The Tusker Tribune
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER
Issue 6 Fall 2026
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Scholastic Book Fair Takes Over the Library

By Hudson Galiano
Tusker Tribune Staff

All credit to Mrs. Garrigan for working so hard and organizing the book fair. It went very smoothly.

However, here are some recommendations I would give to Scholastic to improve it.

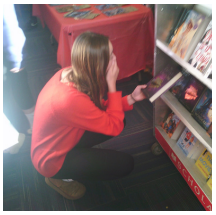
I went to the book fair last period on Thursday, October 22 and I thought that the books were overpriced. It seems like there wasn't a lot of variety in titles. They didn't even have cook books! However, the book fair did have a couple of new "I Survived" graphic novels.

As for non-book items, there was a lack of good Fidgets. And if you wanted to get more than one book, plus a Fidget, you needed at least $35.

I did not look at the posters but I heard that they were awesome this year and not all the same as last year.

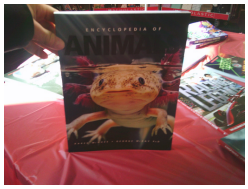
For the spring Book Fair, Scholastic should make the books less expensive. Just about everything was $5 or more.

Another recommendation I have is that for the future Book Fairs, you should be able to pre-order books you're interested in. It would also be good to removed the tax from the price. The books are already expensive enough.













Red Ribbon Week Encourages Kids to Make Healthy Choices

By Ryan Donworth
Tusker Tribune Staff

Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign dedicated to raising awareness about drug prevention and encouraging young people to make healthy, drug-free choices. We celebrate Red Ribbon Week to honor the memory of DEA Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was kidnapped, tortured, and murdered in 1985 while working undercover to investigate drug trafficking in Mexico.



After his death, people in his community began wearing red ribbons to honor his sacrifice and show their commitment to raising awareness about the dangers of drug use. The goal is to bring schools, families, and communities together to promote prevention, education, and positive decision-making.

I hope this explains why there are Red Ribons all around the school.

f you have any questions go to Ms. Casey.

This is a message from Ms. Casey:

"As the Student Assistance Counselor at Somers Middle School, this message goes hand in hand with the work I do every day! My role focuses on supporting students' social, emotional, and behavioral well-being, as well as substance use prevention and helping students develop the skills to make healthy choices. The halls are decorated with red ribbons and flyers to bring awareness to the message of red ribbon week.

Throughout the week, we'll have activities in the lunchroom where students can participate, spread positivity, learn about prevention, and win prizes! We want to make these conversations engaging and approachable while reinforcing that the choices students make today can have a positive impact on their future."

Tips on How To Find the Best Halloween Candy

By Ryan Donworth
Tusker Tribune Staff

Everybody loves stumbling upon a house with a King Size Candy Bar when trick-or-treating. Then you think to yourself, "Man I wish I could have a map of all the best candy houses."

Well, I'm not stopping you--read on! If you have limited space in your candy bag, then send a friend or sibling to investigate.

First, look for a "please take one" sign so you can scope out the goods first.

Second, look through the windows near the door, where most people keep the candy. Look at the decorations; this could indicate what candy they have. The more elaborate decorations usually equal better candy.

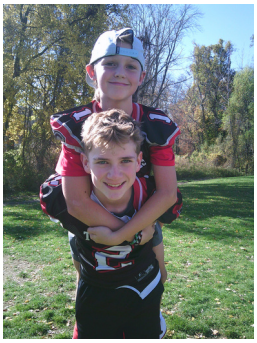
If there's none of the above, take a risk; it's candy; you really can't go wrong. If you do happen to find the best candy, make a note, because they will probably have good candy next year. Happy Trick-or-Treating everyone!



Follow These Tips for a Safe Halloween









By Claire DiLonardo
Tusker Tribune Staff

Halloween is such a fun holiday. You get to dress up play games, eat candy and trick-or-treat! Just look at these cool costumes!

But you also have to be safe on Halloween night. Some ways you can stay safe on Halloween include:

- To always stay with a buddy and don't go any were alone
- Have a light source on you like glow sticks, flash lights, or even something reflective
- Always look for drivers when walking in the streets
- If you don't have an adult with you make sure you can call them at any time so that means have a charged phone or watch
- Check your candy. Make sure there are no open candy wrappers or something you are allergic to before eating.
- If you have an allergy, bring your Epi pen with you just in case. It is always better to be prepared.
- · If someone offers you something like a vape, e-cigarette, cigarette, inhalants, drugs, etc, say no

More "Sppoktacular" photos on Page 3!

SMS Goes All Out for Halloween!

























More "Sppoktacular" photos on Page 4!

SMS Goes All Out for Halloween!





















Tons of Events for SMS Kids to Explore!



By Mateo Carrasco
Tusker Tribune Staff

This week, so many things happened in Somers Middle School. We had another evacuation drill, more clubs, and so much more!!

Starting off with the first of the year, the Somers Middle School Book Fair. There were so many awesome books to choose from, and also posters, fidgets, and two special challenges--the wheel spin, and the fan favorite, guess the number of Jolly Ranchers in the jar. The winner is still unknown for now.

Next on the agenda, Mr. Savastano hosted a Lego build off on Thursday. So many cool things that were created with the power of Lego bricks. Also, on Tuesday, there was an epic rematch between the Intermural teams in Somers Middle School Intermural.

Staying on the topic of sports, the 7th Grade field trip to watch the Westchester Knicks is now accepting permission slips. A lot of people going to see the Knicks, especially if they are in 7th Grade. In addition, Friday was the kickoff of Red Ribbon Week. This is for showing Somers Middle School Spirit and commitment to making healthy choices.

Also, now the Tusker Recess Zone is every Tuesday and Thursday as opposed to just once a week. On Wednesday, we had National Unity Day. This was a day to spread kindness throughout the community. So many things in the first couple months of school, so much more yet to come, the Tribune is going to be lit up next week for Halloween, spirit week, and so much more.

This is the Weekly Recap Of The Tusker Tribune, until next week!!

An Ode to Halloween Constumes

By Francesca Steinberg
Tusker Tribune Staff

Halloween costumes.
A kid in a witch's hat all dressed in black;
She wishes she had a cat.
Her broom stick waits- just like that;
A ghost floats with white sheets all down; their back.

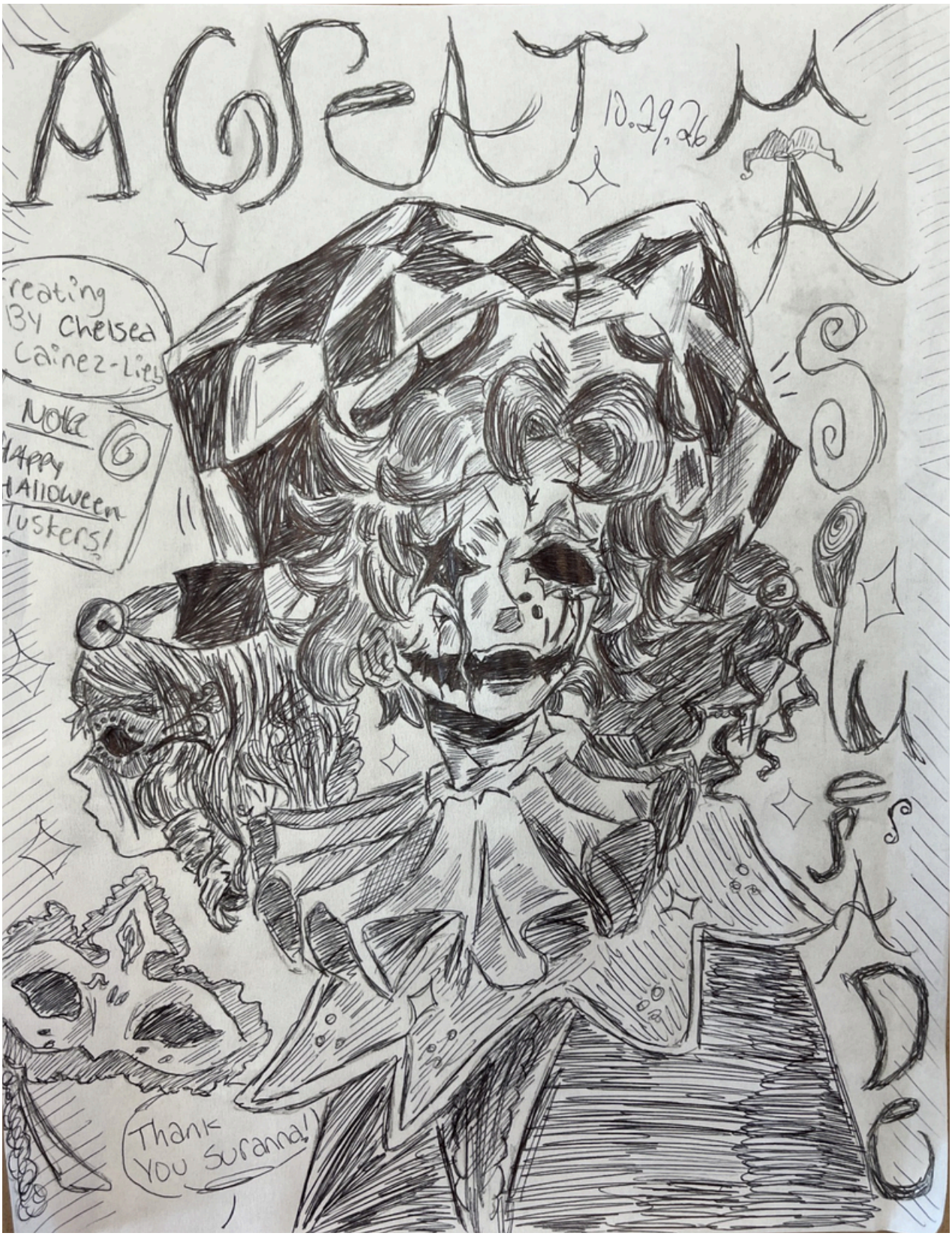
A vampire grins with sharp teeth that scare you;
Blood drips cool and thick--what an ick!
They wish they can witch.

Angles blow the wind with big and thick clouds;
Oh, they wish to be a cow.
The devil is mean, but the angle got your back;
There just a duo all dress in red and black.

A cow is cool so cute and fun;
But it really won't get you much.
I know you want candy so don't be a cow;
I'm just kidding--be whatever you want!

Halloween is fun, you get to be your own one;
But just remember be what you want to be
No matter if its tall or it's from the mall
It's cool and it's all you!





Chelsea Lainez-Lieb was inspired to draw this by Dr. Suranna's Class and a Rendition of "The Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allen Poe.



‘Artist’s Block? By Chelsea Lainez-Lieb

Mariner 6 Flies By Venus 11 Days After Moon Landing

By Maksym Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

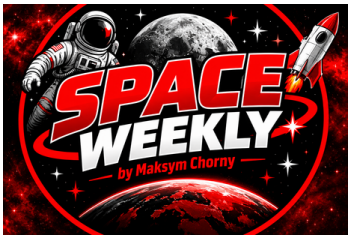
Space Weekly Issue #6

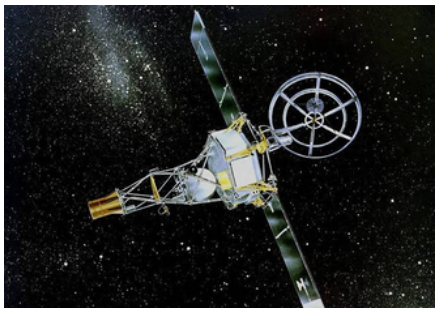
Last issue, we learned about Mariner 5 and its successful mission to Venus.

This issue we are going to learn about the Mariner 6 and 7 probes (No pun intended), and their dual mission to Mars. (All Mariner probes were launched by NASA).

Mariner 6, the first of the two probes, was launched on February 25, 1969, by NASA. Unlike the other Mariner probes, Mariner 6 was launched on an Atlas-Centaur rocket. After a course correction maneuver on February 28,1969, Mariner 6 had a five-month cruise to Mars. Then, Mariner 6 made a flyby of Mars on July 31, 1969, 11 days after the Apollo 11 lunar module landed on the Moon. Mariner 6 made a close approach of 2,131 miles, and took 24 photos of the surface, and discovered that the air pressure on the surface of Mars is equivalent to the air pressure 19 miles above the Earth's surface, completing part of the dual mission to Mars.

Mariner 6 then entered orbit around the Sun. The last contact with the spacecraft was made in mid-1971.





Mariner 7 Goes Silent; Then Wakes Up Again



By Maksym E. Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

Space Weekly Issue #7

Mariner 7: 1969-1971. Like its twin, Mariner 6, Mariner 7 was on a dual mission to Mars. Mariner 7 was launched over a month after Mariner 6 on March 27, 1969, on an Atlas-Centaur rocket.

Mariner 7 had a successful cruise until seven hours before Mariner 6's flyby of Mars on July 30, 1969, when a station in Johannesburg, South Africa, lost contact with the probe. The Johannesburg station attempted to reestablish contact with the probe with help from another station that was originally tracking Pioneer 8 in Madrid, Spain.

Luckily, contact with Mariner 7 was regained not long after. The cause of the event was a micrometeoroid strike. After the micrometeoroid strike, Mariner 7 had a successful flyby of Mars on August 5, 1969, a little less than a week after Mariner 6 with a close approach of 2,130 miles. The probe then entered heliocentric orbit around the Sun. NASA stayed in contact with the probe until mid-1971.

Next issue: Learn about Mariner 8, another Mars mission part of a second dual mission to this intriguing world.

- *Sources: Mariner 7-NASA Science article*

Ernesto and Francine Follow Almost Simultaneous Paths

By Maksym E. Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hurricanes Weekly Issue #5

Hurricanes Ernesto and Francine (2024)

As soon as Hurricane Debby's remnants merged with a new area of low pressure in the northern Atlantic, a tropical depression formed. The depression strengthened to become Tropical Storm Ernesto six hours later.

Tropical Storm Ernesto became a hurricane on August 14, 2024. Ernesto peaked as a category 2 hurricane on August 16, with peak wind speeds of 100 miles per hour and a low pressure of 967 millibars. Ernesto then made landfall in Bermuda early on August 17 as a high-end category 1 hurricane. After landfall, Ernesto weakened to tropical storm intensity before regaining hurricane strength on August 18.

Ernesto reached a short second peak intensity with wind speeds of 100 miles per hour on August 19. Ernesto passed by Newfoundland the next day while becoming an extratropical cyclone. Ernesto then disintegrated into a trough on August 21, 2024. In total, Ernesto caused $520 million in damage. Sadly, approximately three people died due to the storm.

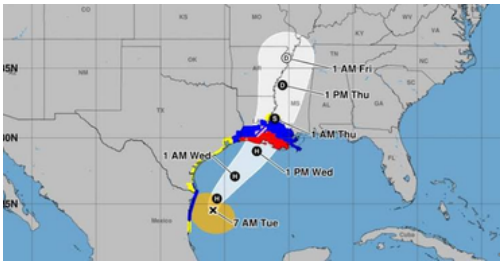
On August 25-26, a tropical wave exited Africa. The wave slowly moved across the Atlantic and did not develop much until September 5, when it was passing near the Yucatan Peninsula. The wave then emerged over the Bay of Campeche, while steadily strengthening. The wave sustained tropical storm force winds on September 8, 2024. Tropical Storm Francine then officially formed the next day.

On September 11, the system intensified and became a hurricane. The system then made landfall near Morgan City, Louisiana, as a category 2 hurricane at peak intensity. The peak wind speeds were 105 miles per hour and a low pressure of 972 millibars. After landfall, Francine weakened to tropical storm strength before crossing Lake Pontchartrain, located near New Orleans, Louisiana (which experienced Hurricane Katrina 19 years earlier in 2005), on September 12. Francine then weakened to tropical depression status over central Mississippi.

Francine became extratropical over northern Mississippi and central Arkansas before dissipating on September 14. In total, Francine caused $1.3 billion in damage. Luckily, Francine caused zero human deaths.

Next issue: Learn about Hurricane Helene, the damage it caused, its meteorological history, and more.

- *Sources: National Hurricane Center (NHC), Kiddle.*



Hurricane Ernesto's path





Hurricane Francine's path

Reporters and Contributors

Mateo Carrasco
Maksym Chorny
Claire DiLonardo
Ryan Donworth
Hudson Galiano
Emily Gardella
Lucas Mejia
Emily Gardella
Chelsea Lainez-Lieb
Victoria Ramos
Aiden Sachetti
Francesca Steinberg

NEWSPAPER CLUB

TUSKER TRIBUNE

A Poem That Kind of Roams Around All Over the Place

By Victoria Ramos and Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Sharing is caring
But do not take too many Airheads . . .
Or Pigoso will charge into you.
Don't be greedy,
Or Pigoso will be speedy...
He will run into you and ram you like a truck
And you will be awestruck.
...
If you ask who Pigoso is,
You will of course get an answer.
He used to be a dancer,
Then he got cancer.
Once he recovered,
He discovered,
That he'd much rather ram into people for taking Airheads,
Charging full speed like a bull seeing red.
...
He wished he had a family
But no one dares to go near his insanity;
He has some old mental issues
Nobody wants to buy him tissues.
He wished he was normal,
But instead, he is very abnormal
So, for once he tried acting like everyone else;
No more charging at people;
No more being crazy;
Now he must act lazy;
Like he's never done before.
So, he races to the door forgetting he's sore;
From charging at the kids
He now does no more.
Now he gets up from his seat
But doesn't dare charge at the kid
Who stole an Airhead from Mr. Pappas' desk;



He's a mess.
Even though everyone thinks he's the best.
Instead of taking a rest,
He decides to go on a quest,
To find the kid,
Who stole from his desk.
Without fear he leaps out of his seat;
With those great feet,
And he sprints to the end of the hall.
Then he falls,
He gets back up ,
To call
An old acquaintance, Paul.
Paul is a part of his quest,
Because Paul's simply the best
But just like Pigoso,
He doesn't take any rest
So, they head to the office
Where they must be very cautious
And sneaky.
Once they reach the office,
Pigoso charges at the creaky door;
And he was ready for more.
Paul threw himself on the floor,
And started to snore,
"'I think we should come back tomorrow,'" Paul said, while yawning.
"Yea you're right," I said.
But next thing you know there's a roar in the back of the office.
Are there more kids looking for Airheads now?
"We'll have to find that out tomorrow," Paul exclaimed in a low voice.
"Fine. Tomorrow, 9 am sharp, meet me by the front entrance."
In fact, Pigoso and Paul gave up,
They never came back,
And they totally forgot about their quest.

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

The Tusker Tribune
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Our Expert Rates the Strike King Caffeine Shad Lure

By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello! Today I am going to talk about one of my favorite fishing lures, The Strike King Caffeine Shad.

Now, one thing about this soft plastic lure is that not many people fish this style of lure. And what makes the Caffeine Shad special is its tail. Pictured at right is the tail of the Caffeine Shad, and to the right of the Caffeine Shad, the tail of the average fluke.

As you can see, they have very different shaped tails. This gives the Caffeine Shad a distinct and unique action. I like this lure paired with a Gamakatsu 4/0 weighted superline-lock-hook.

This hook combined with the lure is stellar. For bass fishing, I consider this the best pond fishing lure. I recommend the Lews Accel RX baitcasting combo. This combo, excels with lighter lures and soft plastics like the caffeine shad. In fact, this reel was rated, by Tackle Warehouse, and named the Best Budget Baitcastor of 2026.

For the retrieve, I like to raise it up and let it sink. With the weighted hook, it shimmies down like a crawfish and when you lift it up, it looks like a baitfish. The bite often comes on the shimmy. And you want to give them the business, with a strong hookset to the roof of the mouth.

That is all I have for today and I will see you next time.



Caffeine Shad Tail



Regular Fluke Taill



World-Record Subway Celebrates 122nd Birthday

By Aidan Sacchetti
Tusker Tribune Staff

Recently, the largest subway system in the whole wide world celebrated its birthday. On October 27, 1904, the New York City subway system opened, making it 122 years old.

Boston's subway system was the first to open in United States, but New York's was America's biggest. On the first day it opened, more than 100,000 people paid 5 cents to take the train.

Unlike most major global subway systems, the New York subway runs 24/7, and even did so during Hurricane Sandy. The system is over 665 miles across 28 routes.

The busiest station is Times Square-42nd Street, which gives millions of people a ride. The highest elevated station is Smith-9th Street (88 feet above street level), and the deepest underground station is 191st street (180 feet below street level).

Nowadays, trains cost a lot of money - $3.00 per ride. In 1904, a ride was only 5 cents. Have you ever taken a ride on the New York City Subway?

What Do We Lose When We Use AI in Our Designs?

By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff

I have a question that I am sure a lot of you have: *Is the use of AI hurting the look of the school in itself?*

Look at this post about Chelsea Piers. This use of AI hurts the look of the school. Especially if you look at the trampolines area! If you look closely at the boy's left leg, you will see a second foot!?

ChatGPT is a useful tool but to use it like this makes it looks like they put in minimal effort!!!! This has been done multiple times, too.

And look at this for Recess Zone! This hurts the look of the school and makes it so students think that this school lacks creativity.

I hope we go back to the old days where you can find posts with effort in them! But you can support non AI posts that are coming out today! For example the Spirt Week post was not AI!!!!! (Yesssssssssssss!!). Here is an example of a non AI post

You can support posts like this by liking them and schoology and commenting to congratulate them that there not AI!! And to help stop the madness of AI posting, unlike AI posts and comment telling them to post non-AI posts.

And yes this is a serious topic I need people like you to protest this! Comment, unlike, like do whatever to stop this!

I hope to see you next time on The Great Outdoorsman!











SMS STAR Students for October 2026

It's time for our STAR Awards for the month of October. A STAR award stands for Students who are Role Models and the following 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!

Grade 6:

· Ethan Madera
· Thomas Rende-Glaser
· Jacob Biziack
· Raffaele Ciavolino

Grade 7:

· Scarlett Ritson
· Xavier Polito
· Karina Arroyo-Valentin
· Josephine Doherty
· Demian Berkalo
· Aria Mancini
· Drew Pande
· Weston Potusek
· Nicholas Diaz
· Lucas Mejia
· Xavier Polito
· Jackson Romeo-Diamond

Grade 8:

· Natalia Steiner
· Rita Krasniqi (birthday on 2/8/2013)

This Halloween Storm Was Definitely a Cruel Trick

By Maksym E. Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hurricanes Weekly: Special Edition

Hurricane Sandy (2012)



Fourtee14 years ago . . . on October 29 . . . Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey.

I know what you are thinking. What was Hurricane Sandy? Short answer: A very destructive and extremely large category 3 major hurricane that formed in October. But let's go more in depth.

It all started on October 21, 2012, when a tropical depression formed north of the country of Panama. The system then strengthened and became a tropical storm the next day, receiving the name Sandy. After two days of steady development, Sandy became a category 1 hurricane on October 24, 2012. Sandy then made landfall in Jamaica not far from its capital city, Kingston, with wind speeds of 86 miles per hour and a low pressure of 971 millibars.



Despite the landfall, however, Sandy strengthened to category 2 hurricane status on the night of October24-25. The system was nearing a second landfall in Cuba, however, where it would bring more destructive power. A category 2 is already bad enough, but Sandy then intensified to category 3 major hurricane intensity right before landfall, and Sandy made landfall at peak intensity not far from Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, with peak wind speeds of 115 miles per hour and a low pressure of 954 millibars, on October 25. Sandy exited Cuba as a high-end category 2 hurricane on the same day.



Sandy continued its journey through the Bahamas, where it weakened to category 1 hurricane status on the night of October 25-26. Sandy then weakened to tropical storm status northeast of Miami, Florida. The system then restrengthened to category 1 hurricane status on October 27. Although the system almost weakened back down to tropical storm status on the night of October 27-28, 2012, the system-maintained hurricane status, even though it was traveling north. Surprisingly, Sandy strengthened to category 2 hurricane intensity, achieving a second peak intensity on October 29 with peak wind speeds of 97 miles per hour and a low pressure of 945 millibars. But finally, the colder north Atlantic Ocean waters began affecting Sandy, weakening it down to category 1 hurricane status on the same day. Later that same day, Sandy became an extratropical cyclone with wind speeds of 86 miles per hour and a low pressure of 943 millibars, the equivalent of a considerably strong category 1 hurricane. However, the system made a fourth landfall near Atlantic City, New Jersey, on October 29 with wind speeds of 80 miles per hour and a low pressure of 945 millibars.

Extratropical Cyclone Sandy passed over the Delaware River and into Pennsylvania on October 30. After weakening considerably over Pennsylvania, Sandy entered Ohio on Halloween before dissipating on the same day. In total, Sandy caused 68.7 billion dollars in damage, making it the fourth-costliest hurricane in United States history, and 233 deaths. Also, Sandy was the largest Atlantic Hurricane when measured by width ever recorded, with strong winds reaching 1,100 miles from its eye. (The largest tropical cyclone ever recorded by width was Typhoon Tip in the western Pacific Ocean in 1979).

- *Sources: NOAA, Kiddle, and Zoom Earth.*