The Tusker Tribune
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134
NEWSPAPER CLUB
TUSKER TRIBUNE

A Terrific Chelsea Piers Trip

By Alden Heinkel
Photos by Michael Cross
Tusker Tribune Staff

On November 6, 2025, the sixth grade had a field trip to Chelsea Piers in Stamford, Connecticut. The bus ride was very long. Once we got there, we sat down on the second level "lunch area," when they finished giving us a briefing on what we would do.

We went to my first activity. My group was Group 3,which meant first we would go to the Ninja course/batting cages. Then we actually went to the Ninja course/batting cages where my friends and I jumped for a little bit and then went to the batting cages for the rest of the time. It was really fun!

Afterwards, we went to the basketball course/volleyball area for a little bit. In volleyball, my team won. We then went to the turf to play soccer or football. I played one soccer game and then played "World Cup", a game where everybody picks a country and then when they shoot the soccer ball, they have to yell out their country and the last one to score a goal is out. I passed the first two rounds and then sadly, the time ran out.

We then ate lunch and watched the Connecticut Junior Rangers Ice Hockey Team practice.

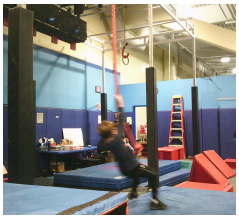
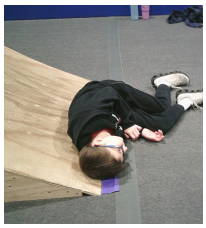
After some time, we headed to the rock wall and trampoline. I spent most of my time on the trampoline playing dodgeball, but I also went to the rock wall and climbed up.

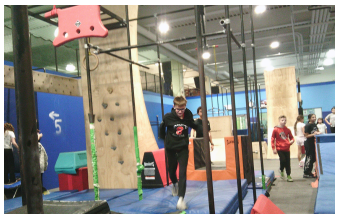
After the time was up, we went to the Gymnastics room, there were two groups. The first one was the vault, where there where two straight tracks were you ran straight into a foam pit. Sadly, we couldn't take pictures in this room.

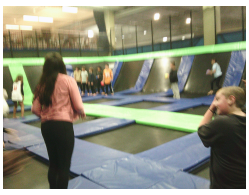
The second group was where there were two stations--a rope swing into a foam pit and there was a trampoline specially built for people to bounce super high into the foam pit (it hurt your feet a lot, but you jumped HIGH! I mean it).

Once the time ran out, we went back to the "lunch area," where everybody waited to go back to SMS. Then after a little bit, we got back on the bus and went back to SMS.

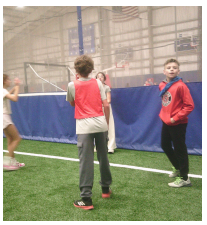


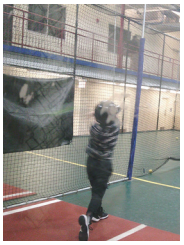







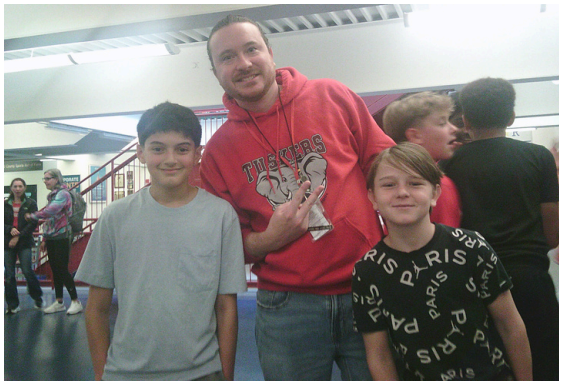





A Perfect Way to Miss an Entire School Day









By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

I loved the Chelesa Piers trip! I missed a WHOLE day at school! I mean, that just sounds like Heaven on Earth! Paradise! Well, I missed a lot of school, but it is still a whole day. (kind of).

We played soccer, we jumped on trampolines, did rock climbing, mini Ninja courses, jumping and running into a foam pit, volleyball, basketball, and a ninja course.

I remember I was running up and down the ramp in the Ninja course like Sonic the Hedgehog! And for the foam pit, I pretended I was a Tyrannosaurus in a race against a robot. I had a lot of fun.

I even remember someone from the Junior Rangers game waved to me. I also remembered there were batting cages. I didn't do it because I was a bit scared of it. But overall, it is a very fun place, and if you have another birthday, I recommend going to Chelsea Piers. Like I said, "Heaven on Earth."





More Photos on Page 3

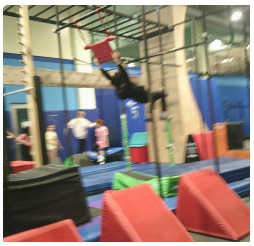
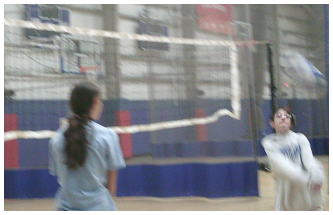
So Much To Do At Chelsea Piers











By Alex Gomez
Tusker Tribune Staff

On November 6,2025 the whole sixth grade went on a field to Chelsea Piers in Stamford, CT, which is a sports complex. The building was huge! It had so many rooms and places to go. When we arrived, they took us to an area with lots of tables. We left our stuff there. That area is where we would eat lunch.

We got split into five groups. I was in Group 3. I was with my friends Alden, Hunter, and Ben. The first activity we did there was the Ninja course that was connected to the batting cages. As soon as I heard there were batting cages, I went immediately. There were six cages there. Each one got faster. I liked the first one the most. It was not too fast but not too slow. It was incredibly fun.

The next activities we did were basketball and volleyball. At first, I played one-vs-one with Alden in basketball. After playing for a few minutes, I played volleyball with other people in my group. I scored a lot of times. I especially liked serving.

When that activity was over, right next to the courts are the soccer fields. And soccer was what we had next. First, we played a soccer match and my team won. I really liked playing soccer there. After the match, we played World Cup. It is a game that we have to score on the same goal and not be the last one to score. If you score, you are safe and play the next round. When I heard that we were leaving the soccer area I was kind of sad. But I knew there would be more fun.

We went back to the area with a lot of tables to go eat lunch. After I was done eating, I talked with my friends for a while. After our break, I was happy that we were going to the room with the rock wall and many trampolines. I mostly played in the trampoline area. There were dodge balls there, so we played dodge ball while jumping on the trampolines. We were in the trampoline area for about an hour and just had a lot of fun. And from there we went to the last activity, which was gymnastics. My group got split into even smaller groups, so we do not have to wait as much on the lines. The first activity I did was rope swing. In the rope swing area, there was a rope that we swung on into a pit of foam blocks. I felt like I was almost flying when I let go of the rope.

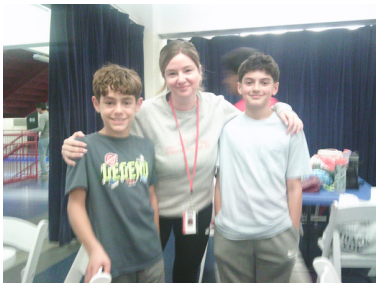
Then we moved to the second and last station in the gymnastics area. There were two paths to run into a pit full of foam blocks. I ran fast and did a bunch of flips and dives. I was having so much fun that I did not notice that it was time to go. We went back to the tables, got our items, and left on the bus we came in

This was my experience at Chelsea piers. In all, it was a great time.

More Photos on Page 4



























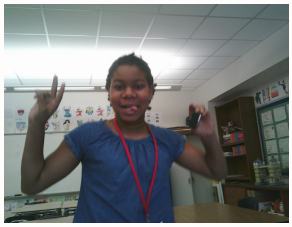








World Kindness Day Turns SMS Blue for Ms. Baldes









By Sage Schilkraut
Tusker Tribune Staff

On Thursday, November 13th, we celebrated World Kindness Day and wore blue to honor 8th grade ELA Teacher Mrs. Baldes.

Mrs. Baldes was an ELA teacher who made everybody happy every day and was very special to many of us at SMS.

To honor her, we had a table in the cafeteria with blue where many students wrote comments and thoughts about things they could do that are kind.

For example, you can give someone a compliment or help someone with homework or to study for a test.

Together, these acts of kindness helped us celebrate her legacy in a meaningful and heartfelt way.

World Kindness Day serves as a reminder that small acts of kindness can have a powerful positive impact on people and where they live. The day encourages people to perform good deeds and recognize the importance of kindness.











Sports Give a Ton of Benefits for Kids







By Aria Mancini
Tusker Tribune Staff

Why should kids do sports? Kids should do sports because they can improve their fitness, and it can give them a longer lifespan.

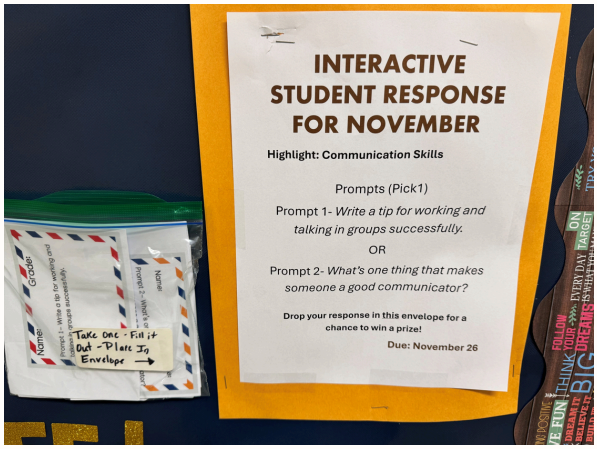
Sports also aren't just supposed to be about winning or losing points. It's more about building a healthier and happier life, Sports can also help kids build confidence and learn how to work in a team or group. You can make so many new friends from sports!

If you are a girl and interested in joining a sport, some that I would recommend are softball, flag football, dance, cheer and basketball! Those are just a few of them.

Some that I would recommend for boys are tackle football, basketball, baseball, soccer, hockey, and lacrosse and of course many more!

I started doing dance at the age of only two and a half and now I dance competitively and it is now my favorite sport, I started doing flag and basketball at 5 or 6 and I now love those sports too! I have grown so much in those sports, or some people would say "I leveled up so much."

Students Can Challenge Themselves with the MYP Interactive Response!



Congratulations to Rita Krasniqi, Lyla Gaudio, Sofia Marcallo, and Sadie Oppenheim for winning the **OCTOBER** MYP Bulletin board questions!

The **NOVEMBER** question is up and you have until November 26 to answer the question. Drop off your response in the envelope outside Suite 213 for a chance to win a prize!

The Science Behind Leaves Changing Color

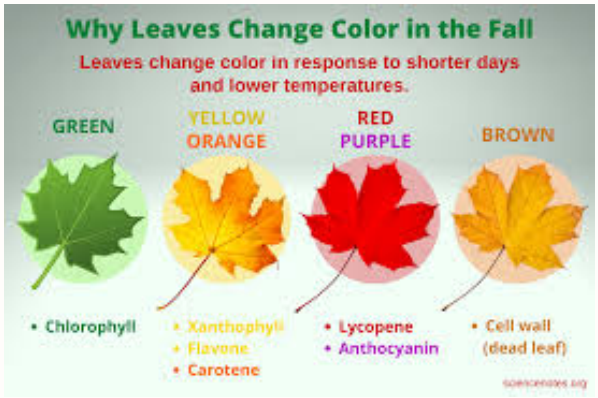
By Kaylee Jeon
Tusker Tribune Staff

Around this time, a lot of the leaves on the trees are falling. The leaves come in vibrant reds, yellows, browns, and oranges. But why do the leaves turn from green to autumn colors?

While the changing of colors is very pretty, the phenomenon is also used to keep the trees alive. There are two types of trees. Coniferous trees are trees that stay green like fir trees. Deciduous trees are trees that change colors in fall like fruit trees and birch trees.

For the larger chunk of the year, the leaves in deciduous trees remain green because they absorb energy from the sun in the process of photosynthesis to make energy using chlorophyll. When fall comes, it becomes colder and the amount of sunlight in a day reduces. This causes the chlorophyll in the leaves to break down. Because there are not a lot of chlorophylls in the leaves, you are able to see yellow, orange, red, and brown on the leaves. These colors were originally already in the leaves but were covered.

You can see this process happening outside during fall months. Next time you go outside, can you see the leaves changing color?



Source:

- Why do leaves change color in the fall? (2021, September 21). Smithsonian Institution. https://www.si.edu/stories/why-do-leaves-change-color-fall
- Petruzzello, M. (2017, October 2). Why Do Leaves Change Colors in the Fall? Encyclopedia Britannica. https://www.britannica.com/story/why-do-leaves-change-colors-in-the-fall

Little Italy Visit Was a 'Viaggio da Ricordare'

By Francesca Palumbo
Tusker Tribune Staff

The 8th grade Italian students went to Little Italy for a field trip, and I'm going to tell you all about it! I was very lucky that I got to go, and I had so much fun! First, we all loaded the buses, (the teachers picked the groups, but they were nice about it), and we drove all the way to Arther Avenue in the Bronx!

The first stop was the public library! We watched a very cool video about Little Italy and all the shops around town! Then they gave us all a poster of Michaelangelo, the artist, to take home with us, and a bag to put our stuff in! Next, all the groups split up and went to different stores.

My group went to Addeo and Sons Bakery first, and I got an AMAZING loaf of bread! When we walked in, we each got a free bread stick, and then we could purchase anything we wanted! Addeo and Sons Bakery is famous for their prosciutto bread, and house bread! They also had baguettes, which a lot of people got!

Then we went to Madonia Bakery, which is known for their delicious and fresh cannoli! So of course, I had to get a cannoli, or three! There were so many options if you wanted a cookie, but I got three cannolis to give to my friends when I got back to school (because it was their birthday)! They had normal cannolis, and big ones, which I was tempted to get!

The next stop was the Marketplace where every group meets up and we eat lunch! That place had SO MANY foods to get! Everyone must bring their lunch, so I brought an Italian sandwich! As I was wandering around the store, I saw some dried sausage, and I needed to get that! But this store had stuff from mozzarella to pickles. Yes, pickles! Almost all of my friends paid around $3 for a large pickle! I'm not a fan of pickles so I just stuck with my dried sausage! In the middle of the store, there was also a bunch of men hand making cigars, which was cool to watch!

After lunch, all the groups split up again, and everyone was full, so we went to a store with accessories (like shirts and keychains)! We went to a place called DeCicco Brother Novelties, and mostly everything was $5 off! I got a really cute pink shirt that showed a picture of Arthur Avenue and said, "The good taste of tradition". I finally have some Italian gear now!

Next, we went to Calabria Pork Store! When you walk into the store, you are overwhelmed by the amazing spell of pork! There were free samples of the pork, and the minute I tried it, I knew I wanted to get it! I got a little container of some salami, and I was SO HAPPY!

Then we went to the famous Terranova Bakery, known for its amazing bread and gnocchi! Everyone got a free slice of bread which was so soft and yummy! And then we all went to the back of the store to see the ovens and how they make the bread! Fun Fact: Terranova is the last place in the Bronx that still has a brick oven! The worker showed us how she puts the coal in the oven and heats it up. Another Fun Fact: Each oven cooks about 300 loaves of bread at a time! That's crazy! The oven was so cool to look up closely!

Finally, the last place we went to was Artuso's Pastry Shop, where I got a chocolate mousse! There were so many options for what to get, but I think I made the right choice! I had it on the bus ride back, and it made the time fly be!

I had so much fun in Little Italy exploring all the shops and trying all the food! I definitely think you should go with your family, or if you are in Italian, you should look forward to going next year! When I got home, my mom made pasta for dinner, and we cut up the bread and sausage that I got to go on top! It was SO good!!!











Commentary on Phantom of the Opera

By Evan Mallamud
Tusker Tribune Staff





Welcome back to another episode of Broadway in Depth. Today we are talking about a ghost that reigned over Broadway for 35 years. Of course we are talking about The Phantom of the Opera. Now I know you're probably like, "what's to say about this show that hasn't already been said?"

When I saw this show, I saw a couple of problems and today, I will share them with you. The first one is why do Christine and Raol not wear masks during Masquerade? I get that we want to see the protagonists during this scene, so we know who they are. I also think you could have just like masks that cover their eyes. I think this could have made this scene so much better.

The next thing that is also connected to Masquerade is why does the Phantom's music box play "Masquerade"? Unless it is a popular song in this world and they're not singing in their head.

Thanks for reading another article of Broadway in Depth.

Thanksgiving is All About Family Traditions

By Gianna Mancini
Tusker Tribune Staff



Many people have different traditions for Thanksgiving. One of the main things people do on Thanksgiving is to make lots of food and desserts for family and friends.

Food is a big thing about Thanksgiving because it's when relatives come together to have food. The most common foods on Thanksgiving are turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sweet potato pie, and lastly pumpkin pie. Going along with dinner, many people like to give thanks for what they are thankful for and what they have.

Next, other things people do on Thanksgiving are watching the Macy's Day Parade either live or on TV. This can be fun and exciting because of the different varieties of floats that people make and have a parade for. Then, many kids and adults do fun activities. Some people like to draw and paint different Thanksgiving items like turkeys, pumpkins, or thankful trees.

Lastly, many citizens like to run the Turkey Trot. This can be amusing because it can be a good work out or, you can do it with friends or family. What are your family traditions?

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Gianna Mancini
Evan Mallamud
Lucas Mejia
William Mifsud
Eli Mundis
The Great Outdoors Man
Francesca Palumbo
Sage Schildkraut

Thanksgiving More Than a Day Off Between Halloween and Christmas



By Eli Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff

Thanksgiving, the middle holiday between Christmas and Halloween, is a very special and popular time of the year. Cozy fires, delicious food, and time spent with family and friends isn't to be slept on, so how can we understand the history of one of the best holidays?

First, we must go back to the year 1620, when Pilgrims from Europe came to Plymouth to settle in North America. Low on supplies, they arrived at Plymouth to meet the Wampanoag tribe, which were the inhabitants of the area. With promises of protection from others and peace, they won over the Wampanoag tribe.

To celebrate the new arrivals and also the harvest, they had a three-day feast consisting of waterfowl such as ducks or geese, but also seafood such as lobster, clams, bass, and other fish. For vegetables, they enjoyed corn, beans, squash, and pumpkins. Although available, they didn't serve turkey as a main dish.

Although the leader of the Wampanoag tribe, Massasoit, was allied with the Pilgrims, tensions rose, risking a battle, which would be catastrophic for the natives there. Soon after, Massasoit died due to unknown reasons and passed on leadership to his son, who continued the peace treaty until the Pilgrims left the area in search of other settlements.

Some people think that the real origins of Thanksgiving came from when the Spanish stumbled upon the Timucuan tribe, who also had a surplus of food. Thanks for reading and I will see you next time!

Owala or Stanley? It's the Battle of the Bottles!

By Evelyn Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

Many people have this debate: which water bottle is better, Stanley Cups or Owalas?

People argue that Stanleys are better because they have many different colors or designs or keychains and accessories. Here are some examples: keychains, little bags to put on your Stanley and more to put on it to make the water bottle look cute and unique with your style.

On the other hand, Owalas are leakproof. They have many different colors that make them look like good color combinations. These water bottles are also used for sports a lot because they are cute and trendy. A lot of people like them for the many different color combos that can match your personality, which makes them perfect for wherever you go .

In conclusion both these water bottles are really popular and have many different reasons why people love them





The Unsettling Notes

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

The first note showed up on a Tuesday. It was folded into a perfect square and tucked into the crack of my locker door. “Don’t take the back stairway.”

I laughed when I read it. The only weird thing about the back stairs was that they always smelled like old pizza. But later that day, a kid slipped there and broke his ankle.

By Wednesday, I wasn’t laughing anymore. Another note appeared. “Don’t sit in the third row.”

That morning in history, the ceiling vent above the third row broke loose and fell straight onto someone’s desk. Nobody was hurt, but the room went silent for a full minute.

Soon, everyone was talking about the notes. They were showing up in lockers all over school—short, sharp messages like “Bring a jacket,” “Stay out of the gym,” and “Don’t believe him.” Every single one came true.



Teachers said it was a prank, maybe some drama club stunt. The principal warned us to ignore them. But people couldn’t. Each note felt personal, like whoever wrote it knew what you were doing before you did.

On Friday morning, I found another one—this time slipped inside my binder.

“Go to the art room after school. Alone.” I told myself I wouldn’t go. But after last period, my curiosity was louder than my fear. The hallways were empty. Every sound echoed. The art room door was cracked open, lights off. I pushed it slowly. Inside, rows of clay figures stared from the shelves, shadows stretching across their faces. There was a paper on the front table. My name was written at the top in perfect handwriting. “Turn around.”



My heart dropped. I spun around fast, but no one was there. Just a breeze, cold and sharp, that shouldn’t have been inside.

Then, the classroom computer flickered on by itself. The printer started whirring. One sheet slid out, still warm. It said: “You shouldn’t have read the notes.” The lights flickered twice and went black. I ran out of the room as fast as I could.

The next morning, every locker in the hallway was clean—no notes anywhere. Even the one I’d kept in my pocket was gone.

Nobody talks about them anymore. But sometimes, when I walk past the art room, I hear the printer start up on its own. And once, I swear I saw a folded piece of paper slide out. Just waiting for someone new to find it.

A Card to a Veteran Can Go a Long Way



By Evelyn Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever made a Veterans Day card? Have you ever thought about why we make Veterans Day Cards and why does everyone say they are so important?

Here are some reasons why we make the Veterans Day cards and why they are so special to the veterans. A lot of people make Veterans Day cards for veterans because we are honoring the veterans who fought in wars to protect our country and give us freedom in America.

The veterans who have fought for our country love to get Veterans' Day cards because it warms their hearts that we care about them, and we honor what they have done for us. Many Girl Scout and Boy Scouts deliver cookies or cards for the veterans. Around here, many veterans live in Heritage Hills so if you're looking forward to giving veterans cards, that's where you can give some to them

The Married Couples on Dancing With the Stars



By Lila Brady
Tusker Tribune Staff

Everyone knows about Dancing With the Stars couples, but do you know who is actually married behind the scenes? Dancing With The Stars pros always get assigned to dance with a celebrity. These are the people who are married, starting off with Emma Slater. She was in a previous relationship with another pro, Sasha Farber. They couldn't decide when to have kids and Emma didn't want to hold him back from fatherhood, so they had a mutual divorce. Three years later Emma is in a relationship with another fellow pro, Alan Bersten.

Next up are Maks Chmerkovskiy and Peta Murgatroyd. You might recognize Maks' last name from his brother, Val Chmerkovskiy, who I will talk about later. They are happily married with three children all under the age of 8. Both Maks and Peta are done being pros on Dancing With The Stars and will likely never dance on the show again.

Now I am going to talk about the most iconic couple, Jenna Johnson and Val Chmerkovskiy. Jenna and Val got married on April 13, 2019, and are still together to this day. They also have a son whose name is Rome Valentin Chmerkovskiy. He was born on January 10, 2023. If you were to watch the Disney night intro on Season 32, in the beginning and in the middle of it, you would see them and their son. Personally, I think he is cute. Now they are a happy family.

Last are my personal favorites, Daniella Karagach and Pasha Pashkov. They are still pros on the show to this day. Daniella and Pasha got married before Dancing With The Stars in 2014. Although they got married in 2014, they met in 2009 because of their coaches. This past July, Daniella and Pasha renewed their vows. They had a precious baby named Nikita Sofia Pashkova on May 30, 2023. The family is so cute together.

I hope you learned lots about Dancing With The Stars pro couples. You can catch them on ABC Live on Tuesdays.



A BLuegrass Concert at Lake Purdys

By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff



Hello and welcome back to the Daily Life of a 6th Grade Musician, where we are here to report on the concert of Bluegrass music that happened on Sunday.

The concert place was at Lake Purdy's Bluegrass Club. Unfortunately, only Rock and I were able to come to it, along with Mr. Gilbert. However, Mr. Gilber tcouldn't bring his bass because it had a broken string.

Mike Burns came first and we practiced without a music sheet. It was hard at first but fun to play by memory. After about an hour of playing ,Austin arrived. It turns out he teaches some musicians, who also played with us. I was very surprised by how fast they played.

Then Austin and his band played the concert. they performed the songs "Gospel Plow" and "Better Days". If you want to listen to some of their music, the band's name is 'On the Trail'.

My favorite song is "Better Days". I have it on repeat.

Finally, today is Fiddle Friday and some visitors have arrived to check out our music program. Mr Gilbert has given us an app to make our own music. It is called Noteflight and it is totally legal for any Somers student. If you use it on your school computer, you won't get suspended or detention. But you will have to use the free version. You will receive an e-mail, go down to the window at the bottom of the screen, then go to Outlook. I think you can take it from there. If you have any questions talk to Mr. Gilbert.

Chelsea Piers is the Perfect Place to let off Excess Energy

By The Great Outdoors Man
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome to The Great Outdoors Man. Today, we will be talking about the 6th grade recent field trip to Chelsea Piers. I was in group 1, so everything you will read is from that perspective.

We went by bus, singing "100 Bottles of Milk on the Wall! It was loud!

After receiving instructions, we played some dodge ball for our first activity. No one won, it was chaos. After that, we went into the ball pit and did some Ninja Parkour. If anyone is interested in Parkour, I recommend Roam Athletics in Mount Kisco. They have a good program for days school is out, but parents are working.

There were baseball cages to use at Chelsea Piers as well. Then we had lunch. Some people wanted to start a "67" yelling spree, but unfortunately, it didn't pick up. I want to clarify, it wasn't me.

After that we played some basketball, pickleball and volleyball. That's a lot of ball. Then came the very intense game of soccer. My team won 4-0. Then we went back on the buses and school. We went back to school and unfortunately, made it to the last period.

What's 'Snow' Special About Early Snow? Lots!

By Evelyn Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

Everyone's wondering if snow will come early this year and how many fun snow days will we have?

On November 11, 2025, on Tuesday in Somers, there were little flakes of snow falling from the sky and in that moment when I saw the snow falling, I predicted that the snow will come early this year.

Although the weather for November already has been getting a little off to a rough start, I still think there will be more snow coming this late fall. We all know that it must be under 32 degrees for it to snow and as we see the weather ahead of us for November, it is really getting our hopes up for snow. Even though the temperatures will be cold, all we can hope for is a snow day.

In conclusion, the weather is changing. It is almost time to bring our winter coats out and by that I mean the weather is getting very cold so all we will be wanting this winter is snow.

The Tusker Tribune
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER







A Tribute to Thanksgiving

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribne Staff

Hi! Since Thanksgiving Day is coming up here is a Thanksgiving Day poem, I hope you enjoy it!

Thanksgiving Day,
Pumpkin pie in the oven,
And maybe apple pie,
Thankfulness being spread out,
And also, gratitude,

Thanksgiving Day,
When I am counting my blessings,
I must make them count,
This isn't just a holiday,
It's a day full of blessings,
Gratitude,
And thankfulness,

Thanksgiving Day,
As we share love to each other,
And give thanks,
For each new morning,
With its light,
Getting together with a smile,
And rejoicing,
Won't last forever,
So, enjoy every moment,

Thanksgiving Day,
As years pass,
We are saying thank you faster and faster,
All the satisfaction that comes in our minds,
With incense sweet our thanks take off,
Let us be thankful,
Thankful for the prayers,

Thanksgiving Day,
Getting together,
With family,
And friends,
Is what you should be thankful for,
This Thanksgiving Day,
Make sure to enjoy your last moments,
Every day.
I hope you enjoyed this poem!
Stay tuned for more poems!