



Sixth Grade Social Was a Ton of Fun



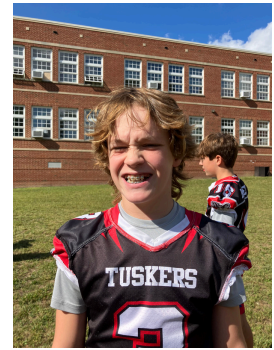
**By Leni Stephens
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The sixth-grade social was a blast. We had lots of fun hanging out with our friends. The ice cream truck was fun. Some of the ice cream they had was the vanilla sandwich and a chipwich.

The best part was hanging out and playing football with friends. This is something to remember and to look back into like when you're 50 or 67 years old and just remember that these are your people you grew up with, and they always have your back.

Even if you're not friends with everyone, they still have your back and you went to school with them K-6.

There are lots more years to go and remember, these are your people. Next social we have, I think there should be more activity to do than just running around and playing football. One of my ideas is a little art and crafts for kids who like doing crafts.



Nothing Says Halloween Like the Pumpkin Blaze

**By Coraline O'Brien
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Halloween is coming up so soon, which means there's still time for many Halloween activities to do.

I recently went back to the Pumpkin Blaze at Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton on Hudson. It's about a half an hour from most of Somers.

Tickets are sold online only, and the first time begins after sundown, so you can experience the pumpkins lit up in the night. It's so cool to enter under the big pumpkin arch to get started. There are some options for snacks, such as apple cider, pumpkin cookies, and hot chocolate. The weather was nice when I went, but it can be a bit chilly at night.

There are more than 7,000 pumpkins that are carved by the artists. They're all lit up into fun shapes. There are some classic designs, such as animals or flowers, and there are very advanced displays. My favorite displays were the Headless Horseman Bridge (make sure to run through it like Ichabod Crane does!), and the Wizard of Oz display. There was a very cool zodiac sign area, too. There's even a moving carousel for a fun display!

Tickets are still on sale. Don't worry if you can't make it before Halloween. It is open until November 16. Get your tickets now and blaze on!



'October 'Slump' Doesn't Just Apply to Baseball

By Kaylee Jeon
Tusker Tribune Staff

Do you ever get tired around this time and are not motivated to do things? That may be a product of the "October Slump". October Slump is when, because of a mixture of many components, you feel tired and worn out.

The first reason is the days getting shorter and you getting less sunlight than you did in the summer and early fall. Because of this, the amount of certain chemicals in your body causes you to feel different. An example of this is you not getting much serotonin, which is a chemical in your body that helps with energy. Your body also makes more melatonin than it did in the summer. Melatonin is a chemical related to sleep. This component can make waking up in the morning harder and might make you tired throughout the day.

The second reason is seasonal allergies. Indoor dust from wet leaves and other changes that come with fall can lead to your nose feeling clogged and your sleep schedule changing a bit. This may lead to fatigue as well.

Another reason is the changes in the food you eat. Many people enjoy warm and cozy foods such as soup in the fall. This may lead to less nutrients in your body and is another reason why you feel drowsy.

Lastly, schedule changes might be a reason why you are sleepy. Whether it means going back to school or going back to work, the new schedule you set for yourself in fall may be different than the schedule you had in the summer. This may lead to a different sleep pattern and how much work you do in a certain period of time. This could lead to the feeling of being burnt out.

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Five Fun Things to While Camping

By Mila Cini
Tusker Tribune Staff

In my opinion, camping is the best vacation. A lot of people don't like camping because of animals outside and bugs but camping is so much fun.

Here are the top five of my favorites camping activities that you should try if you go camping.

Number 1--campfires, because it is so relaxing and fun at the same time.

Number 2--S'mores because it's such a traditional camping snack and so much fun to put together.

Number 3--Going on a hike/exploring the campsite because it's so fun to just walk around the campsite and if you bring your bike, you can ride your bike instead of walk.

Number 4--Playing board games because it's good to be off screens for a little bit.

Number 5--Makes something with stuff from around the camp site like little houses out of rocks, leaves, and sticks but remember not to touch anything poisonous.

If you do these things, you will have an awesome time camping and will also have so much fun!



Girls' Sports Take Off at SMS

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Somers offers a wide variety of sports. And maybe one of them is just right for you! In this article, you will be guided through many of Somers's girls' sports!

Flag football

Flag Football is an exciting, non-contact sport, faster than tackle football. You gain points by running, passing and Instead of tackling, you try to rip off a flag that is velcroed to your opponent's belt



Cheerleading

In Somers cheer you get to cheer at tackle football games, learn a routine, do exiting stunts, and go to cheerleading competitions to perform your routine.



Lacrosse

If you do lacrosse, you score the other team's goal and pass to each other to get points. You also go to tormtements, have fun, and make new friends.

Soccer

Soccer is a fun, team-based sport in which you score the other team's goal. In soccer, you also must run back and forth a lot! So, beware!

Basketball

Basketball is fun because you get to run up and down the court, and get to pass the ball a lot and have fun. By the way, if I didn't say your sport, I will next time



What's the Buzz About '6-7'?

By Evie Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

This is about the popular meme 67 that has broken the Internet.

67 is a popular meme and no one is really certain about how it started or where it came from.

It got famous in 2025 .How the meme might have started was when an NBA basketball player, LaMelo Ball, was interviewed. He is six feet , seven inches tall. When he got interviewed, they asked him what his height is and he said he's 6'7" and used the hand gesture and it went viral all over the internet.

It also became a big thing where there was a rap song made up of that meme called "Doot Doot" by Skrilla, which a lot of people are familiar with. 67 is one of the most said and popular memes. It has spread all over the world.

There are many people who went viral on TikTok and social media such as the "67 Kid". Some people might be familiar with his viral TikTok doing the 67 meme. Back then, it was when the meme wasn't that famous yet, but the 67 kid spread it even farther. Overall, this story states that 67 is one of the most said and famous memes.



Dungeons and Dragons Club Just May Be For You!

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

You should join the Dungeons and Dragons club because it is very cool! You use a website called “D&D Beyond,” but if you don’t know how to sign into D&D Beyond, you can use a paper character.

If you want to join the Dungeons and Dragons Club, you’ll need a permission slip. You’d need to reschedule if you have anything going on during the club, like something you’d have to do weekly on Tuesdays (the club meets on the 1st-3rd Tuesday of each month).

If you didn’t already know, Dungeons and Dragons is a choose your own adventure game. You need two “Dungeon Masters”, and even though they have the word “masters” in their names, they still need to follow what the game says.

Meanwhile, the players choose how to attack (if they roll a good number) and say that the player rolls a 19. If that happens, the player’s character’s attack number gets +1 depending on how big the number is. But if you roll something like a 1, you’d miss and the attack would be bad. So, for a quick conclusion, joining the Dungeons & Dragons club is very fun. You should join, too!

The Dungeons and Dragons Club meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month in room 228. The club advisor is Mr. Smith.



Learn More About ADHD During ADHD Month

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

October is ADHD month; ADHD stands for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. There are many different parts of ADHD that need to be spoken about more often. So, I will be explaining how ADHD affects me and maybe other people.

I'm here to spread awareness so I am going to be talking about how it affects me and how it may affect others. My ADHD means I find it difficult to stay in one place, I also find it difficult to pay attention, and I get distracted very easily, and that affects many people around the world.

ADHD FACTS

1. Over 366 million people around the world are affected and suffer with ADHD. Over 5-7 percent of children/adolescents worldwide have ADHD, which can persist into adulthood.

2. The global prevalence is estimated to be between 2.5 percent and 7 percent.

That is all for today's story. I hope you learned what ADHD does to people and learned some facts about ADHD.



Candy You Won't Find When Trick or Treating

By Kaylee Jeon
Tusker Tribune Staff



Candy is the food most kids want, especially at Halloween time. Did you know that some popular candies are banned in other countries? Your favorite candy might not be found in other countries!

1. **Kinder Surprise Eggs.** Many people are familiar with the candy Kinder Joy in the United States. This is a candy commonly found in supermarkets and some people eat it in on Easter. In other countries, people eat Kinder Surprise Eggs. These eggs have toys inside the egg. The United States banned this candy in 1938 because of a new law about no non-food products allowed inside food products. To bypass this law, Ferrero created Kinder Joy, which had the food and toy in two different compartments.

2. **Candy Cigarettes.** This was a beloved candy loved by kids in the 1920s-30s. Kids loved “smoking” the sugary chalky powder inside the candy. In 1977, Finland banned this candy because they thought this would encourage real smoking. Australia, Canada, and certain U.S. states followed.

3. **Pop Rocks.** A fake tale went around that if you ate Pop Rocks and soda together, your stomach might explode. Eventually, many schools banned this candy because of the noisy sounds in the classroom when eating the candy. The candy later returned to being a popular candy choice around the world.

4. **Japanese Kit Kats.** These were banned in certain countries because many of the products were illegal in some countries. Kit Kats with alcohol were banned because of alcohol laws. Some matcha flavored Kit Kats were banned for having too much caffeine. Would you like to try any of these?

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All About Halloween's Celtic Roots

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

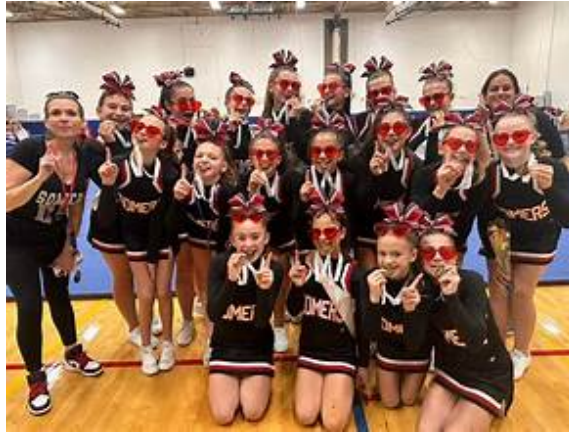
Halloween's roots trace back over 2,000 years ago to the Celtic Festival of Samhain, in what is now Ireland, the UK, and northern France. The Celts celebrated the end of harvest season on October 31, believing that on this night, the boundary between the living and the dead would become thin, and that spirits and ghosts would be able to roam the earth. The Celts made and wore costumes made of animal heads and skins to scare away the spirits.

As Christianity spread, all churches made November 1 “All Saints Day”. The night before it, October 31, soon became known as “All Hallows’ Eve”. Not long after, the name was shortened to “Halloween”. The Celtic customs and Christian name started to blend. Soon after, Halloween became an early form of what we now celebrate today. People dressed in costumes and lit candles.

Today, Halloween is now filled with excitement instead of fear. Kids dress up in fun costumes and candy is on every doorstep. But the old story of Halloween is still shared today among the young and the old.



Cheer is a Complex, Demanding Sport



By Gia Sardilli
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hang on tight as we explore all about cheerleading. Have you ever done cheer? It's so fun. There are so many flips, cool stunts, and my favorite--tumbling.

When you do cheer, there are so many competitions. I do Somers Cheer. The competitions usually start in late October and end in late November.

Cheer has changed so much since the first team ever--the University of Minnesota's Yell Squad. The newest teams are from Atlanta, Dallas, Miami, and San Diego I don't know their team names, though.

You'll never know how much judging has changed. Now they are so strict about judging. If you hit zero in your routine, that means that you have no deductions. If you don't know what that means, a deduction is if you fall from a stunt, or when you're jumping, you touch the floor with your hands. The last one will be to keep holding hands in a stunt. If you haven't heard about that, it means if you're getting thrown in the air, you must keep holding hands with the other stunt group if you're the main one getting thrown up.

Another thing about cheering is the uniforms. If you cheer for town cheer, you'll probably have a simple uniform like from the past. In the past, the uniforms would be very simple with very little design. The design would probably be just your town name and the colors. If you were in all-star, that would be a different story. Their uniforms are so pretty. They are sparkly, shiny, and most of all the bows complement it all, too.

Lastly, another thing about cheer is the mats. We don't use grass or turf. We use these special types of mats. I really don't know what they are, but there are two different types of layers. The bottom one is a type of foam, like a type of pool noodle foam. The top one is like a mesh kind of fabric. Some teams have "mat talk". That means that before you go on, you give each other encouraging speeches or just compliments before competing.

Once I get older, I would love to be on an elite cheer team. The two teams that I would like to be on are Senior Elite and Top Gun. That is my paragraph all about cheer!

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250 Route 202, Somers, NY.

Any student interested in joining the Tusker Tribune Newspaper Club should contact Club Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org. For more information, click on this link: [Tusker Tribune School Newspaper](#)



Reporters and Contributors

Evie Bahr
Ava Cini
Roman Casimir
Emily Gardella
Kaylee Jeon
Lucas Mejia
William Mifsud
Coraline O'Brien
The Great Outdoorsman
Allison Posadas
Gia Sardilli
Leni Stephens

Fornite's Had it Good So Far--Can it Last?

By Roman Casimir
Tusker Tribune Staff

When Fornite: Battle Royale burst onto the stage in late 2017, it immediately attracted millions of players to its addictive and fun gameplay. As the player counts rose, so did its cultural significance. Being free-to-play made it easy to download, and its cartoonish aesthetic made many parents let their young kids play it, further boosting its player count. Today, we will explore how Fornite became a staple of online gaming, and in part 2, what might be holding it back.

On September 26, 2017, Fornite hits digital game stores and immediately gets 1 million downloads. Within the next 14 days, we see its rise of over 10 million copies downloaded on consoles and PCs alike. PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds, or PUBG, had already popularized the battle royale game mode, paving the path for Fornite's groundbreaking success.

As time went on, Fornite would not stop growing. What started as 10 million players in two weeks quickly went to 30 million in three months, then to 200 million in one year, courtesy of memes and streamers on YouTube and Twitch.

One year later, in 2019, growth started to slow down as Epic Games, the creators of Fornite, only were able to draw in about 50 million more people after the spike of over 170 million new users the year prior, despite Marshmello having an in-game concert.

During the pandemic, however, player counts started to boom again, with over 100 million new players joining in 2020, the year that Travis Scott appeared for an in-game concert. Fornite has continued to grow, gaining about 50 million new players each year since then.

While being free-to-play, Fornite still has made billions of dollars for Epic Games via its Battle Pass. A battle pass is something that gives you rewards the more you play. Even though the Battle Pass itself is free, you can pay money to get premium rewards. Also, you can buy skins, emotes, and other cosmetics that are not in the battle pass.

Overall, Fornite has been a very popular and successful game. But there is still one question that will be addressed in part 2: has Fornite passed its golden age?

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Somers Field Hockey Has Really Taken Off

By Evie Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

Most people in Somers know about the Somers Girls' Youth Field Hockey. This sport has spread around the town of Somers. There are girls in all age groups playing and now Somers has a modified team.

This sport started small in 2022 with only a couple girls playing. And now, in 2025, there are many girls playing.

Somers Girls' Youth Field Hockey is also a part of SYSO. They have held many fundraisers including the Taylor Swift fundraiser, and this year, they did a Neon fundraiser, but they include everyone who is a part of the SYSO program.

They have a summer program with games every Tuesday in the summer and in the fall, which is the most popular season for field hockey. We play games/tournaments every Sunday which is lots of fun. In conclusion, the Somers Girls' Youth Field Hockey has spread very far and has made lots of progress since 2022.



Bach, Concluded and News About SMS Music!



By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome back to The Daily Life Of a 6th Grade Musician. Now on to music history, let's continue with the cliffhanger we had last week.

Bach was granted a position as Court composer of the Elector of Saxon in 1736. In the last decades of his life, Bach reworked some of his earlier composed music. He died of complications following an eye surgery in 1750. That's it for music history; Bach was the composer who best represented the Baroque Era.

Moving on, unfortunately, we 6th graders don't have orchestra today. But don't forget to sign up for jazz on October 17th. Go to Mr. Gilbert for more information.

It's a glorious day; the music of the clubs has finally been released on Schoology! You can practice the club's music on your laptop. This includes Chamber Orchestra and everything, even Rockestra. Unfortunately, jazz hasn't come because Jazz hasn't started.

That's all we have for today. See you next time!



Silly Putty Has Lasted As Long As You Can Stretch It

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Silly Putty is a toy product that was first introduced in 1943 by the American company Crayola. It is a fission-elastic substance that can be stretched, bounced, and molded, but it also has unique properties, being able to bounce like a ball.

Silly Putty comes in a small plastic egg-shaped container. One of Silly Putty's most unique features is its ability to transfer images from printed material onto its surface, which I find cool, and I never knew it could transfer photos till now! This is due to the putty having a high surface tension that allows it to pick up ink from newspapers, comic books, and other printed materials.

Fun Fact

Silly Putty is an accidental synthetic which means it was made by accident. An engineer named James Wright accidentally created Silly Putty, but how?

Well, he mixed silicone oil with boric acid, attempting to create a synthetic rubber for the US military during World War Two. But instead, what he got was a stretchy, bouncy substance. It picked up ink from newspapers and shattered if you hit it with a hammer, but the government did not see its potential, so he set it aside for later.

Then a copywriter decided to market it as a toy called Silly Putty, which went on to make the list of all-time greatest toys.



Tik Tok is Almost 10 Years Old

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

The history of TikTok, or DOUYIN, was launched in 2016 by ByteDance. ByteDance was owned by Yiming Zhang, who was 35 years old.

The reason why China has their own version of TikTok, which is DOUYIN, is because of speech restrictions by the Chinese government. In September 2017, TikTok was officially launched for the international market. Two months later, the start of Musically was purchased by ByteDance for \$1 billion. Then TikTok and Musically added a merger in which all the existing accounts and data were consolidated in one app keeping the title of the app TikTok.

FUN FACTS

- TikTok has over one billion users.
- TikTok is the most downloaded app on the Apple App Store.
- TikTok is used all over the world.
- TikTok used to be called “Musically”.
- Zach King riding a broomstick is the MOST VEIWED video on TikTok.
- TikTok is used all over the world.
- It is called TikTok because all the videos are short.

That is all for today. Did you learn a lot of things about the history of TikTok, or did you learn new things? For me I learned a lot of things about TikTok.



Monopoly Continues to Engage Players Over the Years

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Monopoly was originally called “the landlord's game.” The landlord's game was created by Elizabeth Maggie in the early 1900s as a tool to promote economic theories and intended to illustrate the negative effects of monopoly and land ownership concentration.

Soon a guy named Charles Darrow took the game, made modifications, and then soon called it “Monopoly”. The landlord's game incorporated economic concepts like land taxation, single tax and wealth redistribution, but Monopoly did not delve into these economic theories and focuses more on game play and strategy.

The landlord's game has property names that reflect social and economic concepts such as Poverty Lane, East Street, and Labor Union. While Monopoly, on the other hand, uses more traditional property names like Park Place and Boardwalk.

Fun facts about Monopoly.

- Mr. Monopoly, the game's mascot, is sometimes said to be a wealthy Gilded Age figure like J.P Morgan.
- The record for the longest Monopoly game is 70 days.
- More than a billion people have played Monopoly in 114 countries, making it one of the most popular family games in the world.
- A study found that nearly 50 percent of Monopoly players admit to cheating, such as stealing from the bank or making up fake rules, often speeding up the game.



Bullying Lingers Long After the Act

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Bullying is more than just teasing or a one-time argument. It's a repeated behavior that hurts others, physically, emotionally, or socially. It can happen anywhere, for example, at school, online (which would be called cyberbullying) or even within families. The words and actions of bullies can leave deep wounds that aren't always visible; your voice matters, speaks up, supports others, and chooses kindness. No one in this community or in this world deserves to be bullied.

Cyber bullying

It's crazy how normalized cyberbullying has become these days, or in the past few years. It is easy to type in something mean as if you don't need to care about how it affects the person you are hating on. Like, for example, saying, "You are ugly" through text or even through face time is cyberbullying.

If you ever cyber bullied someone, first why would you even do that? Think of the consequences of your actions. Being kind is a free choice. In some rare cases kids have . . . well attempted or passed because they were tired of getting cyber bullied. If you think it is a joke, it is not funny at all, NOT at all. Jokes are meant to make people laugh, not insecure.

Empathy. Think of how your own words can destroy someone. Think of the impact they can have on people. So, remember before you think about saying something that is mean. One click, and a few mean words, and in one blink you can be the reason a kid or a teen passes away, due to suicide.

For those who have never been cyberbullied, don't share too much personal data; it can possibly be used against you. Don't compare yourself to others and remember the saying "Comparison is the thief of joy." If social media is making you unhappy and unsafe, delete it and just enjoy life. If you are ever struggling, remember you are not alone; it is okay to reach out.



Tips on Fishing While Traveling

By The Great Outdoors Man
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome to The Great Outdoors Man. Today we'll be talking about what to do when you're traveling and don't know how to fish in an area, and what do you do when there's no bass or whatever fish you're familiar with.

First research. In our last article, we talked about FishBait, the fishing app. If you have downloaded the app, go to your current location, check the local lakes and ponds and see what fish people catch there. After that, when you know what fish you're targeting, go to a nearby fishing store and understand the area. Talk to the store owners, see what they recommend, learn the talk, news and techniques of that area. Finally, licensing. You never know what can happen and you don't want to get fined, so do more... research. Depending on what state, country or continent you're on they all have different rules.

That's it for today, see you next time.



Pumpkin Spice or Apple Cider?



By Kaylee Jeon
Tusker Tribune Staff

There are most likely two drinks that pop up into your head when you think about fall: pumpkin spice and apple cider. Now that it's getting colder, what drink will you choose to have?

Across the Internet, there have been many talks about which drink tastes better, but do you know which one has better health benefits?

Pumpkin spice-based drinks are known to warm you up because of the pumpkin, and the antioxidants and vitamins in the spice part. (Spices include cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, black pepper, etc.) While some people might think that pumpkin spice would be healthy because of these advantages, most pumpkin spice drinks likely have an additional sweetener or sugar that may be pretty unhealthy.

Apple cider is mostly the healthier choice due to its natural ingredients and having less sugar than pumpkin spice. While apple cider is, in general, the healthier choice, it usually depends mostly on the recipe and what sweeteners and additives are in the drink.

Whether you choose pumpkin spice or apple cider, both are good flavors. You could even argue your opinion may be different based on the time and your mood. These two flavors taste great whether it be in drinks or sweets like donuts or cake!

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