

The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Fall 2024

Why Do We Celebrate Veteran's Day?



By Ashley Hobby
Tusker Tribune Staff

Veterans day takes place on Monday, November 11th. It originated in 1919 and became a national holiday of the United States in 1938. This holiday takes place to honor the military veterans of the United States armed forces. They have sacrificed their lives to fight for our country.



Did you know Veterans' Day's original name was Armistice Day? The holiday was created to celebrate the first anniversary of the end of World War I, also known as the Great War. A cool fact is the World War I armistice was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. There is estimated to be 18.1 million veterans in the United States as of 2023.

One way they honor the Veterans who have passed is by placing American flags on the graves of the men and women who served in this war at memorials throughout the country.

Continued on Page 2

SMS STARs: October 2024

Grade 7:



Avianna Botticelli



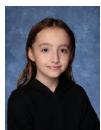
Gianna Molito



Sofia Mendoza



Amber Vitro



Julia Fortier



Andrew Pollaro

A STAR award stands for Students who Are Role models. The students pictured here were caught doing something that deserves the STAR recognition for the month—from common courtesies, to helping another student or staff member, to standing up for someone or cheering them up!

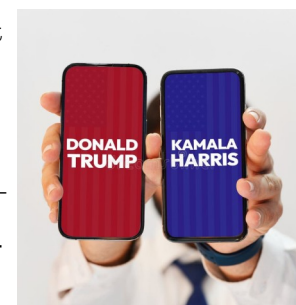
The 2024 Presidential Election



By RJ Hall
Tusker Tribune Staff

This year's presidential election was very close but victor was given to Donald Trump who will now be the 47th president of the United States.

After one day of voting, the results were in within 48 hours—which is pretty fast, with the majority of states voting for Donald Trump. The state that opened the earliest was Vermont at 5:00 AM and the last polls were closed at 9:00 PM



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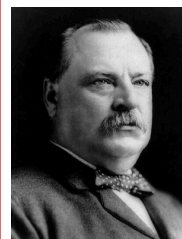


The Associated Press announced Trump's victory early November 6, with 26 states voting for Trump, 19 states voting for Vice President Kamala Harris,, and five states sort of in the middle, and by that I mean the states were 50/50 for

Haris and Trump

So with Donald Trump now coming into office once again, what do you think about this topic? Are you upset or happy? Or do you not really care at all?

No matter what, we just have to wait and see what happens next.



Historical Fact: Trump is only the second person in U.S. history to be elected to two non-consecutive terms as president—2016-2020, and 2024-2028. The first person to do this was Grover Cleveland—1885-1889 and 1893-1897.

The Cool K9s at SMS!



By RJ Hall
Tusker Tribune Staff

On November 1st, 2024, two therapy dogs named Kimber and Harley were spotted in the hall-



ways and at outdoor recess. The dogs were instantly famous throughout the campus.

Within minutes of the majority of the student population seeing them at recess, most people spent maybe half to their entire recess playing with and petting the therapy dogs.

The dogs were provided with water during the surprisingly hot November day and stu-

dents were given tennis balls so that they could play fetch with the dogs.

After just a couple minutes of a barrage of



tennis balls being thrown, the therapy dogs were exhausted, Harley went to go relax and get pets from students near the benches while Kimber went on-

ward and brought back almost every tennis ball that was thrown to her.

The dogs were swamped with attention from all recess groups and after a long and hot day of playing with hundreds of kids, so when the days are over they will get to go home and get the rest they deserve.

Small Update: While I was writing this story another therapy dog came into the Tusker pathways class I was in, the dogs name was Axel and everyone adored him, before he left the class got to take a picture with him.



Spirit Week PJ Day Didn't Put People to Sleep!



By Lila O'Connor and
Cassidy Newman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Spirit Week must be everyone's favorite week of the school year and last Friday was Pajama Day which is our personal favorite.

During Pajama Day, you show up to school and you don't really have to do anything because you just roll out of bed and walk to the bus.



Over the years, Pajama Day has gradually changed. In Primrose School, kids brought stuffed animals and watched movies. Sometimes we even made pancakes. These were fun experiences, and every Thurs-



day before Pajama Day, you would tell your parents you have Ppajama Day tomorrow and they would rush to Target to buy some. As we got older, there wasn't as much of the pancake making and we stopped bringing stuffed animals in 2nd or 3rd grade. The pajamas changed, too. In kindergarten we wore unicorn and dinosaur pajamas and now we wear sweat-shirts and pajama pants.

The real point of Pajama Day is to show school spirit not just to be comfortable.



Veterans From Page 1



The Wounded Warrior Project is a charity that helps wounded veterans and makes a difference in their lives.

I hope you learned more about Veterans' Day. And a BIG Thank You to veterans for their service to our country!

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Can it Rain 'Cats and Dogs'?



**By Elowyn Dawson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

"It's raining cats and dogs". We have all heard that saying before when it's raining.

You may think what a weird thing to write about. Of course it can't rain cats and dogs, and I thought that, too, until I researched about it and found out it can! Well kind of. Not with cats and dogs, though, but instead with fish and frogs.

No one is sure why this weird phenomenon happens, but a popular idea is that strong winds or



a waterspout sucks the animals out of their environment, but then as strong winds die, the animals get carried to land.

But where does this saying come from? Well, no one is completely sure, but a similar saying was heard in 1651 in a collection of poems. Some people say the saying comes from Norse mythology while others say it is from the 17th century when heavy rain

would dislodge debris, including animal carcasses. So even though it cannot rain cats and dogs, still bring an umbrella—just in case.

Red Ribbon Week Takes Aim at Substance Abuse



**By Giuliana DeMartino
Tusker Tribune Staff**

October 23rd to October 31st is Red Ribbon Week. In the cafeteria, Miss. Casey and the Youth-to-Youth Club (Y2Y Club) did activities.

On the 23rd, Miss. Casey did "Chain up against drugs". Students would write, "I pledge to be drug free" on a red strip of paper for a lollipop. The red strips of paper would make a chain and is now hung up by the cafeteria.

On the 24th, Miss Casey did a raffle. Students filled out their name on a "movie ticket". They wrote their name, what they want to be when they get older and why drugs are bad for you. At the end of Red Ribbon Week, the Youth-to-Youth Club (Y2Y Club) picked two names out of the raffle. The winners received candy, snacks, and a gift card to a local movie theater.



On the 25th Miss. Casey did coloring sheets. These were simple but fun to do.

Over the weekend, on the 26th, Miss. Casey and Somers Partners in Prevention did Medication Take Back Day. This started at 9:00 A.M and ended at 1:00 P.M

On November 1st, during morning announcements, they announced the winners to the raffle. Eva Urquiza and Ryan Giangrande got their names picked out from the raffle.

Well, that's the end of Red Ribbon week for this year. Let's keep showing our commitment to making healthy choices!



Most Popular Thanksgiving Foods In The U.S



**By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Since Thanksgiving is coming closer, here are the most popular Thanksgiving foods in the United States.



Number 1 is turkey. More than 80% of Americans will have turkey on their dinner table on Thanksgiving. Americans buy 365 million pounds of turkey the week of Thanksgiving.

Mashed potatoes are also a very popular food on Thanksgiving. Mashed potatoes are generally served as a side dish to meat or vegetables. Potatoes are a good source of fiber and vitamins, which are good for you.

Mac and cheese is usually on the table, too. Mac and cheese is much older than you think. It's from the 13th century but the first modern recipe was published in 1769.

Any type of pie is at Thanksgiving, like apple pie, pumpkin pie, and pecan pie. Fun fact, pumpkins are filled with vitamins and minerals, including vitamin C, which is good for your skin. The first pumpkin pies were whole baked pumpkins stuffed with different spices and apples.

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Spirit Week Teams Up with Halloween



**By Giuliana DeMartino
Tusker Tribune Staff**

October 31st is a favorite for many. This year it landed on a Thursday. Students fill the halls with colorful costumes. After school, many people went Trick or Treating and got many pieces of candy.



For Spirit Week it was Costume Day on Halloween so many people wore their costumes for school. Some costumes were simpler than others. My favorite one was a Frappuccino costume worn by Julia F. I was a Costal cowgirl.



Many teachers gave out candy.

For WIN, there were many Halloweens inspired activities. In Mrs. Bassi's room, there was Halloween inspired bracelet making. In Mrs. Holt's room, there were Halloween inspired puzzles.



After staying up late and eating candy, the day after Halloween is the most tiring of the week. Many say Merry Christmas on November 1 but still remember all the fun they had the day before.

Halloween is a perfect day to hang out with friends, dress up, and eat as many pieces of candy as possible.

The History of Thanksgiving



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As you probably know, Thanksgiving is this month (November)! Let's talk about

Thanksgiving and why we have it, what you do, when it is, and more!

Why Do We Have Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving all started a long time ago, in 1621, when the Pilgrims, who had come to America from England, had a big feast with the Native Americans. The Native Americans helped the Pilgrims grow crops, like corn and squash, so they could survive in the new land. After their first successful harvest, they shared a meal together to celebrate and show thanks.

Over time, Thanksgiving became an important tradition in America. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday to bring people together during the Civil War. Ever since, it's been a time for families and friends to come together, eat a big meal, and think about what they are thankful for.

What Do You Do on Thanksgiving?

On Thanksgiving, what most people do is have a big feast. Some things that are in the feast are turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes pumpkin pie, etc. You also spend time with loved ones and think of

things you are thankful for. There is a big Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (in NYC) that lots of people watch.



When Is Thanksgiving?

Every year, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. This year, it falls on November 28th.

Fun Facts About Thanksgiving!

- The First Thanksgiving Wasn't a One-Day Event.
- Thanksgiving Didn't Always Take Place in November.
- The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Started in 1924.
- Thanksgiving is One of the Busiest Travel Days of the Year.

I hope you learned something about Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Foods

From Page 3

Gravy is usually added onto turkey and mashed potatoes, but gravy can be added to many different foods including vegetables, meat, and breads. There are also many different types of gravy, including dish gravy, pan gravy, and kettle gravy.



As you can tell there are many different dishes and foods that a lot of Americans have on Thanksgiving and many foods that you should try if you haven't already!