



WE A.R.E. SPARTANS

— ACHIEVEMENT RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY —

The IMMS Messenger, Virtual Edition 5

May 4, 2021



Victorious visit

Former IMMS student Tajzee Strong, who won the Miss Black Wisconsin pageant, returned to the middle school at the end of April to share how her eighth-grade experiences here helped shape her life. For more, see page 7.

Staff photo

IMMS track team expects big feats

One IMMS team sport, track and field, is off and running -- with masks on -- throughout this month. Nearly 80 seventh and eighth-grade students participate, competing in short sprints to the mile run as well as the long jump to shot put throw. There are also three relay events with four runners in each group.

IMMS will compete in two meets against Monona Grove's middle school at the McFarland High School track on Tuesday, May 18, and Monday, May 24.

The season has been shortened from its usual six-week length. Still, students have been able to train and to learn from five coaches, including IMMS' Ms. Laymon and Mr. Tom. Waubesa school counselor Mrs. Ruhland is in her first season as head coach.

IMMS track athletes have had to adjust to Covid prevention procedures, separating during the extensive warmups and workout runs. Even though students might be tired of restrictions, such as masks, it's important to respect the guidelines.

Sixth and seventh graders will have two seasons to run next school year, beginning in early September. The cross country team returns this fall and track returns in March 2022.

Sixth-grader Maggie St. Clair contributed to this story.

Celebrating Moms!

By Maggie St. Clair

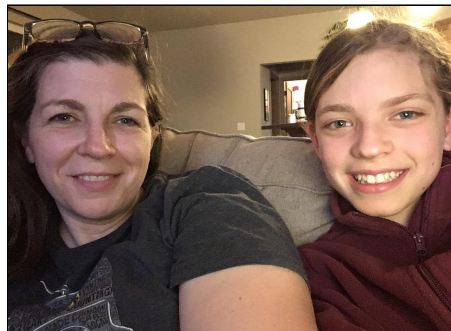
We all have a mother whether they are with us or away, related by blood or something else. And it's important to celebrate them showing them your appreciation. Some ways to celebrate your mom are to get her flowers or spend a lot of time with them. So make your mother feel special this year and do something nice for them; Mother's Day is the second Sunday in May; this year May 9.



From Abigail Repenshek: "I love you mom. HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!"



From Alaina Strayer: "Thank you, Mom, for helping me in my hardest times and loving me through all my ups and downs. I love you so much. I couldn't ask for a better mom."



From Hayden Willenbacher: "I am so happy to be able to hang out with you all the time. I love reading with you. You always are there for me when I am upset. Whenever I am with you I am always so happy. Thank you for being my mom and taking care of me. And just so you know, you can always count on me for anything you need, just like you allow me to count on you. With LOTS OF LOVE!"



Maggie St. Clair with her mom.

IMMS staff share mom moments, too!



IMMS Library Media Specialist Ms. Neal, right, with her mom.



Sixth-grade teacher Ms. Kittoe, right, with her mom.



Sixth-grade teacher Ms. Sanders, right, with her mom.



IMMS Principal Mr. Tarnutzer with his mom.



IMMS Reading Teacher Ms. Miller, right, with her mom.



IMMS guest teacher Chris Suick, right, with his mom on the left.



IMMS orchestra teacher Leanna Hershey celebrates being a mom with her son.



Sixth-grade teacher Ms. Zamastil, left, celebrates her mom, right, and being a mom.

Helping out the Earth

By **Ada Geiger**
IMMS Grade 6

Every year on April 22, people all over the planet pitch in and pick up trash on the sides of roads and reuse, reduce and recycle; this day is called Earth Day! But what do you do on earth day?

Here's some things you can do to help all year:

1. Recycle! It never hurts to peel off the labels on soup cans and plastic water bottles, and separate the two into recycling and trash. (Label in trash, soup can in recycling.)

2. Reuse! If you go to the grocery store and use "disposable" plastic bags, your family should reuse the plastic bags instead of throwing them away. Did you know over 100,000 sea creatures die every year due to plastic waste in the ocean? This is an incentive to reuse.

3. Reduce! Reducing the amount of waste you throw away can make a big difference! For example, instead

of using plastic bags at the grocery store, you should get reusable bags. And reusable water bottles keep you from having to throw out so much plastic.

4. Check labels! Did you know your favorite candy, food and soap companies could all be using palm oil for their products? Palm oil is bad because you have to cut down a tree to extract a small amount of it, and it is one of the main reasons our beloved rainforests are fading away. So checking labels on product is good so that you know there is no palm oil included in them.

5. Be aware! It's always a good idea to be aware of the amount of time you take a shower or leave the lights on in a room. It's also always a good idea to turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and turning out the light when you leave a room.

Just remember, it's a privilege to have things like electricity and clean water at the turn of a knob or button. You should be aware and responsible on how you choose to use these things.

Happy Earth Day, IMMS!

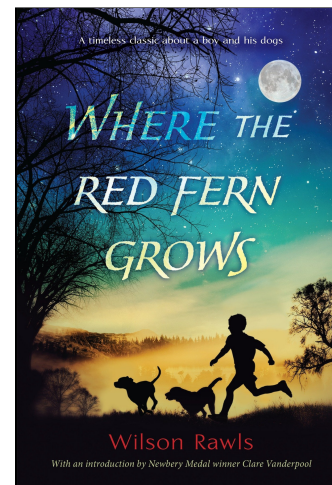
Book Talk: *Where the Red Fern Grows*

By **Kate Mischnick**
IMMS Grade 6

Where the Red Fern Grows is a classic. Even if you have never read the book, you have probably heard the title somewhere. You may have also heard that it makes everyone who reads it cry. From firsthand experience, I can tell you that's true.

Where the Red Fern Grows is the story of a boy and his dogs—the work he must toil through to earn enough money for the pups, and the scrapes he gets into with them as they get older. The friendship between the two species in a classic "boy and his dog" plot is amazing. Then suddenly they are in great danger. Not only is this a story of friendship, but also loyalty, bravery, and sacrifice as man's best friend risks his life to save his master.

Where the Red Fern Grows is a wonderful book; it's very well written, and it draws you into the story. It shows unconditional love that we humans should give each other. It tells of selflessness and loyalty that everyone should have. Just have a box of Kleenex nearby, because I can almost guarantee they will be needed.



IMMS Spring Messenger Staff and Contributors

Sofia Bexson, Ada Geiger, Kate Mischnick, Maggie St. Clair, Rachel Stolyarov. For information on how to get involved, contact Adviser Ms. Ndlovu at Ndlovut@mcsfd.org.



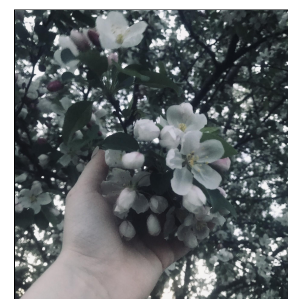
Signs of spring

Whether it's frost in the forecast or temperatures in the 80s, the delights of spring keep budding around McFarland.

*Photos by Ada Geiger,
IMMS 6th Grade*



Hailey Knowles also captured the sight of spring, below.





Art on display

Former IMMS and current MHS student Tegan Brendenmuel has a piece in an art exhibit at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art on State Street. The exhibit, called Perspectives in Isolation, is organized by the MMoCa Teen Forum. The exhibit runs through June 6.

Submitted photo

Poetry

Spring

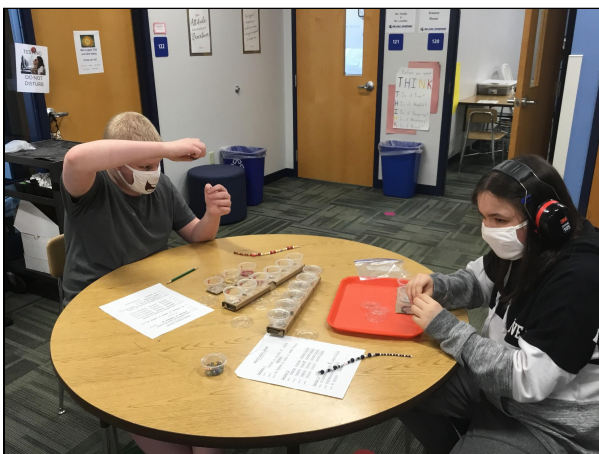
By Ada Geiger

Spring
 is like a grave
 a hole in the dirt
 the smell of mud and wet grass
spring
 the sun doesn't show anymore
 a curtain of clouds
 shields the ever waiting
 rays of warmth
spring
 the never ending rain
 yet I wait
 for my flowers to bloom
 yet they stay
 a
 lifeless
 straw
 stud
 in the rocks
spring

Under the Rug

By Katty Lodewyk

Not a care in the world as time ticks by,
 Planes taking towards the sky.
 Down to the depths of the earth, a turtle swims by.
 It shrieks, screams and cries for help,
 But we've done nothing delt.
 Time simultaneously passes by, 6 years left to fix this problem.
 Brushed under the rug, swept away is where this problem lays.
 Trees hit the ground with a bellowing sigh.
 No one mourns the loss of the tree that had been here first,
 Another day in the life of earth.
 We curse this world,
 As its trying to grow,
 But we gave it a low blow.
 We've created a world of hate and injustice,
 Well the world under our feet parashes.
 As we only have 6 years left to give back.
 Yet plastic containers still home the big mac,
 They get tossed and trashed, never reaching the end.
 Because plastic doesn't *go away*,
 But it stays.
 Eternally reminding us of our faults.
 We have time to fix it, we have time to turn back,
 But the clock ticks on, so we must carry on.
 Not giving up, nor giving in,
 But making certain we do all we can.



Koen Baumgarten and Kacey Mita



Jacob Kerr and Sofia Tourir

Patterns project produces lanyards

IMMS students in Ms. Hickey's SET class created mask lanyards. The group brainstormed an educational project and making lanyards tapped into numerous skills, including following patterns, sorting, and designing, as well as work on fine motor and entrepreneurship skills. The students put lanyards on display, featuring designs that said, "Be Kind," Happy Day," and "IMMS Spartans." Students and staff also offered customized lanyards.

Submitted photos



Tajzee Strong, the current Miss Black Wisconsin, presented an appreciation award to IMMS on Friday, April 30, in the IMMS Library. Representing staff and administration were Principal Tarnutzer, left, and Mr. Peterson, right.

Staff photo

Former student inspires, thanks IMMS

Tajzee Strong, the current Miss Black Wisconsin, presented Principal Tarnutzer with an appreciation award on Friday, April 30, in the IMMS Library. She thanked him for welcoming her during a difficult time in her life, transitioning to IMMS as a new school. In addition to the presentation, Strong also answered questions with students in Josh Johnson's classes. She thanked Mr. Johnson and Ms. Donagan for seeing something special in her and connecting her with advanced learning coursework.

Tajzee went to high school in McFarland for her Freshman year before moving out of the area. After high school, she served in the Army for two years in Korea. She will graduate with a bachelor's degree in forensic science this May and will begin pursuing her master's degree in biology with the goal of becoming a neurosurgeon. She also will compete in the national Miss Black USA competition in August.