

# The Tusker Tribune

## The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School

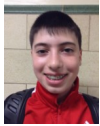


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Spring 2018

## Is This Year's 6th Grade REALLY That Bad?



**By Joseph Melillo**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Maybe crazy kids. Nobody outside our grade really knows us except our teachers. We are loud, and we

normally do not listen. We like rap music and don't like rules.

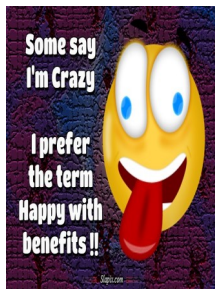
But seriously, are we really that bad? We are kids, normal kids who like doing what we want. Sure, we may have had two assemblies on behavior, but we listen when we must or when it is important.

Some people are quiet and shy; others are loud and are really

not shy. We get more independence now so we have to be on time to our classes. Maybe some kids are late, but not everyone. We are kids and we like to socialize and talk with friends. Some of us just straight up refuse to listen to anyone or anything.

Sure, I guess we are loud during announcements and talk when the teacher is talking and sometimes misbehave during recess and locker time, but it could be worse.

***What do YOU THINK?***



## Living History Day Brings the Past Alive



**By Juliana Spano**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

The 2018 Living History day was a success!

According to all the 7<sup>th</sup> graders I talked to they all had fun!

There were so many different activities for the students to do, including a 19<sup>th</sup> century school house, several artifacts from wars, an activity where students got to shoot muskets and much more.



firefighters from the Somers Fire Department and got to see one of their rescue trucks, an ambulance and all their equipment.

We also got to meet women who showed us how bread and butter were made long ago. My personal favorite was a very sweet old woman who showed us the types of medicines they used during the times of war. She

showed us how potatoes were used to help treat burns and how potato brine helped headaches. She also showed us a replicated version of a toothbrush from that time and the "tooth powder" they used.

Overall I believe that living history day was a complete success and that all of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed themselves.



In the 19<sup>th</sup> century school house, we were shown authentic and replicated books from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and we were even tested in a spelling bee. We got to see the car that used to belong to Caroline Wright Reis before she died. We also got to meet

# A Summer Shopping List



**By Gretchen Gilroy  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Bye bye, tests and homework! Hello vacations, camps, swimming, parties!

Summer is heading our way, and everyone must be ready for it! Here's a list to make sure you're prepared.....

- Sunscreen
- Beaches
- Pools
- Friends
- Food

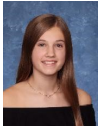


- Drinks
- Bathing suits
- Shorts
- Tee shirts
- Flip flops
- Slides
- Relaxation
- Vacation

This list will guarantee that you will be prepared for summer and not have to stress, because after all, summer is supposed to be fun, not stressful.



## The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart

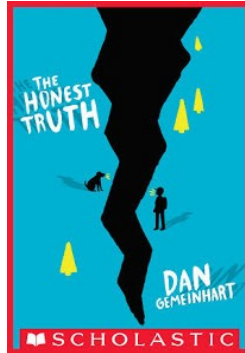


**By Alexa Warycha  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart is an amazing story about a boy named Mark.

Mark is an ordinary boy with a dog named Beau and a best friend named Jessie. The only difference about mark is that he has cancer.

Mark is destined to climb Mount Rainier before he dies. The Honest Truth is a story filled with



dramatic events, plot twist, worry and sorrowful events.

I interviewed Amanda Malkin and asked her how she viewed the book. She said, "The book was great!" She also said, "It was the best book ever."

Also, Maya Shirakura said, "It was the best book in the world." She also said, "It was so suspenseful, I could not put the book down."

To conclude, The Honest Truth is a fantastic story that everyone should read.



## Movie Review: Solo



**By Lindsey Gill  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On May 25, 2018, a new Star Wars movie came out, directed by Ron Howard.

This time, the movie focuses on Han Solo. Han joined a group of bounty hunters to make money and run away from his home. He travels all around the galaxy to find his true love, Qi'ra, after they got split up and he goes on a dangerous quest to collect



Star Wars fan will love.

coaxium, one of the most valuable materials in the galaxy that could make his rich.

Han and the bounty hunters encounter Lando Calrissian on the look to find a fast-enough ship to get them all the way to Kessel for the coaxium.

This is a funny and action-packed film that any



# Tyler Blevins Finds \$, Fame With 'Fortnite'



By Jimmy Rae  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Most people just play Fortnite after a hard day at school. Others are just lazy people who play all day.

But some people take advantage of the game's popularity and make tons of money off it. One of those people is Tyler Blevins, otherwise known as "Ninja" or "NinjasHyper". He started off playing Halo then started to get good at video games and started competing in contests and gaining fame and money. That all changed when he almost lost his vision and his retina almost got completely severed. He turned out ok, but his gaming viewership was sinking badly because of the sixmonths away for rehab and such.

His luck changed again when Fortnite came out. He quickly became a gaming star again and he quickly began to rack up subscribers on YouTube and sponsors from Bud Lite.

He also stated getting money from Twitch.tv, a version of YouTube with only streaming or live video. You can sponsor people on twitch for \$5 a month.



About two weeks ago, Ninja had most likely the best day of his life. Drake, the famous Canadian rapper, wanted to play with Ninja. He came to play with him and other stars followed, including Travis Scott, another rapper, and Juju Smith, a new up and coming Pittsburgh Steelers football player.

He gained 50 thousand twitch sponsors that day, which is worth \$250,000. He now has 200 thousand twitch sponsors which made him

roughly \$550,000. He quickly became the richest gamer, in addition to the biggest person on YouTube Pewdiepie. He also broke many records on YouTube twitch and other websites.

Tyler Blevins seems to be a very genuine guy and a hard worker. He is a great ace for the emerging gaming community.

## End of Year Calendar!!!!

**June 8th:** 6th Grade Author's Day (1/2 day of school)

**June 11th:** 8th Grade Social Studies final exam

**June 11th-15th:** 7th Grade World Language Final (one piece per day)

**June 11th-13th:** Geometry Final Exam

**June 12th & 13th:** 8th Grade Math final exam

**June 12th:** Algebra Regents (12:00pm)

**June 12th:** Jazz Band @BOE meeting (6:30pm)

**June 13th & 14th:** 7th Grade Math final exam

**June 13th:** 6th Grade Trip (movie and park)

**June 14th:** 6th Grade White Team Science Unit Exam

**June 14th:** 7th Grade Social Studies final exam

**June 14th:** Earth Science Regents (8:30am)

**June 15th:** District Strings Concert



**June 18th:** FLACS (8th Grade World Language final exam)

**June 18th & 19th:** 6th and 7th Health final exam

**June 18th:** 7th Grade Splashdown Trip

**June 18th:** 8th Grade Graduation Practice

**June 18th:** 8th Grade Dance @Villa Barone

**June 19th:** 6th Grade Social Studies final exam

**June 19th:** 8th Grade Lake Compounce Trip

**June 20th:** 7th Grade Science final exam

**June 20th:** 6th Grade Math final exam

**June 21st:** 6th Grade Red Team Science end of year exam

**June 21st:** 8th Grade Graduation @5:30pm

**June 22nd:** Last Day of School – ½ day (11:30am dismissal)

# Global Warming IS Reality



**By Ciara McMahon  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

It's an unknown problem no one realizes because they have *bigger things to worry about*.

The summers recently have been very hot, and the winters have been weird recently.

There have been large, damaging weather events recently. Everyone can remember a few. And who doesn't like California? Well that is at risk too. But why do you need to worry about it?



weather wise, causing us bigger, worse, more frequent storms. These changes in weather patterns have not only caused more storms and wetness for some, it has been depriving other places of water. California and Australia have been going through long droughts. Because of little water, the plants have been drying out and that is just more wood for devastating wild fires.

We all love animals. From the



Everyone remembers the storms we have had recently, knocking power out, taking down trees, there were even tornados here! Adults say, "I never remember storms this bad

when I was growing up, maybe two".

Well, that is because of global warming. The heating of the polar ice caps has messed up weather patterns causing many things to change

little penguins in Antarctica, to the adorable white polar bears in the Arctic. But what if those animals are going to go extinct? Die out along with all the other animals in the world and maybe us, too.

Because of global warming, the habitats of all the animals all over the world are being destroyed and too many are animals are during and not enough are being born. They will go extinct eventually.



## The Scourge of Homework!



**By Dan Gordon  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Every day, Monday through Friday, kids go home from school and are annoyed how much homework and test studying they are having to do.

Why do we even get so much homework anyway? Middle school doesn't even count! (as far as college is concerned).

Also, having a lot of homework could make you really stressed. Kids want to come home from school and relax after having a long day, but you can't do that because there's a lot of homework and studying that you must start right away or else you won't finish until late.

And kids have a lot of activities, so they will have less



time to do homework or study for their tests. I really care about my grades and I think you do, too, but there is just no time for most of us to study and do homework.

I think the teachers should cut down homework, because then you can avoid being in the situation I'm usually in, where I had so much homework to do, that I was trying to finish this newspaper article at 9:30 pm the day before it was due!

**The Tusker  
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**Andre Possante**  
**Joseph Melillo**



# We Wonder What's With Weezer?



**By Andrew Tatela**  
**Tusker Tribune**  
**Staff**

Weezer.

You've probably never heard of them. So, I'll enlighten you: Weezer is a rock band formed in 1992. Their 1994 debut self-titled album, often nicknamed "The Blue Album", went quadruple platinum. Their biggest hits and most recognizable songs are "Say It Ain't So," "Island In the Sun," and "Beverly Hills." They're one of my favorite bands of all time, and they're still making music today.

The band currently has four members: Rivers Cuomo on vocals and guitar, Brian Bell on guitar, Scott Shriner on bass, and Pat Wilson on drums. They have an upcoming album, supposedly called "The



Black Album". (They've also released Green, Red, and White albums.) Not much has been said about this upcoming album besides the fact that it will be darker than most of Weezer's other material.

The release date has been rumored to be May 25<sup>th</sup>, *which has passed*. So who knows.

Weezer has very recently released a single, a cover of Toto's "Africa." It hit number one on the iTunes charts, and the Youtube video had over two million views less than a week after release. That's impressive for something that isn't mainstream pop.

All in all, I'm going to see them this summer, and I'm eagerly anticipating their new album. Whenever it comes out.

## Tips for Getting Over the 'Finals' Hurdle



**By Arielle Zeitchick**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**  
**ALERT! ALERT!**  
**ALERT! FINALS COMING**  
**UP!!!!** Finals are flying in

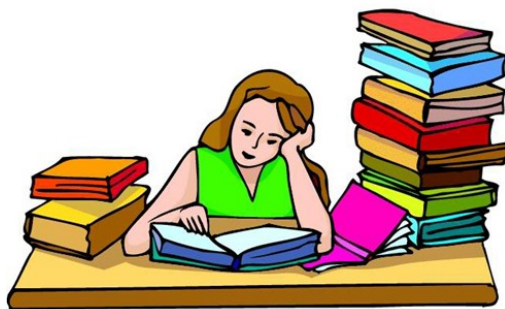
quick. If you are stressing about finals and are puzzling the idea of studying for all of them and believe that you are going to end up procrastinating and failing, this article will help you a lot.

Some tips:

- Make a chart of what days you are going to study for what.
- Make sure you are going to bed at a reasonable time so you are energized and not falling asleep

during class.

- Get a calendar and mark the dates for each final so you know exactly how much time you have.
- Pace yourself only study for 15-20



minutes at a time then take a little break. Study for too long will stress you out and ultimately cause you to forget everything.

- Try some stress relieving activities (Ex. playing sports, yoga, drawing, writing poetry, taking walks, cloud watching, etc.)

- Don't be afraid to ask for help or go to extra help in the library after school.

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**

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

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

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# Summer Reading Suggestions



By Lily Graber  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Are you currently between books? Do you not know what to read next? If so here are a few suggestions:

## Series

The Harry Potter series, by J.K. Rowling: once you finish one book, there is another to read, but they are really long, so they may not be the best choice for slow readers. This series is definitely for people who like fantasy, or adventure. (7 books)

The Chronicles of Narnia, by C.S. Lewis: it is SO interesting, and this series is also a classic story that has been popular for more than 50 years. This series is also for people who like to read fantasy, or adventure books. (7 books)

The Matched Trilogy, by Ally Condie: it's an interesting, adventurous, dystopian, love story, (etc.) about a girl who has to make risky choices, to escape the overruling government. This trilogy should be much more famous than it is. (3 books)

Unwind, by Neal Shusterman: dystopian books, about kids who are going against the law, so they can escape their "division", which is a form of body donation. Their



amazing journey will change the world, and make new friendships. I really like this book, and I suggest you read it too. (4 books)

## Single books:

Ida B., by Katherine Hannigan: Ida B. is a wonderful book, about a girl who was home schooled, but now she must face her fear of going to a real school. This is an amazing realistic fiction book, that you should read.

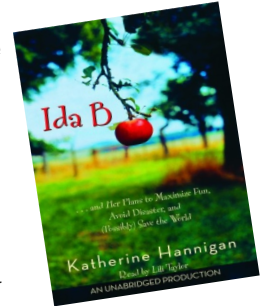
The Candy Makers, by Wendy Mass: this fictional book is about four kids who are becoming best friends after being chosen to compete in a contest where they put must show they are worthy of making candy. Along the way their secret selves are revealed, and they realize that friends are more im-

portant than winning.

The One and Only Ivan, by Katherine Applegate: Ivan is a gorilla who is living a life in a small space at a mall. When he

was a baby, he was taken from his jungle home, and now he spends his life amusing shoppers. The One and Only Ivan is based on a true story of a real gorilla.

I suggest this book, because it makes people aware of animals in captivity, and it is a very interesting, eye-opening book.





## 'Roxy' is a True Rescue(d) Dog!



**By Jessica Leahy  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Roxy is my dog. She has been through a lot. She hasn't had the life every dog dreams of. She is strong and brave. Since she is a Pitbull she was supposed to be a fighting dog. She was too sweet for that. Her owners thought they could just dump her. They didn't need her, they didn't want her. She wasn't meant for fighting. They decided to drive across a highway and throw her from a car. She ended up breaking her jaw and also is blind in one eye.



Now she can't open her mouth a lot and she can barely eat. It takes her approximately 20 minutes to eat 1 cup of food, all because the previous owners didn't feel like bringing her to a shelter. She almost was euthanized; nobody wanted her.

Finally, someone took her in, though they had other dogs who didn't get along with her. But my mom heard about her and fell in love. Roxy came over to our house and ran around the entire time and then we got to keep her for the night. It was a bumpy road. She had a lot of medical problems, but she is better now. We have had Roxy for eight years and I have never thought of giving her up.

## Coping Strategies for Final Exams

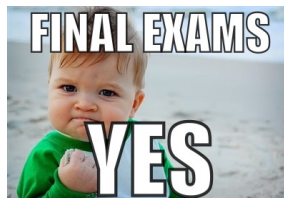


**By Emily Horowitz  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

How should I study for finals? Since June rolled around its now officially "that time of year". The time when your studying load doubles to prepare yourself for the one big test that's given in each of your classes.

It could get tricky trying to squeeze all that information in at once. You need to know the best ways to study so you can get that A+ you're hoping for.

1. Save the procrastination for later.
2. It might seem as like you have many days to study and you can afford to procrastinate. But beware, those dates are closer then they seem. So, put down the phone and start studying, the sooner the better.



3. Minimize the distractions.
4. Put away the phone, music, and the tv. If you're in a quiet room with no electronics you won't be tempted to quit.
5. Don't pull an all-nighter
6. It's common to wait until the last minute and cram everything in the last minute. Exhausted students can't concentrate on exams. If you're well rested, you will be much more focused and relaxed.
7. Reward yourself.
8. Take breaks or do something fun after you finish a subject. Say to yourself you can watch one video if you finish this chapter or every two questions you can have a cookie. This will motivate you to want to finish.

## Anthem Issue Causes Trump to Snub Eagles



**By Timmy Azimi  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles will not visit The White House. President Donald Trump tweeted out that the Philadelphia Eagles will not visit The White House, due to players kneeling during the National Anthem.

The White House is canceling the visit. Eagles fans were in shock. They were so angered by this action by the president that they took to social media and expressed their frustration saying that Trump is trying to start a war with Philadelphia



and Eagles fans are ready for it. Instead of hosting the Eagles, President Trump had a ceremony where he sang the National Anthem surrounded by members of the military.

In a press conference, the head coach of the Eagles, Doug Peterson, said "We were all disappointed that we can't go. We did something amazing last season and we were looking forward to being recognized as world champions."

He said the Eagle's organization is hard at work in Philly, training for the new season and are looking to repeat.

## Commentary On Finals



**By Jake Polito  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I know what you are thinking: "OMG finals are sooo annoying. I just can't wait to be done with them!"

As a student, I feel your pain. Every year the school makes us take a final test for almost every class and every year, every student slowly but surely gets his or her happiness taken away from them once June comes around.

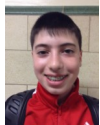


Right now, all of us are trying to remember what final we have on what day and before you know it, it's final time so now all the times you thought it was a good idea to get late to class, not pay attention or just plain don't care, becomes a factor when you have to remember everything you learned this year. What? You don't remember every single thing you learned this year?

Yeah, I did not think so. So you may realize that you'll have a tough time with finals.

My advice is to just try to pass these finals because then you'll have a new worry that's much more fun—what to do this summer.

## Yearbook Etiquette



**By Joseph Melillo  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The 2017-2018 yearbooks were finally distributed during lunch. Everyone wanted to get theirs signed during lunch and during class. But, everyone just puts in their name and writes "H.A.G.S", which means have a great summer.

Is there a proper way to sign these yearbooks and to make them memorable? According to a site called WikiHow, they say it would be good to write thoughtful messages, like a memory you and the person shared, or some sort of inside joke. This could possibly get to the person

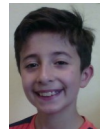
and make the signature very memorable.

Secondly, they say too keep it short and sweet, they say about 2 inches by 3 inches if he/she is just a friend, but for really good friends, they say about 4 inches by 4 inches. Finally, they say use neat handwriting. This would make your thoughtful message (Hopefully if you were paying attention!) legible by the reader so it will be memorable.

If you make your thoughtful message illegible, it won't be very memorable, as the person you are writing to cannot read it. Ok, so, now that you know how to properly sign a yearbook (if you paid attention!) you can write thoughtful, neat, and not too lengthy messages to your friends.



## A Spectacular Spring Concert



**By Andre Possante  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On June 5, the Spring Concert, well technically, the 2<sup>nd</sup> spring concert, took place in the Middle School auditorium.

It was by far one of the most exciting performances I've seen during my life span of concerts. We had Orchestra and

Chorus performing like usual, but we had a few special instrument players who played the following: clarinet, double bass, violins, and a bongo player.



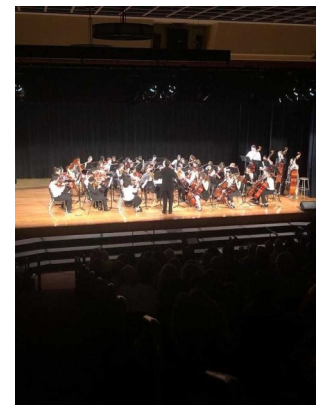
First in line to perform was the Orchestra. I myself was not there to watch because I was in the instrument wing, waiting to go on stage for Chorus, but I knew that it

was going to be unique and spectacular. The songs they played were: *Undercurrents*, *In The Hall Of The Mountain King*, and a collection of Grease songs. I heard a lot of folks say that it was interesting to watch.

Next up after them was the 6<sup>th</sup>

Grade Chorus. We performed the following songs: *Firework* by Katy Perry, *Just the Way You Are* by Bruno Mars, *Hakuna Matata* from the *Lion King*, and *When I Close My Eyes* by Jim Poulis. It was an amazing performance, remarked several spectators.

There was also a clarinet solo for *Hakuna Matata*, and a double bass solo for *When I Close My Eyes*.



*Continued on Page 9*





## Music Report



By Noah Volkman  
Tusker Tribune Staff

### Good Man – Ne-Yo



The R&B superstar Ne-Yo has officially "come back" (as if he ever fell off), as he has already gotten radio plays for his collab with Bebe Rexha and Stefflon Don, "Push Back". *Good Man* (stylized as "GOOD MAN") was originally just a single song around

the web, but never official. Then he released "Push Back" and decided that he would go all in. I believe there will be a few gems from this project.

### ye – Kanye West.

I know I did a report on *Love Everyone* last week, but "Ye" decided to change the album title to *ye* and, instead of dropping it on June 1 at mid-

night, he did it around noon or so. It is only seven songs, which is a big letdown, and only two of the songs in my opinion are good—"Yikes" and "All Mine". Like *The Life of Pablo*, he doesn't reveal guest features but there are some astonishing guest features (Nicki Minaj, Ty Dolla \$ign, Charlie Wilson, Kid Cudi).

The album cover shows the snowcapped mountains encircling Jackson Hole, Wyoming and text saying, "I hate being bi-polar it's awesome". Across the project, he mentions the #MeToo movement, adult film star Stormy Daniels, slavery. He also discusses mental health: within the first minute of the first song, West confesses suicidal and homicidal thoughts, then says he bipolar on "Yikes", yet says that it's his "super-power...ain't no disability." He praises his wife Kim Kardashian-West and his daughters and claims they've changed his views on women. *Ye* is concise, but meaningful.



### Concert From Page 8

Not to mention Mr. Baranowski on the piano, rocking it like a pro! I thought it was very cool to have all these instrumental players to join us in our singing.

But the grandest performance of the night was probably the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus because they sung a medley of six Phantom of the Opera songs! I was absolutely astonished at how good they sounded, and I was absolutely amazed that they could pull this six-piece wonder off because it had so many lyrics to memorize.



The songs they sang were: *Hallelujah* by Jeff Buckley, *Sisi Ni Moja* by Jacob Narverud, and, we already know this one, a blend of 6 Phantom of the Opera Songs by Unknown Composer.

There was so much applause and whistling that the roof could have blown off the school. After everything was said and done, most of my peers and their parents were discussing how moving and emotional the 7/8th grader's performance was.

This Spring Concert was a hit success, and I think everyone did a great job. I want to especially congratulate the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for an outstanding show and wish the best of luck for you 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are moving on to the high school next year. This was really a one of a kind performance!