



Halloween is Celebrated All Over the World



By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

Today, people will be roaming the streets, dressed up in their fun costumes, going from door to door, saying “Trick or Treat”, and carving pumpkins.

In the U.S. and Canada that’s usually how Halloween is celebrated, but have you ever wondered how Halloween is celebrated in different countries around the world? Well, this story is perfect for you!

As many people probably know, in Mexico and Latin America, on November 1st and 2nd, people celebrate Día De Los Muertos, which means “The Day of the Dead” in English, to honor loved ones and ancestors who have passed away. Families create colorful altars with food, candy, photographs, flowers, and fresh water to honor their relatives.

In Ireland Halloween is celebrated very similar to how it is in the U.S. with people dressing up and going trick or treating. After “trick or treating”, people attend parties where very fun games are played, like bobbing for apples, “Snap Apple”, treasure hunts, fortune telling, and storytelling. “Snap Apple” is a game where apples are hung from stings, and players try to bite the apples without using their hands.

In Japan, Halloween has grown in popularity since the Tokyo Disney Land first hosted their Halloween celebration in 2000. Many adults dress up in many different costumes at parades, street parties, and home gatherings. During Halloween, trains in Japan are decorated with Halloween themes—for example, pumpkins, ghosts, zombies, vampires, and popular scary Halloween characters. Did you know that children in Japan rarely go trick-or-treating?

In Italy, Halloween has grown in popularity like in Japan, and going trick-or-treating has gained popularity in cities. In Italy on November 1st, they celebrate All Saint’s Day to honor the martyrs and saints of the Catholic Church.

As you can see in many different countries around the world, there are similar events that are done during Halloween season like carving pumpkins, trick-or-treating, getting dressed up in costumes, and playing fun games.



SMS STAR Awards for October



Grade 7:

Sophie DiLeo
Brendan Graham
Elizabeth Spallina
Campbell Massett
Katherine Rodriguez

Grade 8:

Chris Conlon

A STAR award stands for Students who Are Role models. The above listed students have been caught doing something that deserves the STAR recognition for this month! Great job to all of our Stars – keep up the positive behavior. It makes our school a better place!



A Halloween Party Disaster

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Characters

1. *Benny Popular at school/host of the Halloween party*
2. *Lyla student at Western High School*
3. *Lydia twin sister of Lydia/student at Western High School*
4. *Sofie Lydia's best friend/student at Western High School*
5. *Simon Benny's best friend/also popular at school*

It was 5:35 at night. My twin sister and I were getting ready for Halloween! We were so excited because we were going to Benny's Halloween party!

"Hey, uhm, Lyla, what are you wearing to Benny's Halloween party?" Lydia asks.

"Well mine's pretty basic I'm being a vampire." Lyla says.

"That's cool, I'm being Little Red Riding hood." Lydia says.

"Cool. Who's the big bad wolf?" Lyla says.

"You'll see." Lydia says with a smirk.

A few seconds later Lydia gets a call from her friend Sofie. "You're matching with Benny, right?" Sofie says.

"Yes! I'm so excited. Just don't tell Lyla because we both have a crush on him," Lydia says.

"I won't I promise you!" Sofie says.

Lydia and Lyla change into their costumes, and a few minutes later they get into the car. It's been 15 minutes, and the twins finally arrived at Benny's house. "Let's go in" Lydia says excitedly and soon they both knock on the door.

"What's up guys come on in," Benny says.

"We're good" Lydia says. Meanwhile, Lyla is staring at Benny's outfit.

"Lydia, you didn't tell me that you and Benny were matching!" Lyla says angrily with a grin on her face.

"What's wrong? Why do you look angry?" Lydia says.

"You know I have a crush on him!" Lyla says angrily.

Lydia looks at her and says, "Oh you didn't know? We're dating now."

Simon enters the house and says hi to the girls "What's up--twins fighting again, I see, what's going on?"

"NOTHING SIMON!" Lyla says while being annoyed.

"Jeez Lyla" Simon says and heads inside.

"DONT JEEZ ME!" says Lyla.

"Someone's angry" says Lydia.

A few minutes passed by and finally they headed back inside, but once they got in, it was time to eat! They all sit down at the dining table. "Is anyone allergic to sesame seeds?" Benny asks.

"Me" Lydia says.

"Me, too" Simon says.

"Alright Lyla, would you like to help pass out sesame pasta to the guys who aren't allergic to sesame, then you guys can go outside to eat, and give the buttered noodle pasta to Simon and Lydia?"

Lyla gives the sesame pasta to Lydia to get revenge and accidentally gives the buttered noodle pasta to Simon. "All set" says Lyla.

Sofie, Lydia's friend, notices and switches Simon's and Lydia's plate while Lydia and Simon were washing their hands. "I'm pretty sure it was just Lydia who was allergic to sesame. I didn't hear Simon say he was, so let me just switch them. Now Simon has the sesame pasta and Lydia has the buttered noodle pasta."

But little did she know, they both were allergic to sesame! They all go outside to go out and eat.

"Guys," Simon says.

Benny looks up concerned. "What's up dude, you good?" Simon starts having rashes all over his body. "AM I HAVING AN ALLERGIC REACTION!" Simon says.

"I will go get my mom," Benny says but eventually Simon passes out.

That is all for my story and yeah... I'm guilty for making all my stories have cliffhangers. THIS IS FICTIONAL!!!



Life Would Be Boring Without Birthdays

By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

In celebration of my birthday being two days ago, I decided to write an article dedicated to birthdays, the celebration of life!

Birthdays have a historic origin dating way back to the ancient Egyptians, but modern celebrations emerged more recently during the 19th century in Germany. Now while I'm super excited to become a teenager, obviously some birthdays are bigger than others. Some major milestones are 18 and 21.

However, all birthdays are important. People celebrate with cake, presents, decorations, and parties. For me, I always have a Halloween-themed party since it is two days away from Halloween. I'd think that it's pretty rare to have my birthday so close to a holiday, but did you know that there are birthdays that are more rare than others? The rarest birthday you could have are February 29, January 1, and December 25.

Anyway, to conclude, birthdays are the best little milestones that celebrate your life!



Wolverines vs Buckeyes--A BIG Rivalry

By Aiden Heinkel
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Ohio State and Michigan rivalry is one of the most renowned in the history of college football.

The Michigan and Ohio State rivalry started when Michigan played Ohio State on October 10th, 1897, with Michigan winning 34-0.

Michigan dominated the first 14 games winning 12 out of the 14 games. Then, in 1950, Ohio State and Michigan played in the "Snow Bowl" with the temperature 10 degrees and wind gusts 28 mph. Michigan defeated Ohio state 9-3.

There are several traditions carried out before the game. Ohio State's "Mirror Lake Jump" is where students at Ohio State would sneak out the night before the game and jump into Mirror Lake on campus.

Another tradition is the "Blood Battle"--a contest between the two schools to see who can donate the most blood to hospitals in the two states.

In conclusion the Michigan and Ohio State rivalry is one of the most famous rivalries in college football.



Halloween Candy Has a Sweet History

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

We all know Halloween is coming up! Trick or treating, having fun, dressing up- and candy! But have you ever really thought about the history of Halloween candy?

This treat that we all love might just have a cool past, too. Candy corn, one of Halloween's most recognizable treats, was created in the 1880's by George Renninger of the Wunderle Candy Company and was originally marketed as "Chicken Feed" because of its colors and shape.

The first ever individually wrapped candy, the Tootsie Roll by Leo Hirschfield, debuted in 1896, making chocolate more portable and sanitary for trick or treating.

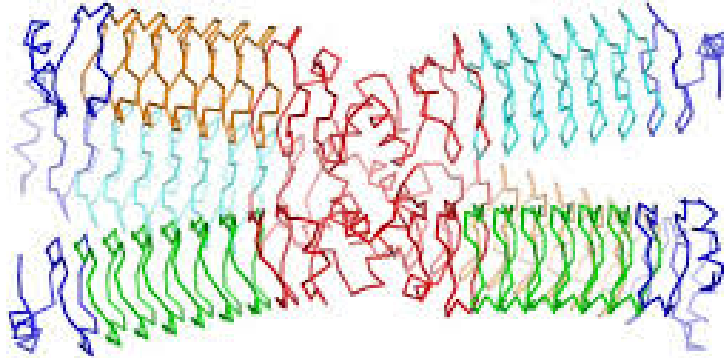
Hershey's Kisses followed in 1907, becoming a staple for Halloween celebrations.

In 1928, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups were invented. Combining chocolate and peanut butter for the first time, quickly became a trick or treating favorite.

In the 2000's, creative candies like Nerds' gummi clusters and Trolly gummi worms got invented and were spread through TikTok and other social media platforms, quickly gaining popularity for their unique and yummy flavors.



Synthetic Proteins Unlock a Limitless Future



By Nica Fried
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: Nica attended a WIN Enrichment Class on synthetic biology. This story recounts what she learned in that class.

What are synthetic proteins? Synthetic proteins are computer designed proteins that are coded into having the perfect chain of amino acids, to help the human body in many ways. They are helping shape the future of medicine and science by also being one of the most efficient clinically trialed cures for cancer.

How We Build Them

Scientists don't just find these specific proteins in nature; they create them using both biology and computer science.

1. Computer Design: By using AI, scientists can develop the perfect chain of protein building blocks or amino acids. The computer can figure out how to know exactly how the chain should fold to create a specific 3D shape, which determines the proteins' functions.

2. Manufacturing: The custom DNA code created by the computer is then put into microbes, like yeast or bacteria, which turns them into tiny factories that can mass produce the new synthetic protein cost and environment efficient.

Amazing Things That They Can Do

Since we can control the function of synthetic proteins, they are starting to change key industries:

In Medicine

1. Targeted Delivery: The proteins can be built to form these tiny nanoparticles that act like mail carriers in the human body, delivering medicine only to the cells that need them (like cancer cells), protecting the rest of the body.

2. Next Generation Vaccines: They can help create stable parts of viruses that the body can recognize easily, which end up leading to faster and stronger vaccines.

3. Smart Diagnostics: The proteins can also help detect diseases earlier and more accurately by being programmed to "light up" when they find a specific marker of the disease in the body.

In the Industry and the Environment

1. Super Enzymes: We can create stronger enzymes that are much better at speeding up medical reactions than anything that can be found in nature. This is a skill that can be used to produce sustainable biofuels and create a cleaner manufacturing process.

2. New Materials: They inspire and help create new materials that are both extremely strong (like the silk that is made by spiders) and environmentally friendly because they are biodegradable.

This new science of designing synthetic proteins is improving extremely fast with the help of AI. The medical field is moving towards a future where they can program biological functions with confidence. Leading to major medical and scientific solutions for challenges in health and energy.

Creepy Cases Part 2

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

I was surrounded by evil Halloween decorations, and to make matters worse, they were ALIVE! I heard indistinct chatter from them because there were as many of them, like how many ants are in an anthill!

Suddenly, their master, a giant skeleton appeared. He suddenly said, "We will spare you on one condition."

Then, I ask, afraid, "What do you want?"

He points to my candy bag. "That bag holds food, right?"

Suddenly, I ran away from the scene.

"AFTER HIM!" the giant skeleton yells.

Then one of the minions says, "When should we?"

He grabs the minion and says, "Right... now." He pops the thin minion into his mouth and chews him with his mouth open, showing the minions what would happen. He spit the minion out, leaving only his wires. Then, the skeleton says, "Get a move on if you don't want to end up like Jerry!"

"Yes sir!" all the decorations say while saluting. And they were on the run. That's it for now, folks! Tune in next week for the third part!



Somers Library Competitive With Battles With Books

By Alden Heinkel
Tusker Tribune Staff

A battle took place at the Ossining Middle School. Only this Battle is with Books.

Battle of the Books is a competition throughout the Westchester library system. Each team reads five books. This year's books were "A Duet for Home" by Karina Yan Glaser, "Adia Kelbara and the circle of Shamans" by Isi Hendrix, "Book Scavenger" by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman, "Any Day With You" by Mae Respicio, and "Freestyle" by Gale Galligan.

Some rules are if you buzz in (there are buzzers) the person asking the question immediately stops asking the question. Another rule is that there are only five people allowed to be buzzing in at a time on one team in a round. There are seven rounds with a lunch break after the fourth round.

Here is how the games went for us (Somers Library) We lost the first through fourth rounds. Then, after lunch, we won one then another and then we lost the seventh round and then we sadly did not make it to the finals.

Maybe if you join, we could win next year!



Want to Learn More About SMS Student Council?

By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wanted to know more about the clubs at the middle school? If so, today I'm going to tell you about Student Council.

The SMS Student Council meets on Wednesdays, about twice a month. In Student Council, we plan exciting events that happen throughout the school year. For example, we plan pep rallies and Spirit Week.

The Student Council has four positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President runs the meetings while the Vice President assists the President and takes the President's spot if they are absent.

The Secretary takes attendance and also takes notes of what we did during that meeting.

The Treasurer calculates all the money in case we want to raise money, etc.

Student Council is a very fun and exciting club to be in with you or with your friends. I hope that maybe after reading my story you will consider joining Student Council now or in the future.



Why is Unity Day Important?

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last week, the 22nd was Unity Day! But why do we celebrate Unity Day?

Well, we celebrate Unity Day for many different reasons, and one of the main reasons is to promote bullying prevention and show support to those who have been bullied, and wear orange!

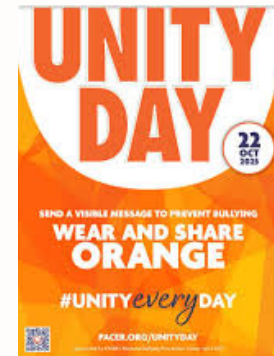
Unity Day was started in a unique way, in my opinion. It was started by PACER's Bullying Prevention Center in October 2011 as a signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month.

Here are some interesting fun facts about Unity Day now that I explained it!

Unity Day is Germany's only non-religious national holiday. Interesting, right?

In Germany, October 3rd is celebrated as German Unity Day to commemorate which also means celebrate the official reunification which also means reunion of East and West Germany in 1990.

I like Unity Day because a lot of people have been bullied in their lives and it's good to support those who have been bullied. Even though I did not wear orange that day, I still liked see everyone supporting those who have been bullied, but if I had orange, I would TOTALLY wear it! I hope you learned some stuff from this article and some stuff about Unity Day .



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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](#)



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Laser Tag Battle Update

**By The Great Outdoorsman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Today we have a special topic in mind. Last week we talked about laser tag, and how Somers is part of a league. The laser tag finals were on Wednesday and now I'm here to report on that.

First game in the quarter finals was Brewster's Green Team vs Carmel's Blue Team in Team Death Match. As a reminder, the Team Death Match means, the team that gets more hits on its opponent wins. Brewster won 30 to 21 and Carmel got knocked down to second chance.

Next was Somers's Blue (my team) vs Carmel's Green. Carmel won 30 to 24, putting us in second chance. Then came Somers Purple vs Harrison Red, Harrison won 30 to 22.

Coming into the ring is Brewster's Brown vs Carmel's Black and Gold. Brewster won 30 to 27.

Now onto the Second Chance Round 1, Carmel's Blue team vs Somers's Blue (my team). We won 30 to 26 and eliminated Carmel's Blue team permanently. But then the Somers Purple team got eliminated by Carmel's Black and Gold 29 to 30.

Moving on to the semifinals, we played in Two Point Domination. As a reminder, Two Point Domination means the team that can control a territory and keep it from attacks wins. Brewster's Green went against Carmel's Green and won 325 to 200. Then Harrison Red won 400-80 against Brewster's Brown. Second Chance Round Two, Somers Blue unfortunately lost to Brewster brown 185 to 340. This eliminated my team.

Ultimately for the finals, Brewster Brown played Brewster Green and Brewster Brown won the Fall 2025, Season Championship. Congratulations to the winner. Thanks and see you next time.



Bluegrass Musicians Entertain SMS !

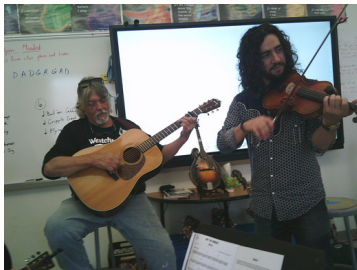
**By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hello and Welcome back to The Daily Life Of a 6th Grade Musician. Today we have a special topic! On Wednesday, we at SMS received two visitors, both Bluegrass musicians. The Bluegrass musicians introduced themselves as Mike Burns and Austin Scelzo and played some music. Together with them, part of the SMS orchestra played with the song "Boil 'Em Cabbage" and the song "Cripple Creek".

I want to say that the following statement is only from a 6th grade perspective. I personally came for WIN but, unfortunately, Mr. Gilbert couldn't book all the 6th graders. However, some 7 or 8 graders gave up their recess to play with us. Then we learned a support technique called The Chop.

The musicians come from The Westchester Bluegrass Club. They are playing this Sunday in Purdy's, and they are offering free tickets to the orchestra members of Somers Middle School.

For more information contact Mr. Gilbert. That's basically it. See you next time.



A World Tour--Part 2--The Country of Chad

By Eli Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff

A new series exploring countries around the world!

Continuation of the world tour! Next up, we have Chad, officially Republic of Chad, a medium sized country in the center of Africa!

Name: Chad means the word “lake”. This name was given to the country due to a large lake called Lake Chad, which, in turn means “lake lake”.

Location: Chad is in the center of Africa, bordering 6 countries. These countries include Sudan, Libya, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, and Cameroon.

Provinces: Chad has three main provinces. The first, in the north, is mainly the Sahara Desert. The second, called Sahel, is an arid region in the center. The last region, called the Soudanian Savanna, is fertile and has rich soil.

History: At around 7000 BCE, humans began to pour into the Sahel region in great amounts and by the 2nd century, many states and kingdoms had risen and fallen. It was peaceful for a while until 1920 when France invaded and captured the territory. The state was freed under Francois Banbalbaye in 1960.

Ethnicity: Most of the population residing in Chad are either French or Arabic.

Religion: 55% of the population are Muslims, while 44% are Christian. Other than that, there are no substantial religions in the country.

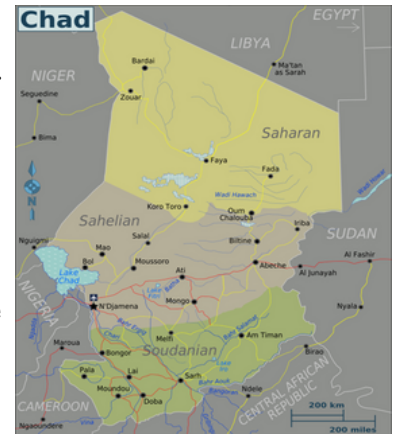
Flag: The flag of Chad contains a tricolor of red, yellow, and blue, in vertical bars.

Languages: The people of Chad speak mainly French and Arabic, which aligns with ethnicity.

Cities: The capital of Chad is N'Djamena, located in the Sahel region. Some other prominent cities in Chad are Sarh, Moundou, and Abeche.

Sport: The national sport of Chad is soccer. The main stadium is in the capital, N'Djamena.

Thanks for reading and I will see you next time!



It Started With the Pool Party

By Evan Mallamud
Tusker Tribune Staff

Ok, I think it's time we have a proper introduction. Hi! My name is Jennifer, and I may have done something that made the whole school hate me. All I did was ruin a pool party that I wasn't invited to. I know it sounds bad, but I'll tell you why later. I need to continue with the story.

The Assistant Principal says that I didn't do anything wrong but still gives me detention because the math teacher is her best friend. This school is all about connections.

Connections:

- Connections get you through the school year.
- Connections get you to the top of the social ladder.
- Connections which I don't have.

My mom is on my side still as we get in the gray Honda. A jingle plays on the radio. “Does your child not have one friend? Does the horror never end? Then stop by Jim’s Therapy Session for the best therapy there is.”

Great, now I'm going to therapy.



Why Do Leaves Change Colors?

**By Gianna Mancini
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Many people wonder why leaves turn different colors in fall, but what is the reason for this and why does this happen?

It's because of chlorophyll. It turns out the colors convert because of the decrease in chlorophyll. As the days shorten and the temperature goes down, chlorophyll slows down and little by little it starts showing other colors in the leaves on each tree.

Another reason is the tone in the leaves breaks down so trees can start to prep for winter. Chlorophyll also helps to take in sunlight, carbon dioxide, water into glucose (another word for sugar), and oxygen. This helps the trees' function. All these things from nature can make a big impact, just like the different tones in the leaves. Even though chlorophyll is super tiny, it's a savior to all our plants. Every plant has chlorophyll in it!

So next time you see a plant, you will know that chlorophyll is somewhere in the plant even if it's not green!



SMS Has Clubs for Almost Any Interest

**By Andrew Pucci
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you want to join a club, but don't know what to do? If yes, then you've come to the right place! Our school has a lot of creative and fun clubs you can do, and they can help you in school and give you something to do after school. Here is a list of clubs that you can join:



1. Art club. This club is perfect for you if you like to do projects or draw. (Mr. Wanderlingh)

2. A.T. club. This club is good for you if you like trivia and games. (Mr. Dell)

3. Computer Club. This is a good club if you like coding or computers. (Mr. DeVito/Mr. Lugo)

4. Cubing club. This club is good if you like Rubix Cubes or you want to learn how to solve one. (Mrs. Garrigan)

5. Drama club. This club is a perfect match for you if you like acting. (Mrs. Racioppo/Mrs. Williams/Mrs. Malara)

6. Dungeons & Dragons club. This club is good for you if you like playing in groups and you are looking for something creative. (Mr. Smith)

7. Fife and drum club. This is a good club if you like playing instruments or doing band class. (Mrs. Malara)

8. Forerunner club. This is a good club if you need encouragement or faith in yourself. (Mr. Wilbert)

9. International club. This club is perfect for you if you like learning about languages or different countries. (Mrs. Gottlieb/Mrs. Soares)

10. Intramurals. This club is good for you if you like playing sports. (Mr. Paulmeno)

11. Jazz band club. This club is perfect for you if you like playing an instrument and if you like jazz. (Mrs. Malara OR Mr. Gilbert)

12. Maker club. This is a good club if you like being creative or you like making things. (Mr. Lugo/Mr. DeVito)

Come back next week for more clubs! (Information from Somers Middle School website)

Scouting Prepares You for Life's Challenges



**By Alden Heinkel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Scouting is an organization for boys and girls. The Scouting troops in Somers are Troops 376 and 228. Scouting involves camping and learning about nature and valuable life skills.

There are many fun activities in scouting, like fundraisers, camping trips, and leadership roles.

In scouting there are several ranks (in order) Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. There is also Cub Scouts for boys and girls from kindergarten to 5th Grade. The Cub Scout troop in Somers is Pack 1.

In scouting you go on many fun camping trips at locations like Durland Scout Reservation, and you also get to go to Gettysburg for a tour, and you can go orienteering at West Point. Y

You can also get a scholarship from scouting. If you become an Eagle Scout, it is possible to get a scholarship for colleges. There are many Scouting troops around the world. Scouting is an activity enjoyed by many.

Drugs' Effects Will Impact Your Life in a Bad Way

**By Meeka Johnson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

So, my mom works with drug disposal, and I like to tell people about it, especially kids.

When you use drugs as a child, it may not affect you now, but later in your life, you may get sick or worse, your lungs may turn black.

There are so many things that could go wrong. There are many differences between black lungs and healthy lungs. There are also so many diverse types of drugs, like tobacco, cigarettes, and many more, but they are going to damage your lungs no matter what. It could be tomorrow or two years from now, but you should NEVER take drugs.

You may be asking why I am writing this, and not something about lunch or whatever. I am writing this because I like kids to know about important stuff. So please do not take drugs. Also let your friends now about what drugs can do to you. Do not pressure your friends about it. All in all, please don't take drugs.



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

