



SMS Squashes Squishies (and Fidgets and Hacky Sacks)



Editor's Note: This is the Parent Square Message sent out recently regarding these toys:

Fidgets, squishies and hacky sacks: While these can be helpful tools for some students, we are seeing increased misuse in classrooms and hallways, which is creating distractions. At this time, we ask that students do not bring these items to school unless they are part of an approved support plan. Please also note that the school cannot be responsible for tracking items that are lost or damaged.

**By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last week, squishies and Nee Dohs were banned from school unless they are part of a student's approved support plan. Many kids were upset because they use Nee Dohs and squishies to focus during classes or to fidget with. Many kids also just love collecting them and playing with them.

There are many reasons why they were banned; I'll guide you through them:

- One of the reasons is because of them popping in school and getting on desks, floors, and walls. Most Nee Dohs have gel inside of them that is very sticky and hard to clean up. Other squishies could have cornstarch, sand, water, or shaving cream inside of them.
- Another reason why they were banned is because of inappropriate behavior by kids playing with them. This includes throwing them across a classroom. Many kids threw them at each other or tossed them on the ground for no reason.
- Lastly, another reason that Nee Dohs and squishies were banned is because of kids repeatedly stealing them from each other or taking them if they see one. Many of my friends and I have had theirs stolen at least once.

Since many people are obsessed with collecting squishies currently, they are very hard to buy online and at stores and are rarely restocked and usually overpriced. So, if a kid sees one lying around, they will probably take it.

Spring Choir Concerts Show That Everyone's in Tune

**By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On May 6th, the 6th grade chorus, and the 7th and 8th grade choir had their annual spring concert. In this concert, the 7th and 8th grade chorus performed four songs including "Dancing Queen" by ABBA, "Oye" by Jim Papoulis, "Defying Gravity" by Steven Schwartz, and "From Now On" by Benji Pasek and Justin Paul.

"Dancing Queen" by ABBA is a dreamy and powerful piece most famously known for its feature in the much loved movie, Mamma Mia. During class, we have been working on holding out our notes in a legato style, which are smooth and connected notes without breathing between them. We have also been working on our dynamics, which is how loud or soft we are singing.

"Oye" is a powerful and expressive song and in class we have been making sure we pronounce words correctly since much of this song is sung in Spanish.

"From Now On" is a cheerful and uplifting piece and in class we have been working on making sure we are not too loud or too quiet during different parts of the song.

The last song is "Defying Gravity", known for its role in the Broadway show Wicked. "Defying Gravity" is a grand and jubilant song and during class we have been making sure we sing the right parts and at the right dynamic levels.



Not Quite Snoopy, But Beagles Share a lot of His Personality

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Beagles are good pets for a lot of reasons, which is why they are such a popular dog breed. One of the biggest reasons is their friendly personality. Beagles are usually very social dogs and get along well with people, including kids. They are known for being gentle and playful, which makes them a good choice for families or anyone looking for a dog that is fun to be around.

Another reason beagles make good pets is that they are a medium-sized breed. They are not too big, so they usually do not take up as much space as larger dogs. This makes them a good option for many different homes. They also have short fur, which is easier to take care of compared to dogs with long coats that need frequent grooming.

Beagles are also very active and curious. They enjoy walking, playing outside, and exploring new places. This can make them great companions for people who like spending time outdoors. Their energy also means they are usually entertaining and full of personality.

Beagles are smart dogs, although they can be stubborn sometimes. With patience and training, they can learn commands and become well-behaved pets. Overall, beagles are loyal, loving, and fun to have around, which is why many people think they make excellent pets.



A Spring Concert Poem

By Scarlett Ritson
Tusker Tribune Staff

With laughter in the air,
And playing in the band;
All dressed with precision,
Most have gone with flair.
Everyone might stare but,
Do not fear that because . . .

The parents look at kids,
That are only their own.
Playing and singing through,
The night's hopes and dreams,
Denying the truth.
The truth is that a fact,
That can't be denied.

And not understanding,
The truth that lies below.
These kids are confident,
Of the words that they speak,
Of the playing they do,
Without a doubt they play,
With Laughter in the air.

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](#)



Reporters and Contributors

Emily Gardella
Isabella Nevsky
Scarlett Ritson