said that they had fun on the trip and that they wish that they could've stayed longer at the zoo.

We got to see several animals and even got to go on an obstacle course where we got to climb up a wooden structure and walk across various types of bridges. We were also able to visit the gift shop where I bought an animal visor (it was a giraffe) and a sea lion stuffed animal.

My favorite animal would have to be the sea lions. They are so adorable and incredibly intelligent. We got to see them being fed and all the tricks they did. The biggest sea lion pushed onto the outside of the pool they were in and was able to get up on the edge and wave. It was pretty cool.

I also liked going through the various indoor exhibits and see what they had to offer. The only disappointment I had was that the weather was too cold for the giraffes to be outside and we weren't able to make it to see them inside.

But, overall the trip was very fun, and I think that the sixth graders will enjoy it next year as well.



A Final Commentary on Winter



**By Lexy Fay
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

This winter has been crazy! With a total of 12-13 snow days (including a full week off because of power outages) and many delays. We had so many snow days that we had to go to school during "spring break", except for that Monday because we had another snow day!

Some kids still went away (including me) and had to make up so much work!

I think the school district should give us 5-6 snow days instead of 4 because we all deserve a spring break and it's not our fault the weather was horrendous. Don't get me wrong, I love having



snow days, but after 12 snow days, it's enough!

Finally, the weather is starting to change and there are actually days where the temperature is above 30 degrees. This week has been really nice and hopefully the temperature only goes up from here.

A lot of people think it was a lot warmer at this

time last year, but it was actually around the same temperature. Last year we only had a few snow days and winter wasn't nearly as bad as it is this year. Plus, we actually had a spring break.

While this winter has been rough and cold, maybe we will be complaining about how hot it is this summer!

Atomik Barbwire 2 Improves On Atomik Barbwire 1



**By Jack Healy
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The new and improved Atomik Barbwire 2 is RTR (ready to run) right out of the box. This new boat is faster. It flips, and it is self-righting, unlike many boats being made today. It's able to drive in a small narrow stream or creek.

The new hull is lighter and more durable; and the new yellow design is more noticeable in the water, so you can see where it is.

The new Atomik Barbwire 2 is water proofed out of the box so that means when you go to drive it,



you don't have to put silicon grease and tape over the hull.

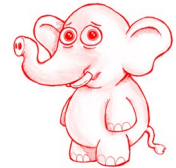
This new boat has an upgraded battery and a water cooled brushless motor. This boat also has better range. It can go up to 30 miles an hour, whereas the old one only goes 25 miles an hour.

The battery that the original barbwire came with takes one to two 2 hours to charge and you only get 10 minutes in run time. But the new boat battery takes 1 hour to charge and you get 15 minutes in run time.



**The Tusker
Tribune Staff**

Lexy Fay
Rachel Lamb
Ella Ponterio
Ezra Weinstein
Jack Healy
Patrick Leary
Natalie Phalen
Juliana Spano
Lindon Ulaj



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**Somers Middle School
250 Route 202
Somers, NY, USA.**

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

E coli Threatens U.S. Lettuce



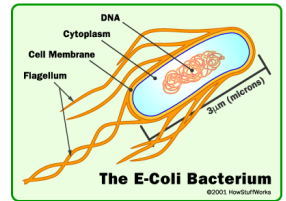
**By Patrick Leary
Tusker Tribune Staff**

E coli is a bacterium that can't be smelled, tasted or seen. As many of you know, bacteria uses binary fission to divide itself, causing the infection to spread rapidly. E coli can be very dangerous and can be fatal if you don't catch it early. Symptoms can a wide range from fevers to adnominal pain and even kidney failure.

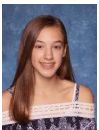
In this case the ecoli bacteria has infected Romaine lettuce. No one still has any idea of how e coli got into the lettuce. There are speculations that a bird or some animal infected the lettuce by way of feces. The lettuce that has been infected is grown in Arizona but the problem is that at this time of year, 90% of

America's Romaine lettuce is grown there. No one has been able to pinpoint the brand that is infected so the National Centers for Disease Control say not to consume any Romaine lettuce. Out of the people who have been infected by e coli, 31 have been hospitalized and around 5 have been threatened with kidney failure.

If you or any one that you know owns Romaine lettuce, make sure to warn about the dangers of consuming it. Even though no deaths have been reported it is still a very serious problem as you have seen though out the article. Make sure to avoid all romaine lettuce whatsoever.



Sounding Off on Homework!



**By Natalie Phalen
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Homework is just something we all have grown up doing. We have done it, our parents have done it, 'that's the way it's always been' so it's just normal for us to do it without asking much question. But is it necessary?

Many people will say homework is not necessary, I mean we are in school for six hours and come home and have another hour or more of homework! In an article I read, it states that homework can sometimes do more harm than good. *"Researchers have cited drawbacks, including boredom and burnout toward academic material, less time for family and extracurricular activities, lack of sleep and increased stress."*

That could be very bad for kids. Think about it. When a student gets too much homework, it causes stress, the stress then makes it take longer for the student to focus and get all their homework done. That then causes them to go to sleep late, that means by morning they are sleep deprived and that can cause students to have a lack of focus and for them to not be on top of their work.

On the flip side, researchers have said that homework is very necessary. In a different article it says that some research has shown a correlation between test scores and homework, it also helps life skills such as organization and time management, and critical thinking can also be improved by doing homework. Homework also helps kids get a better understanding of the work they did in school.

In conclusion I believe there must be a balance of homework, yes, I believe we should have homework but not that much. but the question is, what do you think?



**By Rachel Lamb
Tusker Tribune Staff**

A lot of homework can cause stress. Most students are already under a lot of stress, and added stress is not something they really need.

Most children participate in an after-school activity or any kind of sports. Children have everyday things to do, and sometimes an overload of work to do at home.

Researchers say that when a child has a lot more work to do at home, it causes them to have headaches and can cause them to be extremely tired and drained out. Another piece of evidence from researchers, is it not always makes the children smarter, but it could possibly make them get a lower grade on tests or quizzes and maybe even affect their health.

To conclude about too much homework being put on students, the effects can put the student into stress and problems for children.

Going Places? Try a Longboard!



**By Ella Ponterio
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are you looking for a fun way to ride around the city or your neighborhood in style? Then I recommend the longboard. Longboarding is a fun quick easy way to get around.

What is a longboard

A longboard is typically 33 to 59 inches long and 9 to 10 inches wide. The large board allows great cruising and the wide soft rubber wheels make the ride smooth and enjoyable. There are many types of longboards to choose from. Which one you pick is really up to you and what you want to use to for.

Downhill

Downhill longboards are used for exactly for what their name implies—for downhill riding. According to longboardbrand.com one of



the main things downhill riders struggle with is speed wobbling which a high quality downhill board will eliminate.

Drop Through

Drop through longboards allow for a relaxed stable cruise. I prefer the drop through longboard because it allows me to ride to my friends' houses and ride around my neighborhood with ease.

Carving Longboards

Carving longboards allow you to make sharp turns with ease there are many YouTube videos that will show you how to carve. I really enjoy carving I find it fun and satisfying making sharp turns smooth and easy.

These are just a few boards to look at and there are many more out there so feel free to check them all out!

Editor's Note: Please wear a helmet!

When Writer's Block Hits, What Do You Do?



**By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What to write, what to write.

Hmm, I do not have any ideas.

Have you ever wanted to write about something but had no clue what topic to write? Well, I think I have a few ideas for you...

You can write about anything: your dog, the time you fell off your bike, and even when you got pushed down the stairs. When I say anything I mean anything is this huge universe.

Write about something you love, something you hate, or a funny joke

your friend told you. Write about what make you happy, what

makes you sad, and even what makes you angry. You can write about emotions, feelings, even what is going through

your mind. Write about your family, your dog, your sister, your brother. The list is endless.

Most importantly, write something that you want, not what other people want. Write what you want to and always remember, it does not take a good writer to make an amazing story.



**Weinstein's
Wisdom**