



Halloween Isn't Just a U.S. Thing

By Eli Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff

We all love Halloween. Time spent with friends and family, awesome costumes and trick-or-treating are fun and enjoyable. But why do we have Halloween?

Halloween originated in Ireland, from the Christian holiday Samhain, which was used to celebrate the feast of All Saints, commonly referred to All Hallows, where the name originated from. The feast of All Hallows was used to celebrate and remember the dead. The Feast of All Hallows took place on November 1st, before it was changed to the 31st of October.

Halloween isn't just celebrated in the US. In Ireland, where Halloween originated, they celebrate the holiday by carving faces into tulips, telling tales of All Hallows, and making bonfires. In Canada, the traditions are like the US traditions. Meanwhile, México has a different holiday, Dia de los Muertos, which is used to celebrate and remember the dead, which is like the feast of All Hollows.

Happy Halloween!



2025's Most Popular Halloween Costumes

By Evie Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

Since Halloween is coming up, everyone's finding Halloween costumes either with a group or by themselves. Overall, there are many different costumes that will soon be out of stock on Amazon, and some people don't even know what they're going to be for Halloween, so here's some good costume ideas

1. **K-pop demon hunters** (Rumi, Mira, Zoey). This is a very popular costume for younger girls but is also a good costume for groups of three.
2. **Video game characters**. This is a common costume for boys, mainly characters from Fortnite or Minecraft, etc.
3. **Candy brands**. Another popular costume is candy brand costumes, which are mainly worn by girls. For example, some popular brands that girls have worn in the past are M&Ms, chocolate candy bars and lollipops.
4. **Blow up costumes**. Blow up costumes are seen everywhere. Many people wear them for Halloween, some of which are sometimes funny jokes or a fun way to dress up with friends.
5. **Characters from movies or shows**. During Halloween, you would see people dress up as characters from shows. This is because they like the movie or show and they might be doing a group costume, or the movie or show is very popular

In conclusion, there are many different Halloween costumes to choose from, but those were some suggestions for group costumes or for people who are not sure what to choose.



Bluegrass Visitor, Fiddle Friday and Jazz Are Sweet Music for Band

By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome back to the daily life of a 6th grade musician. Last week we concluded Bach and what is known as the Baroque Era. I am doing research so that next week, we talk about Mozart and the classical era.

Today we have "Fiddle Friday"!!!! The winter concert is coming up and so is the bluegrass music/musician, Austin Scelzo. That means we have a visitor coming to the school and we will play with him. This will happen TUESDAY, OCT. 28.

Also, hopefully Mr. Gilbert has posted the music for the bluegrass musician visit on Schoology. Make sure to practice; we don't have much time left, unfortunately.

Today, if you read another article called The Great Outdoorsman, the author is a friend of mine. I'll give you a clue on who he is he is, he is in 6th grade.

Now if you wanted to go to Jazz and missed the date and you still want to do it, then talk to Mr. Gilbert. He can give you instructions on when's the next meeting and help you.

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



For Red Ribbon Week and Substance Abuse Prevention Month, students made a "Pledge to be Drug Free" pumpkin patch. Peanut and the main lobby at SMS were also decorated with Red Ribbons.

A Spooky Creepy Classic Story--Part 1

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

Do you like detective stories? Do you like scary stories? If so, read this!

It was 2008, October 31st. I was walking down the street. A bag full of candy, a detective costume, and a notebook in my hands. Something about this Halloween was . . . mysterious. It was raining on Halloween. It didn't feel right. Not like the Halloween we all know and love. I let out a long sigh, and I thought to myself: "Halloween isn't the same as I used to know it. Something is very . . . fishy."

Suddenly, I heard a shrill scream from around the corner. My heart thumped as fast as a F1 car. I took out my flashlight, turned it on, and checked to see if anyone was okay. But it was just a Halloween decoration! I sighed with relief. Then I said quietly to myself, "Just a Halloween decoration. Nothing else." I walked through the block, writing in my notebook, while hearing the happy voices of children saying, "Trick or Treat!" and "Thank you!"

The rain stopped suddenly, and the grass was wet. It was quiet. Too quiet. I peeked at that house where I heard the scream from the Halloween decoration. Suddenly, I gasped in horror when I saw the decoration's eyes turn red. Then, I heard it say in a distorted voice, "It's playtime!"

That's all for now! Tune in next week for Part 2 of "Creepy Cases"



Tech Class Boat Races Make Waves

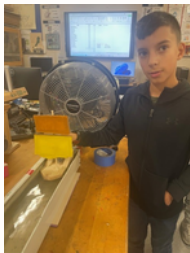
By Andrew Pucci
Tusker Tribune Staff

Right now, in tech class with Mr. Lugo, we are doing a fun and educational project about boats. Our assignment is to create a wind powered miniature boat (the wind comes from fans) that can float, go fast on water, and hold a Lego person.

There were many steps in creating the boat, and it was a lot of work. The first step to making the boat was to research what sails and hulls would go the fastest. The second step was to make a prototype design of the boat on Tinkercad, a website where you can design things with different shapes. The third step was to cut a piece of wood. This would be the base of the hull we would cut out. Next, we drew on the piece of wood with a pencil and laid out the design. The fifth step was to cut on the lines we just drew out with a band saw (Mr. Lugo did this part). For the sixth step, we cut out the mast for the boat, using a hand saw. After that, we made the sail. We made the sails out of fabric, paper, and cardboard. This part was especially fun because we could make whatever shape we wanted.

The last step of creating the boat was to create a seat for a Lego person. What I did, and what most of the class did, was to cut off the top of a bottle and glue it to the hull. Then, the races began. We didn't actually race side by side, but instead we timed them and saw who got the fastest time. We used a gutter to simulate the ocean. We put our boats in, put the fan behind the gutter, and started racing! The most common problems were that the sails were touching the sides of the gutter, and that the boats were too heavy. The average time was around 20 or 25 seconds, though the fast ones were from 13 to 20 seconds.

Overall, all the students learned a lot, and enjoyed the project at the same time.



Photos by
Mr. Lugo

Chal and Courage--Gymnastics Teaches Strength and Confidence



By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Gymnastics takes more than flips and flexibility. It takes patience, focus, and a lot of courage. Every skill starts out scary. Sometimes you fall or miss a landing, but you learn to keep trying until you get it right. That's what makes the sport both hard and amazing. It's not just about who can do the highest jump or fastest spin — it's about who can stay determined when things don't go perfectly. Every gymnast knows that behind every routine, there's a lot of work that people don't see.

Training is a big part of gymnastics, and it isn't easy. Gymnasts spend hours practicing skills, building strength, and improving balance. It takes time and patience to get better. Sometimes practice goes well, but other days are frustrating. You might fall off the beam or miss your hand on the bars. Still, every mistake teaches you something. You learn to fix it and move forward. That's part of what makes gymnastics so rewarding — it shows you that progress takes time, and effort matters more than perfection.

The mental side of gymnastics is just as important as the physical part. It can be scary to try a new skill, especially if you've fallen before. But courage doesn't mean you're never scared — it means you keep trying even when you are. You must trust yourself and believe you can do it. Sometimes that means taking a deep breath, focusing, and going for it. When you finally land a move, you've worked on for weeks; it's one of the best feelings in the world. It's a mix of pride, relief, and joy.

Being a gymnast also teaches teamwork and friendship. Even though gymnastics can be an individual sport, teammates cheer each other on. When someone lands a new skill, everyone celebrates together. That support helps build confidence, and it makes hard practices feel a little easier.

Gymnastics has taught me that falling doesn't mean failing. Every time I stand back up, I feel stronger than before. It's shown me that courage isn't something you're born with — it's something you build through experience. That's what chalk and courage really mean: putting in the work, trusting yourself, and never giving up, no matter how many times you fall.

SOMERS STUDENT CONCIL PRESENTS

FALL SPIRIT WEEK

OCTOBER 27TH-31ST

OUR THEMES

Monday: PJ Day
Wear your pajamas and other comfy clothes

Tuesday: Twisted Tuesday
Turn your clothes inside out or backwards

Wednesday: Country vs Country Club
Dress as someone from a country club or dress country

Thursday: Fall Color Wars
6th grade - Yellow 7th grade - Orange 8th grade - Red
Staff - Brown

Friday: Costumes
Wear your Halloween costume or wear Halloween colors

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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](#)

What's With the GOAT USA Sticker Trend?

By Eliana Monteagudo
Tusker Tribune Staff

Do you have GOAT stickers? Goat USA is a clothes brand where all their items have goats on them. These items come with stickers. When you buy an item, with, let's say, a hot dog goat on it; you will get a GOAT sticker that matches the theme of the shirt. You can also get them by going to a GOAT USA store. When you walk in, there will be someone handing them out. If there are none and you would like some, go to the cashier and ask them for one or two. Each GOAT sticker may hold a unique value.

The value of the GOAT stickers depends on the sticker, and also depends on the rarity and authenticity. People sometimes sell their GOAT stickers, but they should pay attention to whether there is a QR code on the back, because they are worth more money. The ones with the QR code are more valuable for trading and selling.

These stickers have officially become a popular trend. The stickers are a way for the store to market their brand. These stickers are actual goats dressed in a crown with glasses. In addition, they have different costumes on. People love all the many versions of these stickers; for example, there are goat-animals types like ducks, giraffes, etc. There are also foods, holidays and special edition stickers.

The stickers can be used to put on water bottles and much more, or they can be used to trade and collect. If you don't already have them, I recommend starting to collect them; you won't regret it.



This Whale's Tale is Definitely Not Fishy

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hi! If you are interested in whales, then this is perfect for you, because today I am going to be talking about all different kinds of whales!

Let's get started with the Gray Whale. The Gray Whale enjoys being petted by humans very much. The Gray Whale is in fact a slow swimmer, and it's an easy host for barnacles and lice.

The Sperm Whale is the largest living toothed whale. The sperm whale has a huge head and can dive up to 2,000 meters.

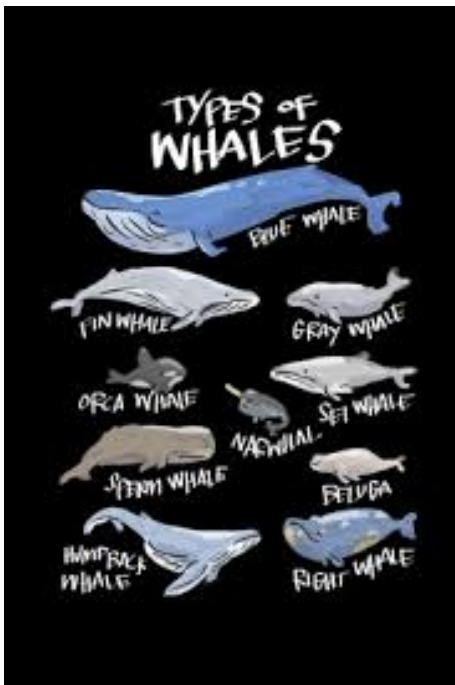
The Fin Whale is the fastest swimming whale alive, It is also known as the "greyhound" of the deep.

The Blue Whale is the largest living animal on Earth! Also, the blue whale can swallow several tons of sea water and krill in one mouthful.

The Narwhal is also known as the "unicorn of the sea" because it looks like a unicorn! The narwhal is one of the most iconic marine creatures of the Arctic.

The Humpback Whale is one of the most well-known whales. It loves to sing and can hold one note for 30 minutes. The Humpback Whale is also gentle, and fond of breaching.

That's all about these amazing whales and their fun facts and features! I hope you enjoyed learning about all these whales.



AI--Helpful or Harmful?

By Sofie Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff

Many people use AI for school projects, writing papers, or even spell checking their work. But is it necessary, or should we stop using it all together?

There are many pros about using AI in everyday life. Artificial Intelligence uses data and algorithms to mimic the human mind. There are many rules for AI and restrictions so that it can stay within the box of commands you give it. This means that you can ask a simple question, and it'll tell you the answer within seconds. This speedy way of getting answers faster causes many more people to take advantage of AI. According to Riggs, A. (2024, October 8). *So, How Many People Already Use AI Everyday? The Cloud Minders.*

<https://www.thecloudminders.com/post/how-many-people-use-ai-everyday>, "While only 28% of people report using AI daily, 69% are unaware of their interactions with AI."

AI has also revolutionized our health care. It uses similar commands to distinguish between diseases and to help find a cure. But while the use of ai has its pros, it also has many cons.

For starters, the use of AI in jobs may eventually replace human workers causing many people to lose their jobs. Another reason we should reduce AI use is that AI servers produce tons of electronic waste, which means that toxic substances that are bad for our health and environment are produced. UNEP. (2024, September 21). *AI Has an Environmental problem. Here's What the World Can Do about that.* UNEP. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/ai-has-environmental-problem-heres-what-world-can-do-about-states-that>, "The electronics they house rely on a staggering amount of grist: making a 2 kg computer requires 800 kg of raw materials."

IN addition, the microchips that power AI need rare earth elements, which are often mined in environmentally destructive ways, notes *Navigating New Horizons*.

The second problem is that data centers produce electronic waste, which often contains hazardous substances, like mercury and lead.

The use of AI is not only bad for our ecosystems, but our health as well. So next time you use an AI chatbot, please ask yourself if it is necessary.



Is Sugar Bad For You?

By Gianna Mancini
Tusker Tribune Staff

Many people love sugar so much, but why? The reason is that sugar is in our daily foods and beverages like bread, pasta, oatmeal, cereal, candy, soda, and sugary drinks turn into sugar when we digest them.

For example, since our bodies are addicted to sugar, if we only eat protein, our bodies are still hungry for food. This happens because if you eat meat and other nutritious foods that don't contain sugar, your body is still hungry for sugar because it is used to having sugar.

Now why is sugar bad for you? Sugar is bad for you because of many different reasons. One of the reasons is that sugar lacks nutritional value. Sugar gives calories without minerals and foods that are good for you.

Another reason is that sugar can make you gain weight, increase the risks of diabetes, and other health problems. It can also lead to acne and skin aging. Lastly, it can also lead to depression. The carbs in the sugar make your moods swing. These are the reasons sugar is not good for you, and you should try to stay away from it as much as you can.



Are Pennies Going Away?

By Eli Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff

Studies say that pennies are going to be discontinued in 2026. But why is that?

First, we have to understand what a penny is made of. Pennies aren't pure copper. They are alloys of several different metals. This could be one of the reasons why because it is hard to source different metals from the Earth in mass amounts.

The next biggest problem is that it just is not worth making pennies. The United States Mint office, which is the national source for producing coins, predicts that they will save \$56 million by cutting pennies out of the equation. This can certainly show that pennies just are not worth making.

The last and most prominent reason is that inflation is making it so the value of the coin is less than what they make it for. Inflation is when people have more of an object, so the total value of a singular object is less than what it should be.

The common solution for this is rounding. What will happen is that anything that the cost is indivisible by five will round to the nearest five, so for example, 4.03 cents will round up to 4.05 cents, since that can be paid with nickels.

Overall, it is not substantial, but what do you think?



How Do Friendships Shape Us in Middle School?

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Did you know that according to child psychologists, having strong friendships in middle school can improve your brain and mental health? Friendships at this age are important. The people you sit with at lunch aren't just your friends- They're shaping how you grow as a person.

In middle school, classes get harder, you have more homework, schedules get busier, and you have a lot more pressure to figure out who you are. But having the right friendships can make you feel more supported, confident, and less stressed. In fact, research shows that kids with strong friendships are more likely to enjoy school and do better in it!

Friends aren't always perfect! One way or another, you're gonna disagree with a friend, grow apart, or feel left out. But these situations are good to learn from. These situations help us with our communication and understanding. We learn how to deal with disagreements respectfully, and when necessary, take some space from each other in a healthy way.

Being a good friend is more than just spending time together. It's about being supportive, helpful, honest, and kind no matter what. And it's ok to realize when a friendship isn't healthy for you. These situations help us grow as people.

Middle school friendships are important--whether you're laughing with your friends at lunch, or talking through an argument, these relationships are good for you as a person, and maybe might even impact your future.

Remember that these relationships matter. You may get into arguments with your friends, but you'll be around these people for many years to come. Be kind to them and maybe you'll make even more friends. All these aspects help you grow as a person. You are important. And friendships help you grow into the person you are meant to be.



A World Tour--Part 1

By Eli Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff

A new series exploring countries around the world!

We're starting this series off with the Netherlands, a 16-thousand square mile country located on the border of the North Sea.

Name: The name "Netherlands" literally means "lower country." This is because the Netherlands is very low in elevation.

Provinces: The Netherlands is split up into 12 provinces, those being North Holland, South Holland, Utrecht, Friesland, Groningen, Drenthe, Flevoland, Zeeland, Gelderland, North Brabant, Overijssel, and Limburg.

Ethnicity: The people of the Netherlands are mainly Dutch, with some others like Indonesian and Turkish.

Flag: The Flag of the Netherlands consists of a simple tricolor with red, white, and blue. The coat of arms shows two lions holding a badge with a crown on it. It symbolizes Bravery, Peace, and Honesty. Originally, the flag's red stripe was was orang .

Language: The people of the Netherlands speak mainly Dutch, with a bit of German.

History: The modern Netherlands was founded after rebelling against the Spanish and breaking off in the 1700s. Before this, they were a part of the Roman Empire before it collapsed and split into the Holy Roman Empire, which it stayed in until the 1400s. After the defeat of Napoleon, the Netherlands was peaceful.

Sport: The national sport of the Netherlands is soccer, in which around a third of the population plays. Their top score in the World Cup was runner-up, which they got in 1974, 1978, and 2010.

Cities: The capital of the Netherlands is Amsterdam, located in North Holland. The other main cities are Utrecht, The Hague, and Rotterdam.

Thanks for reading and I'll see you next time!



Laser Tag League Can Really Challenge You

By The Great Outdoorsman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome back to The Great Outdoorsman. Today, we interrupt our regular program to talk about laser tag.

Here in Somers, we have our own league. You can get to choose your teammates in a squad of four people. Each week, you earn 15 credits, and five credits for every game you win. You can spend these credits on upgrades to help you win, such as WTF and Two Point Domination. For more information, go to tacticallasertag.com.

At the end of each season, they have a tournament. The top two winners of each tournament get to compete for their town in a tournament of Westchester County. If someone on your team is not here, then you can pay for a mercenary which will take their place.

Games are every Wednesday and depend on the weather and other conditions. For more information, go to Westchester County Parks and Recreation. See you next time and that's all we have today.



A New Meaning to 'Reality TV'



**By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Characters: Little brother--Jacob Older sister--Abby

This story is a fictional story.

It was 4:30 in the afternoon, I just came back from school an hour ago. It was normal, teachers treating me poorly, being stressed out from work, and I have a test tomorrow. Are you serious?

I go outside to get some fresh air while reading my book, I see my little brother outside playing soccer. Then he comes up to me and says, "Hey Abby remember that movie we watched the other night?"

I did not know what he meant but then, "Oh yes, that was scary!" I say.

"You're just a scaredy cat" my brother says.

I roll my eyes. "C'mon, just admit you were scared, too," I say.

"FINE!" he yells out. "I was scared . . . but anyway, as I was saying, did you know it's a true story?"

I look at him with a worried face. "IT IS? So, is David is a real person?" I say.

"Yes. He is in fact real scary, right," my little brother says.

I look at him with an angry face. "STOP TEASING ME!" I say.

Later on, my mom came outside. "What are you two kids bickering about?" my mom says to us.

"Nothing . . ." we both say.

"I will keep an eye on you two," my mom says to us. "Oh, Abby, you must stay home alone tonight, ok? You won't mind, right?" my mom says.

"I won't mind," I say, not knowing what would actually happen that night I'm alone. "Why?" I ask.

My mom comes over to me and says, "Well your father and I have our anniversary, and your little brother has a football game."

I shake my head. "Well have fun I guess. When are you guys leaving?"

"Right now, I must drop your brother off earlier."

I tilt my head to the side. "Oh, uh, ok, bye."

They all leave, and I am officially alone. I run upstairs and go to my room, and I look out of the window. I spot a mysterious guy. *Who could that be? It looks like David from the movie we were watching!* Maybe Jacob is right! I run downstairs and opened the door to go outside. "AHHHHH HE IS COMING THIS WAY!" I dial 9-1-1 and ran upstairs into my room.

"Hi 9-1-1, what is your emergency?"

"LAST NIGHT I WATCHED THIS MOVIE AND APPERENTLY THE PERSON WHO HAUNTS AND THREATENS PEOPLE IS OUTSIDE OF MY HOUSE!" Abby says, frightened about what she just saw.

"OK, what's your name and how old are you?" the police officer says.

"I'm 13, and my name is Abby Miller." I'm super worried about what's going to happen.

"OK, stay on the phone with me and I will track your location. Make sure to not hang up."

Right after the officer says that, my phone dies. "THIS CANNOT BE HAPPENING RIGHT NOW!"

The end. I made this a cliff hanger because I want the readers to predict what they think is going to happen to Abby. I hope you enjoyed this story!

Service Club Gears Up for Annual Coat Drive

By Mila Cini
Tusker Tribune Staff

The SMS Service Club is having a One Warm Coat Drive from **October 21 to November 21**. You can drop off your coats at the main office.

One Warm Coat was founded in 1992 by one woman with one coat, and her name was Lois Pavlow. She wanted to spread some kindness. One Warm Coat believes in the basic right to protect against the cold. One Warm Coat's mission is to provide free coats to children and adults who need coats for the winter.

You can donate clean, gently used, or new coats of any size, so please donate your coats today.

Did you know October 21st is National Share the Warmth Day? Sharing the Warmth Day is a day of awareness and action dedicated to ensuring everyone has access to warmth, comfort, and protection they need for the winter. Donating a coat is a simple act of kindness that has a big effect, bringing warmth in more ways than one around the world, so please donate a coat or more today.



Do Snails Really Have Teeth?

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

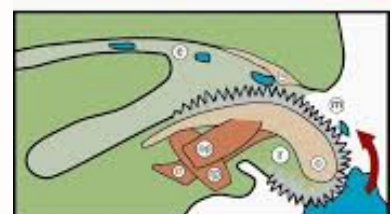
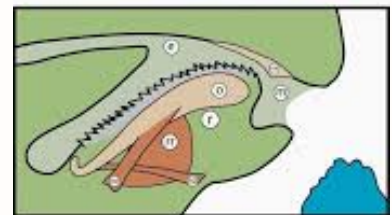
Yes snails do have teeth! Surprising, right? It might be surprising because when you look at a snail it looks like it has no teeth at all. But as a matter of fact, the snail is the animal with the most teeth in the world.

Although its mouth is about the size of the tip of a pin, it has 25,600 teeth! Yeah, I did not know that. I kind of thought it had no teeth at all. In the middle of the snail's small tentacles, a little downwards, there is a small hole which is its mouth, and inside there is a jagged tongue which scientists call the "toothed tongue".

The surface of the tongue is like a file for grating ginger, with small horny teeth neatly arranged by snail when eating. The snail uses this "small file" to grind the leaves of plants and then eat them little by little. Although its teeth are very small, if you put the snail into a cardboard box that is harder than its body, it can bite through the cardboard box and crawl out.

THE TUSKER TRIBUNE

ASKS...



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