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Looking for Stuff to Do During February Break?



By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff

Are you wondering what to do over February break? If so, here are some ideas.

If you are interested in being in the snow, then these ideas are for you.

You can just play in the snow. If you have a dog, take them outside also! Invite a friend over and have a snowball fight, make snow angels, and build a snowman together!

You can go skiing, snowboarding, and sledding. You can also go ice skating if you enjoy being on the ice.

If you like to read, then that is a good activi-



ty to do, too. You can also watch a movie.

You can also spend time with your family and see a friend. You can also go somewhere with your friend.

You can bake something yummy to eat. Here are some ideas of what to bake.

1. Cookies

2. Muffins

3. Cupcakes

4. Brownies

5. Cake

You can also prepare hot chocolate with these tasty treats!

These are some good ideas to do over break if you have nothing to do.

Homework or No Homework?



By Alison Orzechowski
Tusker Tribune Staff

Introduction:

Do you believe in homework? The debate about whether or not homework should be allowed is very a controversial topic, as it has been debated for well over a century. Students and teachers all have their own opinions, as well as parents. In this article, you will be able to see both the pros and cons of homework.

Where Did Homework Come From?

Homework has been around for a long time, even centuries! According to *Britannica*, we aren't sure of who the inventor of homework is, but we do know that the word "homework" dates back to ancient Rome. Some people think the creator of homework was Roberto Nevilis, although many are skeptical because of the lack of historical evidence. Roberto Nevilis was a strict Italian teacher who is believed to have invented homework as a form of punishment.

The idea of homework quickly spread around Europe, and the man who introduced it to the US was Horace Mann. Homework was considered as practicing speeches, memorization exercises, and it could also be used as a punishment. Now, the concept of homework is worldwide!

The Power of Homework:

There are many good things about having homework, even if some kids dread it. It helps kids with their time management, as they are forced to make time away from playing to do work. This will help in the future, and they can be more organized once they know the importance of time management and organization.



Homework can also help teach children how to utilize their resources, as well as promote self-learning. They are forced to research a lot for projects, and they will learn how to use sources. They practice independence, for they solve problems on their own without the teacher's guidance.

They learn responsibility, as they are required to do their homework and other activities, so they need to keep on top of all of their tasks.

Homework refreshes the class's lesson in the child's mind, so the topic that they learned in class will stick in their head. Homework has been around for a long time, and it should stay!

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Steuber Shines in First Varsity Meet



In an impressive debut season, Rylan Steuber achieved 10 victories on the mat and secured fourth place in the Divisional tournament, earning him a spot in the prestigious Section One Championships. His hard work and dedication have set a strong foundation for future success in wrestling.

It's Valentine's Day Today!



**By Charlotte Frankie
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Every February 14th, people all over the world exchange gifts, flowers, chocolates, and cards to celebrate love. But the real origins of Valentine's Day are more complex, with roots dating back to ancient times.

This holiday's origin is believed to trace back to the Roman festival, Lupercalia, which is a fertility celebration occurring in mid-February. During this event, men would pick a random woman's name from a box, and whoever he chose would be his date for the night. But, by the 5th century, the Pope Gelasius I, replaced Lupercalia with a Christian observance, or a ceremony that expresses faith, and loyalty to God, honoring the priest who defied the emperor of his time by secretly marrying couples, going against the ban of marriages, by the name of Saint Valentine.

Over time, the holiday became associated with romantic love, greatly due to poems written by Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, who linked Valentine's Day to love and faith in his works.

Today, Valentine's Day has evolved into a holiday to spend time with those you love and care for. The act of exchanging love notes, or "valentines" became popular in the United States in



around the 18th century. The cards commonly depicted the roman god of love, Cupid, along with hearts, the traditional symbol of emotion.

Traditional valentines can contain chocolates, candy, and red roses, which signify beauty, and love. Valentine's Day is most popular in the United States, as well as the UK, Canada, and Australia. Some other countries such as Argentina, Mexico, France, and South Korea, also celebrate the holiday. It is also the most common wedding anniversary.

This holiday has expanded so much over the many years, and it has become a day of affection and care among relatives and friends. When you wake up on February 14th make sure to tell someone you love them.

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Everything You Wanted to Know About Crayons



**By Alice Orzechowski
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Introduction

Have you ever wondered how that little colorful stick you're holding in your hand can create such beautiful and wonderful artwork? Or have you ever thought about the inventor of those colorful creations? Well, in this article, you will find out all about the mysteries that crayons hold!

Creation of Crayons!

The man who created this piece of technology in our life is Edwin Binney. He created crayons in 1903 with the help of his cousin, C. Harold Smith.

Edwin Binney saw that people needed a safe, environmentally friendly creation, so he made crayons out of a mix of paraffin wax and industrial pigments for children to use! The small company was originally called Binney and Smith, but once it expanded, they renamed it Crayola.

How Have Crayons Changed Our Lives Today?

Believe it or not, crayons have greatly im-



pacted our life! Crayons are sustainable, economical, and eco friendly. They allow little kids and even adults to express their feelings with art. They are very practical, and easy to use. Classrooms benefit from this product because they teach young children motor skills while giving them freedom of creativity as they make art and memories with blasts of color!

What is the Correct Way to Pronounce 'Crayons'?

The debate about the correct way to pronounce crayon has been going on for a while, so let's state some facts.

There is a wide variation of how people say "crayon"; some people pronounce it as "kran", "cray-ahn", "cray-awn", or "crown".

In Britain, it is widely said as "cray-awn".

The pronunciation "kran", is commonly found in the Midwest of America, while "cray-ahn" is more used in the East. According to Crayola, the correct pronunciation of crayon is "cray-awn". Even so, there isn't really a correct way to say the word, although most of the population says "cray-awn". Now, the real question is, how do you pronounce "crayon"?

The 'Gruesome' History of Valentine's Day



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Today, Valentine's Day is known for giving out cards and going on dates, but the origin of Valentine's Day is much darker than you would think.

Valentine's Day began in Ancient Rome, but it was called Lupercalia. Lupercalia was a feast celebrating fertility. At Lupercalia, men would sacrifice a goat and a dog and whip women with the animal pelts. They believed that hitting the women would make them fertile.

Lastly, men would pick names from a jar, and whoever's name was pulled would date the man for the rest of the festival. If it was a good



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match, they might stay together after the festival ended.

Later, Christianity created Valentine's Day to honor two men named "Valentine" who were both executed on February 14. But in the 5th century, Pope Gelasius wanted to get rid of pagan celebrations like Lupercalia, so he combined Valentine's Day with Lupercalia.

Eventually, Valentine's Day evolved to be much nicer and more romantic. It also gained popularity and spread throughout Europe.

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Weekly Whimsical Bird Facts (Issue 1)



By Robert Jarrett
Tusker Tribune Staff

White-backed Vulture

With a similar color palette as a juvenile seagull, this medium sized vulture weighs about 9-15 pounds. The white-backed vulture is a typical vulture, with only down feathers on the head and neck, broad wings and short tail feathers and a white neck ruff. The adult's whitish back is contrasted with dark feathers. Juveniles are largely dark.

The vulture can be found in most of Africa. The vulture, like many African vultures, has gone



through a rapid decline. When it was first assessed in 1988, it was classified as a 'Least Concern' species, owing to a large range and population. It was reassessed from a Least Concern to 'Near Threatened' species in the 2007 IUCN Red List after the beginnings of a major decline in population were noticed.

Like most vultures, these birds are scavengers with a liking of carrion of large animals. This includes zebras, ostriches, warthogs, and gazelles. Their beaks are medium-sized and not adapted for tearing through tough skin, so they are limited to eating soft tissues

Homework

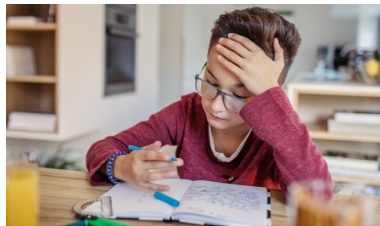
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Homework or Freedom?

Approximately 70% of students say homework is stressful, unnecessary, and a big worry for students to carry on their backs! So, the real question is, why is it still around? Homework is a burden that students spend time on, and so much time that it can take away from their leisure time.

Students need free time to be able to learn valuable skills that can't be taught by doing math packets. They need exercise, which is nonexistent when they are sitting in front of a computer for 45 minutes every evening just to do homework. Exercise is especially important for children as the obesity rate is 17% in the US.

Homework also is proven not to be completely effective. According to *Oxford Learning: The Pros and Cons of Homework*, homework in primary schools has barely any effect because students are being assigned unrelated assignments instead of



solidifying what they have already learned. There have also been mental health experts that claim how a lot of homework can bring tons of stress onto the student and that it can damage the student's mental health all together. Kids shouldn't be expected to do tons of homework when most of them also have many extra curriculum activities to attend to.

Homework isn't also just a stress for the students, but also for the parents!

At this rate, why does homework even exist anymore? We should ultimately get rid of this giant burden!

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Hockey Tournament Was a Dream Come True



**By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This past weekend, it just got even better. I got to play at an NCAA Division 1 college! But let's not get ahead of ourselves. First things first:

The First Game

The first game was arguably easier than the rest. My team (based in Ridgefield, CT) got off to a quick start with one goal in less than four minutes. But the Eagles weren't leaving that un-



answered the previous night's loss. With puck drop at 6:55 AM, everyone was sleepy, but the -6 degrees Fahrenheit weather kept us awake. Saratoga got off to a late start, scoring with less than three minutes left in the first period. We answered them by scoring two back-to-back goals in under 20 seconds, making the score 2-1 us. Toga caught a lucky break with 14 seconds left and tied the game to 2-2. Going into the second, we scored in under two minutes, but Saratoga responded with two goals, the second being with 49 seconds left. That made the score 4-3. And I forgot to tell you – if we won this game we go to the championship; if we lose or tie, they go, and we are out. So, in the third period both sides were playing like never before. We managed to pop one in, but it wasn't enough. We tied, and we were out of the finals. Not the best way to end the weekend.

The Fourth Game

Win or lose though, the best part was yet to come. Remember I said that I played at a D1 school? Well, in the last game of the weekend, we played at Union College's

Messa Rink in Schenectady. Here's a few pictures of me at the football field and hockey rink.

So, although we might have only got third place, this was still a very treasured experience for me to play at Union College and get a taste of how hard teams from upstate NY can be.



answered, and they scored a little over a minute later. Late in the first period, I scored, making the score 2-1. The Eagles answered again in under a minute.

So going into the second period, it was all tied up, tensions were high, and with both teams locking in on defense, it was up to who could catch a lucky break first. And with less than two minutes left in the second period, I scored the game-winning goal. And to make things better, I won Player of the Game! So overall, a great start to the tournament, a 3-2 win.

The Second Game

We got destroyed. I did score the only goal on my team though. To be fair, they were in a better league than us.

The Third Game

This was a game where everyone wanted to

Dogs Are Just Awesome!



**By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Let me be real: dogs are amazing! Forget your electronics; a dog is a perfect animal just for you. Even though I do not have a dog, I have seen one of my aunt's dogs and they are amazing! They are so cuddly and friendly. As soon as I met my aunt's dog, they came running up to me and it was so cute! They even gave me cuddles! It was hard to say 'bye to them because I do not own a dog. But I am still convincing my parents on getting a dog



When I convinced my parents, they said it's a lot of responsibility and yeah, I would do literally everything a dog would need. I would feed it, walk him/her, etc. I would literally do anything to get a dog. It does not matter how much responsibility; I would take care of him no matter what. But the good news is I may get a dog soon! But unfortunately, my parents still said maybe.

Here's a questions for you! Do you have a favorite dog breed or a dream dog breed you would like to have? If so, what would it be? Mine's an Australian Sheperd!

The Twin Olympians



**By Laurel Knapp
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Of the twelve Olympian gods, two twins are exceptionally interesting and spectacular. Children of Zeus and Leto, these twins are similar yet opposites at the same time. One uses a golden bow and arrow; one uses a silver bow and arrow. One cheerful; one fierce.



One god of the sun; one goddess of the moon. One protector of young boys; one protector of young girls. Apollo and Artemis are both amazing in their own ways and have remarkably interesting stories.

Apollo:

Apollo is the god of music, sun, light, prophesy, medicine, poetry, and protector of young boys. He can see the future, has power over light, can heal people, and was exceptionally good with the bow and arrow and any musical instrument.

He drives his sun chariot across the sky, bringing sunrise every morning. Apollo was also the patron god of the city Delphi and created the Oracle of Delphi to provide prophesies to his future followers.

Apollo has many sacred animals. Some of them are swans, ravens, dolphins, deer, hawks, snakes, and wolves. The main ones are the dolphin, wolf, and swan.

One famous story including Apollo is the story of Apollo and Daphne. One day, Apollo mocked the god of love Eros, and as revenge, Eros shot Apollo with one of his golden arrows, causing him to fall in love with a naiad nymph named Daphne. Eros also hit Daphne with a lead

arrow that caused her to never love anyone romantically – especially not Apollo. Apollo was chasing Daphne through the woods one day and Daphne pleaded with her father to do something to help her, so he turned Daphne into a Laurel tree. Apollo is still in love with her and so the Laurel tree is very sacred to Apollo.



Artemis

Artemis is immensely powerful and remarkable. She is the goddess of the hunt, wilderness,



wild animals, moon, childbirth, archery, and is the protector of young girls. She has many skills such as she can aim perfectly with a bow and arrow, has astonishingly good tracking skills, can shapeshift into animals, and can cure disease.

Her sacred animal is the deer, and her chariot is pulled by five golden-horned deer. She is also

associated with hunting hounds, bears, and boars.

Artemis swore to be an eternal maiden – like Athena and Hestia – and never marry or have children because she wanted to devote her life to the hunt, and she took her vow very seriously and passionately. She recruits young girls to join her hunt and become a Hunter of Artemis. Being a Hunter of Artemis means they are immortal – unless they die in battle – but only if they swear off dating forever.

A famous story including Artemis was

the story of her six wishes to Zeus. The story is when Artemis was just a little girl, she sat on Zeus's lap and asked for six wishes: to never get married, to have many names, to be the light bringer, to have a bow and arrow and a tunic, to have 60 nymphs as her choir, and to have all the mountains as her domain. Zeus granted her wishes.

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Dogs and Cats as Pets



**By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever wondered what the differences and similarities are between dogs and cats?

They are different in many ways, including by their social behavior and physical characteristics.

Dogs use body language to communicate with other dogs, while cats are more alone, so they rely on scent for communication with other cats. When they rub and scratch on surfaces, their scent glands on them tells other cats where they were.

Dogs are also more social as they like playing in a park, while cats like being alone all by



themselves. They both have a third eyelid, and they both have a unique nose print with ridges similar to fingerprints.

Some similarities are having a good sense of smell and hearing. They are able to have a close bond with humans, and communicate through body

language.

Did you know?

- Dogs have much stronger sense of smell than humans have
- Dogs can detect fear and other emotions
- Cats are the sleepiest mammals
- Cats have over 30 ear muscles that lets them rotate their ears

Finally Teaches Us the Virtue of Patience



**By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The book Finally by Wendy Mass is a powerful book with a strong message. In the book, the lesson is to have patience and to not rush things right away, and to listen to your parents.

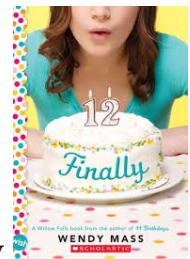
The main character, Rory Swenson, has been waiting her whole life to turn 12 because at the age 12, she can do more stuff she wants and will have more freedom. Rory thinks her parents baby her and don't allow her to have a normal life. At the age of 12, she can get her ears pierced, go to the mall with her friends alone, babysit, get a cell



phone, and even ride in the front seat of the car. It teaches us to have patience in life and to not rush things right away because our parents know best and they have been on this Earth longer than we have, so they know right from wrong.

Imagine you were Rory for a day. How would you feel if you had to wait that long to do things?

Finally is a great book for young adults because it is relatable and gives the lesson of patience and also shows the importance of patience.



Thinking of Playing an Instrument? Maybe the Clarinet?



**By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever thought of playing any instrument? If so, keep reading!

As a band player, I personally love any instrument due to the wonderful sounds they create. I play the clarinet, and I also really love that instrument and, in my opinion, it was an easy instrument to learn. When I started playing, I got better overtime due to how easy it was to learn! So, I personally recommend playing the clarinet.

But there are some ups and downs of playing the clarinet

Ups:

- The clarinets tone is incredibly amazing, in my opinion, but it has many fantastic sounds!
- Sharing your band's music with an audience is amazing because you can get amazing feedback!



Downs:

- Frustration can happen while playing the clarinet because you must memorize notes and some of the fingering is hard to play also (unfortunately)
- 2. In my opinion the clarinet is an instrument you can continue to enjoy and develop your skills with for many years to come.

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Do You Get Anxious Over Homework?



**By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are you stressed out by how much homework you have? Do you think it's not fair that teachers give out homework? Well, here are some reasons why giving out homework is good and bad.

Some reasons why it is good to give out homework is because if students don't understand what the teacher taught, then the teacher can see it in their homework and help them understand it better. Parents are also able to see what their child is learning in school. Homework teaches students skills like time management and problem solving.



Some reasons why it isn't good to give out homework is because sometimes, it is too stressful for kids and they have a lot of homework to do, so they feel very stressed out. Also, kids who play sports or do an activity outside of school may not have enough time to do their homework, and they might stress about that.

In my opinion, I think teachers should NOT give out homework. It puts a lot of stress on students, and they may be up all night trying to get their work done instead of getting sleep, but sleep is much more important than getting your homework done.

Do you think teachers should or should not give out homework?



Try These Delicious Baking Ideas!



**By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you like making delicious treats? If so, here are some ideas on what to bake! My personal favorite thing to bake is brownies! Only because I love brownies, and they are easy to make!



If you love chocolate here are a couple of ideas on what to make that has a chocolaty flavor. You could bake chocolate fudge cake, chocolate cheesecake (in my opinion, it's amazing!) and you could make a mocha cake that combines coffee and chocolate for a yummy flavor. But if you like something with a caramel flavor (best flavor



ever, in my opinion) then these are perfect for you to bake! You could make homemade caramel sauce for ice cream or for anything. This caramel sauce is easy to make and tastes superior to store-bought in my opinion. You could also make caramel pudding, which tastes like a creamy and decadent dessert.

Last but not least, stuff to make that has a strawberry flavor! You can make strawberry lemonade cupcakes. The name of this just sounds delicious, but these cupcakes are perfect for the summer, even though we are not even close to summer. And if you just want a basic thing, you could always just strawberry cake!



The History of Hot Chocolate



**By Katherine Sautner
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you heard of hot chocolate? I bet you have! But have you heard of its history?

In 500 BC the Ancient Mayans were drinking ground up cocoa seeds all mixed with water, chili peppers, and cornmeal. They would mix it by pouring it from cup to pot until a foam formed. Unlike how we drink hot chocolate warm, the Mayans drank hot chocolate cold.



In 1500, an explorer named Cortez brought coco beans and tools to Europe. When the drink reached Spain, the cold coco became warm and to make the drink sweetened, they removed the chili peppers.

Soon after, in 1700, the warm beverage reached London where the beverage became very popular in Chocolate houses, which are very similar to Coffee houses. Shortly after, the president of the Royal College of Physicians, Hans Slone, brought a recipe from Jamaica which is mixing chocolate with milk.



Up until 1900, hot chocolate was used for stomach disease or a special drink. Today we use hot chocolate as a nice warm beverage that is made in very different ways. Now every different country makes hot chocolate. It even has different names. In Spain, it's called "chocolate a la taza",

Hot chocolate is also called "chocolate pera mesa", and Italy's "cioccolata calda". Would you try any of these hot chocolates?