



Ms. Baldes' Legacy Honored During SMS World Kindness Day

By Bethany Buckle
Tusker Tribune Staff

World Kindness Day is celebrated annually on November 13. It asks people to be kind to one another. It shows love and compassion for others.

World Kindness Day was started by the World Kindness Movement, and it caught the eye of many people around the world. You can see kindness examples in the photos that are featured on this page. These acts reflect the generosity of SMS 8th Grade ELA Teacher Trish Baldes, who passed away last year. and who really showed the meaning of World Kindness Day

One example of kindness is a picture of Charlotte helping Tyla with her social studies work. This is a splendid example of what World Kindness Day means.

Facts:

- World kindness Day became an idea in 1997 during a conference in Tokyo, Japan.
- Places like Canada, Australia, Nigeria and Singapore celebrate World Kindness Day.
- Over 28 nations come together, and they share the same ideas and values.
- The way that you can spread kindness is by being involved in community and cultural events by:
- Take part in cleanups, parades, etc.
- When you help the community, you will be recognized and respected by everyone.
- When Singapore is celebrating in 2009, they put out 45,000 yellow flowers! Wow! That is a lot of flowers.
- Another way that you can spread Kindness is by distributing cards to recognized and to motivated acts of love and kindness
- Two ways that you can be a worldwide participator are by volunteering to make a noticeably enormous difference in a person's life and sharing stories and words can really make someone's day.

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."- Mark Twain.

Thank you for reading about World Kindness Day!



Celebrating Gratitude Around the World- Part 2!



By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you read my last article about different celebrations sharing similar traditions to Thanksgiving around the world, and wanted more, here are some more countries that have celebrations, festivals and more that share similar traditions to Thanksgiving!

In South India, people celebrate Pongal to give thanks for the gods' blessings in their lives. Pongal is a festival celebrated over the span of four days, typically taking place from January 14th to the 17th, depending on the year. Each day has its own significance and a distinct celebration.

The first day of Pongal is Bhogi Pongal, which means Day of Renewal. People discard old items like mats, clothes, and furniture in a bonfire. Houses are then thoroughly cleaned and decorated to welcome the new year. Families also prepare traditional foods like puran poli, mixed vegetable curry, vada, and many other traditional dishes.

The second day of Pongal is Surya Pongal which means Day of the Sun. This day is dedicated to the Sun God. On this day, people boil milk and rice until it overflows. When it does, people shout out "Pongalo Pongal!"

The third day of Pongal is Maatu Pongal meaning Day of the Cattle. During this day people honor cattle and their help in providing a good harvest. Cattle are given a ceremonial bath, decorated with garlands, bells, and paint, and are offered special types of foods.

The fourth day of Pongal is Kaanum Pongal, the Day of Enjoyment. During this day, people relax, spend time with friends and family, exchange gifts, and share a feast of festive meals.

In the Netherlands, people celebrate Dankdag. Dankdag is celebrated in the town of Leiden, located between Rotterdam and Amsterdam on the first Wednesday of November. It is a day to give thanks to the successful fall harvest. Citizens celebrate this day by enjoying an American style Thanksgiving meal for dinner, after church service at Pieterskerk.

Many countries have fun filled festivals, celebrations, and holidays that get you looking forward to the upcoming holiday season.

Source:

- <https://blog.rosettastone.com/this-is-how-thanksgiving-is-celebrated-around-the-world/>



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What Is Meant by 'Stunt Casting'?

By Evan Mallamud
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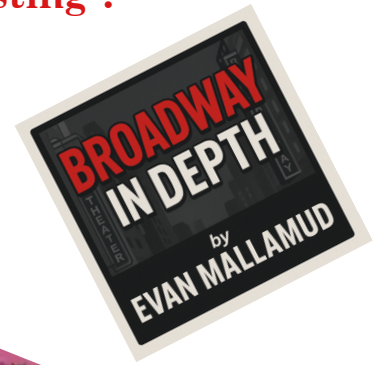
Hi! Welcome to another article of Broadway in Depth. Today we are focusing on stunt casting.

Stunt casting is when a show brings in a celebrity. This usually is when a show is not doing well and needs more money. Stunt casting can either work in a show's favor or not. Emphasis on the not. I thought I would share this with you before getting into the story.

In 2020, two months before Broadway shut down for the COVID pandemic, Cameron Dallas was cast as Aaron in Mean Girls. If you don't know him, he is apparently an influencer. This was a terrible form of stunt casting. Cameron was seen looking disengaged in some scenes. This is not fair to the audience or the people who deserve to be in this show.

This brings up another problem with stunt casting. Normally, stunt casting is not good because of how hard actors train and take time to audition just for a celebrity who is not good at acting whatsoever to get the role. Can you imagine if Tom Holland was in the NFL? That is kind of like what the situation was with Cameron Dallas being on Broadway is like.

Thanks for tuning in to another article of Broadway in Depth.



If You Celebrate Christmas, It's OK to Start Getting Ready for It

By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

Halloween is officially over, so it's time to ditch the pumpkins and grab the wrapping paper!

Though we still have Thanksgiving, a time to appreciate all the wonders we have in the world, that doesn't mean you can't get into the Christmas season! Everybody probably knows that Christmas is celebrated on December 25th, but did you know Christmas was once illegal? I'm glad it isn't anymore, considering it is in my opinion the best holiday. I mean, what other holiday is celebrating two days (besides, of course, Hanukkah, which I might make an article on after).

Not only do you get tons of presents, but you also get to give presents, which some might argue is even more important and fulfilling. I mean, it's a time of family, presents, and gift giving. What could be better than that? Santa Claus is 1750 years old and isn't planning on passing away anytime soon, so make sure on December 24th and 25th you're celebrating with Christmas spirit!



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Chelsea Piers Pros and Cons Debate

By Mila Cini and Coraline O'Brien
Tusker Tribune Staff

The sixth graders went on a trip on November 6th to Chelsea Piers. Now, the question is... Did the sixth graders like the trip? Let's state the pros and cons.

Pros:

The fun activities, like the trampolines, rock climbing, and the ninja course, were great. Another pro is seeing the CT JR Rangers hockey team practice. Also, it was nice to choose some people to be in a group with. It was cool that the teachers participated a little. Lunch time was fun because you got to hang out with the friends who weren't in your group.

Cons:

Although the fun bus rides were silly and cheerful, they could be overwhelming or annoying if you want to relax for a quiet, peaceful bus ride. And maybe some people feel overwhelmed about the crowds and some people could not like activities like rock climbing or swinging from a rope and jumping into the foam squares.

From the pros and cons: we debate . . . did you like the Chelsea Piers trip?



Some Interesting Revelations About Thanksgiving

By Jasline Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

Thanksgiving is giving thanks to the things that you have in your life. For example, I am thankful for living for another year of my life.

Anyone can be thankful for many different things in their life. On Thanksgiving, every family celebrates in different ways. The first Thanksgiving was the three day Harvest Feast in 1621 celebrated by the Pilgrims. In 1863, President Abraam Lincoln announced that it would be a national holiday.

Jingle Bells was a Thanksgiving song. At first it was titled "One Horse Open Sleigh" and written in 1857 for Boston Sunday School, but then it became a Christmas song.

Thanksgiving wasn't peaceful for the Native Americans. It was a National Day of Mourning, and it meant conflict, land loss, and violence between them and European settlers. Also, turkey was not served at the first Thanksgiving. Instead, it was seafood.

Since 1941, Americans have celebrated Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November, which is Thursday November 27.

The turkeys that were pardoned by presidential order in 2024 were named Peach and Blossom. President Joe Biden named them that way because it was his last Thanksgiving ceremony as president.

The first Thanksgiving did not happen in November; it happened in September. All these people celebrate different traditions, and they are still happy when their family is around them. Spending time with your family is the most important thing about our life and one thing I would say on thanksgiving is, "I am thankful for my family that is always with me." What are you Thankful for? Well, anyway, Happy Thanksgiving!



Little Pet Shop Part 1

By Aliana Suflita
Tusker Tribune Staff

One day I'm on a walk, feeling peaceful, not a care in the world, But that's not going to last for more than a minute with Target and Tristan following me.

"Can you leave?" I say in a way that left them thinking about if they should turn around and go back to school.

But within seconds, Tristan answers, "Can you lose your attitude?"

I snap back facing them.

Target looks at me, then his friend, and said, "Bro let's go. I'm cold anyways."

Tristan looks at him with this look that said, *if you try walking away I will punch you.*

"Nah, man, you can go back. I'm staying with this brat, right Sapphire?"

I blink and turn my head. "Uh, no. . . you can leave, thanks."

He was surprised that I spoke up. "What the hell did you say to me?" He turned so quickly I heard his neck crack.

"I said you can leave. Bye!" And I started walking.

"Fine. I don't care. Let's go, Target. See you at school."



'Check' Out What Makes the Czech Republic So Attractive



By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

The holiday season is coming up, which means a long 16 days of relaxation and excitement coming. This year we have 16 days off from school (including weekends) starting from December 20th to January 4th.

As well as having a holiday break, there is a week off in February, spring break, and of course, summer break. As someone who has been to over ten countries, I love trying new food, exploring new places, and experiencing different cultures. Here are five fun facts about Czech Republic which is an amazing destination to visit outside the country that may influence you to visit!

Czech Republic is home to over 2,000 castles and chateaus, making it the country in Europe with the most castles. As well as the country having the most castles, Czech Republic is home to the largest ancient castle in the world, The Prague Castle, which is 570 meters long and 128 meters wide.

The Czech Republic is ranked the seventh safest country to live in or visit in the world. The most popular sport is hockey. Many Czech hockey players have become successful in the NHL. In addition, Prague (the capital) is home to the third oldest astronomical clock in the world, which puts on a show every hour from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

I hope that after reading my article you may consider visiting Czech Republic!

Source:

- <https://www.czechuniversities.com/article/20-interesting-facts-about-the-czech-republic>

When is 'Too Early' for Holiday Decorating?

By Coraline O'Brien
Tusker Tribune Staff

Do you think it is Christmas and the holiday season yet? That's the question...

Some people think that now that Mariah Carey defrosted, and that the Starbucks menu and red cups are out that it is Christmas and other holidays, but some people wait to put up their tree until Thanksgiving is over.

Personally, I think it's Christmas time, but my parents make us wait till after all the stuffing and turkey is over before we can decorate for the holidays. That's like a lot of other people who like to wait until Thanksgiving is over before they get on their holiday spirit. They personally think that Thanksgiving comes first, which it does, but many people think Thanksgiving doesn't matter much and they should start putting on their ugly sweaters.

Now the question awaits . . . are you team Thanksgiving or Christmas and the holiday season?



Museum of Natural History is a 'Must' When You're In New York City

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

You should visit the Museum of Natural History! Want to know why? If so, this will tell you. There is a section all about bugs, and it has a game where you are a bee in a beehive! There is also a pretty section full of gems and minerals. It has quartz, gold, amethyst, jade, and much, much more! There was even a tank full of quartzes! (Which I already explained, but it had just quartz).

I liked the "Gems and Minerals" section because when I do, I get Sonic CD Quartz Quadrant Good Future vibes. I also liked it because it was very pretty, especially with all the sparkling gems. If people could, I'd want to live in a cave full of amethyst, quartz, diamond, and jade! I felt sad when I left. After all, it was no surprise, but I was only sad because it was pretty.

I also saw cuneiform (Shoutout to Mr. Graham and Mr. Smith for getting me into cuneiform) at the museum. I was really interested in it. I also saw meteor pieces, and even a meteor's insides! I mean, it's cool that they dissected a meteor. I also saw dinosaur fossils! I even saw the dinosaur fossil that played 'fetch' in the movie, Night at the Museum! So, in a quick conclusion, the museum is very cool, and it is my recommendation. Don't forget to stop by and visit the Gems and Minerals! Once you see the quartz in the tank and the other stuff in the room that holds the real deal, you won't want to leave!



Useful Tips for Winter Fishing

**By The Great Outdoorsman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hello and welcome back to The Great Outdoorsman. Today we will have finally seen some snow, just a little but some! And in the following weeks we will start transitioning into skiing and other winter activities.

There is little data about anglers (that is people who fish) also doing ski. I know, I checked ChatGPT. For those in the know, winter can be a great time to fish especially in the South. But since we live in the north, we are in the middle. Ice can form but it's not thick enough to do ice fishing, just not yet! This time of year, you want to mainly use live minnows or dead minnows and crankbaits or some other minnow imitation. This time of year, there is a decrease in vegetation, which allows crankbait to be used more widely. Crankbait is a lure that moves through the water and waddle or juggle to make noise.

On the topic of winter, I will be writing more about skiing. But if you are still interested in fishing while we talk about skiing, I recommend the YouTube channel [Tyler Reels Fishing](#). The channel is sponsored by the fishing brand Strike King, and I highly recommend it. That's all we have for today, so I'll see you next time.



Mozart and a Look Toward Upcoming SMS Concerts



**By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hello and welcome back to the daily life of 6th grade musician. Today is a Fiddle Friday, and if you're in the club for Chamber Orchestra, the concert is coming up. The concert will be in Harvest Moon. They have a Holiday light show. All SMS Orchestra players have tickets for the light show!

Now moving on to music history, I will start with Mozart. Wolfgang Mozart was born in Salzburg (which today would be Austria) on 27th of January, 1756. He showed musical potential immediately. At five years old, he already played the keyboard and violin. Do not mistake it for the piano! He had begun to compose also by five years old and perform before European royalty by age six!

Moving on, the winter concerts are coming up so make sure to practice, and if you love orchestra so much, I recommend asking Mr. Gilbert what class he has during lunch. Depending on the class, you might be able to play with them. And it's not too late to join a club! Talk to Mr. Gilbert for more information. And if you can't come in the morning for extra practice. You can also schedule an extra afternoon practice.

Can't come to any of these but still want more practice? Go to Putnam Music Center for extra lesson and help and tell them Lucas Mejia (me-he-a) sent you! That's all we have for today. See you next time!



The Age Old Pancake Versus Waffle Debate Rears Its Head Again!

By Juliet Gjini
Tusker Tribune Staff

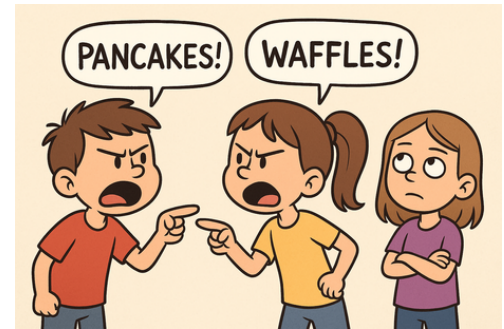
Breakfast at my house feels like a competitive sport, especially when someone brings up pancakes versus waffles.

It all started one Saturday morning when my sister marched into the kitchen yelling, "WAFFLES FOREVER!" My brother immediately yelled, "PANCAKES RULE!" like they were superheroes about to battle. I just wanted food, not a whole breakfast war, but nobody ever listens to the reasonable middle child.

My sister argued that waffles are better because they have syrup "pockets," which she said like she invented them. She went on and on about how syrup gets trapped in the tiny squares and makes every bite perfect. My brother said pancakes win because they're fluffy, soft, and don't need weird grid patterns. Honestly, pancakes do feel like edible pillows, but I didn't say anything because I didn't want to take sides.

The argument got so loud that Mom stomped in wearing her angry face. She didn't pick a side either. Instead, she rolled her eyes and made both. When we finally sat down, something surprising happened: everyone ate everything. My sister covered her waffle in mountains of whipped cream and syrup, like she was decorating a dessert volcano. My brother stacked pancakes into a leaning tower and drowned them in syrup until the plate looked like a sugary swimming pool. I took one of each because I'm normal.

After eating, we all agreed that pancakes and waffles are both amazing when you put enough toppings on them. It's basically impossible to choose a winner. They're like different types of delicious breakfast cousins. So if anyone asks me which one is better, I'll just say the truth: "Whichever one ends up on my plate first."



Attention to all 8th grade students who are interested in trying out for JV/Varsity Softball this upcoming spring. There will be an interest meeting held in room 232 afterschool 3:15-3:45pm on Wednesday, December 3rd.

Any questions please contact Coach Kim:
kastrologo@somersschools.org