

# The Tusker Tribune

## SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

# 160



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## Book Suggestions for the New School Year



By Gemma Krissoff  
Tusker Tribune Staff

### Queen of the Tiles by Hanna Alkaf (realistic fiction)

**Summary:** It has been 1 year since Trina Low, the best scrabble player in her competition, died. Trina's best friend, Najwa, is still grieving over Trina's death. Najwa is also going to her first scrabble competition since the death. Although, peculiar things start happening at the competition which indicate that Trina's death was not an accident, but murder. Could someone else at the competition have to do with it? Najwa must solve the mystery before someone else gets hurt.



### The Wild Robot by Peter Brown (realistic fiction)

**Summary:** a ship carrying hundreds of robots crashed onto a rock and sunk, leaving all the robots dead, except for one, rozzum unit 7134, aka

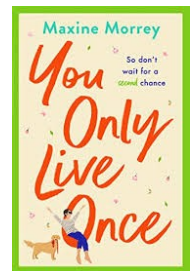


Roz. Roz was washed up on the shore of a wild island and must learn how to survive. By being around the wildlife, Roz eventually becomes more like an animal than a robot. But around a year after Roz gets to the island, the robot factory wants to take Roz from her home, and for the first time Roz is not in the wild. In The Wild Robot Escapes, the sequel to The Wild Robot, Roz tries to escape back

to her home island.

### You Only Live Once, David Bravo by Mark Oshiro (science fiction)

**Summary:** at school, David made a huge mistake: he caused his best friend to fall and get injured at running track practice. But he gets the chance to go back in time and fix his mistake. Then he goes on a massive time travel adventure because he accidentally ruins his life by traveling through time.



## How Social Media Affects Our Lives



By Lila O'Connor  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hitting the "post" button can control our lives. For some people, social media gives them confidence and people can create connections with other people, but for others it sucks them down a rabbit hole of anxiety, self-consciousness and depression.

Social media also gives us the ability to like and dislike videos. For some people, this can cause extreme social anxiety and insecurity. Certain trends on social media can also be dangerous. For instance, do you remember the "one chip challenge" well some people died doing that challenge because of a heart attack. Others who didn't do the challenge were called "wimps and losers".

Another thing about social media is how it can make people feel left out. For instance, pretend you walk into school and everyone's laughing at their phones. You walk up to someone and ask, "What is it?" They answer, "Just check your Snap," except you don't have Snapchat because your parents HATE social media. So, you spend the rest of the day saying "lol" and "hahaha" to group messages and sulking through the hallways.

Some positives to social media are how it



promotes organizations like the Ice Bucket Challenge which I did once when I was two years old. The Ice Bucket Challenge supports research for a disease called ALS, which is a disease that paralyzes your body to the point where you can't breathe. When you do the Ice Bucket Challenge, you either flip a bucket of freezing water over your head or pay \$100 to the ALS program. In total the organization made 115 million dollars.

Social media also tells us what is going on in other people's lives like giving you a reminder if it is your cousin's birthday. Let's say you completely forgot it is your cousin's birthday. When you check your Snap and see "Happy Birthday Josie," you can quickly say "happy birthday" and continue with your day without feeling guilty for forgetting.

So, what do you think of social media—genius idea or a therapy inducer?

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## A Tomato Day Poem



**By Francesca Palumbo**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

*(Tomato day is a day that me and my Italian family celebrate every year. We dedicate a whole day making tomato sauce)*

Today is tomato day, not a day to play;  
This is a day to work hard, and no time to lay;  
The first step is to watch like so, and then we need to go go go.

We cut the tomatoes in half, are we done? No.  
Next, we need to boil till it looks like soup, It smells so good, that big red goop.

Then we use the machine;  
But first we make sure that the jars are clean;



We push the sauce down the hole;  
So, the machine can make the bucket full;

By then, the tomatoes are no longer chunky;  
So, we jar the sauce, it was really funky.  
We do that process one more time;  
Then we boil the jars until there's a sign.

We heard the ice cream truck;  
So, we rushed upstairs;  
We go ice cream, and we came up in pairs;  
Then we saw the steam from the pot;  
And we had to be careful, 'cause it was very hot.

Then finally, we put the jars in a box;  
And our clothes got dirty, even our socks;  
Today was a great day with family;  
And next time this happens...  
They have to tell me!!!

## Heels Down, Heads Up!



**By Giuliana DiMartino**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

The cold summer air always got me excited for horseback riding;

The smell of riding boots;  
The sound of cantering horses.

The one phrase I heard in my head;  
Heads up, heads down.

In the mornings, seeing the horses jump  
Over the colorful cross rails;  
Made me eager to mount a paint horse  
And trot around the arena.



I was good at post trotting;  
And steering to.  
I really wanted to canter  
But wasn't ready to.

The phrase went to my mind;  
Heels down, heads up.  
The encouraging twords made me work a lot.

I pulled on the reins and dismount-  
ed

To led him in;  
I fed the ponies apples  
And the horse's carrots  
And was excited to do it again.

## Ode to Camping



**By Sofia Mendoza**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

Got outside, pitched our tents;  
Breathe the fresh air of our environment.

It starts to rain;  
I walk around;  
I feel the rocks all over the ground.

The next morning when I wake up;  
I watch the stream.  
I hop on the rocks;  
But then I fall in and wet my socks.

I walk down the rocky road covered in dirt and dust;  
I watch the people on their bikes with lust.



I go down to the pool to swim all day long;  
Me, Isabella, and Noah run down to the park.

We walk to the lake and see fish that look like little sharks;  
Snaping turtles, fish, and dragon flies.

We watch them all as they swim by;  
At night when we light a fire;  
We roast marshmallows and watch as it lights up higher.  
Out here you can see the stars so bright;  
And in the morning, I see the sun shining so bright.

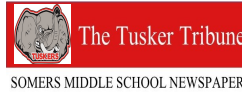
## SMS Takes Getting Used To!



**By Ian Dempsey  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think that 6<sup>th</sup> graders are being tortured and here is why.

First, we need to wake up so early in the morning, when just weeks before, we went to school at **8:20AM**, compared to now when they wake up at **6:00AM** just to be able to shower and get ready before we get thrown into tiring classrooms full of teachers *teaching*. Weird right?



Second, we used to just sit and rarely needed to move BUT NOW we must walk around the entire school, constantly getting lost and asking teachers for help.

Speaking of teachers, it is so hard to find teachers when you are lost because they are all teaching. What if you need to find the nurse's office? "Hello? HELLO???" (That was me today when I got hurt.)

The third reason is that we don't know any teachers' names so far and it is ridiculously hard to remember them.

## Fall



**By Cecilia Morrissey  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Fall time is beautiful  
With the leaves on the ground;

Sweaters season is on,  
Wonder all around.

Jeans and sweatpants,  
Pumpkins at every door.

Costumes, candy, and so much more;



Don't like Halloween? Well that is fine;

Inside sipping on tea;  
While looking outside.

So much to do with Christmas so soon;  
And Hannukah, too.

I love the fall;  
Hope you do too.

Have a wonderful day;  
See you all soon.

## TODAY is National Homemade Cookie Day!



**By Olivia Pelhank  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

National Homemade Cookie Day is celebrated on October 1<sup>st</sup> every year.

National Chocolate Chip Day is August 4<sup>th</sup>.

National Sugar Cookie Day is August 9<sup>th</sup>, and National Oreo Cookie Day is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

However, National Homemade Cookie Day celebrates all sorts of cookies. In the US, most people consume almost 19,000 cookies in a lifetime. So, Homemade Cookie Day comes around on October 1<sup>st</sup>! This is a wonderful day for bakers and chefs to create these wonderful treats, and for us kids to eat them. Though, for some reason, there is also a separate holiday for baking cookies, which comes around on December 18<sup>th</sup>, and National Cookie Day is December 4<sup>th</sup>.



Anyway, I should stop just throwing out dates for you. The reason why I wanted to make a whole story dedicated to National Homemade Cookie Day is because I find this day interesting.

Apparently, on

October 1<sup>st</sup>, the weather is always perfect. So, apparently, it makes this day perfect to make cookies. I don't know; that's just what I heard. Anyway, I always look forward to October 1<sup>st</sup>, a day where you can make and eat as many cookies as you want and have an important reason! Not that I don't eat them without an important reason.



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