



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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NEWSPAPER CLUB
TUSKER TRIBUNE

Spring 2024

SMS Concerts Hit All of the Right Notes



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last Wednesday was the SMS Band Concert! The 7th/8th grade band preformed along with the 6th grade band and jazz band.

The 7th/8th grade band played "Take On Me" by the group, Ah-ha, "Mahna Mahna" from The Muppets, "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen, and "You'll be Back" from the Broadway play, Hamilton. For these songs in class, we worked on articulations and balance between instruments.

The 6th grade band played "Great Beginnings", "Pirates", and "Imperial March" from Star Wars. The jazz band also made an appearance playing three different fun and upbeat songs!

Did you know that SMS band students are the ones who draft the program for the concert? Students in all grades draft a paragraph about each song their band plays. The paragraphs often include what we worked on in the song, who the composer is, a fun fact about the song/composer, and sometimes includes a fun band related dad joke!



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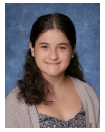


Following up on their MYP Community Project, 8th graders Talia Miller, Kiara Stuart, Alexa Ernst and Grace Feeney dropped off their project's pet donations at SNARR (Special Needs Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation in Brewster, NY). While they were there, the girls had the opportunity to cuddle with some of SNARR's adorable resident puppies. The 8th graders are accompanied by Alexa's sister, Olivia Ernst.

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Somers Middle School
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'Sportacular' Science Assembly Well-Received



**By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Yesterday, the science assembly took place in the auditorium. Chris and Madison came to our school from The Science Liberty center to instruct kids about science. We focused on Newton's first three laws:

1. An object in motion stays in motion
2. Force = Mass times Acceleration
3. For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

*A 6th
Grader's
View of the
Assembly*

Along with teaching students about how sports in our everyday lives use momentum and force, students were asked to pick a card from the deck of cards and each card they picked had one of the top ten sports in the world on it. With each card we would learn something new about how even playing sports involves science.

The presenters had many props including a speed detector, balls, bats, and much more. Thank you to the PTA who helped organize and pay for this wonderful experience.



**By Gabby Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On Thursday, May 16, Somers Middle School had a science assembly for all grades. It was very fun and very interactive using multiple volunteers.

The assembly was based off of energy transformation between the 10 most popular sports in the whole world. Those include volleyball, basketball, tennis soccer, rugby, baseball, cricket, golf, table tennis and hockey.

In the assembly the presenters gave examples of energy or energy transfer throughout all of the sports.

One example they showed was with both a volleyball and a basketball. They had two volunteers first push the volleyball sitting across from each other on the floor. They pushed it back-and-forth for a while, and it wasn't that hard because the volleyball had little mass. But then they were handed the basketball and they repeated the task with the basketball.

*A 7th
Grader's
View of the
Assembly*

The basketball had more mass, so the basketball was harder to get from one person to another without adding more force to their pushes.

Another example that they gave was including a tennis ball in a soccer ball. First they dropped the soccer ball and the tennis ball at the same time, but separated from one another. They both didn't bounce too high. But then they put the tennis ball on top of the soccer ball and dropped them at the same time. What happened is the energy transferred from the soccer ball to the tennis ball and while the soccer ball barely bounced, the tennis ball bounced two times higher than it did before which was showing the energy from the soccer ball to the tennis ball.

This assembly was very fun and had lots of great examples of energy. This assembly was great and I hope we have it again..



'Stars and Stripes Forever' Wows the Crowd at Willow Grove!



By Gabby Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff

Note: This essay is part of an annual contest sponsored by the Mohegan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR sponsors the essay contest to promote interest in American history. The topic this year is a newspaper account of the first performance of John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever". This is 7th grader Gabby Cordero's newspaper account, acting as a reporter for the Philadelphia Times newspaper.

It was a hot, sunny day in Willow Grove Park on May 14th, 1897, earlier this month. The statue of George Washington was being unveiled by President William McKinley. While kids were going on rides, parents were watching the show, so there was an activity for the whole family. This day, as the president unveiled the statue of George Washington, a new song came upon the crowd at Willow Grove Park: "Stars and Stripes Forever." This song is a marching band song first performed by the Marine Marching Band. John Philip Sousa was the conductor of the Marine Band, and they were the most respected band of all military bands. You have to give him some credit because that must take hard work and dedication by Sousa.

The Marine Band is the United States' oldest active professional musical organization, formed around 1798. The band's first ever conductor was William Farr. The Marine Band conductors were rarely acknowledged, and recognized until the amazing work of John Phillip Sousa

Sousa was conductor of his own civilian band, and is now conductor of the Marine Marching Band. Sousa was a member of the Marine Marching Band until 1880 when he became the conductor of the band. This is when the Marine Marching Band became the most respected military band, but they only became most respected under Sousa's leadership.

Sousa was nicknamed the "March King" because of all his well-known marches. The "Washington Post March" is one of my favorites. He also formed his own civilian band in 1892. He traveled around the country. This made him even more well known than he was already. You must be thinking, "Wow he's so famous already. How would he get even more popularity?" I'll tell you but keep in mind that his best was only yet to come.

Sousa was on tour with his civilian band in 1896 when he heard that his music promoter died. He was devastated and took the first ship home to

Washington D.C with his wife. As he and his wife were heading home, he was pacing up and down the ship thinking to himself, when he suddenly imagined a melody of "a mental band" playing "Stars and Stripes Forever over and over in his head. When he got back, he started missing his time conducting the Marine band and watching the American flag fly over the White House. He noticed how every state he visited, flags differed from America's and how in his imagination the United States flag seemed to be "the biggest grandest flag in the world and I could not get back under it quick enough". Sousa was inspired by his memories of the flag flying over the White House as "Stars and Stripes Forever" was created.

He stated, "he couldn't rest" until he wrote it down and on Christmas Day, 1896, he finally did. When it was completed, "the feeling of impatience passed away" and I was content to rest peacefully until the ship had docked and I was once more under the folds of the grand old flag of our country."

In 1897, his band set out on a national tour and his band started by playing "Stars and Stripes Forever" in a few small towns. So even though May 14th is known as the first performance of this song, it really was one of the first few. So, when they played it, the audience loved it! The audience loved it so much, they were cheering over the performance and asking for an encore. One of the local news papers stated, "stirring enough to rouse the American eagle from his crag and set him to shriek exultantly while he hurls his arrows at the aurora borealis."

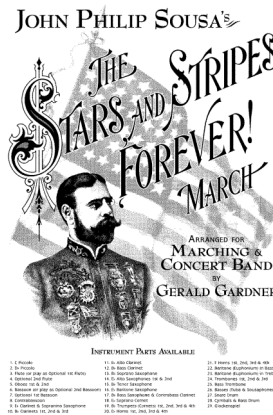
Ever since the performance, every time the band performs, it's requested. Some people have said if they don't play it, the band will probably be tarred and feathered and run out of town.

Though Sousa has many other famous songs, "Stars And Stripes Forever" is now his signature song and almost the whole nation knows this song.

One more thing I wanted to address is how this song makes me feel. It makes me feel amazing! I love this song a lot and it's definitely one of my favorite John Philip Sousa songs.

I know lots of people in the states agree with me and even wanted "Stars and Stripes Forever" to replace the "Star Spangled Banner" as the national anthem, including myself. In conclusion, I just wanted to tell people not only about the fabulous song, but the amazing history behind it and its conductor. I know I love this song but what do you think about it? I hope you love it as much as I do.

Signing off, Gabby Cordero from the Philadelphia Times.



Listen to Sousa's song! Left click on the link below while pressing the "CNTRL" key:

<https://youtu.be/-mRn9chmRAY>

Nothing Symbolizes Spring Like Softball



By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

Softball is such a fun sport! In fact, I play it myself! There is so much involved in it. There is a home plate, first base, second base, and third base. You hit and you field in softball. (You also run a bit).

For the field, the places are third base, second base, catcher, pitcher, shortstop, first base, center field, left field, and right field. I play second base and center field. As you grow you get more hits to the outfield which is very fun.

In softball, you have balls and strikes. A ball is when it is not a strike. A strike is a pitch right down the middle, or close. The pitcher pitches the



ball. There are also walks. A walk is when the pitcher pitches four balls, and a strikeout is when the pitcher pitches three strikes. There are also fouls. A foul is when you hit the ball into foul territory. If you walk, it means you are on base, which means you can run the bases, if somebody on your team hits the ball or gets on.

There are also umpires in softball. An umpire can tell you if you are safe or out, if you strike out or walk, or when the ball is a ball or strike. I play on a team named Empire State Huskies. It is a travel softball team. There are different divisions in the sport. I am in 12U.

Other than 12U, the other divisions are 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U, then you can go off to college if you would like to. As you can see softball is a fun sport that has a lot to offer.

Blood's an Ingredient in these Recipes from Around the World!



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

While it is surprising, there are many food options made with blood (not invented by Dracula)! Maybe more than you realized. So, here are some dishes with blood in them that you could try!

Blood tofu

Served in countries such as China, Thailand, and Vietnam, blood tofu is coagulated blood of a duck, cow, chicken, or goose. Once it is coagulated, it is cut into squares.

Blood sausages

Blood sausages are well known. Sausages made from blood, as well as other fillings. Blood sausages have been made by many cultures for thousands of years. One well known example is

black pudding, from the United Kingdom. It's made with pig's blood and grain.

Other types of blood sausage are:

- **Birollo**, from Italy, which is made with either cow's or pig's blood with nuts and raisins.
- **Morcilla**, from Spain, made with pig's blood, rice and onions.
- **Drisheen**, from Ireland,

made with sheep's blood, spices, cream, and grains

- **Verivorst**, from Estonia, made with pig's blood, flour, and rye. (It can also be served with sour cream or jam.)

- **Gyurma**, from Tibet, made with yak's blood with or without extra fillings.

Other dishes made with blood

Some French sauces are made with blood:

- **Ratha Poriyal**, lamb blood with spices and meat from India
- **Dinuguan**, a Filipino stew made with chicken, pork, or beef blood.
- **A lot of blood stews**, including Czernina from Poland, Tiet Canh from Vietnam (both made with duck blood), Svartsoppa from Sweden (goose blood) and Hae-jangguk from Korea (ox blood)

So, after considering this information, will you try blood food? Have you had some before? I hope you enjoyed learning about some interesting food.



Sources:

<https://foodandnutrition.org/july-august-2016/animal-blood-safe-ingredient/>