To date or not to date?
A middle school question

By Alexcia Johnson
IMMS 6th Grade

What do you think about dating? What do you think kids should/shouldn’t date? Do you see any distractions in the classroom because of dating?

About a third of the students who responded to the IMMS Dating Survey held in March thought middle school was the best time to start dating. The majority also rated the dating scene at IMMS as a positive one.

Some teachers, who were asked similar questions, concurred about the benefits of dating, but added qualifications about age.

“I think kids should date. It’s an excellent way to get to know a boy or girl,” said Ms. Michaels.

IMMS library assistant. Family and Consumer Education teacher Mrs. Colle also agreed. She said, “It’s good for building social skills, finding out what you like and don’t like about possible future partners, good for finding out what socially acceptable behavior is for dating.”

Most of the teachers think that kids are too young in middle school to date seriously, advising that they should wait until they are 16 for that. Mrs. Colle also added, “I think they are too young to...

“I think that developing relationships is developmentally appropriate, hanging out with groups of friends is appropriate, but having a traditional "date" is best to wait until age 16,” specified Mr. Jondle, Vice Principal at IMMS.

One of the sixth-graders surveyed agreed with Mr. Jondle, saying, “Just to keep it low. Relationships shouldn’t be at the total love level in middle school.”

“I do not think middle-schoolers should date as they are too young. I think it complicates friendships in a way that middle school students are not mature for,” said Mr. Kramer, IMMS teacher/guidance counselor.

A seventh-grade student surveyed echoed Mr. Kramer, saying, “They should not date until high school at least, seriously dating is how you find who you are going to marry. Middle-schoolers aren’t ready.”

“I think that some kids are just dating to look cool, and you should only date if you have found someone you really like. Also I know it is hard for some people to look into the future but you shouldn’t go out with someone unless you can see a future with that person. I’m not saying if you can’t picture a future with this person, but if you can definitely not see a good future with this person don’t even bother,” said one eighth-grader surveyed.

As to the distraction, students surveyed were divided with slightly more students saying dating was not a big distraction. “As a former teacher, the biggest distraction I saw was ‘drama’ that trickled into the classroom if there was a change in relationship status or if there was jealousy between classmates,” noted Mr. Jondle.

Even though most student respondents selected one of the middle school grades as the time to start dating, the single most common grade for starting dating was ninth grade.

Most of the students and teachers think that you should wait until high school or until you are mature enough to understand the consequences of breaking up. The next time you think about dating... STOP and consider saving the drama for high school.

IMMS students win signed footballs in exercise challenge

By Olivia Pili
IMMS 6th Grade

In February, 45 IMMS students participated in the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. Fuel Up to Play 60 is a program that was founded by the National Dairy Council and the NFL in collaboration with the USDA. The program encourages students to eat healthy food and exercise for at least 60 minutes per day.

In the end, the top two winners received a NFL prize donated by the Milk Marketing Board. The two lucky winners of this year’s IMMS Fuel Up to Play 60 were Kodiak and Jack, each winning a Packer signed football celebrating their win.

Jack, a winning sixth-grader, says the strategy for winning is “to do a lot of different activities,” such as walking, exercising on the treadmill and working hard in gym class. What motivated Jack was the thought of being healthy, happy and feeling good in the result of the exercise.

When the winning was announced a giant smile appeared on Jack’s face; happiness was all over his face and he was filled with surprise.

“It makes me want to exercise!” Jack commented after winning the signed football. With all his hard work, Jack still wants to continue making good decisions and being healthy.

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Unwind series: Don’t miss dystopian suspense

By Avery Lawrence
IMMS 6th Grade

There are three different types of vampires in the Vampire Academy world. The Strigoi, the Moroi and the Dhampirs. The Strigoi who are immortal and evil vampires prey on the Moroi. The Moroi are mortal vampires that, unlike the Strigoi, do not die of aging. A Dhampir would be willing to go to war to protect the Moroi. There is a lot of technology used in this world though, not as many people realize it.

Echoing a Spartan Challenge: Kids should be more active

By Patrick Heasty
IMMS 6th Grade

One of the third quarter’s Spartan challenges was: “Which grade is the most active? Do students actually follow through on the requirements?”

By Audrey McMillian
IMMS 6th Grade

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By Claire Hall  
IMMS 6th Grade  
Previously: I tell Laine, my good friend, about all my worries, my dreams, and even about the boy I saw across the street, watching me. That same boy told me to run in my mind. He was everywhere—at school and in my mind—telling me to run. Telling me that she—the tunnel shadow calling my name—is coming.

When she asks about the boy’s name, I begin to hear everyone’s thoughts, and I hear him. Baron is my name. I feel like I am this...Baron. My name is Baron. I think as I smile. The immediate sound he heard was the middle ear, OLGA. “...and then he disappeared. How could I be there if he disappeared?...Baron. My name is Baron. My name is Baron. I think. As I smile. Maybe I am not here in this class. I don’t have to ‘speak’ to hear someone. Maybe the waves are so high pitched, no one can hear them except me. The brain could transmit waves, right? I better pay attention...” My thoughts are interrupted when Mrs. Carhart stops talking. She walks over, her pointer in hand, while her usually heart-shaped face looks like a squashed pineapple.

“Aim I interrupting you? Maybe—since you are not in this class, and you seem to know so much more than me, and because you won’t listen—you would like to teach? I am getting very tired.” The class giggles with excitement. I think. The straight ‘A’ girl is going to get advice from the class. Maybe I should be in an in- 

“Everyone can research the brain and write an essay on whether you agree with Mrs. Harper or disagree, then explain why.” She pauses for effect. “That will be your homework. It is due next Friday.” I shudda trained there,” he said with a nasally, overwhelmingy annoying voice.

“First name?” he said with a nasally, overwhelmingy annoying voice. “Miss Olga Harper.” Her head whips around. “Baron.” Then he gives a small chuckle. “You look long enough.”

The Game Changer: Little Mac

By Patrick Heasty  
IMMS 6th Grade  
Previously: Mac shuffled out of the hospital after a doctor warned him against the dangers of getting another concussion. He wondered, Would he ever box again?

Chapter 2  
Mac stood outside the park, thinking. Out of habit, he arrived at his training gym. Mac thought for a second and then flung open the door. Though he was tired, he still decided it might be a good idea.

The immediate sound he heard was the thud of fists on old sweaty punching bags, and he took a deep breath of the smell of bile and sweat. Then, he turned and walked out. In the end, he had just decided he wasn’t good enough for that gym. He would have to win something to go back there. Back at his apartment, Mac watched cartoons and ate Lean Cuisine for the remainder of the evening. But all the while, he thought about boxing.

“I shudda trained there,” he said regretfully. He wallowed in sorrow for the rest of the night, sitting on the beat up, foilous of a couch. Morning came too soon, and Mac found himself on the floor, bringing back the memories of yesterday’s challenges. Reluctantly, he rose and got ready to go out.

Through the day, Mac wandered around the boxing arena, neon lights a blur. “Got nothing better to do,” he muttered as he jogged to the registration booth. The loud noise immediately entered his ears and filled him with the lust to box. This lust was soon quelled by an incredibly stupid teenage registration assistant, who decided to make his life as miserable as possible.

“First name?” he said with a nasally, overwhelmingly annoying voice.

“Mac,” he said. “Little Mac.”

How To: Braided Bun by Audrey McMillan

Braid your hair in four separate braids, securing each with hair ties.

Bring the braid on the middle left toward the right, folding braid as necessary and securing with bobby pins.

Then do the same with the middle right braid, crossing it over the first and bringing it towards the left, folding braid as necessary and securing with bobby pins.

Then bring the one on the left end to the right, wrapping it around the first, folding braid as necessary and securing with bobby pins.

Finally, wrap the braid on the right end, bringing it to the left along the bottom, folding braid as necessary and securing with bobby pins. Then secure your masterpiece!
Student News

Yahara River Writers’ top ten
Four IMMS students’ writing/cartoon entries made it into the top ten in the Yahara River Writers’ Competition. Thousands of entries were submitted from all over southern Wisconsin. These students will attend the Top Ten Writer’s Workshop in May: Matt Amthor for top ten cartoon, Ella Weaver for top ten editorial, Matthew Mokes for second place editorial, and Sara Yavas for second place short story.

Artists’ work on exhibit
Briana Lazo-Guevara, Emily Gates and Brenn Connor had their art on exhibit at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art in Madison from Feb. 20 through March 3. The students were celebrated at an artist’s reception at the museum.

Spelling Bee winners
IMMS eighth-grader Matthew Mandzi competed in the State Spelling Bee in Madison on March 28. He was eligible to compete after placing third in the Regional Spelling Bee in Stoughton on March 4. Matthew won the IMMS Spelling Bee with the word Polska. Runner-up, sixth-grader Alex Duspi also was eligible to attend the Regional Bee.

UW Regional Science Bowl competitors
Two teams of five IMMS students competed against 18 other teams in the regional division of the U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl. This was a fast-paced competition involving a variety of challenging math and science questions.

Alejandro Ruiz is a sixth grader here at IMMS and loves video games. Ale enjoys games such as first person shooters, fighting games and “Minecraft.” He says, “My favorite part about video games is that you don’t have to listen to other people complain, and you can just be you while not having to play with other people.” Ale doesn’t like to play games with other people and when he plays games such as “Minecraft,” he likes playing alone instead of on a multi-player server.

His favorite type of game is a first person shooter. He enjoys this type game because it has a story to it and you don’t start at the very beginning every time. “It’s got great graphics,” says Ale. “It’s not like ‘Minecraft’ where it’s all fake and animated. It’s like you’re really in that world!”

Alejandro also enjoys combat games. “I like it because I can do stuff that I obviously can’t do in real life. I don’t have to worry about the consequences of these actions, like getting hurt.”

Ale also loves “Minecraft” because of all the building you can do and the combat on survival mode. “You can build your dream house, the only thing you have to worry about is how to use all that stuff that I obviously can’t do in real life. I don’t have to worry about the consequences of these actions, like getting hurt.”

The IMMS Robotic Team, bottom photo, brought home two trophies from its first VEX IQ tournament at Xavier Middle School in Appleton on Feb. 14. The team of Devon Lee, Ethan O’Rourke, and Simon Dingle took first place in the skills challenge and won the award for best overall robot design. The winning robot was a modified/advanced version of the Clawbot, the first robot you build in this robot series. This advanced version sported advanced claw mechanics and a better arm. The team of Caenan Cremins, Patrick Heasty and Will Karls (top photo) took third place in the teamwork rankings. They had 69 points in the finals and were beaten at 72 by two other qualifying teams.

Meet Ale the gamer
By Audrey McMillan
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Clique: What’s the ‘Mean Girl’ status at IMMS?

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Robotics success

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