



## Kids' Attention Turns to Snow

By Eli Mundis  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Snow, the cold substance that is coming this winter is great for many things, such as making snowmen, snowballs, snow angels, sledding, skiing, and ice skating, but what really is snow?

When the temperature drops below freezing (32 degrees Fahrenheit or 0 degrees Celsius), and clouds form, dust and dirt stick to water droplets that form inside the cloud, which eventually freeze and turn into snowflakes, that then fall down to Earth.

One thing that can be interesting is the geometry, or shape, of snowflakes. A snowflake appears as six or twelve branch looking stems, all form in a hexagonal pattern. This is because a hexagon has a lot of structural integrity, which is basically a structure's ability to withstand and uphold forces greater than the weight of the object. Hexagons have structural integrity because the angles form in a way that intersects at 120 degrees, which is a very strong intersection.

All in all, snow can be very interesting and fun at the same time!

## Chess Club Making Its Move At SMS

By William Mifsud  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wanted to play chess while at school and not get into trouble? Then, the chess club is for you! The club starts Dec. 10th, and apparently, we don't know what room it's in yet, but I assure you that when it gets closer, they will probably tell us where the club is.

If you want to join, ask your parents if you're interested! The club meets every Wednesday, unless there is something, like a half day or if they cancel all the clubs. I guess that could happen, but I want to tell you more.

If I were to make a guess, it would be on the 2nd floor. But that's just my guess. Anyway, the club is very fun if you are a chess player and/or fan.

And there is also a poll on Schoology to see if you could come to the first meeting or at a future meeting. The choice is yours. All yours.

## SMS STAR Awards for November 2025



### Grade 6:

Bria Reynolds  
Ellie Tzadok  
Mila Cini

### Grade 7:

Kyli Daniels

### Grade 8:

Avianna Botticelli  
Ciara Gilbert  
Lyla Gaudio  
Alex Zywochenko  
Jacob DiPasquale  
Jonathan Holub  
Christopher 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!



## **Leslie Odom, Jr. Returns to the Cast of Hamilton**

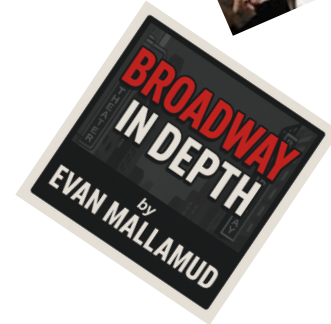
**By Evan Mallamud  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hello! Welcome to the fourth article of Broadway in Depth. Today we are talking about Hamilton. We are talking about Leslie Odom Jr. because he recently returned to Hamilton. He plays Aaron Burr.

He originated the role in 2015 and came back a whole decade later. Even though he had not played the role in ten years, tickets were over \$2000.00, and that wasn't even one on the reselling sites.

People have shown a giant appreciation for this actor. They are selling out and people are spending the price of about 10-20 Broadway tickets. That's Insane. Now I'm not shaming anyone. If I could convince my parents to get tickets I would.

There is another way though. If you join the Hamilton lottery and win, you can get tickets for Hamilton for between \$20-\$50. They still had this lottery during Leslie Odom Jr.'s limited run. And sadly, I didn't get tickets, or else this would have been a review of the show. Thanks for tuning in to Broadway in depth.



## **There's a lot More to France Than the Eiffel Tower and Cheese . . .**



**By Isabella Nevsky  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

France is an amazing location in Europe to visit. France is one of the most popular destinations to visit with over 90 million people visiting each year and with many popular sites to explore, like the Eiffel Tower, Arc De Triomphe, the Louvre Museum, Palace of Versailles, Notre Dame Cathedral, Musée D'Orsay, Disneyland Paris, and many other historical and fun monuments and sites.

Here are some fun facts about France and its history! France is known as "l'hexagone" due to the shape of France being six-sided. The Louvre Museum, located in Paris, is the most visited museum in the world and the largest art museum in the world. The main exhibition area is 782,910 square feet, meaning it is impossible to see every artwork in one visit.

Did you know the French invented the hot air balloon in June of 1783? France also produces over 1600 different types of cheeses consisting of brie, camembert, muenster, roquefort, mimolette, cantal, and many other varieties of cheese.

In France it is illegal to throw away unsold food. Instead, you have to donate it. France is an amazing country to visit, and I highly suggest going there!

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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](mailto:DPappas@somersschools.org). For more information, click on this link: [Tusker Tribune School Newspaper](#)

## A Decent Day Starts With a Good Morning Routine

By Juliet Gjini  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Most mornings, I wake up feeling like someone replaced my brain with mashed potatoes. My alarm goes off, and I just lie there questioning my entire life. But over time, I've learned a few ways to start my morning without feeling completely destroyed. None of them are magical or anything, but they help me not turn into a zombie before first period.

First, I have to force myself out of bed. This is honestly the hardest part because my bed feels like a warm cloud trying to trap me forever. After I finally escape, I go brush my teeth and splash cold water on my face. It's shocking and horrible, but it wakes me up faster than coffee ever could.

Next is breakfast. If I don't eat something, I will be cranky and useless. I usually go for cereal, but sometimes I grab toast or a banana if I'm running late, which is most of the time. Food is basically the fuel that stops me from falling asleep on my desk.

After that, I make sure my backpack is actually packed. I've had too many mornings where I forgot my homework or Chromebook and had to panic-run back home. I also like listening to music while getting ready because it boosts my mood and makes the morning feel less dreadful.

To me, the best way to start the morning is to do small things that make you feel awake and prepared. You don't need to drink weird green smoothies or meditate like adults in commercials. You just need breakfast, a clean face, your stuff ready, and maybe a good song.

So, a good morning basically means not rushing, eating something, and trying not to freak out before school even starts.



## The Sweet Science of Making Chocolate

By Juliet Gjini  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Chocolate is so good that sometimes I forget it actually comes from something that looks nothing like candy. Before I learned how chocolate is made, I honestly thought it just magically appeared in stores like some kind of delicious miracle. But the real process is way longer, messier, and honestly kind of surprising.

Chocolate starts with cocoa trees, which grow in warm places near the equator. On these trees are cocoa pods that look like colorful footballs. Inside each pod are cocoa beans, which are the real MVPs. Farmers open the pods, scoop out the beans, and let them sit and ferment. "Ferment" basically means the beans get sticky and stinky while turning into something that will eventually taste good. It's weird, but it works.

After fermenting, the beans dry in the sun for several days. Then the dried beans get shipped to factories, where the fun stuff happens. First, the beans get roasted, and this is when they finally start smelling like chocolate. Then they're cracked open, and the insides, called cocoa nibs, are ground into a thick paste called chocolate liquor. It's not actual liquor, though, so nobody freak out.

Next, the chocolate liquor gets mixed with sugar, cocoa butter, and sometimes milk, depending on what type of chocolate they're making. That mixture gets blended for hours until it becomes smooth and creamy, because nobody wants grainy chocolate.

Finally, the warm chocolate gets poured into molds—like bars, chips, or cute shapes—and cooled until solid. Then it's wrapped and delivered to stores, where people like me inhale it in approximately two seconds.

So chocolate goes from a funky bean inside a weird pod all the way to the best treat ever. It's kind of amazing how something ugly becomes something delicious.



## Could 'Animal Crossing' Make it on Your Christmas List?



By Nicole Marinho  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wanted to try a new video game? Well, if you have a Nintendo and like to create your own happy place, then you might want to give Animal Crossing New Horizons a try!

Animal Crossing is a video game that's a great blend of relaxation and fun! In the game, you start on a deserted island with tents for you and your islanders. Everyone's islanders will be different but if you don't like them, you can make them move out and let others move in.

Bells are the currency and as you collect bells you can upgrade your house or purchase decorations for your island. Once you develop your island enough, you can make a shop, purchase tools and furniture, and a museum to donate fossils, paintings, and bugs. You can also make a tailor's shop to buy clothes to dress and customize your character. Animal Crossing is fun for the whole family!

## One Things About Airheads--They're Not a 'Natural' Food

By Eli Mundis  
Tusker Tribune Staff

In our latest meeting, one of my peers challenged me to find the most artificial food color in airheads candy, which is a popular chewing candy that is delicious.

The simple answer is cherry, because of the red 40, blue 1, yellow 5, and yellow 6. When red 40 is banned, this could change, but for now, the flavor with the most food dyes go to cherry.

Other than cherry, there are lots of dyes in flavors such as blue raspberry and grape, also with red 40, but also blue 2 and 5.

The least colored flavor is the mystery, with no major food dye. It also provides the most fun eating experience.

Although there are flavors with almost no food dyes, there isn't a flavor with no food dye. Sad to say, but all flavors must come at a cost, that being the unhealthy food dyes.

Thanks for reading, and I will see you next time!



### Reporters and Contributors

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## Is Water 'Wet'?

**By Eli Mundis**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

It's a strange question, based on multiple different perspectives. But what is the answer to the question?

Many believe water to be wet, as it is hard to understand how something that makes other things "wet" is "wet", but that isn't actually the case here.

Scientifically, water is not wet, as the definition of "wet" is a liquid binding to a solid using adhesion, which is the stickiness between two molecules, and cohesion, which is the stickiness between one molecule. Since water can bind itself over a solid object, it is safe to say that water makes things wet, but what about itself?

Although bonded over itself in its liquid form, it is not solid, so confusingly, water is dry.

So, to summarize this scientific but confusing article, water is not wet, due to adhesion and cohesion causing it to not stick to liquid.

Thank you for reading and I will see you next time!



## It's Time to Hit the Ski Slopes!!!!

**By The Great Outdoorsman**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hello and welcome to the Great Outdoorsman. We are here to talk about skiing today! Many ski mountains have just opened, even though only a few trails are open due to the fact that is beginning of the season. So, check the temperature and buy a ski pass.

If you really like skiing, like me, I recommend buying the season pass, for your favorite mountain. They are expensive but worth it! Day passes also work if you know you will not go very often. I understand most of you go to our local ski mountain, Thunder Ridge. But don't forget to go to other ski mountains. Each mountain is a different opportunity. Make sure to join the Ski and Snowboarding Club with Mr. Sav. They offer passes to select New England ski resorts. This season, we're going to Mohawk Mountain. The pass is USD \$50 and not on a school day. See Mr. sav for more details.

Right now neither Mohawk nor Thunder Ridge are open for ski. They generally open mid-December.

Note: I will not talk about snowboarding at all in the newspaper, I don't do snowboarding... maybe some day!

Thank you and see you next time on The Great Outdoorsman.



## Mozart Goes on Tour, and SMS Gears Up for Concerts



By Lucas Mejia  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome to The Daily Life of 6th Grade Musician. Unfortunately, today is not a Fiddle Friday and even if it were, we would not have that many festivities, due to the focus on the concert.

Now on to music history. We were talking about Mozart before the Thanksgiving break, so let us continue. Mozart impressed the local royalty with his talents in music and was taken by his father on a tour through Europe from 1763-1766. Mozart was seven when the tour started. Along the way Mozart wrote music. If he was happy, he would write a fast tune. If he was sad, he would write a slow tune. During the tour, Mozart often got sick, with typhoid fever, the flu and throat infections. One city was close to the next one, never stopping.

In London Mozart met one of Bach's sons. After he returned to Vienna, he got smallpox!

That is all we have for music history!

Next up is that Mr Gilbert has made it mandatory, to go to orchestra or any related clubs due to the upcoming concerts.

That is all we have for today and make sure to practice. (I would also like to note that Putnam Music Center does not offer cello lessons).

See you next time on The Daily Life of a 6th Grade Musician.



## For Many, Greece is the Ideal Vacation Destination

By Isabella Nevsky  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Greece is an amazing and historic location in Europe. Greece is located in southeastern Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula bordering Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Greece has many popular and thousands of islands like Santorini, Mykonos, Crete, Corfu, Rhodes, Paros, Milos, Syros, and many other islands.

The capital of Greece is Athens which holds many historical sites that hold history from the Neolithic Period through the Classical, Roman, Byzantine, and other modern eras. Many popular landmarks include the Acropolis, as well as the Acropolis Museum, the Parthenon, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Ancient Agora of Athens, Panathenaic Stadium, Odeon of Herodes Atticus, Temple of Hephaestus, and Syntagma Square.

Here are five fun facts about Greece! 1. 80% of Greece is made up of mountains. 2. More tourists visit Greece every year than the entire Greek population making it one of the most popular places to visit. The capitol of Greece is named after the Greek goddess Athena of wisdom and warfare. 3. Greece has over 120 million olive trees and produces 1.2 million metric tons of olive oil each year making it the top largest producer of olives in the world. 4. Greece is one of the sunniest places in the world having more than 250 sunny days. 5. Greece's tallest mountain is Mount Olympus reaching 9,572.60 feet. Greece is a very beautiful and fascinating country!

