



Science Fair Amazes Kids While Teaching Them

By Bethany Buckle
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last week, the kids had lots of fun when the Liberty Science Center came to SMS to put on a science show.

First, the visitors started talking about static electricity and how opposites attract. Then the visitors used some kids to experiment, so when they rubbed a balloon on their heads, and since hair is positively charged, the balloon was negatively charged.

Then the kids slowly lifted the balloon from their head and some of the hair stood up. Then after that, the visitors called up some kids to do another experiment, so one of the kids was holding on the source of the electricity and there was a kid who was going to have to give the kid who was holding that a fist bump while everyone else was holding hands. But when the two kids gave each other the fist bump they all got a shock.

Then after that, the visitors did an experiment involving everyone. So, they told us to make one hand like number zero, then to put it on our forehead and that we should feel the air pressure on our head.

Finally, the visitors were going to make a cloud. It was not safe so no kids were picked, so they put hydrogen peroxide and vinegar in a container. Then, when they mixed it, it created a huge white cloud that covered the entire stage. WHAT A FUN DAY IT WAS!



They're Poets and They 'Know-It'!



The First 8th Grade "Poetry Cafe" organized by Dr. Suranna, Ms. Reynolds and Ms. Jelinek was held Thursday night in the SMS Library.

Passion Enables Me to Meet Challenges

By Mackenzie Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff

Good evening. I first want to start off with a huge congratulations to all the inductees, whether you are a returning member, or this is your first year. This is a huge honor that will definitely help us with our high school careers.

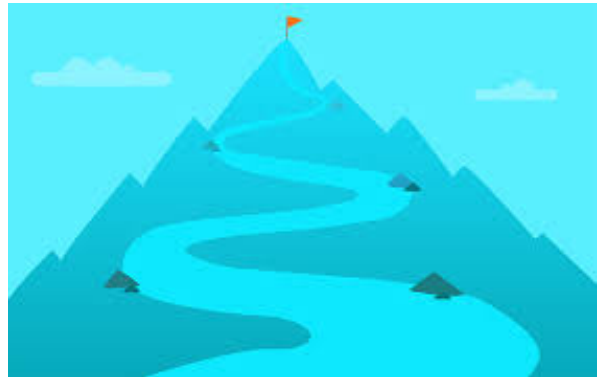
When I was younger, I was diagnosed with dyslexia, a learning disorder that makes it very difficult to read and write. I couldn't read anything, the letters would jumble up, and words would switch the order of their placement. It was almost like the words were dancing across the page.

I could have given up and let the words continue to dance around me like a taunting ritual, but I have something even the taunting words didn't have. I had a passion. A passion of reading. A passion for being able to dive into different worlds and have adventures like no other. Through this passion I was able to persevere and overcome every obstacle that was thrown at me.

Still, it took years to get to the point I'm at now, and my spelling, to say the least, isn't the best, but I work on it every day. This is what I think scholarship is--having that passion to learn and improving in every way you can. It's about taking in information and really learning it, not just hearing it. It's about being open-minded to other perspectives on things you thought you knew everything about.

This is exactly what NJHS represents--a collection of students having the ability to do all these things and so much more. Before I go, I want to leave you all with a quote from Winston Churchill: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.". To me this quote perfectly shows how we can keep scholarship present in our lives. It shows that success and failure don't define us as who we are as people but how we need to have the determination to keep going even when we think we have done all that we could.

Once again, a huge congratulations to all my peers tonight, and a huge thank you to, Mrs. Schettino, Mrs. Bieber, and all the incredible leaders at this school.



The Somers Middle School National Junior Honor Society Held its Induction Ceremony on THursday. The ceremony featured speeches by selected students. The Tusker Tribune is reprinting one of those speeches, by 8th Grader Makenzie Picco, in this week's issue.



The Five Pillars of NJHS

Scholarship

Demonstrates a commitment to life-long learning.

Service

Willingness to work for the benefit of those in need.

Leadership

Exerts a positive influence on others, taking initiative and bringing about meaningful change.

Character

Making the right choices and acting in a manner of respect, responsibility, fairness, and trustworthiness.

Citizenship

Works to improve the lives of all citizens and the world around us.

Community Project Showcase Highlights Students' Passions

By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last Thursday, May 14th, the 8th grade students presented their MYP community projects to friends and family in the SMS gymnasium. Students were graded on their projects and participation.

Participants were given the option to present through a slideshow or on a poster board. Many students made flyers and programs for their projects.

A presentation called Little Leaders youth enrichment made a program for children in kindergarten to second grade. They have fun activities for kids and parents to enjoy. Other presenters like Love for Paws had candy to give to people who stayed for their presentation. Many presenters also had donation jars. The donations made from the community project night would be given to organizations in order to support their cause.

Projects like The Pencil Project gave out cookies for each person who donated three dollars. Overall, the night was a success, and everyone enjoyed showing their hard work and contributions to our town.



The Dancing Plague Remains a Mystery to This Day

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

What was “The Dancing Plague”?

Well, it happened in July of 1518. Hundreds of people in Strasbourg, France, suddenly started dancing uncontrollably for days. They were unable to stop, and it was not fun. It was like a contagious sickness. People danced until they collapsed from exhaustion, and they hurt themselves badly.

The dancing plague lasted two months! And scientists thought it was caused by extreme stress or illness. Frau Troffea and her daughter, Fräulein Emma Götz, began to dance fervently and uncontrollably in a street in Strasbourg. People danced for weeks and months.

Fun facts about the dancing plague. Did you know...?

- The cure was to dance even more.
- No one is completely sure of what caused it.

Why was it called the dancing plague? Within days of Frau Troffea dancing, dozens more joined her. By August, estimates ranged from dozens to several hundred people dancing day and night.



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Any student interested in joining the Tusker Tribune Newspaper Club should contact Club Advisor Dean Pappas at

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To visit the Tusker Tribune Website, click here: [Tusker Tribune School Newspaper](#)

Folkmanis Puppets Are Great for Aspiring Puppeteers!

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hey there! I'm writing about Folkmanis puppets (yes, I'm doing another Folkmanis article, I'm aware) and I'm very excited to talk to you about them!

Here is one reason you should purchase one. One reason is that I suggest getting a Folkmanis is that they use highly realistic fabric to make the body of the puppet. Another reason is that the puppet is easy to control. It's hard at first, but eventually, you'll get used to it if you practice enough. Maybe you could put on a play at your house! Be sure to give them names!

Even though they don't look alike, I recommend giving your puppets names so that way in plays (if you do make a play), they have names, and they could be like: “Hey, [puppet's name] wanna play?”

Finally, even though they're expensive, they are high quality, very realistic, and look like real animals. This is William Mifsud. Catch you in the next one!



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Can the Squishy Ban Affect Students' Concentration?

By Lila Brady
Tusker Tribune Staff

School should be a place where students are focused, and ready to learn, but small rules can sometimes have a bigger impact than expected. By not allowing squishies, schools may be overlooking a simple tool that helps students succeed both academically and emotionally.

You might wonder why the school said no squishes allowed anymore. It's because most of the squishies people bring to school are filled with a thick, sticky syrup consisting of 100% maltose (a natural sugar derived from barley). Most people are popping their squishes (think Nee Doh) and putting it on the desks and teachers were not happy with it.

I see how the school thinks this rule will benefit, but I do not agree with it. So many kids have focusing problems at our school so when the school district banned them, it was hard. These focusing problems include ADHD, OCD, ADD, and they also help with anxiety.

Going along with the idea of not being able to focus, students' grades might start to drop. I asked 25 students if they think the new rule is fair and the results are, 2 students said it is fair and the rest (23 students) said otherwise. That is a big gap.

In conclusion, it's not fair that the school banned squishies.



**Spirit Week Coverage will appear in next week's
Tusker Tribune!**