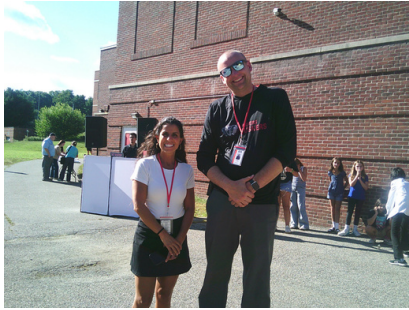




## Beats, Balls, and Cones: 6th Grade Social Kicks Off the Year



**By Ryan Donworth  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last Friday, the recess area was transformed into a fun after-school party. The PTA sponsored event was a chance for the 6th graders to socialize with their friends at their new school at the first Sixth Grade Social.

6th grader Zoey Magnani said, "I had a great time with my friends. It was an awesome way to start the school year."

The DJ was pumping hits like "Macarena" and "Titanium". The ice cream line quickly grew and became so long! Luckily, I was one of the first people to get there, so I only had to wait five minutes. The most popular ice cream was Big Dipper Cone; chocolate ice cream with a hard chocolate shell and crushed Oreos on top.

The afternoon ended with boys and girls bunning together to play a football game. A big thank you to all the teachers who chaperoned.



## Embrace the Change from Summer to Fall

**By Emily Gardella  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As Everybody knows, summer is coming to a close, and fall is starting! Fall is the favorite season of many, for countless reasons.

One reason I love fall is because of Halloween. I love Halloween because you can trick or treat, wear costumes and have fun with your friends. Another reason Fall is a popular season is because of the weather. Many people love it when leaves start to fall, and the air starts getting crisp and cold with wind breezes.

Now, we know that Fall is lots of people's favorite season, but some people also just don't like fall, and here's why. A reason you might not like fall is because it marks the end of summer, and it starts to get colder, which some people don't like.

Another reason is that you're never wearing the right outfit! In the mornings, it can be freezing. Meanwhile, in the afternoon it can still be warm, making it hard to dress appropriately and be comfortable throughout the day.

Now that we have reviewed both sides of opinions, I will share mine. Fall is my favorite season because of the cool weather, the pretty leaves on the ground, the cold breeze, and Halloween. What is your favorite season?



## Shocking Injury Strikes Giants Fans

By Aidan Sacchetti  
Tusker Tribune Staff



With the fall starting, you will notice falling leaves, Halloween decorations, pumpkins, and of course, football; which also means injuries. The starting quarterback for the Giants could potentially miss the whole season after the Giants game against the Rams on September 21.

Bryon Young and Josaiah Stewart (both Los Angeles Rams OLBs (outside linebackers) slammed into Jaxson Dart (starting quarterback for New York Giants) and tackled him. As he got tackled, he got an MCL (Medial Collateral Ligament) sprain when his knee bent extremely awkwardly after getting tackled.

Sources suggested that it was a grade 2 (moderate) or grade 3 (severe) MCL sprain, but it was unclear which grade injury.

After his injury, the Giants had to get the backup quarterback, Jameis Winston, to play for the remainder of the game, and however long Dart is out. Many fans are disappointed because they were looking forward to Jaxson Dart playing for the 2026 season. New York Giants head coach John Harbaugh said Jameis Winston will be the Giants starting quarterback starting this week against the Tennessee Titans.

At first, there was hope for Jaxson's injury, with Dart standing on the sideline wearing regular clothes. ESPN's Laura Rutledge reported during the broadcast that Jaxson attempted to get back in the game before they took his jersey away. Unfortunately, things have only been getting worse for Dart. But until then, all we can do is hope for the best.

## A Thoughtful Series of 'Would You Rather ...' to Ponder

By The Great Jokester  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Let's switch gears really quick—no deep dives, no serious talks, just pure fun! I'm going to ask you some Would You Rather questions instead of stuff deep dives because everyone needs some fun.

Middle school can be so serious sometimes with tests, homework, early mornings—but every once in a while, you just got to laugh at the chaos. These questions are the perfect way to do that. They're silly, they're random, and they're a great way to see who in your class is actually brave enough to pick the wildest choice. Plus, it's way better than sitting in class staring at the clock. So, let's keep it light, keep it fun, and see what you'd rather do!

**Would you rather** have no homework, but each class is two hours OR a one page essay as homework and each class is only 30 minutes?

**Would you rather** wear pajamas to school every day OR eat the same lunch at school every day?

**Would you rather** have to give a 10 minute presentation about a subject you didn't learn yet OR take a pop quiz on a subject you've never studied?

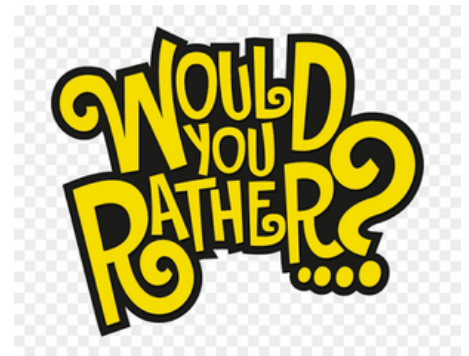
**Would you rather** have a pop quiz every single day OR have to give a five-minute speech in front of the class every week?

**Would you rather** never have lunch and recess break OR only get 10 minutes to eat lunch and no recess time?

**Would you rather** have to sit next to the noisiest person every day OR sit next to the "teacher's pet"?

**Would you rather** have to do a group project with the person who never does their part OR do an independent presentation?

**Would you rather** ride the bus/car to school everyday it's hot with no A.C. OR walk to school every day in the rain?



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## Trendy and Fun H.20

By Aria Mancini  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Ever notice how everybody at school has the same water bottle? Like you walk into the cafeteria and it's basically a sea of Stanley cups and Owalas. Well here's the breakdown of the most popular water bottles from the past few years and what made everybody so obsessed with them.

- Owala \$38 (popular 23-26)
- Stanley \$45 (popular 21-23)
- Hydro flask \$40 (popular 19- 21)
- YETI \$45 (popular 19-21)

Owalas' popularity comes from its free sip lid that lets you sip through a hidden straw or chug from a wide opening, so you never have to pick one style. The bright colors, leak proof design and viral TikTok buzz turned it into a Gen-z favorite.

Stanley's quencher became huge because it keeps drinks cold for 24 hours and it holds up to 40 oz. The bright colors and limited addition drops made it a TikTok sensation and status symbol.

Hydro Flasks blew up because of their double wall vacuum installation. They keep drinks cold or hot for 24 hours. The trendy colors made them a fashion statement.

YETI bottles became popular because they are ultra durable. Their double wall vacuum installation keeps the bottle cold for over 24 hours. This made them a status symbol for people who wanted to look outdoorsy. But by 2021, their status died down because of other water bottles. So, whether you're Team Owala, Team Stanley, Hydro Flask or Team YETI, the truth is that water bottles have become way more than just something drink from. They're basically accessories that show off your personality, your budget and what trends you're into, and honestly, the next big water bottle trend is probably already brewing somewhere on social media waiting to take over you FYP and your mom's wallet.

The psychology behind it all is basically the perfect storm of FOMO, social media influence and the need to have the right accessories. But here's where it gets interestin;, these trends move fast what's cool today might be collecting dust in your locker next trimester.



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

*Mr. Graham and  
Mr. Smith have  
solved the problem  
of kids losing  
bathroom passes . .*



## How to Fish a Jig in 2026

By Lucas Mejia (or as some of you might know me: The Great Outdoorsman)

Tusker Tribune Staff

All right, let's start--why fish a jig?

Exactly because you don't. A lot of people don't fish a jig for bass and I don't exactly know why. There are a lot of types of jigs, but what I'm talking about is a bass jig.

The reason bass love this bait is because it has a different profile from most of the baits they see. But this bait can intimidate a lot of people. Now there are a lot of types of jigs. Today, I'm only talking about two types of jigs: The Chatterbait or vibrating jig and the Swim jig.

Now on both of these, I believe that they require a trailer. I like a peanut butter and jelly skirt for the color, and for the trailer a Berkeley power baits soft plastic ripple shad, 3 inches 8 centimeters. I like this trailer because of the great job it does at catching the bass's attention. Let this combo sink or reel and straight.

Line wise I like 12 LB seaguar fluorocarbon. There are a lot of brands on the market, but Seaguar just has the best quality. For gear, I like a 7 to 7 three-foot Baitcaster. My ideal combo is the Lews TP2 Gen 3.

Now the swim Jag excels in medium to high visibility water, with its weed guard, I find it relatively weightless. I don't find the wheel guard to impact with hook set. In fact I think the ability to go into more weedy areas. increases your opportunity to get bit.

Next, the vibrating jig. Tgis bait should be fished in more dirty, murky water. This is because its vibration can attract better than other baits in unclear water. Also the vibrating jig has no weed guard and should be fished in more open water.

All right that is the last tip I have for today thank you for reading to the end!



## The Story Beyond the Jacket

By Bethany Buckle  
Tusker Tribune Staff

### Part One: Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson is the first African American to work for NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). She was called the "human computer". She was working on a project of sending the first man to the moon, and she has helped to accomplish different things like helping to create the first spaceship.

Then she was working on a mission called the Apollo 11 mission. That would allow Neil Armstrong to be the first person to walk on the surface of the moon.

Most of her colleagues did not believe in her but even though people didn't believe in her, she did the impossible. It was almost like a race with the USA and the Soviet Union to have the first man/person on the moon. The mission required very precise calculations.

After all that happened, Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon, so after all that, the USA won the "space race". It wasn't until Katherine was 97 in 2015 that she finally got recognized for her hard work. Sadly, she died On February 24, 2020. In loving memory of the "human computer"--Katherine Johnson She died at the age of 101 years old.

*Part two is on Page 5*



## The Story Beyond the Jacket (Part 2)

By Bethany Buckle  
Tusker Tribune Staff

### Part Two: Maire Curie

Maire Curie was born in Poland. During World War 1 she was in the mobile X ray teams and you might think, "Oh they had protective gear on them." But no, they did not.

You might also think, "Wwell. how do they survive?" Some people get lucky, but back then, they did not know that dangers of X rays without safety clothing like today.

In 1896, radioactivity was discovered by Henri Becquerel. He inspired Marie and Pierre to explore radioactivity. Marie attended Sorbonne University. However, she could not enter the University of Warsaw because woman could not go there. What she discovered was very interesting; she discovered Polonium. Fun fact she named it after her home in Poland.

She also was exploring radioactive rays, but like I said, she did not have any protective gear. Radioactive substances, like the rays from the sun, can hurt you, especially if you look at the sun for a long period of time.

Later, she died of all the radioactive substances she was using. Where she was buried has three inches of lead to protect others from radioactive substances.

FUN FACT: Her notebook has spilled radioactive substances on it, and people must pay money to look at the notes. And NO person can touch it because they can get radioactivity in their body and they have a chance of getting sick. But the problem is that in her notes, she has theories on how to cure radiation sickness.

Marie died on the 4 of July of 1934. What a day to die. Thank you for reading my summary. These two women impacted the lives of many and touched many others. And so can you!



**8th Graders excited about Their LAST YEAR of Middle School . . . and look toward 9<sup>th</sup> grade!**

**Drawing by Chelsea Lainez-Lieb**