

The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Two Cool Celebrations Highlight March!

Greek Independence Day Is March 25



By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff

I'm sure you have heard of the Fourth of July, which is America's Independence Day, but did you know that Greece has an Independence Day also? Greek

Independence Day is a national holiday that is celebrated annually in Greece. It marks the beginning of Greece's fight that they were very successful in that was for independence from the Ottoman Empire.



The war lasted from 1821-1829. Greek Independence Day is celebrated on March 25th. Greek Independence Day is also a religious holiday that celebrates the Annunciation. In celebration of this day, villages and towns all throughout Greece hold a school flag parade, during which school children march in traditional Greek costumes and they carry Greek flags. In Athens, there is also an armed forces parade.

There is a lot of history around Greek Independence Day. Greece was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire which started in the 15th century and that lasted for about 400 years. In 1814, the Filiki Eteria, which means "Society of

Friends", was created by Greece becoming free from the Ottoman Rule.

The United Kingdom helped Greece in the war from the

Ottoman Empire. This is now celebrated as a holiday as Greek Independence Day on March 25 because it is a time to remember the people who fought in this war, and it is also to celebrate the nation's struggle to get independence and freedom.



St. Patrick's Day Celebrated On March 17



By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered what the history is of St. Patrick's Day? Well, keep on reading to find out!

I'm sure you know we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and green is the color to wear and stuff, but do you know who he really is?

St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century. He was kidnapped by Irish pirates at the age of 16 and was taken to Ireland to become a slave. He escaped and returned to Ireland around 432 CE to



convert the Irish into Christianity. He created monasteries, schools and churches, and he created the first churches in Ireland.

St. Patrick died on March 17, 461, around the age of 78. St. Patrick's Day was originated as a Catholic feast day to honor him on the anniversary of his death. It was originally celebrated in Ireland. It is with religious services and feasts in honor of St. Patrick, who was one of Ireland's patron saints.

There are three symbols: the shamrock, which he used to represent the Holy Trinity when he brought Christianity to Ireland, the Irish harp, and the Celtic cross, which was combined by the sun, which is a pagan symbol, into the Christian cross.

Here are some fun facts about St. Patrick!

- Did you know he wasn't actually Irish? He was born in Britain!
- Did you know he didn't wear green? Instead, he actually wore blue!
- His original name may have been Maewyn Succat, but he changed his name to "Patricius", or Patrick—that is Latin for "father figure".



Behind the Scenes at 'Matilda, Jr.'

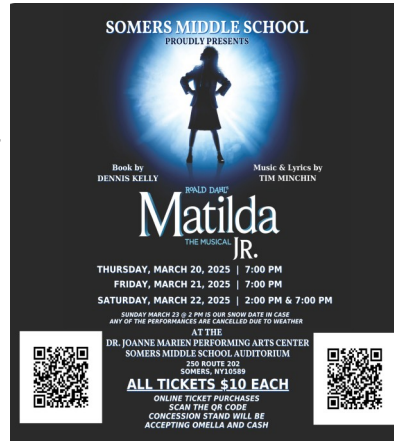


**By Gianna Lopez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As a lot of you may have heard, the SMS spring production will soon take place right in the SMS auditorium.

Opening night is on Thursday, March 20th at 7pm, which is not far away at all! You might have friends in Drama Club or know of people who are participating in this year's show, but there's so much that goes on behind the scenes of a production, and not all of it is just the cast of the show! Today, you'll be getting the inside view of what it's really like to participate in the creation of a play.

First of all, the cast is not the only major part of a play. Our stage crew is what brings the whole show together and helps us put on such great performances each year. Every little job that they do, whether it's learning timings to bring props out on stage, working the spotlight, or painting the sets and props, is so important and often



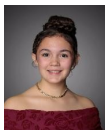
overlooked. They must rehearse just like the cast and be able to communicate extremely well with each other.

Now, what is it like to be a part of the cast? I play the role of Mrs. Trunchbull in Matilda Jr. and I can say firsthand that rehearsals can be exhausting. In the weeks leading up to the play, the rehearsals get progressively later, which can lead to staying up late trying to finish all the work assigned by my teachers.

The week leading up to the show is by far the most draining, because rehearsals are until 8 pm. This is called "tech week", when we rehearse with all the equipment like microphones and costumes. As tiring as it

is, I will never regret for a second that I joined Drama Club, because it is one of the most fun clubs in my opinion. I have made so many new friends, and the cast and crew are so amazing. It's such a great experience to be surrounded by people who all share a common interest with you. And when you're on stage, knowing you're making other people happy. It's all worth it.

Wrongful Conviction: Why It's a Problem



**By Gianna Lopez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In a moment, it could all just disappear. You just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Now, you're sitting in a dimly lit room, surrounded by officers who are accusing you of a crime you did not commit.

After many hours of interrogation, you plead guilty, mostly because you are tired of being screamed at, and you haven't slept at all, which is making your brain a little foggy. This is what has happened to between 6% and 15.4% of people who have been incarcerated.

Wrongful Conviction is a serious problem, and not many things are being done to fight back against it. The most common cause of wrongful convictions is eyewitness error, where a person thought they saw something take place or someone do something, when in fact it was a different person entirely. Then, the main argument in the case is this witness, when little to no actual DNA evidence was actually collected.



When a person is put in jail for a crime they didn't commit, they are not the only person who is affected. If a crime was big enough to get someone put on death row, the real criminal is still at large. By the time this person is exonerated, the real criminal could've already done double the amount of damage. But not all hope is lost.

There is an organization that is working diligently to exonerate people who have been wrongfully convicted. It is called The Innocence Project. They use DNA and other scientific advancements to help prove innocence. Their work is guided by science and built on anti-racial platforms to ensure justice for everyone. To date, they have exonerated 252 people. Imagine, that's almost a whole grade that was thrown in prison for a crime they didn't commit, being freed.

It's important to spread the message of the injustices in the world, so that we can all come together as a community, a world of people, and work together to make sure everyone lives the life they deserve. We can all make a difference!



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'Matilda Jr.' Takes to the Stage Next Week!



**By Lila Maneyapanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In a couple of weeks, our school's Drama Club will be putting on the play, Matilda Jr. in our school auditorium.

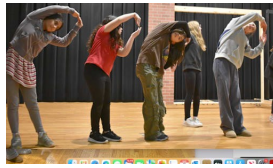
As you may know, Matilda Jr. is about a young girl whose parents are mean to her. She loves to read, and is starting her first day at school, where she meets the kind teacher, Mrs. Honey, and the terrifying principal, Mrs. Trunchbull. Matilda now needs to start a revolution and free all the children.

The Drama Club has been working hard to make this show one of the best the school has ever done. And now, here is an interview with the actor playing Mrs. Honey, Liv McGurk.

Lila: Are you excited about this year's school production of Matilda?

LM: It's been going well, and I have a feeling that Matilda Jr. will be one of our best productions yet.

Lila: As Mrs. Honey, have you been eating honey?



*Photos courtesy of
Chris Yerkes.*



LM: Yes. And I drink lots of tea. I also often do not need much honey as I am sweet enough already. □

Lila: In your last two years in the Drama Club, which performance was your favorite?

LM: I think that Matilda Jr. will be best out of the three years, but out of Aladdin and The Lion King, I'll have to go with The Lion King.

Lila: Do you have anything else to say to your fellow cast members who are doing the show?

LM: Break a leg everyone! (theater talk for "good luck"). Thank you to the directors and stage crew for making drama club possible. We hope to see you in the audience!

Lila: Thank you, Liv! Break a leg!

And now for some information on how you can see Matilda Jr. The show takes place from March 20 to March 22 at 7pm.

There will also be a show at 2 pm on the 22nd. The tickets cost \$10. I hope to see you all there at the show!

Enjoy the Fun of St. Patrick's Day



**By Leandra Ibrahim
Tusker Tribune Staff**

St. Patrick's Day is a fun holiday celebrated every year on March 17th in honor of St. Patrick, the saint of Ireland. Even though it started off as a religious holiday, so many people from around the whole world celebrate it and it's become a part of Irish culture.

More than 100 countries celebrate St. Patrick's Day, even with countries with few to none Irish people. People wear green, watch parades, and eat festive foods.

St. Patrick was born in Britain around the late 4th century. As a young man, he moved to Ireland and eventually, over time, became a Christian missionary. He spent most of his life teaching people about Christianity and he helped build churches, and taught others to do it too! Because of his dedication to Ireland, he became the country's most known saint and March 17th is celebrated in his honor.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade was actually not in Ireland! It was actually in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1601. A fun fact about St. Patrick's Day is that the original color of the holiday was actually blue, instead of green! Green became popular because of Ireland's nickname, "The Emerald Isle," and its green flag.

St. Patrick's Day is very known for its parades and one of the biggest celebrations happens in New York City. The Chicago River is also even



died green every year! This tradition started in 1962, and it still goes on today! People also like eat traditional Irish foods such as, corned beef and cabbage and many more. Many people enjoy listening to Irish music and like to Irish dance as part of the celebration.

Whether you are Irish or not, St. Patrick's Day is a time to have fun and celebrate. Just don't forget to wear green, to make sure you don't get pinched!



Do you ever feel lost, alone, or scared of what lies ahead?

The Forerunner Club is a place where students can share their faith and encourage one another. A forerunner is someone who comes before a greater event; someone who prepares others. The Forerunner Club is prepared for YOU to join! Everyone is welcome.

Come and share in faith, fun, and friendship.

When: Every Wednesday, Starting March 19, 3:15-4:00 PM

Where: Room 315

Contact Mr. Wilbert

twilbert@somersschools.org or

Aleah Gosselin gosselin.aleah@somersschools.org

Here are Some Cool, But Weird Inventions (Part 1)



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever thought about buying "weird inventions"? To be honest they're kind of cool in our opinion. But keep on reading to find out two of our favorite weird inventions.

1. Toothpaste squeezer

The Toothpaste squeezer is useful because have you ever gotten the feeling that that your toothpaste tube is empty, but it is not? Well, this invention is just for you!

Yes, we know it looks weird, but it is useful. It is useful because you can easily get the toothpaste out of there even if you can't get it out yourself.

So, just buy one of these toothpaste squeezers because trust us, it's really useful!



2. Ice cream rotator

Have you ever eaten ice cream in a cone on a hot summer day and it drips everywhere? Well, we certainly have experienced that! And if you do also, then the ice cream rotator is for you! The ice cream rotator is useful because when it's hot and you're eating ice cream, it won't make as much of a mess and it won't drip. It also won't melt as fast since you're eating it much quicker, thanks to its rotating!

When you eat ice cream—especially in a cone—on a hot sunny day, it melts super fast, but with the ice cream rotator, you don't have to worry about it melting as fast because it turns while you lick and it won't make as much of a mess, making it mess-free! I recommend buying this because it is really useful.

Do you want to know more weird but useful inventions? Well if you do, then wait for part 2!

Is Homework Really Needed?



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you been tired or felt stressed because of homework? Well, I have had and that is why I am going to persuade teachers to not give out homework by sharing/authoring this story to show teachers why they should not give out homework.

This Story is Fictional

(Bell rings)

Maya: "Hey Molly! What do you have next period?"

Molly: "Well, I have social studies, and he gives out so much homework, it's crazy!"

Maya: "Really? I have math, so she gives me at least two pieces of homework a day, but I really think we should get to class."

Molly: "OK, yes talk during lunch."

(Second bell rings and both girls are in class)

Social studies teacher: "I am going to hand



out homework. You will watch the video assignment."

Molly: "Really? Two pieces of homework! I swear every teacher gives out homework."

(Class ends and Molly and Maya go to lunch)

Molly: "How was math?"

Maya: "She gave out one piece of homework and we just had a test. Like that's so much work!"

Molly: "What's the point of homework anyway? We learn tons in school." (I really agree with that)

Maya: "Now that's really a good point."

Molly: "Maybe we should persuade teachers do not to give our homework by telling them that!"

Maya: "Great idea." (The end)

This story shows why we should not give out homework and really what is the point of homework? Yes, I know it's to see how well we were doing but come on, why can't we get a break? We learn six hours a day!

Fun Ways to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day



By Lila O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff

Happy early St. Patrick's Day. It's March already, and there's only three months, one week and six days left of school.

Since it is almost St. Patrick's Day, here are some fun ways to celebrate. One fun thing to do is make Irish soda bread. If you want an Irish soda bread recipe, here is a link: [Irish Soda Bread Recipe: How to Make It](#). Another fun St. Patrick's Day



activity is to go to a parade. Parades are super fun, and I would recommend going to one. fun thing to do is make leprechaun traps.

You can also do things like make shamrock cookies and make Irish food. Another thing to do is search for four leaf clovers. You can also make fun crafts like shamrocks or little leprechaun hats.

A fun thing to do is to watch Irish step

dancing.

Those are some super fun things to do on St. Patrick's Day.

The Best of Broadway



By Olivia Ball
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wanted to see a musical in real life? Well, if you ever visit New York City, going to a Broadway show is a fun thing to do, but there are so many to choose from. Well don't worry about that, continue reading for some entertaining and fun recommendations.

If you're really into history and the revolutionary war, Hamilton is the one for you. The songs are great and so are all the sets and actors. This show is filled with historical facts and very fun to watch, because the music is modern. Personally, this is my favorite Broadway show. I love all the songs, but my top picks would be "Aaron Burr, Sir" and "The Room Where it Happens" because Aaron Burr is my favorite character. You can also watch a recording of the play with the original cast on Disney +.

SIX is another great show. It is very girl empowering and funny. All the actors are great, and the dances and costumes are super cool. It is about Henry VIII's six wives. In the storyline, they battle over who went through the worst time as his wife. The fate of each was divorced, beheaded, died or survived, which is also one of the opening songs. The songs are incredible like "Don't Lose Your Head" and "All You Wanna Do". Unlike most Broadway shows, the set does not change throughout the performance. It is also interactive, where they encourage the audience to talk to the actors, sing, clap and wave their arms.

Another great show is & Juliet. This is about how Juliet's life would have been if she did not kill herself for Romeo. It's another great girl power theme and includes LGBTQ+ pride. It was funny and a great show. They take well-known

songs and change them, so they fit in with the storyline. My favorite songs were "Since You've Been Gone" and "Teenage Dream/Break Free". It is a very clever way to include modern music that everyone knows.

There is also Wicked, which we all know is now a popular movie. Wicked is the back story of the wicked witch of the west and how she wasn't evil, but misunderstood. She finds out the wizard is a fraud and doesn't want to conform. The story and music are really great, and I highly suggest this if you liked the movie. All the songs are really good, but I prefer "Popular" and "Defying Gravity". I haven't seen it, but Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is good if you like Harry Potter. It's about Harry's son Albus Potter, and Draco's son Scorpius Malfoy's friendship. If you haven't read the books, this might include some spoilers.

Another good one, especially if you have younger siblings, is The Lion King. It's about Simba, a young lion destined to be king but after his dad dies. True to the Disney movie, he doesn't know if he's ready to step up. It is pretty good. My favorite songs are "I Just Can't Wait to be King" and "Hakuna Matata". The costumes in this are really cool and interesting, because we think of the characters as cartoons, but they are played by humans.

If you are planning a trip to New York City and don't know what to do, one of these awesome shows would be a great choice. You can also find discount tickets on apps like TodayTix and at TKTS ticket stand in Times Square. They also run 2 for 1 ticket deals sometimes during the year, so if you think this is something you'd be interested in, be on the lookout or tell your parents.

Lastly, don't forget to see Matilda Jr. at SMS to support our local talent.



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<https://sms.somersschools.org/student-life/activities/tusker-tribune-newspaper>

Exploring How Amelia Earhart Disappeared



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Today I'm going to be sharing what I think happened to Amelia Earhart. So

if you don't know who Amelia Earhart was, she was a young woman born on July 24th 1897 in Atchison, Kansas. She was 39 years old when a sad thing happened On July 2, 1937. Amelia Earhart had a passion for adventure and flying planes. And in 1937, during an attempt to become the first woman to complete a circumnavigation of the Earth, flying a Lockheed Model 10-E Electra airplane, Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, had disappeared. They had disappeared near Howland Island in the central Pacific Ocean.



Now that you know who she was and what she did, here is what I think happened to her.

Amelia Earhart's disappearance makes me really curious, so I started researching in social studies because we had a WIN about it, and from all that researching, I think that her plane had ran out of fuel.

According to the research, Earhart radioed that the plane was running low on fuel and that she and Noonan were unable to locate Howland Island. This makes me think that Earhart had crashed into the Pacific Ocean and I think she had crashed into the Pacific Ocean

because researchers had found bones on Nikumaroro Island in the Pacific Ocean.

That's all I know from researching, and I hope you learned some new things today!

Rosa Parks' Civil Disobedience Still a Powerful Statement Today



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

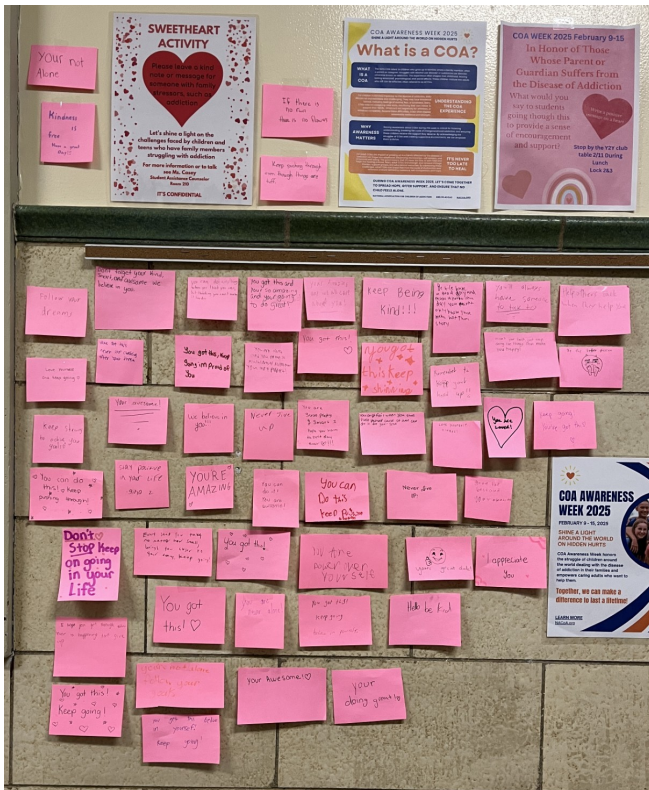
Rosa Parks Rosa was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, and her life ended on October 24, 2005, when she was 92 years old. She was an activist in the civil rights movement, and she was best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott.

On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks rejected the bus driver, James F.



Blake's, order to vacate a row for four seats in the "colored" section in favor of a white female passenger who had complained to the bus driver, once the "white" section was filled. Parks was not the first person to resist bus

segregation, but the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples believed that she was the best candidate for seeing through a court challenge after her arrest for civil disobedience in violating Alabama segregation laws, and she helped inspire the Black community to boycott the Montgomery buses for over a year. And that's why Rosa Parks is so well known today in the civil rights movement.



Outside of Student Assistance Counselor Amanda Casey's office is a wall full of encouraging messages from kids—part of the "Sweetheart" activity where students were asked to leave messages for people who have family members going through addiction or other stressors.