



WE A.R.E. SPARTANS

— ACHIEVEMENT RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY —

The IMMS Messenger, Virtual Edition 2-4 March 18, 2022

Library offers fun for teens

By Eva VandeKieft
IMMS Grade 7

If you are looking for something to do after school, try out the library programs! I've gone to a lot, and I mean a LOT, of the programs. All of them are fun. Especially with Abby. She leads all of them. She's so fun.

One of the programs I've been to is Snack and Chat. It's exactly what it sounds like. Right now we are on zoom but the people hosting it are hoping to go back to in person at the library. On zoom, you can get a snack and log on. We talk about the best (sometimes very...interesting) things. We talk about our day; we sometimes watch videos. We do fun quizzes, too. If we go back to the library, the library provides snacks. But if you want to bring something, make sure it's okay, then you can.

The next program I am going to talk about is TAB, Teen Advisory Board. In TAB, we plan what we want to happen at Teen Night and for the library newsletter. Yes, the library has a newsletter. Anyway, at TAB, we have planned out many things. This isn't boring. At least I don't think so. We can say what we want to happen. Of course, we need to make sure the library is able to do it. Now, let's move on to the newsletter. You don't have to do it but it's fun. Again, in my opinion. You can write articles, share art, share stories, fav songs. As long as it's appropriate, you'll probably be able to do it.

Another program is Graphic Novel Book Club. In this one, you talk about...can you guess? Graphic novels. You can talk about other books. If you like reading and getting suggestions, come to this program. There are many books out there. You might find more genres you'll like. Also, you can tell people about the books you've read.

The next program I'm going to talk about is Teen



Abby, the Teen Librarian, helps set up events.

After Hours. The TAB plans out what they want to do. Then, every month, an activity takes place after the library closes. This time, we planned out, if it goes back to in person, a dance party/karaoke/maybe decorate cookies. We think of multiple things to do. We had to narrow down what we wanted to do.

The last program I'm going to tell you about is Teen Night. This is my favorite if I'm being honest. I love all the other ones though. In Teen Night, we do a mix of games and other things. We play Among Us, Mofiya, Jackbox Games, and we've done karaoke sometimes. We plan out some stuff we want at TAB and then the people hosting it plan out when to do the stuff. It's so fun. You know what I'm going to say...In my opinion. We laugh and we talk about interesting things. Sorry, I will not tell you what. You gotta come to find out.

Anyway, games, chatting, and laughing. That's the main thing we do. So, if your hours after school aren't filled with clubs or any other things, come hang out with us! We'd love to have you. Here is the [link](#) to the library teen page for sign-ups.

Petitions bring grade together

By Maggie St. Clair
IMMS Grade 7

In the seventh-grade area, some petitions have been posted on the wall. People want to get support for their ideas, like getting a vending machine and having the day off after the Super Bowl. Now those are all good ideas but does a petition make sense?

Maybe. After all, the petitions do show how much support an idea has. With an idea like having a vending machine, support is a key element.

I have talked to one of the co-creators of the “Vending Machine Petition.” Addison M. said the reason they did the petition was because “we saw Mr. Miller had a Bubblr, and we wanted one; so we asked about it. And then we thought it would be a good idea to get a vending machine in the cafeteria. Kids would really benefit from it.”

Following her response, I asked why we would benefit from vending machines. Addison replied, “I think we should because the school will get the benefits of the money. I think there should be rules around it so people don’t destroy it.”

She also said, “Vending machines could be very useful in our school. Many students in IMMS agree that vending machines could be very helpful in our school, but there can be many pros and cons to having a vending machine.”

According to Addison’s responses, there are definitely pros and cons to consider about bringing vending machines back to the IMMS school grounds. What do you think we should do?

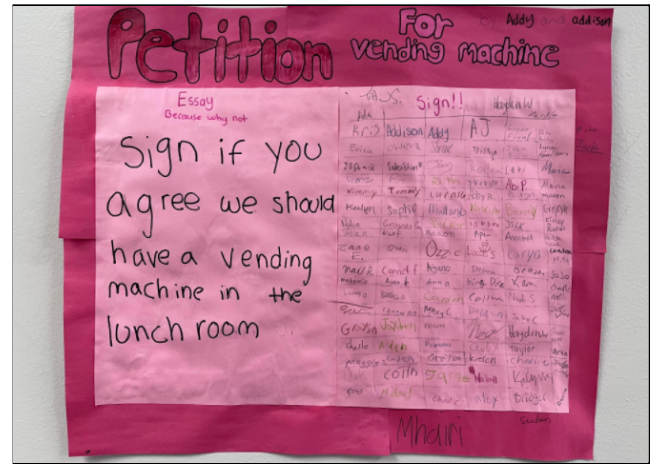
In my opinion, I do think that the petitions have brought the seventh grade together; the grade has shown spirit, winning some Spartan trophies this year. And it could very well be because of their similarities in interests. This doesn’t mean you need to start a petition for your grade; it just means you need to find a good team effort to get your grade working together.

This year’s Spartan trophy tally is: Eighth grade, 1 Spartan trophy; seventh grade, 2 Spartan trophies, and sixth grade, 1 Spartan trophy.

Students in the seventh-grade area added their opinions.

“Sometimes, after I’m done eating lunch, I still have time to eat. I’m usually still hungry. And if there was a vending machine, I could get a bag of chips, or a granola bar to eat,” said Kimmy Mender.

Brooke DeShong said, “There would be more



variety of food options if someone doesn’t like the food options that day.”

Even though each grade has a snack time for one of their classes, not all people have snacks each day. Ava Roder said, “I think vending machines would be helpful in case I forgot my snack. When I forget my snack, I’m super hungry before lunch.”

Benny Steinke thinks there should be some drinks in the vending machine. He said, “Sometimes during the day I get thirsty and forget my water bottle. With a vending machine, I could get a bottle of water.”

Weston Vogelsang thinks, “With the purchase of the vending machine, it will help more than just snacks. With the extra money from the snacks, you could buy more outdoor equipment and gym equipment and more school equipment in general.”

Although the school provides breakfast and lunch, not all kids like the options. It could be better for the kids to have something extra. Some kids could be allergic or have something against the food choices. They might enjoy having something smaller to eat.

Because we humans have different opinions, some people don’t agree that we should have a vending machine. Also brought up was the fact we had a machine a few years ago, and kids did not treat it well. Additional cons could be the kids who can’t afford vending items and could not get them. Also, it could break, and it could take a lot to restock.

I think the best arguments are that having a snack and drink machine feeds kids and brings in revenue. What sorts of treats and drinks to sell in the machines could be up to the staff. If there are some rules for the vending machine and the right responsible people running it, we could make it work.

Complimenting tips could make a person's day

By Rachel Stolyarov

IMMS Grade 7

March 1, 2022, was Compliment Day. Even with this special day in our past, we can still work to celebrate it. Compliments build relationships, and make you a person that someone looks forward to seeing, each and every day! However, compliments can be tricky. A lot of people struggle with how to give a compliment that comes across as sincere, not to mention the stress of receiving one properly. Here are some tips and tricks that will help you become a complement giving/receiving master.

- ❖ Don't just give a compliment because you think it will help you get out of hot water. Instead, tie it to something you genuinely feel to make it authentic.
- ❖ When you want to give a genuine compliment, tie it to something that someone cares about. For example, compliment a football player on their win the other day. Do NOT compliment them on something related to you. When you put yourself in a compliment, it's less genuine and you are not really complimenting the person.
- ❖ Keep it specific. Do not say something like you look nice today. Instead, say something like I really like how you paired those black jeans with that red top.
- ❖ When complimenting someone, it is advisable to do it in a stress-free environment, like after completing a project. This will create the best dynamic possible.

Giving a compliment is hard, but receiving can be just as tricky! You might feel awkward, surprised, and these emotions might make it hard to give the right response, at the right moment.

- ❖ The best way to receive a compliment is by thanking the person personally. It is OK to return the compliment, but doing so might make the other person feel like you are complimenting them just to be polite.

Here is an example of giving and receiving a compliment.

Jordan and Michael were walking down the hall,



Image Source: Pixabay

tired but excited after finishing their school play. Michael played the lead role, and he sang brilliantly. "I really liked how you sang your solo in the fifth scene. Did you spend a lot of time preparing for it?" said Jordan.

"Thank you! I did spend a lot of time working on it. I noticed you practicing yesterday for your role in the gym. I saw that your solo was pretty tough with those high notes. What technique did you use to practice?"

This example is really good because the compliment flows into the conversation, is specific, and carries on the conversation, too.

Compliments might be difficult, but when you give one correctly you can make someone's day!

Source: "How to Give Sincere Compliments." *Oprah Daily*, 28 June 2019, <https://www.oprahdaily.com/life/relationships-love/a28221845/how-to-give-compliments/>.

Mr. Zartman joins the seventh-grade staff

By Brooke DeShong
IMMS Grade 7

As new teachers are welcomed at our school, there are many new people to learn about. Today I interviewed Mr. Zartman, a new seventh-grade science teacher. We are so excited to have him become part of our school district. In order to get to know him better, I asked him some questions below.

Q: When did you decide that you wanted to be a science teacher?

A: I have always enjoyed science and math. At UW-LaCrosse, I graduated with a degree in Geography and Earth Science, but I didn't become a teacher until years later. I spent 15 years working in IT before I decided to become a teacher. At my last school, they actually asked me if I wanted to be the eighth-grade science teacher or the sixth-grade social studies teacher. I chose science!

Q: What do you enjoy outside of school?

A: I enjoy playing hockey and running. In the summer, I enjoy gardening and growing a variety of vegetables that I use to make a killer salsa! (No, it's not super hot; I hate spicy food!) About four years ago, I started playing guitar; I'm not very good, but I'm getting better. I also have a chocolate lab named Phil who we take camping and kayaking in the summer. He loves the water!

Q: What is your favorite unit to teach in science?

A: My favorite unit in science is biology. Both plants and animals fascinate me. I started a school garden at my last school, and we spent a lot of science class time outside in the spring and early fall. Chemistry is pretty cool, too, but biology is my number one.

Q: Do you coach any sports?

A: I've coached everything from varsity hockey, football and track to middle school girls and boys basketball and even varsity girls golf. I really like spending time with students doing things they enjoy

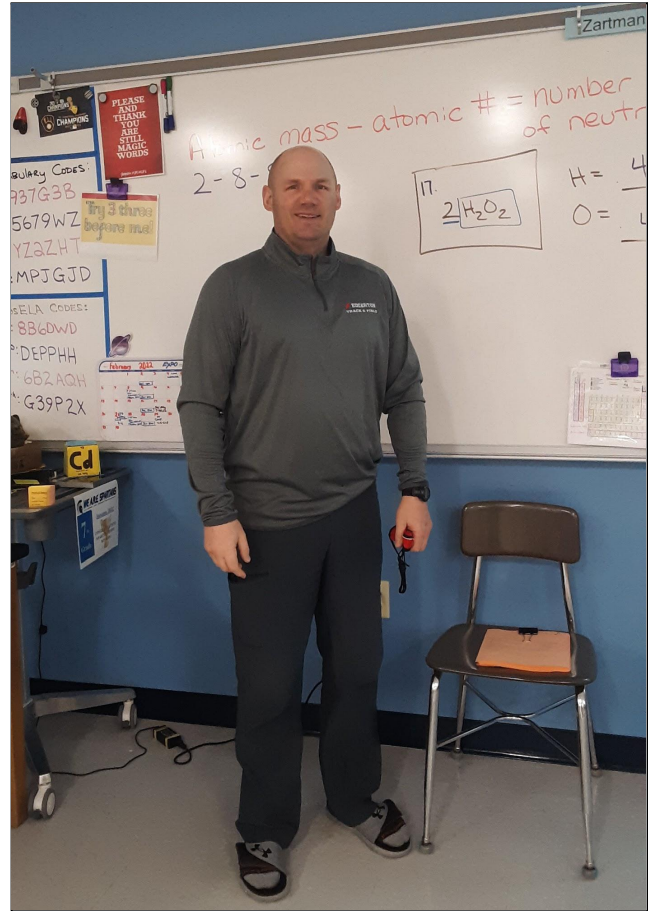


Photo by Mason Gast, IMMS Grade 7
Mr. Zartman before school.

and excel at.

Q: What is the most challenging thing about teaching science?

A: That's a great question. The challenge with science is that there is always more to learn and so many science concepts are constantly changing. With new discoveries and new technologies keeping up with teaching, science means I need to be learning just as many new things as the kids!

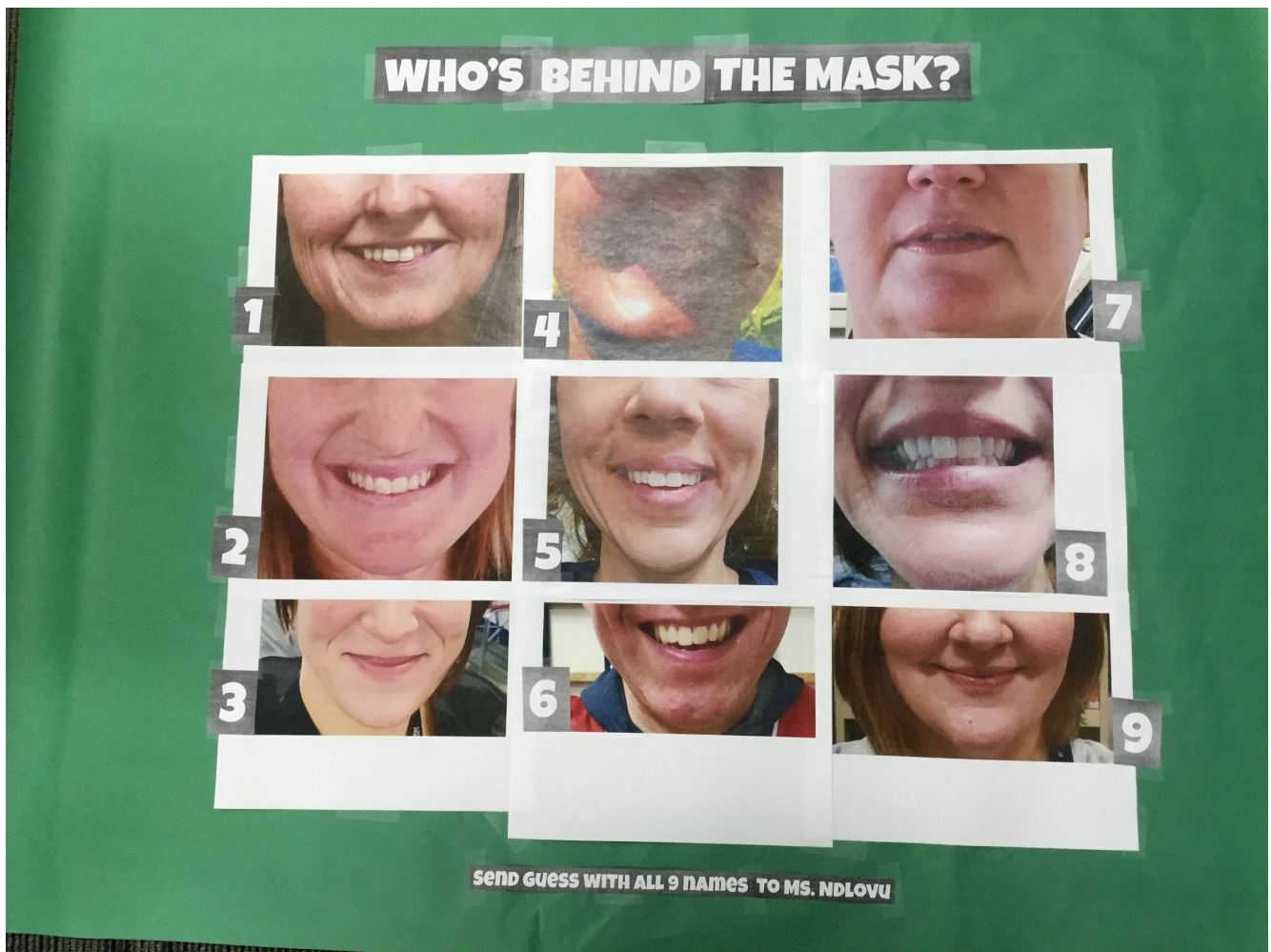
IMMS Spring Messenger Staff and Contributors

Brooke DeShong, Mason Gast, Ada Geiger, Maggie St. Clair, Rachel Stolyarov, Eva VandeKieft. For information on how to get involved, contact Adviser Ms. Ndlovu at Ndlovut@mcfds.org.

A day to respect tools? Absolutely

By **Mason Gast**
IMMS Grade 7

March 11 is dedicated to national worship of tools day, which is a day to go wherever you keep your tools and do things like clean them, use them, organize them, and some people even buy new tools! The purpose of national worship of tools day is to recognize and appreciate the impact and importance of our tools. Not much is known about how national worship of tools day came to be but we all know at the bottom of our hearts that tools are responsible for a lot of what we have today.

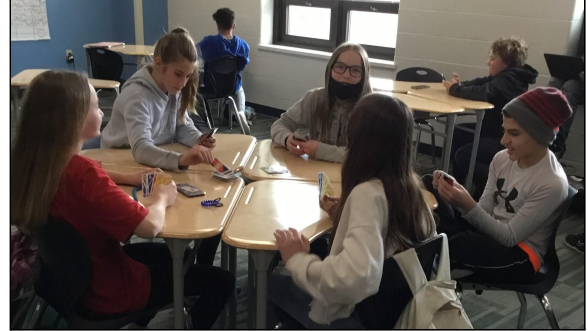


Smile Winner

IMMS student Ndioba Naar Seye correctly guessed six of the nine smiles in the Messenger's Who's Behind the Mask contest. She correctly guessed 1-Ms. Fischer, 4-Ms. Roherty, 5-Ms. Miller, 6-Mr. Jondle, 7-Ms. Neal, and 9-Ms. Ferlin. Staff also pictured include 2-Ms. Chadesh, 3-Ms. Ogodogu, and 8-Ms. Donagan.

Spartan Hour Scenes

IMMS celebrated its first Spartan Hour, celebrating student effort and achievement, on March 18. Students selected activities from watching March Madness or TV to games and crafts.



IMMS seventh-graders play cards in Ms. Engelhart's room. Sam Modest, at left, and Avah Renvick, below, created scratch art provided by Ms. Sandy.

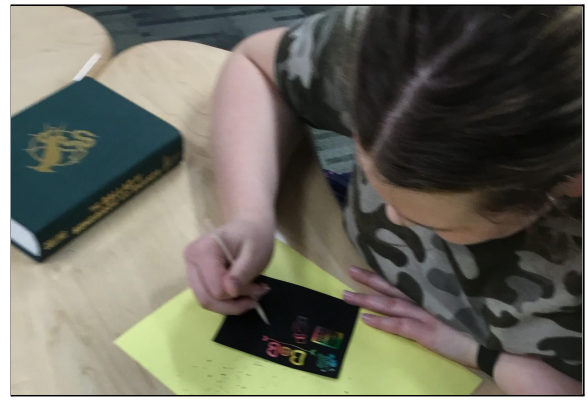


Photo by Ada Geiger
IMMS seventh-grade students made buttons in Ms. Meyer's room, at left. Above, the seventh-graders played games in Ms. Garvey's room.