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NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE



The Story Behind Hanukkah

By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hanukkah this year is from sundown December 14 to sundown December 22.

Do you know what Hanukkah really is? There were people called the Maccabees who fought for their religious freedom, and they wanted to reclaim the second temple in Jerusalem. They fought to free Jerusalem from the Seleucid Greeks, who destroyed their holy temple.

The Maccabees won this fight. They found a small jar of pure olive oil in the temple, which was only enough to last one day, but it miraculously burned for eight days.

Traditions now are Menorah lighting, where you light the Menorah, and you add a candle each night. You also eat fried foods like latkes, which are delicious potato pancakes that are fried in oil, honoring the miracle of the oil burning for eight days. You also eat jelly donuts.

You get to play a game of Dreidel, which is a four-sided spinning top and it has Hebrew letters on each side. You spin it and whatever Jewish letter it lands on is what you do for that round. There are chocolate coins while playing, called gelt. You also get one gift a night for Hanukkah.



It's Easy to Find Christmas Spirit

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

Christmas. It's a wonderful holiday between getting presents, staying home from school, and best of all, being with your family. If you haven't yet, set up your Christmas tree, hang up your ornaments, and like the song says, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

Christmas is a holiday that seems fun, but it all began with Saint Nick being Santa because he thinks everyone should share. And in my opinion, he's right! After all, sharing can help you make new friends or even bond with family members! Oh, I also forgot to mention, write your Christmas lists and be good!

If you think Christmas is awesome, I agree! (only because I get to be with my family) Also, if you really want 2 weeks of no school, hang in there a bit longer, because it'll be coming soon! Also, in my opinion, when you set out cookies and milk and your pets are in someone's bedroom, away from the food, to me, it feels like someone came and ate the cookies and drank the milk. I obviously think it is Santa. And since this is the last Tusker Tribune for a few weeks, let me say, "Merry Christmas!"



No Place for Hate Club's Message Never Goes Out of Style

By Eli Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff

A couple weeks ago, a stand was set up to ask a couple questions during the 6th grade lunch period. Some of these questions were "What makes you feel like you are included in SMS?" and "What makes you feel like you are valued at SMS?"

These questions were thought of by a club called the No Place for Hate Club here in SMS, being part of a larger organization and run by Mrs. Kurchack and Dr. Morrison. The club is focused on promoting respect, understanding the differences between others, and helping make this school a better place.

This club is important because it helps the school, district, and world become a safer place for everyone. Respecting others is an extremely important trait that you can have and one that a lot of people sadly do not have. That is why, with your help, we can build a stronger, safer, and more respectful world.

I highly encourage you to join the No Place For Hate club, and I will see you next time!



Italy Should Be On Your Bucket List



By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

Italy is a fascinating country with many historic landmarks. Having a population of almost 60 million people, Italy is the 4th most visited country in the world behind the United States, Spain, and France.

Italy is located in Southern Europe and has land bordering France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia. Italy is home to many popular ancient sites including the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, Duomo di Milano, Leaning Tower of Pisa, and Saint Peter's Basilica.

The Colosseum, located in Rome, is the largest amphitheater in the world. Cities in Italy include Rome, Milan, Florence, Naples, Bologna, Venice, Pisa, Parma, Turin, and many more.

Venice is a city built on water and is slowly sinking due to the rising sea levels and soil erosion. People take a ride on gondolas through the canals to look at the amazing views.

Italy is well known for the delicious pizza. Italian Pizza has been made since the 1800s and was first made in Naples. I hope that after reading my article you realize what a terrific and beautiful country Italy is.



Some Suggestions for Winter Break Vacations

By Evie Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

As usual many people are going away for winter break and there are many places to go. Here are some popular and fun places to go over the long winter break.

First were going to start off with the warm and sunny locations because, as we all know, more people go to the Caribbean or hotter places because of the cold here in New York.

Here's the first pick: Orlando ,Florida, which also has Disney World there, so you can see why it's very popular.

Another popular warm tropical location is Los Angeles. It's known for its beaches, cities and warm weather.

Here are some famous festive cities for the holidays: New York City. New York is known for the many holiday shows and fun ways to celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah. For example, there is the famous Rockettes Christmas Show at Radio City Music hall, and the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree.

Las Vegas is another popular festive place to go for the holidays. It's mostly known for the lights and fun holiday celebrations.

If you're a person who prefers skiing or snowboarding in the snow, then these are the places for you. One very popular place to ski is Vermont . There is a bunch of snow in Vermont which makes it so much more fun. Another very popular place to ski is out in the west (Utah/Montana). These places are especially known for their huge mountains and their outback skiing.

If you're a person who loves to go on vacations during winter breaks, then give these a chance.

Christmas is a Symbolic Time of Joy

By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff

We know that Christmas is a very joyful time of year, but do you actually know its origin?

Christmas is celebrated December 25, when Jesus was born. It is a holiday celebrated worldwide. The first Christmas was celebrated in 1843 in the UK, and is now a federal holiday in the US since 1870.

Santa Claus is widely known across the world. Christmas trees also became a part of the tradition, becoming popular in the 16th century from Germany and putting them in houses and decorating them.

The name "Christmas "comes from an old English phrase, "Cristes maesse" which means Christ's mass. Many of the celebrations in the UK today came in the Victorian Era, like Christmas cards, gift giving, and crackers, and foods like mince pies and roast turkey. Candy canes are also a huge part in Christmas tradition. They originated in Germany, and the red and white stripes on hem represent Jesus's sacrifice. Wreaths are also a symbol of Jesus's crown of thorns.



Easy to Keep Busy Over Winter Break



By Lauren Rosenblum and Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Since winter break is coming up, today Lauren Rosenblum and I are going to write so fun activities to do during the break!

Outdoor winter break activities:

1. You can go sledding with friends and family. Sledding is a fun thing to do during the winter and it's a really fun tradition.
2. Skiing and snowboarding: Skiing and snowboarding are really fun traditions to do with friends and family, but learning how to ski and snowboard is a challenge.
3. Ice skating: ice skating is also a really hard thing to learn but once you learn it, it is really fun, in our opinion. I really recommend ice skating in New York City, but sometimes it could be really crowded.
4. Last but not least, have a snowball fight! Having a snowball fight is really fun especially when you're doing it with friends and family. It's also so fun to compete with your friends, and, I guess, hit them with snowballs.

Here is a joke from Allison and Lauren: Why did the snowman call his dog Frost? Because he bites!

Indoor activities:

Here are some indoor activities you can do.

1. You can watch movies and have a movie marathon! You can get hot cocoa or a nice winter treat. You can binge watch your favorite movie or TV series while sitting on the couch or in your bed.
2. You can bake a delicious snack during a snow day! You could make cookies, muffins, cake, brownies, and more delicious treats. You could also make hot cocoa to warm up to
3. Another thing you could do is read a book! You could cuddle up on the couch with a cozy blanket and hot chocolate and a nice treat while reading. You could be on your bed, the couch, or near the fireplace to warm up.

Will We be Getting More Snow?

By Evie Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here is a question that many people ask when we will be expecting more snow, and how much snow?

Well, most people think that we will be not getting any more snow based on how the winter season is starting. Even though we did get a good snowfall last Sunday.

We may not be sure how much more snow we'll get. We had some days where we are supposed to get snow but instead we get rained out.

What will the rest of the winter season be like? That's what we are all wondering about.

Last year, we got enough snow for a couple of snow days, and we are really getting our hopes up this year. As the weather keeps on getting colder and colder, it's a better chance of snow. All we need is precipitation like ice and very cold rain. In conclusion, it never hurts to get our hopes up for snow over winter break and the rest of the season.



Are Social Media and Technology Bad for All Ages?



By Aria Mancini
Tusker Tribune Staff

Let's be honest, most of us spend more time on social media and technology than we should, but is it bad for kids? The answer is Yes, it is but it is not bad for just kids. It is also bad for all ages.

I love staying in touch with my friends and going on social media but sometimes it gets overwhelming and I think that everyone could relate to that. Did you know that excessive use of social media/technology, especially at night, can interfere with your sleeping patterns? And the more technology you use or look at, the more feeling of anxiety you can have?

Younger children are extremely sensitive to screens, and social media can be exposed because their brains are still developing. Early use can lead to sleep disturbance, delayed language development, and more. The reason for the delayed language is because they're learning words that middle schoolers and high schoolers say, like "six seven", "Netflix" and "chill", "rizz", "bussin", "cap", "sigma", etc. This is why younger kids should not use technology.

Here is what a lot of parents will say to you if you don't already "doomscroll". "Wait! Stop scrolling! How long have you been on that screen today?"

Is social media rotting your brain out? One way to take out the noise might be to ask what they mean by "screen time". Watching TV, scrolling through social media on your phone, playing video games and usually people roll their eyes and just continue doing it, but serious problems can happen from it.

What are some things to do instead of going on social media and technology you ask? Some things that you can do are, when you and your friend are hanging out, don't be on your phones the whole time. You should actually hang out because that's the whole reason of being with them, so you can catch up and talk.

Another thing you can do instead of going onto social media is engage in productive and fulfilling activities like baking or reading a book that you want to read.

Lots of Options for Skiers This Winter!

By The Great Outdoors Man
Tusker Tribune Staff

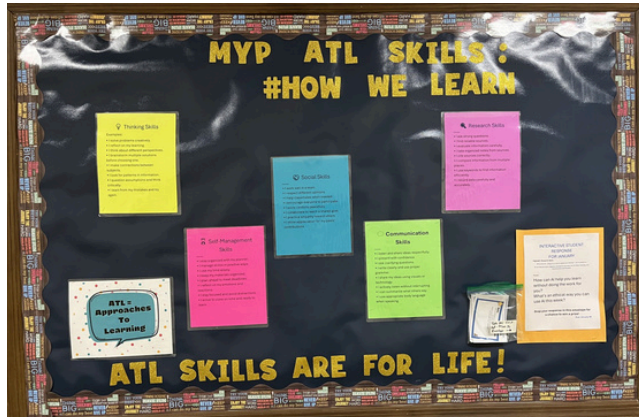
Hello and welcome back to the Great Outdoors Man. New trimester and this one is ski again. Don't forget to sign up for Mr. Sav's ski trip!

This year, we've had a surprisingly nice start. There's been a lot of snow I honestly didn't expect it to start snowing this early but I'm not complaining. But it all depends on where you ski. Unfortunately, a lot of the good ski locations are more up north, but we still have our local mountain--Thunder Ridge. I also recommend Mohawk Mountain and Jiminy Peak. We are personally going to Mohawk Mountain for Mr. Sav's ski club.

Personally, I believe the ski mountains north are better. That's because there's a lot of people who like to ski in New York City, so places like Thunder Ridge often get overcrowded. I'm not saying that the other ski mountains aren't overcrowded, but I personally believe they are less crowded. But each mountain offers its own opportunity and if you like a mountain a lot, I recommend joining their ski club. And again, thank you for listening and this is the Great Outdoors Man.



December's MYP Interactive Response Winners



Congratulations to **Gianna Villareale**, **Megan O'Reilly**, **Tessa Sullivan** and **Jake DiPasquale** for winning the November MYP Bulletin Board raffle.

The new prompt is up and you have until January 30th to respond and win. The ATL Skill Cluster is Research Skills and the prompts are all about ethical and appropriate use of AI. Pick up a slip, respond and drop in the envelope for your chance to win!

Looking for Something New in the New Year? Try Music!

By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome back to the Weekly Life of a 6th Grade Musician. I know most of you are probably very excited about the winter break, and this week was sort of a winter break in itself. We had a relaxing time and didn't really play much, but it is still a sad story that today is not a Fiddle Friday.

But with the winter break coming, it is a fresh start. After the break is a great time to start playing in any club involving orchestra or music overall. The benefits of joining Chamber Orchestra, Rockestra or even Jazz Band are many. You get extra practice, try new genres of music and challenge yourself. If you join Chamber or Rockestra, you'll view music a whole different way by the end.

Make new friends, and performances, such as the one at Harvest Moon earlier this year, can count to your National Junior Honor Society service hours, if any of you are interested. So, join the club and I'll see you there.

That's all we have for today. See you next time on the Weekly Life of a 6th Grade Musician. *(Note: I will not talk about the other concert that Chamber orchestra has, honestly, I think the other clubs should get some but I'm not complaining.)*



The Tusker Tribune is the Online School Newspaper of Somers Middle School. It is published weekly (except for school holidays) and contains articles written entirely by the students of Somers Middle School 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. **To visit the Tusker Tribune Website, click here: [Tusker Tribune School Newspaper](#)**

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December STAR Students!

Grade 6:

Angely Gomez Munoz
Ralph Riley
Eli Mundis
Juliette DiLeonardo

Grade 8:

Luca Ciavardini
Nicholas Sullivan
Emma Quinones
Aleah Gosselin

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!

'Stranger Things' About to Leave Netflix

By Eliana Monteagudo
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Stranger Things" is coming to an end. "Stranger Things" is a Netflix show that came out in 2016. "Stranger Things" is about a group of kids and teens in the 1980 in Hawkins, Indiana. They discover a secret government that runs experiments on kids.

These kids have powers and use their powers to fight off the creatures from the "upside down". The upside down is parallel to the town of Hawkins, Indiana, but with monsters, vines, and demons. The main character in "Stranger Things" is a girl named Eleven. She had escaped from the lab and is living in the town of Hawkins, but later moved to California. She is helping her friends, Will, Dustin, Mike, Lucas, Max, Nancy, Steve, and others fight the monster's and defeat the Russians.

With five very successful seasons, Netflix has decided that it should come to an end. The final show will be released on New Years Eve, December 31, 2025. Fans will have the option to watch it at home or in theaters. How do **you** think "Stranger Things" will end?

