



Inspired by Mr. Dell's Science Class



An Easter Egg Mystery

**By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On Easter morning, Lillyanna woke up very excited. She was only three years old, so what kind of three-year-old is not excited to search for eggs around the house?

She ran down the hallway, and around the whole entire house. Lillyanna's heart thumped fast with excitement. Lots of colorful eggs were hidden all around the house, and even in the backyard. But when she counted all the eggs in her tiny hands, something did not feel right to her. Lillyanna could have sworn that she saw one more egg earlier. She described it as a shiny pink one.

Lillyanna looked back at the spot where she sworn she saw it, which was towards the staircase. For just a second, she saw something. It turns out it was the pink shiny egg she was talking about that rolled.

Lillyanna stepped closer.

The house has started to feel slightly quieter now.

Maybe it's a bit too quiet.

And when she turned around--the egg was gone.

**By Weston Volpe
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Who and what were "Spirit" and "Opportunity"? They were Mars Rovers, about the size of a golf cart, with six wheels. The top speed was 0.11 MPH. The casing that protected the cables were made of metal that was part of the fallen Twin Towers. They were sent to Mars by NASA.

Spirit was sent to space on June 10, 2003, and the other practically identical rover named Opportunity was sent to space on July 7, 2003. Both rovers were expected to last 90 sols. A sol is 24 hours and 40 minutes, which is one full day on Mars. It took hundreds of scientists and engineers three years and two months to design the twins! Once they were ready, they launched Spirit and 3 weeks later they launched Opportunity. They launched Opportunity later because the rover could explore a different part of Mars.

It took the rovers seven months to get to Mars from Earth. Every morning when the rover started up, the NASA staff played a "wake up song". The first song they played was "Good Morning, Good Morning" by the Beatles. You can listen to the all the songs with the MIT link from sources below.

Once at 90 sols, NASA thought that the solar panels were going to get covered in dust and they would not be able to get charged, but the dust devils blew all the dust off the solar panels so it could charge by the sun. Since they could now charge, Spirit lasted 2,208 sols which is 2268 Earth days. Eventually it stopped responding because it ran out of charge since it got stuck in soft sand in the winter while facing the wrong direction so it couldn't get sunlight to keep the battery or computers warm.

Opportunity lasted 5,111 sols which is 5252 Earth days, and it stopped responding because there was a big dust storm that covered the solar panels which didn't let it keep charge to keep the computers and battery warm. Opportunity's last words were, "My battery is low and it's getting dark". Other than everything that happened with the rovers, they still found that there were lakes and rivers on Mars.

Sources

Thanks to Mr. Dell because we started watching the movie Good Night Oppy and I finished it at home which made me want to write this article.

- SpacePlace.NASA GoodNightOppy-Documentary NASA.gov-Opportunity MIT.EDUWakeUpSongs

In April Thoughts Turn to . . . End of Year Countdown

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

We only have 3 more months left of school! Many people are excited, and many people will be sad to leave 6th grade.

But a few reasons that people are so excited to leave 6th grade is because of summer! Many kids are so excited for summer break because of vacations or trips. Vacations and trips are fun because you can either go to a place you've been to before or visit a new place. Many places people like to visit are beaches like Aruba, Turks and Caicos, The Bahamas, and many more.

Another thing many kids do over the summer is attend summer camp. Many kids like going to summer camp because you can hang out with your friends, swim in the pool, and have fun. People also like to go to fun places such as a football game, a trampoline park, or a water park for the day in the summer. These make good and fun trips for over the summer.

In conclusion, many students are very excited for summer break to come for many reasons.



Why Does Everybody Like Squishies So Much?



By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered why people have been very obsessed with squishies lately? Well, it's actually kind of easy to understand.

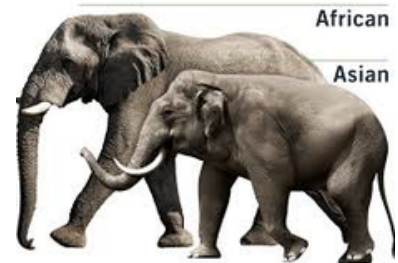
Squishies include butter, carrot, cheese, strawberry, banana, and dumpling squishies and like Nee Dohas, are so fun to play with. When you squeeze them, they slowly bounce back, and it's super satisfying. You are more relaxed by just squishing a strawberry.

Some people even collect them like toys. The shapes are really cute, and the colors are bright, so it makes you happy just looking at them. Plus they're soft and squishy, which is perfect for when you're bored or nervous. I think that's why even kids and adults can't stop buying them.

Also, trading squishies with friends is kind of like trading cards. You can show off your butter squishy or a dumpling squishy, and your friends will ask to feel it at school. My opinion is that these squishies look really cute, feel satisfying, and look really cool.



Our Mascot is a Fascinating Beast



By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Elephants are very interesting animals. They are the biggest land animals on Earth. There are two main types of elephants: African elephants and Asian elephants.

African elephants are bigger and have bigger ears, and Asian elephants are smaller and have smaller ears. Elephants have long trunks that they use to drink water, grab food, and even greet other elephants. Their trunks are super strong but also very sensitive.

Elephants live in families called herds, and they are very social animals. They take care of each other and even mourn when a member of the herd dies. Elephants eat a lot of plants, like grass, leaves, and fruits, because they are herbivores. They can live up to 60 or 70 years in the wild.

Unfortunately, elephants are in danger because people hunt them for their tusks and destroy their homes. We should protect elephants so they can live safely and happily for many more years.

Marine Pollution is NOT Just an Ocean Problem

By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

For my ELA Campaign Project, my group is focusing on marine pollution and the effects it has on the ocean. Marine pollution is the combination of debris, plastics, and waste that is washed and blown into the ocean. It affects the ecosystem, economy, climate, and health of all organisms. It is also a threat to ocean life, community health concerns, and the environment.

Marine pollution violates many human rights including the right to adequate living conditions and the right to work. People working in ocean-based industries like tourism and fisheries are not able to fully work due to plastics and waste in the ocean. This leads many people to lose their jobs and are not able to support their families.

Due to marine pollution, it makes sea food unsafe for people who rely on it. Marine pollution also is a major threat to marine animals. Animals like fish and turtle mistake plastic for food and end up consuming them. This creates a blockage in their stomach and results in starvation. Many marine animals also get caught in plastic, which results in suffocation.

There are many different organizations that are working towards a decrease in plastic production and a decrease in marine pollution. Some things you can do in your everyday life that are simple and help the ocean are to reduce your plastic use and to properly recycle.



China's Entire History Appears at One HUGE Location

By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

The National Museum of China is one of the largest museums in the world and the largest in China. It is located on the east side of Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

After a massive renovation that was started in March 2007, the museum reopened to the public in March 2011. The new renovation added updated displays and a transformation to the interior of the museum. They also added 28 new exhibition halls and tripled the size of the facility. The museum is free to visit and holds over 5,000 years of Chinese history and art.

The most popular exhibition in the museum is the "Ancient China" which is located on the basement level. It holds the most popular exhibits, including the Houmuwu Ding (heaviest ancient bronzeware), the Four-Sheep Head Square Zun, and the Phoenix Crown of Empress Xiaoduan. Overall, the National Museum of China is a must-see museum when visiting Beijing and has a lot to offer.

Source:

- https://travel.usnews.com/Beijing_China/Things_To_Do/National_Museum_of_China_62450/



Nothing Casual About This Text Stream

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff
This story is fictional.

PART 1

My phone buzzed at exactly 11:59 p.m. I tried to ignore it, but the message caught my attention, and just an FYI, this message made my heart race so much. The message I saw stated: "DONT GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW!"

The strangest part of this message was not the warning. But it was the sender who sent that to me. And if you're wondering who sent it to me, it was . . . me.

Same name.

Same profile picture.

The same phone number.

And I checked about five times. I was hoping I was hallucinating, but nope, I really was not.

Soon another text popped up. The text stated: "AVOID THE SCIENCE HALLWAY AT 10:25, SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN."

When I looked at my phone, my hands felt shaky at this moment. I stared at the screen, and I thought maybe it could be a glitch, maybe something worse. But soon as I stared at my screen one last time. I saw the typing bubble pop up again. This time the message stated: "I don't have much time to explain. Now trust me."

PART 2

I stared at my phone again. I'm hoping for another message, but instead I just tried to fall asleep. Every time I closed my eyes, the things that were going around my head, all I saw was the little texting bubble, that kept on traumatizing and taunting me.

It was 10:20 a.m. I was at school, I was seconds away from the science hallway. I had no choice, but it's not like I was going to listen to some random message. I walked to my locker, typed my code, and grabbed all my science books.

I reached the science hallway, and nothing happened. My heart was hammering, I was scared, I did not know what to do, but again, I have science class. I can't skip science; I would get in so much trouble. *But I guess I can try to skip Science class. We're not even doing anything that important,* I said in my head.

I headed over to the girls' bathroom. I hid in one of the stalls, I kept looking at my phone for messages, maybe something new popped up.

But no,

No new messages.

Nothing.

Only five minutes has passed since the first bell ring, and soon, they called my name from the loud speaker: "Molly C please go to room 101"

Until I heard some weird noises, I had no other choice but to run down the science hallway and get to class. *How did they know I was skipping class?*

PART 3

I ran down the science hallway; I was holding my phone shaking in my hand. Soon another text popped up: "HURRY"! SHE NEEDS YOU NOW!"

My stomach hurts at this point. "Why would Julianna need me?"

The hallway all of a sudden felt too quiet. Even the slamming of lockers was gone. I looked down at my phone again, hoping for another message to help me understand what's going on. My footsteps echoed louder each second. Each step made my stomach hurt even more.

When I finally reached my locker, there was a sticky note that was taped on my locker; it was right in the center. It had my name on it with neat handwriting. Maybe it's a bit too neat.

My hands started to shake as I slowly entered my locker code. As my locker opened, the sticky note slipped off and fell to the ground. I picked it up carefully, almost afraid of what would happen, and what it would say in the back of the sticky note. I picked it up and the sticky note stated: "Go to classroom 101"

The hallways were silent. My steps echoed as I tried to approach the classroom. Soon after, I opened the classroom door. A shiny glow caught my eye. Turns out the glowing came out of a small box on the teacher's desk. My heart raced. Julianna appeared behind the teacher's desk. The box made a sound; it got louder and louder each step I took. But when I walked closer to it, I saw a sticky note with only three words--and those three words were: "Find the truth"

I reached for the sticky note, but as my fingers touched the sticky note, the glow coming out from the box flickered, and the classroom went dark. My heart was pounding, and soon a whisper slipped into my ear "You shouldn't be here."

"AHHH WHAT?"

Big Stuff Up High--Flight of Artemis 2



Teal Symbolizes Summer

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Teal is a whisper of the ocean's waves,
A soft splash of blue and green.
Splashing waves that jump and play.
Teal is the feathers of a tiny bird gliding in the sky.

Teal is a bubble floating in the air,
Or a bright ribbon in a ponytail,
Teal is the shiny shell along the shore,
Or a door that can hide a room of secrets

Teal fish swim in the sea,
And teal shells sparkle and shine for you and me,
Some teal kites up and there, soaring though the
air,
Teal clouds float in the sky

Teal is the color of fun and cheer,
Its also magic we can see, hear, and listen,
Teal is happy, bright, and true,
Its also a friendly color for me and you.
Before we end I have to say,
Teal is a color that makes people smile,
Dream,
And feel happy every day!

By Ian Dempsey
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you heard about Artemis 2? Probably. Did you know that astronauts have recently started their journey around the moon? NASA's most recent mission, Artemis 2, launched April 1, 2026 (This isn't an April fool's joke though!) Four astronauts boarded Artemis 2 with their mission being to reach the moon! While they won't be landing on the moon, they will be doing a loop around the moon before returning home.

This is crazy because this is the first time we're sending people to the moon since the Apollo missions of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Speaking of Apollo, did you know the ship was named after the Greek god of the sun? Likewise, Artemis is the Greek goddess of the hunt!

The first time humans went on the moon was July 20th 1969. The difference between this and Artemis is that on the Apollo mission they actually sent humans to walk on the moon. The Artemis mission is just a flyby. This doesn't make it any less awesome, though!

Do you know the crew, though? The commander of this spaceship is Reid Wiseman. Our pilot is Victor Glover, our mission specialist is Christina Hammock Koch. And no space mission would be complete without a Canadian, which is why we have Jeremy Hanson as another mission specialist.

Currently the crew is on their way home but let's see what they said when they were looking at the moon, up close for the first time in centuries!

"Canada, I am thinking of you, and I am hoping that all of you see your greatness reflected in this journey around the moon. I am just so proud of all of you."— Jeremy Hansen

"Elmo heard that @NASA's Artemis II crew is going to space! Tell Mr. Moon that Elmo says hi!"— Elmo

"Nothing but gratitude for the men and women of this great nation. It is time to fly." — Astronaut and Artemis II Commander Reid Wiseman

Ok, that's it, bye!

(Sources:

- Quick quotes: The world watches NASA's Artemis II moon launch. (2026, April 2).
- Wings Magazine.
<https://www.wingsmagazine.com/quick-quotes-the-world-watches-nasas-artemis-ii-moon-launch/>)

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Get to Know the Cryolophosaurus

By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff

There are dinosaurs from everywhere around the world and while some are well known, others are not despite their cool attributes.

A lesser known, yet cool dinosaur is the Cryolophosaurus. The Cryolophosaurus was found in Antarctica by a paleontologist named William R. Hammer and a geologist named David Elliot. This dinosaur was part of the early Jurassic period and was the first carnivorous dinosaur found in Antarctica.

The Cryolophosaurus is a Theropod part of the *Cryolophosaurus Elliotti* family. Dinosaurs from the *Cryolophosaurus Elliotti* family had lizard-like attributes. The name Cryolophosaurus means “cold crested lizard”. This dinosaur is one of the largest early Jurassic Theropod dinosaurs found with a length of around 23 feet and weight. These dinosaurs are usually identified by small crests on their heads.

The Cryolophosaurus was often called the Elvisaurus because of the crest. It reminded people of the famous singer Elvis Presley’s well-known hairstyle. By now you’ve seen many reasons why cool dinosaurs aren’t always popular ones. Researching other types of dinosaurs may be a new hobby you can enjoy and can share with other people.



Spy X Family Series is a Great Introduction to Manga and Anime

By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff



For my birthday, I got a gift from the first book of Spy X Family. I then read it and came to love the story. I do not have all the Mangas in the series. Mangas are like graphic novels but from Japan. These types of books usually have an Anime that is created after the books are written. They are also read backward from a graphic novel. This means you start reading in the top right corner all the way down and turn the pages opposite a book here in the US.

Spy X Family was the first Manga series and now has an Anime adaptation as well. It revolves around three main characters named Loid, Yor, and Anya. Loid is a spy who goes by the name of Agent Twilight and oversees a big mission to get close to a man named Donovan Desmond, the leader of the National Unity Party, and stop him from being a threat to the truce between the War of the East and West.

To do this, he must marry and have a child so then the child can become friends with Donovan's son, Damian. That way a series of hangouts can occur, and Agent Twilight and Donovan can become closer. Agent Twilight takes on the name of Loid Forger and adopts a telepath named Anya. Yor is an assassin who has a job in City Hall. She marries Loid to keep her job as an assassin. The three go on many adventures and even get a dog named Bond. Anya gets into the most prestigious school and makes many friends. She and Damian are not on good terms for most of the book, but Anya keeps trying to be friends with him so then Loids’ mission won’t fail.

I enjoyed reading this series and am excited to watch the anime. I recommend it to all who like family love with some humor.

How Life Led to Loss Part 1

By Natalie Chery
Tusker Tribune Staff

I thought I was ready for a depression. I thought I was ready for anything. I saved up money, I took no part in stocks, and my family was fine, but the one thing I didn't expect was a failure, a bank failure.

I remember when I first found out, all the money I had refused to spend had been flushed down the toilet of debt. I cried for two days straight, I couldn't even show my face to my wife and daughter, but I wish I did.

When I went back home, they were gone. In fact, everything was gone, my everything was gone. They got evicted before I could break the news. I couldn't take life anymore, any of it, so I planned to take a walk to the nearest bridge, until I found a family. They were in the same position, but they were together. I was so envious of them, but I'm glad they let me in.

They taught me everything I had to know. With the help of the family, I was able to collect enough timber, tin, and cardboard to make myself a small shanty. I make sure to wear my pockets inside out after seeing other Hooverville civilians do the same, which has given me food like apples and meal scraps.

I also use glass bottles that I find on the street to collect water from the nearby river. Of course, the water is dirty, but if drinking contaminated water is what keeps me alive, then I'll do it as long as it means finding my family.

Every day, I'm scared of getting robbed, dying from intense weather, or getting sick from the mold in my shanty, causing it to smell like mildew. Living in Hooverville feels embarrassing and annoying, not to mention I have the worst shanty around Hooverville.

If I had to describe it, I would say it looks like a pile of leaves, but make the leaves cardboard, metal, and a bunch of other stuff. Hooverville is not what I want to call home, but it's all I've got after losing them.



Reporters and Contributors

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Paris Without the Eiffel Tower is NYC Without the Statue of Liberty

By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Eiffel Tower is one of the most well-known and visited monuments in the world. Over seven million people visit the Eiffel Tower annually, and it is also known as the "La dame de fer" or the "Iron Lady".

It is a 330-meter wrought-iron lattice tower built by Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 World's Fair, which was the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. There are three different levels, and you can go to the top of the tower by purchasing a ticket for the summit.

The top level has breath taking views of Paris and a look inside Gustave Eiffel's office. The tower was designed by Marice Koechlin and Emile Nouguier, who were engineers in Gustave Eiffel's company. The tower can grow up to seven inches in the summer due to thermal expansion and is painted with 60 tons of paint every seven years to prevent rust.

Every hour from dusk until 1 a.m. the Eiffel Tower is lit up with over 20,000 light bulbs that create a shimmer of light in the sky.

Source:

- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/eiffel-tower>

