



6th Grade Social Kicks off New Year!

By Eliana Monteagudo

Tusker Tribune Staff

The ice cream social was so much fun. There were multiple fun things to do at the social. Let's start with the ice cream truck. The ice cream truck had a lot of ice cream flavors; there were so many good ones to choose from, like lemon ice, chiwiches, cotton candy ice cream, and snow cones.

Next, let's talk about the DJ. The DJ was constantly playing great songs along with taking requests by kids. That made it really fun and enjoyable because everyone was singing and having fun. Finally, we have the social part. There were people playing football, soccer, talking, enjoying their ice cream, and doing lots of safe tumbling.

The social was so much fun and such a good way to end a Friday. If there was ever another social, it could be better by having contests with prizes, more people coming and just a little lower price. I loved the social and I'm sure every other person that went loved it too.



The Tusker Tribune is Back!

By Cole Dolan

Tusker Tribune Staff

Welcome to the Tusker Tribune, the official newspaper of SMS! You will see anything from sports to animal facts! Anything you can imagine has probably been in the Tribune.

Your incentives that come with the Tusker Tribune are 1 NJHS service hour or a \$10 Amazon gift card. You can receive one of those incentives for writing 3 stories with 150 words or more (titles don't count). So if you see something you want on Amazon or need a couple more service hours write three stories on anything and you will get that credit. Just share it with Mr. Pappas!

I have been doing the Tusker Tribune for all 3 years in SMS and it has been lots of fun. Whenever I'm bored I just try to write a story (which I'm doing right now!). Now I have just earned a credit towards an Amazon gift card at this exact point! Let's get writing and have a good school year!



New Zealand First Gave Women The Right to Vote

By Kaylee Jeon
Tusker Tribune Staff

Today marks the 132nd anniversary of the first country, New Zealand, that allowed women to vote. This was accomplished by its governor, Lord Glasgow, who passed the law.

Starting in the 1850s, men who owned property in New Zealand were first given the right to vote. Fifteen years later, the Māori Representation Act was first implemented. This gave members of the Māori tribe, an indigenous tribe from New Zealand, an opportunity to partake in governmental affairs. The four seats offered to the tribe, however, were only given to men.

Toward the end of the 19th century, feminists of New Zealand advocated for women's right to vote for members of the New Zealand House of Representatives. Over the course of seven years and 13 petitions, they collected 31,872 signatures for this cause. The biggest petition, consisting of 25,519 signatures, can be found at the National Library of New Zealand in one of their exhibits. This campaign was presented to the Parliament in 1893; shortly afterwards, the Electoral Act was passed, enabling all adult woman the ability to vote. Around a month later, 109,461 women voted in the 1893 election.

Suffragists around the globe celebrated their first major political success. Other democracies denied women the right to vote until 1918, after World War One. Since 1993, 197 women served as members of the New Zealand Parliament. These individuals are given a camelia brooch with a number on the back representing their place in the line of their predecessors. Today, women's suffrage is considered a human right under article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Sources:

- Ministry for Women. (2023). History of Women's Suffrage in Aotearoa New Zealand | Ministry for Women. [www.women.govt.nz. https://www.women.govt.nz/about-us/history-womens-suffrage-aotearoa-new-zealand](https://www.women.govt.nz/about-us/history-womens-suffrage-aotearoa-new-zealand)
- Ministry for Culture and Heritage. (2018, December 20). New Zealand women and the vote - Women and the vote | NZHistory, New Zealand history online. Govt.nz. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/womens-suffrage>



What is Rosh Hashanah?

By Kaylee Jeon
Tusker Tribune Staff

This year, we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, a Jewish holiday, starting at sundown on September 22 until September 24. Rosh Hashanah, otherwise known as the Jewish New Year, is a holiday when Jews ask for repentance.

Specific sayings are used to greet one another for this occasion. For greeting males, you would say: “Leshanah tovah tikatev vetichatem;” for a female, “Leshanah tovah tikatevee vetichatemee”. Both translate to: “May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.” On Rosh Hashanah, people light candles and recite blessings on the first night. The next night, they use an existing flame to light their candles and either think about a fruit they will eat or a new piece of clothing.

Most of the time spent during this holiday would take place in a synagogue, a Jewish place of worship. You may find some reading a machzor, a special type of prayerbook, on this day. It contains their prayers and readings from the Torah, religious text of Jewish people.

Over the course of Rosh Hashanah, festive feasts are enjoyed for every meal. Popular dishes include apple slices (particularly on the first day) or challah loaves both dipped in honey. This symbolizes the wish for a sweet year. Others may eat some the head of a fish or ram to signify being “in the front” than the “back” in life.

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MLB Playoff Race Continues

By Cyrus Clark
Tusker Tribune Staff

As the MLB season is coming to a close, the race for the playoffs intensifies. There are a few notable teams and players. The American League race has some powerhouse teams in their respective divisions, like in the American League East, the Toronto Blue Jays are four games ahead of the second place Yankees. And in the American League Central, the Detroit Tigers are 3.5 games ahead of the Cleveland Guardians. And finally, in the American League West, the Houston Astros are .5 games ahead of the Seattle Mariners. That concludes the American League.

Now on to the National League. In the east, the Philadelphia Phillies are a big 12 games in front of the 2nd place Mets. In the National League Central, the Milwaukee Brewers are five games in front of the Chicago Cubs. In the National League West, the Los Angeles Dodgers are 2.5 games ahead of the San Diego Padres.

That concludes the standings. Now for award leaders starting with the American League:
Most Valuable Player: Aaron Judge--New York Yankees, followed by Cal Raleigh--Seattle Mariners.
Cy Young Award: Tarik Skubal--Detroit Tigers, followed by Garret Crochet--Boston Red Sox.
Rookie of the Year: Nick Kurtz--Sacramento Athletics.

Now in the National League. Most Valuable Player: Shohei Otani--Los Angeles Dodgers then Kyle Schwarber--Philadelphia Phillies.

Cy Young Award: Paul Skenes--Pittsburgh Pirates, followed by Christopher Sanchez--Philadelphia Phillies.

Rookie of the Year: Cade Horton--Chicago Cubs, then Drake Baldwin--Atlanta Braves
That is all that's happening right now in the MLB, but a lot can change.

Rosh Hashanah

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On the second night, people eat a fruit that they had not eaten since the last time it was in season. However, there are some dietary restrictions associated with this holiday. To avoid a bitter year, many refrain from consuming nuts, vinegar-based foods, and sharp food.

Rosh Hashanah is a unique holiday filled with festive traditions. Having no school is also something to look forward to next week!

Sources:

Chabad.org. (1900). What Is Rosh Hashanah? - The Jewish New Year, anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, a day of judgment and coronation, and sounding of the shofar . . .

@Chabad.

https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/4762/jewish/What-Is-Rosh-Hashanah.htm





Rosh Hashanah Begins September 22

By Ellie Tzadok

Tusker Tribune Staff

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. This year Rosh Hashanah starts on the evening of September 22nd and ends on September 24th. Rosh Hashanah means "Head of the Year" in Hebrew.

On Rosh Hashanah, one thing Jewish people do is they will go to Synagogue and pray to G-d and listen to the shofar be blown. The shofar is a special instrument that is made from a ram's horn. The reason it is a ram's horn is because a shofar has to be made from a kosher animal and no other animal (besides a kudu which is used to make other types of shofars) fits the description. We will also go to a lake to "throw" our bad habits into the water.

Another thing Jewish people do on Rosh Hashanah is they gather with friends and family for dinner. Some of the things they eat include apples & honey and round challah. The reason we eat apples dipped in honey is so we will have a sweet new year. The reason we eat challah is because it is an important food for Jewish people and the reason they make it circular is to show how the year goes keeps going around forever and never stops going around.

Rosh Hashanah is an important holiday for Jewish people so if you know anyone who celebrated Rosh Hashanah you should wish them a L'shana Tova. That like wishing some one a happy new year.

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The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Part 1 "Rain"

Entry 1, 9/17/25

By Ian Dempsey

Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: Ian will be writing a multi-part fiction story over the next few issues of the Tusker Tribune. This first entry begins his story.

I like the rain, how it "pit pat pit pats" on the windows, and how it "ding dang ding dings" on the rain gutter. I like how it gives neglected plants the chance to bloom, and how it give you a chance to catch up on old friends.

I like how the fog wisps over the windows, and how the weather becomes a bit cooler. And at the end of it all, when the rain clears, there's a rainbow! . . . IF the rain clears.

My name is Michael, I'm 12 years old and I have only four friends. I know, depressing. I'm not depressed, though, because they are great friends! They turn up to my house for my birthday about 14% of the time, but I think that's supposed to be an inside joke or something.

We used to talk a LOT, like every four seconds (DING!) But now the group chat is kind of dead. That's okay though, because we talk a lot in school. Actually we don't talk a lot in school, but that's just because of how many classes we have. We are VERY busy people. Anyway, a couple months ago we started planning on a time to meet up with each other! But as I said, we haven't talked in the group chat in a while. It will probably all turn out fine, I feel it in my lower right abdomen!

To be continued . . .



A Quick Note About Music at SMS

By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello! Welcome to *The Daily* of a 6th grade musician, where we talk about the likes of the orchestra, along with Bach and many other classical composers.

I have been playing viola since I was 8. I started in 3rd grade! Now, the day we've been waiting for has finally arrived--Fiddle Friday! Here in the orchestra, we can sit wherever we want and play bluegrass and have fun.

Now, on to the clubs! There is the Chamber Orchestra. It's highly recommended for those of you who want a challenge. It really struck me to the core. Unfortunately, we have only a few members in Chamber Orchestra. For more information talk to Mr. Gilbert. It's not too late.

There is also Jazz and Rockestra Club. I have not been, but I will peek and report soon. See you next time!



The Great Outdoors Man

By The Great Outdoorsman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome to *The Great Outdoors Man*, your go-to series for fishing and skiing. Let's jump right in!

People all over the USA are rushing to get some of the last drops of fresh summer fishing. Here in New York, we have very little left before winter comes. It looks like today is looking like our highest for the next 10 days at 77 degrees Fahrenheit or 25 Celsius.

Next Thursday, we will have showers and in no time, people will be skiing! But there is still time left for fishing! By the way, let's talk about licensing. In New York you don't need a license if you're under 16 but we recommend you get a lifetime license now because it's much cheaper, but you can only get it cheaper if you're under 11 or 11.

Let's talk about recommended spots for fishing near to school. At Heritage Hills by the main entrance, you'll see a big lake where there are fish that can be up to four feet long! I really didn't measure one but it was long! Watch out for snapping turtles! But if that is too big for you, there are five pound bass and some Pumpkin Seeds (that's a type of fish, not a real seed!). For the Pumpkin seed, I recommend using real worms. For everything else, use bait from your go-to fish store. Also, make sure to check out this new app called 'Fish bait'. It's where we get all our fishing places at the newspaper.

Well, that's it for now! We'll see you next time at *The Great Outdoorsman*.

