



Veterans Day Pays Tribute to Those Who Serve

By Eli Mundis

Tusker Tribune Staff

There is another holiday coming up next Tuesday, but what is the reason behind this?

Veterans Day, also historically referred to as Armistice Day, is a holiday celebrated to honor the veterans who served in the military.

The military is split into six groups: the Army Corps, the Navy Corps, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, the Space Force, and the Coast Guard.

Veterans Day is celebrated on the 11th of November because of a peace treaty between the two opposing sides of World War One on November 11th, 1919.

Originally, the holiday we now call Veterans Day was referred to as Armistice Day, until President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day after World War Two. Veterans Day is usually celebrated with a marching band, flowers placed on graves of the ones who fell in battle, and a parade, along with a formal celebration held at the Tomb of the Unknown.

Thanks for reading!



The Story Behind Thanksgiving

By Emily Gardella

Tusker Tribune Staff

Thanksgiving is one of the most popular holidays in the United States, and it has a long and interesting history. Most people know it as a day for eating turkey, mashed potatoes, and pie, but it started hundreds of years ago.

The very first Thanksgiving happened in 1621 when the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people came together for a three-day feast in Plymouth, Massachusetts. They celebrated the Pilgrims' first successful harvest after a hard winter that almost wiped them out.

The Wampanoag taught the Pilgrims how to grow crops like corn, beans, and squash. Without their help, the Pilgrims probably wouldn't have survived. The feast wasn't exactly like what we eat today—there were no pumpkin pies or cranberry sauce—but there were wild fowl, venison, seafood, and vegetables from the harvest. It was more of a celebration of survival and friendship than just a big meal.

Thanksgiving didn't become an official holiday right away. For over 200 years, people celebrated different versions of it on their own in different states. Then, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln made it a national holiday during the Civil War, saying it would help bring the country together. He set it on the last Thursday of November, and later, President Franklin Roosevelt changed it to the fourth Thursday so it would give people more time to shop before Christmas.

Today, Thanksgiving is a mix of tradition, family, and gratitude. Some people focus on spending time together and being thankful, while others also think about the Native Americans and how their history was affected after the Pilgrims came. It's a holiday with a lot of meaning—both happy and complicated—but it reminds us to appreciate what we have and to share with others, just like the first feast in 1621.



Spirit Week Was Awesome!!!!

Our Fabulous Writers Report on an Exciting Week

SMS Shows Its True Colors!

**By Mila Cini and Lila Brady
Tusker Tribune Staff**

During Sprit Week, Thursday's theme was Fall Color Wars – and it was one of the most colorful days of the whole week! Sixth grade had to wear yellow, 7th grade wore orange and 8th grade wore red. The staff also joined in on the fun and wore brown!

Some people got creative and dressed up with tutus, bright colored shirts, and even eye black in their assigned color. We think it was hard to find yellow and orange clothing because those colors aren't very common in most people's closets. Red was probably the easiest to find since red is our school's color and a popular clothing color in general.

If there were to be a winner of the Somers Middle School Fall color wars, we would say that 8th grade won with the color red. I think they would win because they had so much spirit. They were also the most creative.

All of the grades did a great job and were so festive, though. Yellow, red, orange and brown are all considered "fall colors" because they remind us of changing leaves on the trees when the weather starts to cool down during Autumn.

In conclusion, Fall Color Wars Day was a success! Everyone looked great and it was a lot of fun to see the school filled with bright fall colors and lots of energy! Keep the spirit up!!!

Country Vs Country Club Shows Some Style

**By Giuliana DeMartino
Tusker Tribue Staff**

Will you be wearing cowboy boots or tennis shoes? Will you be riding a horse at the rodeo or driving a golf cart at Augusta National?

Last Wednesday, October 29th was country vs country club for one of the spirit week themes. Many people in our school dress in more country than country club.

I saw many people wearing cowboy hats, but a few people were wearing a sweater around their neck, and they looked like they had a tennis match or were going to play golf and needed to get to their tee time.

As a golfer, I obviously did country club, but I loved seeing all the colorful and sparkly cowboy hats filling the hallways. Out of all the days, I think this was the best. A lot of people dressed up, and I went all out.

One of my favorite outfits was Madame Houser's. She was a tennis player and brought a tennis racket to school. Would you like to have country vs country club again as a theme or would like to try something else?

Twisted Tuesday Takes Tons of Talent

**By Kaylee Jeon
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last week was Spirit Week in SMS and included Pajama Day, Color Wars, Halloween Costume Day and other fun dress up days!

On Tuesday, the theme was Twisted Tuesday. Students and faculty were allowed to wear their clothes inside out or upside down. Students and faculty were very creative with inside out hoodies and inside out socks. Some thoughts from last week!

Mehr Sikriwal: "I loved last week, and it was very interesting wearing clothes I didn't normally wear. Some days were a bit harder. On Friday, I wore a cat in the hat costume, and it was very hot in the costume!"

Lila O'Connor "I liked Halloween Day on Friday because a lot of people dressed up and I was allowed to wear a costume!"

Shane McMaster "Spirit Week was fun, but I think some days were a bit hard to dress up for."

Nico Gardella "It was very fun!"

Charlotte Frankie "It was very funny seeing people dress up in funny costumes!"

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Costume Day Was a Great Way to End Spirit Week

By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last week was Spirit week and I'd say it was a success! While walking through the hallways, each day I saw many students and teachers dressing according to the theme.

On Friday, it was Halloween and the theme was to wear your costume to school or wear Halloween colors, (orange, purple, black). In the hallways, I saw many people dressed up in their fun Halloween costumes.

For example, there were different animals like pandas, cats, deer, cheetahs, chickens, cows, giraffes, lions, sharks, and more! I also saw many different Disney princesses like Rapunzel, Aurora, Snow White, Cinderella, Belle, Jasmin, and more.

Most 8th grade teachers were dressed up as superheroes with capes and shirts saying that the subject they teach, or something related to it, was their superpower. I thought this idea was super fun and creative, and a lot of teachers participated! Overall, I think this year's spirit week was the most exciting and had the most people participating since all of the spirit weeks in 6th, 7th and the beginning of 8th grade!

Kids Worked in a Relaxed Way with PJ Day

By Ellie Tzadok
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last week we had school spirit week!

Last Monday, our school had one of the most fun days ever—Pajama Day! Instead of getting up early to pick out regular clothes, everyone rolled out of bed and came to school in their favorite pajamas.

The classrooms were filled with soft blankets, fuzzy socks, and colorful PJs covered in everything from cartoons to cool patterns. Some students even brought their stuffed animals or wore matching sets with their friends.

The teachers joined in too, wearing cozy robes and slippers. Even though we still had our normal lessons, everything felt more relaxed and cheerful. It was funny to look around the room and see everyone so comfortable, doing our work in their sleepwear!

Pajama Day made Monday feel special and reminded us how fun school can be when we do something a little different. It was the perfect way to kick off Spirit Week with fun, and funny pajamas!

Check Out Spirit Week Photos On Next Page!



The Unfortunate Events on 33rd Street

By Meeka Johnson
Tusker Tribune Staff

There are about a billion spooky stories about 33rd Street. Most involve ghosts, magic, witches and much more. No one knows if they are true or not, but they are sure they are weird.

One time when I was walking down 33rd Street, I saw a man taking pictures of a squirrel sitting on a window. It was cute at first but then it got weird. The squirrel started to get scared like it had seen a dog or something. Then it ran.

The next day I saw the same man. He was talking to the police. I thought, *That's weird*. Then I caught a glimpse of the picture he was showing them. It was the squirrel, but something was different. There was a pale girl in the window dressed in a beautiful white dress, staring at the squirrel like she was trying to figure out what it was.

There were old photographs in the library of girls wearing white dresses, so I looked to see if I could find her in one. Sure, enough I found her in one of the pictures with the white dress on . . . What? It says she died 33 years ago!



How the Turkey Stole Christmas--Part 1

By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

Halloween is finally over, and as fun as Halloween might be, it's finally time to move on.

Now some people believe turkeys hate Thanksgiving, but not Gobble the Turkey. He is the face of Thanksgiving. He loves Thanksgiving. But when Halloween was over, everyone was focused on Christmas. I mean, it wasn't even December yet! But that was the talk of the town.

Gobble the Turkey disagreed. As most would be in this situation, he was quite angry. While talking to his friends, he realized nobody was going to do anything about this. He decided to take matters into his own hands, er, claws. One night, he made a plan to kidnap the elves. Without elves, there would be no Christmas! So, he snuck all the way down to the North Pole and even made some penguin friends while there. Most might think turkeys weren't smart, but not Gobble. His plan was genius, foolproof.

Stay tuned for part 2!



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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: TheTuskerTribune.com



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A Preview of 'Wicked: For Good'

By Evan Mallamud
Tusker Tribune Staff

Wicked: For Good is coming out soon and I know you guys are excited. We have a couple of new songs, including "Girl in the Bubble" which will be sung by Ariana Grande. There has also been speculation that Alisha Weir, who is best known as being Matilda in the movie musical Matilda, will be playing Dorothy. Sadly, this is not true. Director John M Chu said Dorothy will not be played by anyone famous. They won't even show her face. This is because The Wizard of Oz was Dorothy's story where she was the hero. This is not her story. This is Elphaba's story.

I also think that it might be because they want to stay true to the musical. To sum up what I have said, even though Dorothy has a bigger part in the movie than the musical, she will not be played by anyone famous. The principal cast stays the same.

However, one big cast announcement is that Colman Domingo will be playing the Cowardly Lion. Thanks for tuning into the first article on Broadway in Depth by Evan Mallamud.



TikTok Live Gone Wrong

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Bye mom!" Natalie says,

"Are you sure you can stay home alone?" asks Natalie's mom.

"I will be fine, I'm 15. I think I'm old enough, don't you think?" says Natalie.

"If you say so. We're going to leave now," Natalie's mom says.

"Ok, bye guys," she says and runs up to her room. "Hmm I'm going to Facetime Lyla, I'm bored," Natalie says. Natalie calls Lyla and Lyla picks up the phone.

"Hi, what's going on?" Lyla asks,

Natalie answers and says, "Nothing really. I am home alone though."

Lyla is shocked. "Wow, that's insane. My mom is insanely strict to let me stay home alone; you're in luck."

"I guess you could say that, but I'm about to go on TikTok to go live. You can watch if you want," says Natalie.

"Thanks for inviting me to watch, but I have to go out to dinner with my family, sorry," says Lyla.

"No worries, bye have fun," says Natalie, and she hangs up on Lyla. "Ok now I'm going to go live," she says while setting up her phone. A few seconds later, she presses the "Start live" button. "A lot of people are about to join since I'm an influencer," Natalie says.

After some time has passed, she sees a weird comment that says, "Look behind you." She sees it but ignores it. A few seconds pass by and she sees another comment from the same person that says, "I'm coming, look behind you." Natalie looks concerned and finally has the urge to look behind her. She didn't see anyone at first, but little did she know, there was a teenage boy spying on her the whole time. Is Natalie really that famous that there's someone spying on her? A few minutes later she hears footsteps coming upstairs, is it her parents or the stalker? Who is in her house?

