



Juneteenth is America's 'Second Independence Day'



By Nica Fried
Tusker Tribune Staff

What is Juneteenth? Juneteenth, which stands for June 19th, is now a federal holiday that celebrates the official end of slavery in the United States. On June 19th, 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to free all of the last imprisoned African American slaves. These troops arrived almost 2 and ½ years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and the addition of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which officially made slavery illegal.

The Emancipation Proclamation was a proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1st, 1863, during the third year of the bloody Civil War. This proclamation established that all enslaved people in the Confederate States were to be freed permanently. "That all persons held as slaves within the rebellious states are and henceforward shall be free." --Abraham Lincoln

While the five pages of the Emancipation Proclamation captured the hearts of millions of Americans, both from the North and South, the proclamation was limited in many ways and did not end slavery until after it was signed. Slavery was officially ended 2 and ½ years later on June 19th, 1865, in Galveston, Texas.

In Galveston, Texas, slavery had continued despite the Civil War being officially over, and the state of Texas experienced no large-scale fighting or significant presence of Union troops. Many enslavers from outside the Lone Star State had moved there, as they viewed it as a safe haven for slavery. However, on June 19th, General Robert E. Lee stood on Texas soil, spoke the words of the proclamation, and ordered his troops to march on and free all Texas slaves.

From the first days of the four-year bloodbath of the civil war, slaves had been trying to secure their freedom. This showed that the Civil War was not only a fight to hold together our once-strong union of states but also a war for the freedom of all Americans.

In 1866, freedmen in Texas organized the first of what became the annual celebration of "Jubilee Day" on June 19. Throughout future decades, Juneteenth celebrations featured music, barbecues, prayer services, and other activities. As Black people migrated from Texas to other parts of the country, the Juneteenth tradition spread. Although many people nationwide celebrated Juneteenth, this holiday was only made a federal holiday in 2021 by our 46th president, Joe Biden.

This "Second Independence Day" will always aid US citizens in remembering those who fought for the freedom of themselves and others and helped create Juneteenth, our 2nd Independence Day.

Sources:

- National Museum of African American History and Culture. (n.d.). The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth | National Museum of African American History and Culture. Nmaahc.si.edu; Smithsonian. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>
- National Archives. (2022, January 28). The Emancipation Proclamation. National Archives. <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation>
- Nix, E. (2015, June 19). What Is Juneteenth? | HISTORY. HISTORY. <https://www.history.com/articles/what-is-juneteenth>

SMS STAR Awards for May

Grade 6

Davis McCullough
Scarlett Ritson
Donovan Shaughnessy
Ellie Tzadok
Nicolas Siino

Grade 7:

Caitlin Goodwin
William Ringer
Natalie Steiner
Matt Barna
Jack Rokicki
Paul Mauriello
William Spano
Arlen Sher
Camryn Carbonaro
Alexis DiLorenzo
Ann Dugmore
Blake Forde
Jayden Herbert
Brynn Hewitt
Bo Massett
Campbell Massett
Ben Palancia

Grade 8:

Ava Lazari
Dean Klatsky
Karina Arroyo-Valentin
Tara Goodwin
Dylan Violante

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!

Saxophone Brings a Distinct Tone to Music Performances

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

The saxophone is a musical instrument that was created in the 1800s by a Belgian inventor named Adolphe Sax. Maybe that's why the saxophone was named the "Saxophone"--because of the inventor's last name. He designed it because he wanted an instrument that could be loud like brass instruments but also smooth and flexible. Just like woodwind instruments.

He invented it in the early 1840s and officially patented it in 1846 in Paris, France. At first, the saxophone was mainly used in military bands. Later it became very popular in jazz music. Lots of famous musicians helping to make the saxophone a central instrument.

Over time, the saxophone started to appear in jazz, pop, and classical music. And today it is a loved instrument around the world for its tone of the instrument.

After reading this, do you like the saxophone? Or have you ever thought about how music would sound today without the saxophone?



Spirit Week: Fun Fashion, Frolic and Frivolity

Mathlete vs Athlete Day

**By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Spirit Week in middle school is always the best! But this week was the last Spirit Week for 8th graders at middle school! And there were a lot of themes going on for each day, and a lot of students took part.

But I will be talking about Tuesday! Tuesday was Mathlete vs Athlete. This was a really fun theme to do, because you had the option of dressing up as an athlete.

Half of the school kids were dressed as athletes. And I saw a bunch of people wearing baseball, basketball, and soccer jerseys around the halls. I love everyone's outfits.

But on the other side there was the math league. I loved the outfits people were wearing for the math league theme. Students and teachers were wearing glasses, shirts with math equations on it, skirts and lots of other fun stuff.

So overall my last Middle School Spirit Week was fun! How did you like spirit week? And would you participate in it again?

Red, White And Remember Day

**By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On Friday last week, we had Red, White and Remember spirit day. This was cool because everybody dressed up in red, white and blue outfits around the school. Now, I get that the outfits and accessories may look cool, but do you know the real reason behind all of this?

You may remember that Memorial Day was Monday, and the reason behind wearing patriotic outfits is to remember soldiers who lost their lives fighting for America, and to honor soldiers or veterans who fought for America.

Now let's get to the outfits people were wearing. On many of the pictures, people are wearing tutus, glasses, glitter, socks, bracelets, hats, headbands, necklaces, shirts, shorts, and even wigs!

Many boys and girls went all out for this spirit day! I think most people dressed up for this spirit day than any other one.

In conclusion, last Friday was a fun and colorful spirit day, but the reason behind it is to remember soldiers who lost their lives fighting for America.

Holiday Mashup

**By Elena Fedele
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Holiday Mashup is the day where everyone dresses up in all sorts of different holiday inspired outfits such as, Christmas, Halloween, Easter, St. Patrick's Day, Valentines Day, etc.

This day could even be expressed as your favorite one! I think that a lot of people enjoyed Holiday Mashup day and Spirit Week in general.

On the day of our school's Holiday Mashup, everyone got to wear all sorts of cultural and seasonal holidays all around the world. If you think about it, Holiday Mashup was the best day to show off your creativity and your cultural heritage. Also, I really liked Holiday Mashup even though not many people dressed up.

Mostly everyone dressed up in Christmas and Halloween type outfits. I believe that some people didn't really express their cultural heritage/holidays and some people did express their cultural holidays. I feel that the school was in color and excited to see what everyone's imagination put together on what everybody wore.

In conclusion, Holiday Mashup was a fun day where everyone dressed up as different holidays. Our school was filled with spirit, creativity, and excitement. I do think that Holiday Mashup brought everyone together to celebrate all kinds of traditions on one special day.

Pep Rally a Perfect Way to End Spirit Week

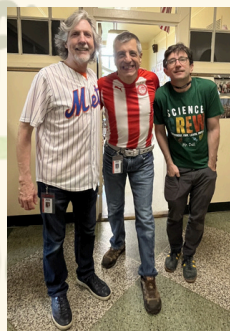
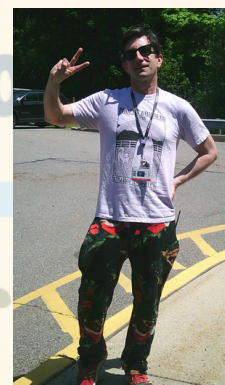
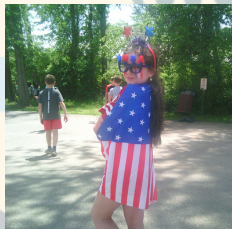
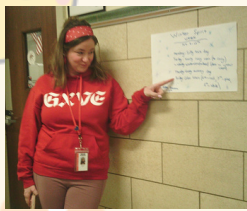
**By Mila Cini
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last week our school had its pep rally, and it was such a cool and fun event! Everyone was full of energy and both students and teachers had a great time. There were many fun games like Volleyball, Chair Relay Race, and Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.

At the pep rally, there were games probably nobody knew about but thanks to the pep rally, we all learned new games. It was fun to watch students participate, and it was also nice to see some of the teachers join in on the games too. I thought it was nice that even if you lost the game, you were playing you would still get a jolly rancher because everyone at SMS is a winner.

The students who were not playing sat on the bleachers (In the gym where the pep rally that took place) cheering on their friends and classmates. The gym was filled with laughter, school spirit, and excitement the entire time. Overall, the pep rally was a good way for everyone to come together, have a lot of fun, and enjoy the day!

Spirit Week Photos and Videos on Next Two Pages





SPIRIT WEEK 5/18-5/22

Tusker Tribune



Thu

Friday: Red White And Remember

(Show your patriotic spirit)

Little Leaders League Engages K-2 Kids

By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

Let me introduce you to my community project. My community project's name was Little Leaders League: Youth Enrichment. We decided to create this project to encourage younger children to express themselves through different hobbies and activities.

Our group wanted to make a positive impact on the community by creating a safe and exiting environment, where kids from kindergarten through second grade could explore new skills, build confidence, and even find new hobbies they are interested in. Just two weeks ago, we had our Community Project Showcase, which showed the community the imagination of 8th graders. This gave us the ability to prove and work on our presenting skills, making sure we make eye contact with the person. We got to show our interest in making the community a better place.

It all started with our first Tusker Experience class. Tusker Experience is a class usually in the mornings to talk and plan for our community project. It started with just three of us; me, Cece, and Giuliana. We all expressed our interest, I like music, Cece likes art, and Giuliana likes sports. We all wanted to include each other's interests and hobbies in our project. It took lots of time to think about a plan that would include all our interests.

We eventually figured it out and decided to do a "teach day" which is where we would go to Primrose Elementary School and head into a few classrooms to teach students about our hobbies. Unfortunately we weren't able to achieve what we originally wanted, but with the help of Mrs. Garrigan, our school librarian, we were able to achieve so much more. After a few months into the project planning, we had a special guest join our class, Mila. Mila then joined our group, and we were delighted to have her.

We talked to Mila and asked her what her hobbies were. She said baking and cooking. So, I had a plan on what we could do for her at once. The obstacle was passed, not because it was easy, but because we had each other. The outcome of our project was more successful than I thought. We agreed to have our event for our project at the Somers Library at Reese Park. Thanks to Mrs. Garrigan for helping us out with the email, we were able to book the program room for our event.

The event went smoothly. We had four different stations. Mine was music. I brought my instrument to the event, and I let the children play with it, I taught them how to hold a bow, though some of them just played how they wanted, which was fine because I had a wonderful time. Cece, had art and she showed kids how to make Origami, Mila's was probably my favorite, because what I came up with, was that we would buy Play-Doh and kids would make food using the playdough. They were surprisingly very careful with the Play Doh. At the very end, we had Giuliana's. She had an animal relay race where we split kids up into two teams of six. They would run, but the twist was, Giuliana would call out an animal or action, and kids would have to move according to the action or animal.

Overall, this was incredibly fun, and I'm extremely glad I had the partners I had. Special thanks to Mrs. Garrigan for printing, and emailing; this could have been impossible without her.



Trivia Triumphs Create Special Memories in ELA

By Elizabeth Alonzo Xavier
Tusker Tribune Staff

As it's my last year here at Somers Middle School, I want to share with you all my funniest school moments. One of my favorite funniest moments here at Somers Middle School is ELA class.

My ELA class will always have a place in my heart because of the kids at my table, and the person who ties this fun all up--Dr. Suranna. I'm so glad Dr. Suranna became my ELA teacher. I couldn't say enough. Just this week, we had our Outsiders's Trivia Game. My table was a team, and we got to choose our team's name. We choose "Randy's Best Friends", not only because one of the characters in the outsiders was Randy but because Randy C. is our best friend.

This was funny to me because we each had our names, I was Randy to the 1st Power, because my table called me the Leader of Randy's Best friends. The other kids at my table were Randy to the 2nd Power, Randy to the 3rd Power and Randy to the 4th Power.

For the first few questions, my team was not on the best streak. We were down at least three to four points, but when it came to my turn, I knew I had to help my team and get the question correct, and for Randy's, I did, My team cheered for me and I was very happy.

Every time one of us would go up we would say "For Randy!" and we would get the question correct, though at the last two minutes of class, my team was tied with the team called "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse". It was all up to me to get the winning point. 12: 12. Unfortunately my team came in 2nd place. I wasn't mad or sad, I was happy, because it's moments like this that I will never ever forget. I will always be grateful for my 8th grade ELA class.

'The Outsiders' Message Still Resonates Today

By Elizabeth Alonzo Xavier
Tusker Tribune Staff

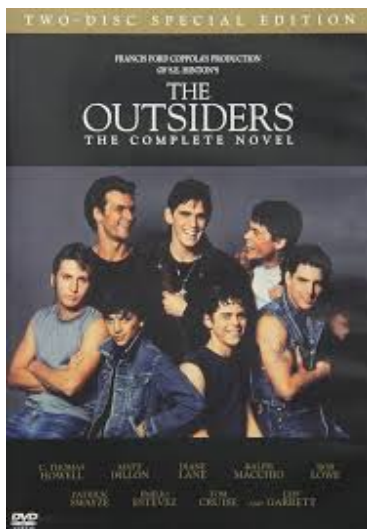
Throughout the past two weeks, my class and I were reading the book called "The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton. I have to say, it is one of my favorite class novels.

"The Outsiders" was more than just a story on "Socs" or "Greasers". It expresses friendship, family struggles, and the pressure teenagers face on this day. Even though the book was published decades ago, many teens relate to a big chunk of this book.

This book has a very impactful message that people should all remember--that we shouldn't be judged on social groups, appearances or money. We should all be treated the same, the way we would like to be treated. There was a quote from the book that said, "Stay gold Ponyboy... Stay gold." This was said by another character, Johnny, seconds before he passed away on his hospital bed. This stayed with me because it reminded me of a poem that Ponyboy recites called "Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost. It quotes

*"Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay."*

I really like this poem because it exposes to us the reality of losing the things we love the most. Which is why I think it's important for every person to read "The Outsiders" at least once in their lives.



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Mount St. Helens Continues to Attract Attention

By Jasline Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

Mount St. Helens is a famous volcano, and it is in Washington State, part of Cascade Range. It is 8,366 feet (about 2.55 km) tall, and it is known for its beautiful shape and stunning looks. Mount St. Helens is 96 miles south of Seattle, so it is a popular spot to explore and take a good adventure.

Mount St. Helens is famous because it had a dramatic eruption. On May 18, 1980, it erupted and changed the landscape and the environment around it. Mount St. Helens is also classified as a “stratovolcano”, so that means it is made up of layer of lava, ash, and rocks.

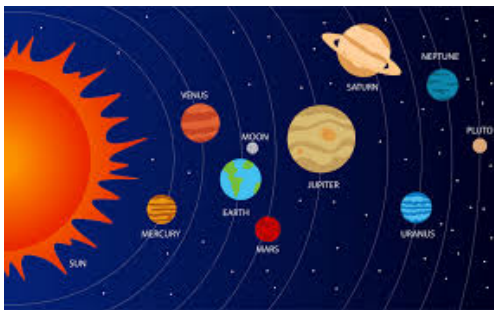
Mount St. Helens is also part of the chain of volcanoes that run along the Pacific Northwest, known as the “Ring of Fire.” The Ring of Fire is called that because many active volcanoes and earthquakes happen there because the tectonic plates move under the earth's surface.

In 1980 Mount St. Helens' eruption was the most significant volcanic eruption in the US history, and it completely changed the surrounding area around Mount St. Helens. Visiting Mount St. Helens can be a fun volcano adventure, and it is also filled with learning opportunities.

Lastly, to this day, hundreds and thousands of people visit the volcano Mount St. Helens to learn about its volcanic activity and to see nature's power firsthand. Mount St. Helens became a National Volcanic Monument, allowing scientists also visitors to find recovery in action and the effects of the eruption.



Our Solar System's Planets Are Extremely Diverse



By Jasline Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

Our solar system is the coolest thing we have ever learned about. Our solar system has eight planets, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, and all these planets orbit the sun, which is made from hot gas and is a star.

Our first planet is Mercury. Mercury is the closest planet to the sun, so it gets hot throughout the day. The second planet is Venus. Venus is the hottest planet because its atmosphere traps heat, so it makes Venus extremely hot. Earth is the third planet. Earth is known for being the only planet that has life on it. And it has lots of water, rocks, volcanoes, and land. The fourth planet is Mars. Mars is also known as the red planet because Mars' surface is covered in iron oxide, also called rust.

Next out biggest planet in the solar system is Jupiter. Jupiter has a giant storm called The Great Red Spot that has lasted for hundreds of years. Next up is the planet Saturn, famous for its seven main rings made from ice and rocks. Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun, so it is cold on Neptune. And Neptune also has extraordinarily intense winds. Finally, the solar system is full of planets that are all different in many ways.

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