



# WE ARE SPARTANS

ACHIEVEMENT RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY

IMMS Messenger June 2016 Volume XI Issue XXXIV Indian Mound Middle School McFarland, WI

## Second story proposed for IMMS

By Klaus Schwoerer

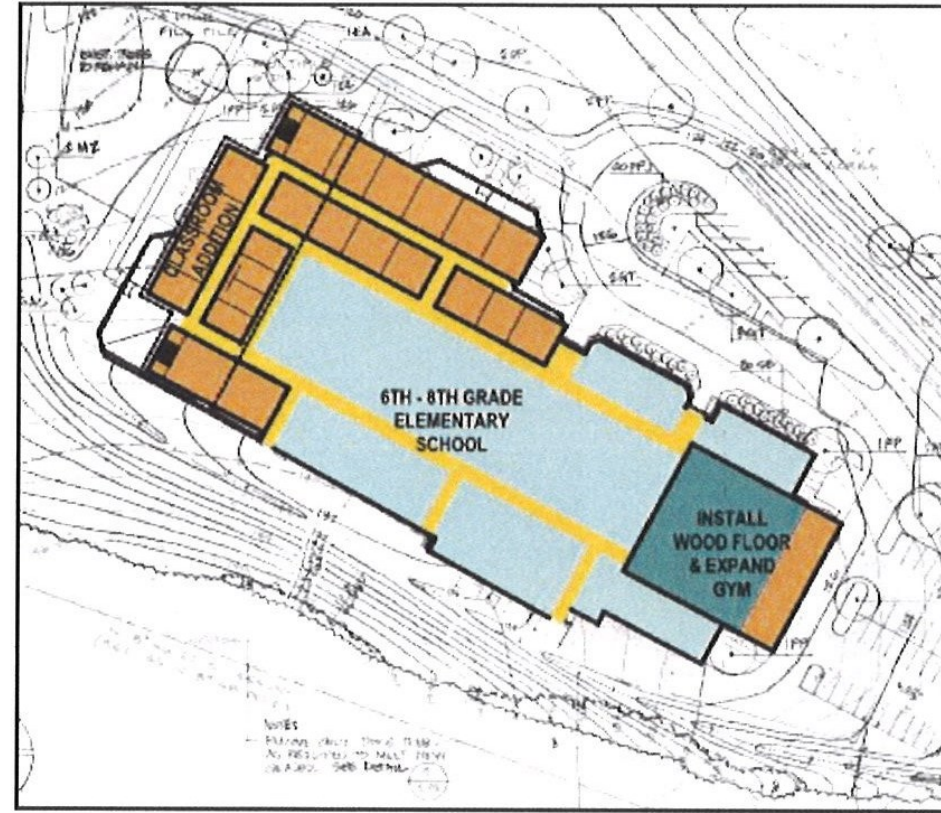
### IMMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

On the homepage of the school district web site, something on “long-range facilities” comes up. That’s neat, but what exactly is it? After some digging, the major changes proposed for every building in the district were revealed. Let’s start at the plans for the youngest and work our way to the top.

First off, the Primary School. The old building on Johnson Street “has reached the end of its lifespan as a practical school building,” the web site says. Because of this, a new building is proposed to be built on the corner of Holscher Road and County Highway MN. The site “will have modern learning spaces that support large group, small group, and individual instruction,” the web site says. Two baseball fields also are planned.

Waubesa would change the least, but change is still proposed. A multi-purpose room will be added. That room “provides space for new programming and also provides flexibility for special programming and school or community events,” the web site says. It’ll just be an extra room, but this makes sense. For example, “[Waubesa] currently [has] about 60 orchestra students in the 5th grade and they meet in a music classroom designed to hold approximately 35 students,” the web site says.

Indian Mound will have big changes. As addressed in the second quarter issue of the *Messenger*, our school is simply too



small. We have “the smallest classroom size in the district... , and the rooms are significantly smaller than modern design guidelines indicate for a 6-8 school.” Therefore, the long-range facilities plan includes adding a second floor to the current building. Our gym is “also undersized for the level of use it receives.” In the proposal, the gym itself will have an expansion and a wood floor installed. You wanted space, you got space!

If you don’t count the auditorium or pool, the high school wouldn’t change much either. The Tech Ed rooms are pro-

posed to be changed. The three options being considered are: One, the room itself would have an outward expansion; two, the room would have an inward expansion, at the cost of district office space; and three, a second floor for certain classes would be added.

The pool also has multiple options for renovation: one, the pool stays and would convert from 6 lanes to 10 lanes; two, the pool stays and would have 8 competition lanes, 4 warm-up lanes, a dividing wall, and more accessible locker rooms; three, the 10 lane pool gets moved to the current primary building, and the other areas a shared space

that “could possibly include a community center,” and four, the 12 lane concept but at the current primary building.

The auditorium suffers from too few seats. The auditorium was constructed in 1978 and currently has 481 seats. The enrollment back then was 423 students, and it was designed to “accommodate all of the students and staff.” But that was 38 years ago; times have changed. The high school has about 800 people, 100 of which are staff. Sometimes, spectators of productions have to stand in the hallway. The district plans to beef up the number to around 600 seats. A multi-purpose room

is planned to be behind the main seating area, which will boast 200-250 more seats and a retractable wall. That would increase the already large number of chairs. The room also could house other classes. The new design also would increase accessibility.

In the proposal, practice fields for P.E., high school band, etc., would be lost, so they would be relocated to the football field on the track. Because of the “heavy use,” the field would be converted from grass to turf. Because of the loss of the practice field, soccer practices will be relocated to the field near the ice arena. That would mean varsity and JV will meet at the same place.

All of this information can be found on the school district web site. Just click on the image that mentions long-range facilities on the homepage. This particular intel was obtained at the “Plan Draft Concept” PDF. Take a peek for yourself, or you can even chat with Mr. Tarnutzer (he’s in on it).

Essentially, the district is proposing to get a complete remodel, just like those shows on the DIY Network. In June, the planning committee will be wrapping up its thought exchange survey. You can preview some of the results at <http://mcfarland.thoughtexchange.com>.

“These results will be shared with the core committee who will use this information to formulate a referendum question for November,” said Mr. Tarnutzer, IMMS Principal.



Photo by Klaus Schwoerer

### Ally need awareness

Lucie Hodgkins helps create a design for a bulletin board along Empathy Way that shows a 30 percent loss of colors that represents the loss of LGBTQ+ students in one month. These students miss at least one day of school in the month because they felt uncomfortable or unsafe.

## Prevent hacking: Try these 5 simple tips

By Jayden McClendon

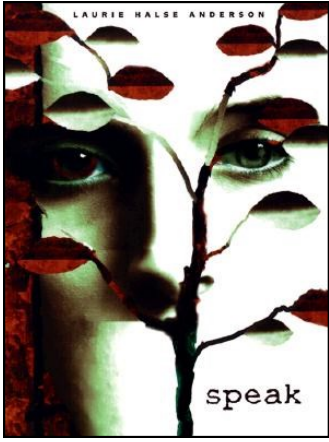
### IMMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

IMMS had a spate of hacking incidents this year. To help you avoid being a victim, here are five tips to prevent hacking.

1. Be cautious all the time. You never know when a virus will be working its way through society. Symptoms of viruses include: the computer working on things on its own. Examples might include disc tray opening and closing on its own. Also the computer might print random things you never told it to print. Another symptom is simple but not absolute: if your computer freezes up randomly, it might have a virus. Also if

you’re loading and startup takes a long time, that might be a viral infection. Last few are crashes, missing files, disks or drives not accessible, extra stuff showing up, printer issues, or an unusual gibberish warning message. A virus may be in the link/download of an email, so watch out for those.

2. Check all link connections.
3. Never open attachments unless you are 1000.6059% sure that it’s OK.
4. Use multiple passwords. If one account gets hacked and you have the same password for all accounts, then a hacker has access to all.
5. Just be careful.



## Book review: Speak novel gives voice to perseverance through trauma

By **Audrey McMillan**

IMMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Melinda Sordino has officially been cast out socially. After she called the cops on an end of summer party, everyone hates her; she has no friends and is faced with a school of people who wish she would just drop off the face of the earth. Her only ally is the new girl at school, Heather, who knows nothing about Melinda or the party. As she tries to make herself as small as possible, she has to confront what really happened at that party, and that might change everything.

Author Laurie Halse Anderson creates a world filled with the realities of teenage life and has created a story that has helped many find their voice and way through a difficult journey.

She does this through writing that's quotable. For example, Melinda says, "It's easier to floss with barbed wire than admit you like someone in middle school."

But it also expresses deep inner thinking, such as when Melinda says, "There is a beast in my gut, I can hear it scraping away at the inside of my ribs. Even if I dump the memory, it will stay with me, staining me."

This story will launch you into an emotional rollercoaster filled with tears and laughs until the very last page. This book is one of my favorites and is a touching story that you can't forget, it has been described as "life changing" and that isn't an exaggeration. *Speak* is the unforgettable story of Melinda Sordino that will stay with you long after the last page.

**IMMS Messenger June issue contributors include:** Riyadh Albasri, Lili Grossman, Claire Hall, Ellie Kregness, Jayden McClendon, Kami McGinn, Audrey McMillan, Klaus Schwoerer. To participate, contact Adviser Ms. Ndlovu at NdlovuT@mcfsd.org.

## Poetry

I **hate** you.  
I **hate** the fact that you can't even look at me without *grimacing*. I **hate** you, for tricking me so many times to the point that it's *my* fault. I **hate** you for leaving me in the dust, avoiding me.  
I. **hate**. you.

But then, I love you. I love you for always being there, for standing by my side. I love you for helping me in my past, and giving me advice for the future. I love you for helping me through my **darkest** times.  
I love you for that.

But then I **hate** you, for putting me in even *dark-er* times.

I **hate** you, for some of the same reasons I love you. For teaching me what I need to know. For showing me reality.  
I **hate** you for not being the Prince Charming I thought you were. But I love you, for making me realize that life is not a fairytale.  
I **hate** you for not giving me my glass slipper, but I love you for getting me out of my step-mother's house. Even if I didn't become a princess.

love to **hate**, or **hate** to love

Do I love to **hate** you? No. If I loved **hating** you, that means we had, **nothing**. It was all a lie. That I never cared about you. And that, is a lie. To love to **hate** means I *enjoy* **hating** you. I don't. I **hate** you, and I **hate** that. I wish I could wake up from this nightmare, and you would be standing there, the guy I met, the guy I once knew. But I'm sleeping.

I will f o r e v e r, be sleeping.

Do I **hate** loving you? Yes. I **hate** you for having control over me. That you take my love for you, to your advantage. I **hate** that no matter where I turn, you're standing there. Yet, you're **not**. You're dazzling eyes stare daggers at me in memories, and bring me hope and joy in others.

Those, those memories, kill me.

The ones where it was you and me, happy. The thoughts of you and me singing until our heart's content. The memories where you looked at me like I was the most important thing in your world. The memories where I thought you were the one.

The memories where I'm alone in my room, and I still think you're **the one**.

But as I think that, you're somewhere out there **hating** me. As I dream about us being back together again, you're dreaming about holding a knife to my throat. As I remember our last kiss, you remember my last rant. As I hate to love you, you love to **hate** me.

And who, can blame you.

But at the end of the day, it won't matter if I love you, it won't matter if I **hate** you. It won't matter how many t

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I've cried, or how many times I've screamed your name. It won't matter how many sweet memories we had, or how much of my heart you stole and destroyed. It won't matter... because the end result, is the same.

I still miss you.

~Lili Grossman

## Sewing Club starts

New in 2015-16, IMMS students initiated a sewing club, which meets regularly to work on student driven projects. One of the students participating this year is Melanie Manson, at right. The club adviser is Mrs. Colle, who teaches Family Living.

Photo by Riyadh Albasri



## Ask Lili: Put girlfriends before boys when interests conflict

By **Lili Grossman**

IMMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Advice of the year

I know, I know. Probably the majority of you reading this are like "when is she going to stop talking about being yourself!?" Well I can answer that. At the end of the year. But, since we're technically not done with the school year, I still get to talk about being yourself.

I know people, who are absolutely extraordinary, but hardly anyone sees it because they are hardly ever themselves. They're trying to put on a t-shirt that doesn't fit. And I think some people do that, because they're scared of what people will think of them. And you really shouldn't. When you start to worry about what other people think and not what you think, you could get seriously hurt. Because when you try to please the crowd, the crowd can take complete advantage of you. And the best way to avoid that is to make your own path and not follow anyone else's. Be yourself. We were all born originals, so let's not make ourselves a copy.

### Advice of the quarter

Be kind. This world would

be so much better if everyone was just a little bit kinder. Kindness can make someone's day, even if it's just something as simple as a smile. So be kind, because not only will it help someone else, it will help yourself as well.

### Advice to you

Hi, my girlfriend and I have a crush on the same guy! But I was asked out by him, and I said I would think about it. What should I say to my BFF and my crush! HELP!!!!

Keep in mind, it's girlfriends before boyfriends. And that will be the golden rule for as long as you live. Well, maybe when you're married you pick your husband or wife before your friends, but let's just stick with middle school. You did the right thing by telling your crush that you need to think about it. Now it's time to break it down, and put yourself in your bestie's shoes. How would you feel if your friend was asked out by the guy and you weren't? Jealous? Probably, and that's normal. And if you tell your friend that he asked you out, she'll probably be a little jealous, as well. I think the best thing for you to do is put your bestie first. Tell your

crush that you would rather just be friends instead of dating. If you want to tell your friend what happened then go ahead. If you think that it will hurt your friend if you tell her, then don't. Trust your gut, and it should work out.

*My friend is driving me crazy! She gets a new boyfriend every week! But the problem is she never meets them. Well, she kinda did; she met them on the Internet! I'm scared; what if something bad happens to her from some creepy guy she's "dating"?*

That is not OK. Never ever date anyone online. You need to immediately tell your friend to stop. She has no idea who's on the other end of the line. It could be a cute 13 year old like he says, or a 40 year old man who's a predator. Remind her of all the dangers of talking to people you don't know online and don't stop until you get it through her head that it's not OK. You might not want to bug your friend that much, or you'll think she'll get mad at you, (and she probably will), but you have to help her. It's called tough love. And friends are the best at giving it. After you bug her, get help. Tell

your parents, her parents, a guidance counselor or all three. Your friend could be putting her life on the line and not even knowing it. She'll probably be mad at you, but at least she's still alive.

*Help! My friend has a boyfriend who's totally a jerk and cheats on her! I saw it with my own eyes! But she won't believe me, and when she finds out she's going to be heartbroken. Plus he bullies the 6th graders and hates my guts! What should I do?*

Your friend probably does believe you, but is in denial. If a girl really likes the guy but the guy is a jerk, she tries to put the facts somewhere far away and pretend the boy isn't a jerk or a bully. That's probably what's going on with your friend right now. She probably really likes him and doesn't want to believe he's a jerk. Tell her again what he's doing again. If she doesn't believe you, walk away from the situation. You've done everything you could. You can't force your friend to break up with her boyfriend, and you can't force the boy to be nice. Give your friend some time, and she'll eventually see her boyfriend's true colors.

## W.O.R.D.S

It's a simple word.  
It's one, but one thousand.  
It's meaning is many.

W.O.R.D.S

They can take.  
They can hurt.  
They can help.

W.O.R.D.S

Most people make up words to persuade people.  
They're hiding from words.  
WORDS can make you feel better about yourself.  
Those people misuse words.

W.O.R.D.S

Others use words to tell a true story.  
Those people are true to themselves.  
Those people are hard to find.  
Those people get hurt.

W.O.R.D.S

Be careful what you wish for.  
Be careful what you do.  
Be careful what you say.

WORDS

They take.  
They hurt.  
And sometimes,  
They help.

~Claire Hall,  
IMMS 7th Grade

# WhiteLand: Darell and Rila lose hope in DarkLand

By Lillian Grossman

IMMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## In the last chapter

Chayote, a resident of WhiteLand, talks to her friend, Jay, about her father's walk into Nothing, the land that separates DarkLand from WhiteLand, after her mother's death. Chayote uses the last of her money to buy bread from Jay at the Shack while trying to survive a blizzard.

## Chapter two

Darell

Sixteen years of darkness and red can mess with your head. I should know, I live in DarkLand. Miles and miles of darkness, with random and unpredictable sprouts of hot lava. Nothing is more dangerous over here than those lava sprouts.

As I strained to see five feet in front of me, I started to walk toward Nothing. I've always wondered what would it be like to live in WhiteLand. To never

worry about lava exploding in your face, being able to see... but I guess they probably have their own troubles.

I started to think about how messed up our world is, and I remembered my dad's history lesson on our planet.

Apparently, these people called the "Andells" made a machine that broke. The destruction of it led to half the world in darkness and lava, the other half in snow, and a thin line down the middle for the dead.

And that leads us to present day. Talk about a crappy history lesson.

I'm not sure exactly *how* a broken machine can result in practically world destruction. That makes me think that there is more to the story than what my father is telling me.

"Darell, look OUT!!" a voice screamed at me.

I look up and I realized Nothing was two inches away from me. I stopped at the same time a firm hand pulled me five

feet away. I turned around, prepared to fight, when I recognized the person.

Rila.

I put my arms down. "Sheesh Rila, you almost scared me to death!"

She gave me a dangerous smile, her green eyes flickering in the darkness of the world.

"Don't be such a scaredy cat, Darell." She then looked at me serious. "What are you doing so close to Nothing?"

I gave her a shrug. "Don't know. What are you doing so close to Nothing?"

She sighed and looked away. She knew I had her there. Ever since our mom died in a lava sprout, she's been coming to Nothing, hoping to get a glimpse of mother's spirit.

I stared at her until she finally turned back and looked at me. I bore my blue eyes into her green. "You know you're not going to see her, right?"

Rila looked toward Nothing. "I know. But I keep wishing.

Keep hoping. Doesn't hurt to hope, right?"

"Depends on what you're hoping for."

She looked at me, anger filling her eyes. "Like you don't hope that one day that stupid fairytale we were fed as children is going to come true!" she screamed.

"At least that was a myth. I've never heard stories of seeing the spirits of the dead!" But she was right. We both hoped too much about things that weren't going to happen.

Rila saw the look of defeat on my face and sighed. She walked to me and wrapped her arms around my waist. I returned the hug. Even though we look nothing alike, we always know what the other one is thinking.

That meant that Rila probably knew I was reciting in my head my favorite story as a child, The Border Cross.

A long time ago, a girl from DarkLand and a boy from WhiteLand traveled to the end of

the their land, right at the border of Nothing. They walked across the edge of it, until finally, they both found the crack. There was no Nothing. There wasn't a thing that could keep the girl or boy from going to the other Land.

The boy walked up to the edge of his land, and the girl went to the edge of hers. They met there every day, and eventually, fell in love. But when the girl stepped over from her land into the boy's, the ground around them disappeared and swallowed them up. Legend had it that when the world swallowed them up, they were sent to a better world, a world of goodness and freedom.

Rila released her arms and said we should be getting home. I told her to stay behind me in case of lava sprouts.

When we got home, I started to wonder if The Border Cross story actually *did* happen. Then I shook my head. Rila's right.

Whoever came up with that story is an idiot.

# What School? Dealing with death

By Kami McGinn and Ellie Kregness

IMMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## In the last chapter

Annie Bradley introduces herself as the new kid at a school in Seattle Washington called the Star Coast City, where her nemesis, Sabrina Hudson, reigns as the meanest of mean girls, her new best friend, Crissy, helps her navigate a garbage disaster, and a cute boy, Ben Dones, sits across from her in science class led by psychoteacher Mr. Jillian.

As Annie was about to walk out the school doors at the end of her first day, she heard an ear-piercing scream.

*I ran toward the scream and saw Crissy lying down in the middle of the hall. My best friend, my only friend at this stupid school, was on the ground missing a head and a flying guillotine lay not that far away.*

*Then suddenly it all went pitch black.*

## Chapter 2

Suddenly I woke up in the nurse's office.

"CRISSY!" I yelled, remembering her body lying on the floor. I turned my head and saw Ben looking very sad.

"Sorry Annie," he said. "Crissy's gone."

I collapsed on the floor crying. The nurse kept saying it's going to be OK, but I didn't listen. My best friend was murdered, how is *anything ever* going to be OK!

That's when I saw Sabrina running down the hall covered in red stuff. I grabbed Ben's arm and ran after her. Ben looked confused, but he went along with it. I could hear the nurse yelling for me to stop, but I didn't listen.

I knew who killed Crissy.

We got to the end of the empty hallway when Ben stopped me.

"Annie what's in the name of corn dogs is wrong!" he yelled at me.

"I saw Sabrina running down the hall covered in red stuff!!!!!" I shrieked at him.

"Wait, you don't think-"

"Yes, Ben, I think Sabrina killed Crissy!!!" I interrupted almost crying again.

"I know she's a bully, Annie, but that's too far. We have to stop her!"

When I heard *we*, I thought I was going to lift off the ground and fly away. I shook out of my fantasy. We look around, and I saw Sabrina wearing a red shirt.

"Annie, she is not a murderer," Ben said in a soothing voice.

"WHAT DO YOU KNOW!?" That's when I stormed out the door running home.

I finally got home.

My mom was sitting on the couch, smiling? "Hi honey, guess what I got? An email from your school; there was a lot of bullying about what kids were wearing, so now you guys have uniforms!" She pulled out a very ugly checkered yellow and purple shirt and yellow skirt with SWEATER VEST! "Isn't it pretty?!"

I barfed a little in my mouth.

My dad came into the room picked me up and kissed me on the head. "Hey Ann, how ya doin'?"

I showed him the uniform!

My mom gave him the glare.

"It's very pretty," he said, but behind my mom's back he shook his head.

I escaped to my room, where I tried to erase the day's images from my mind.

I almost believed it was a nightmare. But the next day at school, the place where Crissy was murdered was covered with police tape. Other than that, it seemed like everyone had forgotten. I had to go technical education. When I walked in, I thought, *why do all my teachers have be weird?!* The teacher was dressed like Harry Potter.

Then two girls walked up behind me, and they said at the exact same time, "OMG! You're Harry Potter!"

That's when they noticed me. One of them, the girl with the blue tips, said, "Oh, are you Annie, Crissy's friend? I'm so sorry! Hi, I'm Kami McGinn, but everyone calls me Latte."

The one with the claw like fingernails said, "Hi, I'm Ellie Kregness, but everyone calls me Wolf."

Later that day.

"Hello, hello! Welcome back to science class. Today we are dissecting a monkey brain. Oh yeah, by the way, we have two new students joining the class, Wolf and Latte."

"The teachers call you that, too?!" I said.

"Sad, but yes," said Latte.

"They've been our nicknames since sixth grade," Wolf said annoyed.

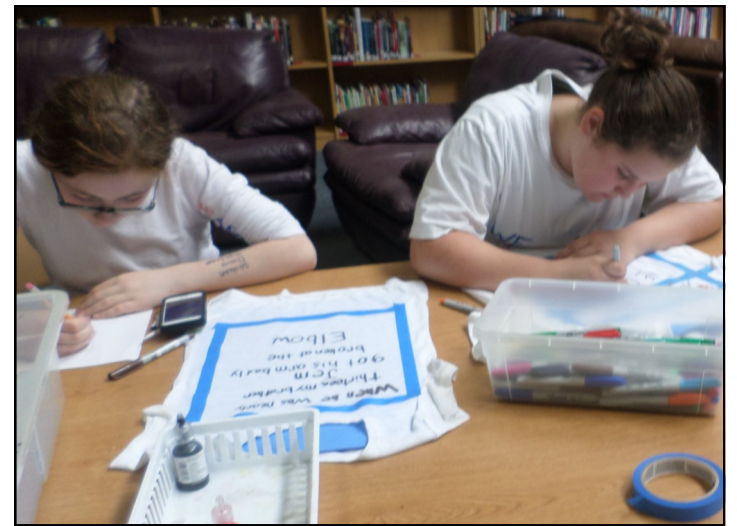
"OK girls, that's enough chit chat; it's time to dissected the ... monkey brain!!!"

"But I don't want to do this when Crissy's brain was missing when she was murdered!" cried a girl I didn't know.

"Sorry, but we have to. If we don't we'll be behind," said Mr. Jillian.

Then on the loudspeaker came a voice saying, "Annie Bradley, please come to the office. Annie Bradley please come to the office."

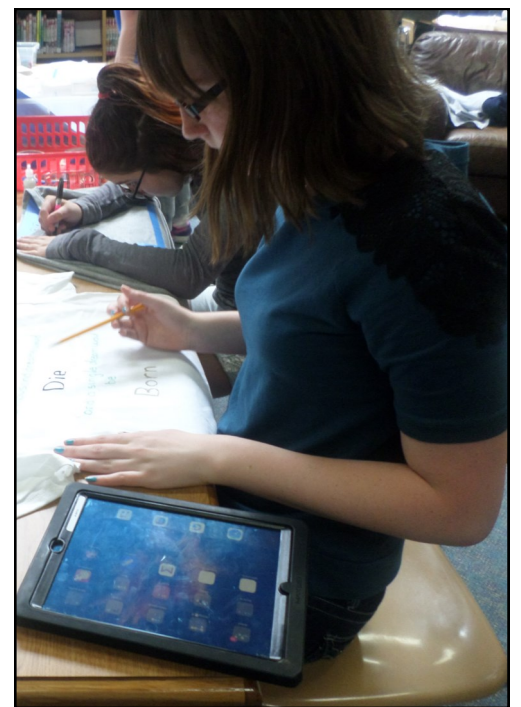
**CONTINUED NEXT YEAR!!!**



## Wearing words

IMMS students design T-shirts featuring their favorite first lines from books on Tuesday, May 17. Among those pictured are Natalie Branch and Abbie Cook, above, Lily Arsenault and Claire Hall, at right, and Sydney Feldner, below.

Photos by Kami McGinn





Lindsey Hanson works with Brenda Council, IMMS staff, to make popcorn for an afterschool club.

## Spartan Spotlight

### Lindsey enjoys participating

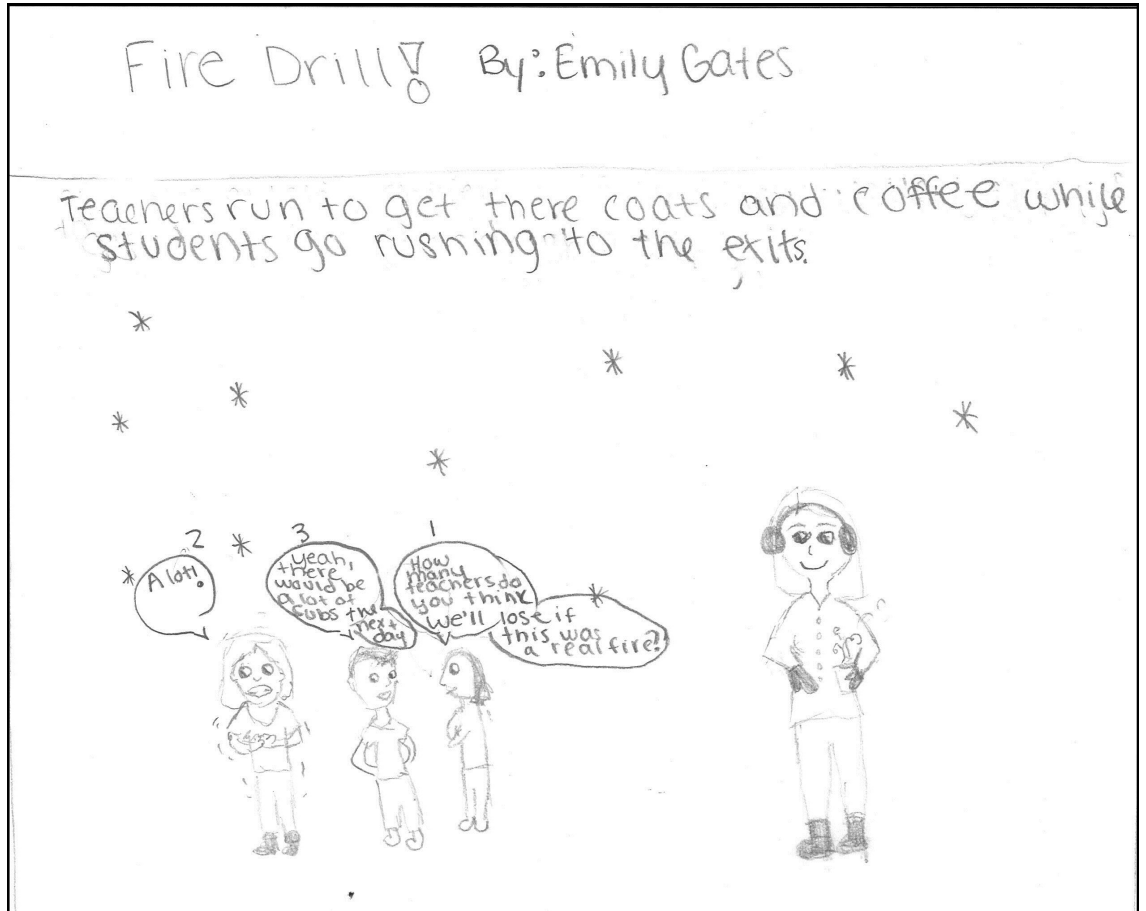
By Audrey McMillan

IMMS 7th Grade

Lindsey Hanson is a seventh grader here at IMMS. Lindsey enjoys and participates in many of the same activities we do like baking, swimming, hanging out with friends and family, and much more.

Lindsey also loves being part of a group, which shows when she is hanging out with her fellow classmates. She also has participated in a special athletes cheer team. The team called Arctic Blast completed a routine. Lindsey especially loved the tumbling and heel stretches. She also loves making popcorn on Mondays and Wednesday for Homework Club and GSA club for their snack. She completes this task using a special button called a switch. A switch is a special button that Lindsey can plug into any machine to make it work; by plugging it in and pressing the button, she can make popcorn. She also could turn on a blender, microwave, and many other machines. Lindsey uses a yes or no strip that allows her to communicate by looking or pointing at either side of the board after being asked a yes or no question.

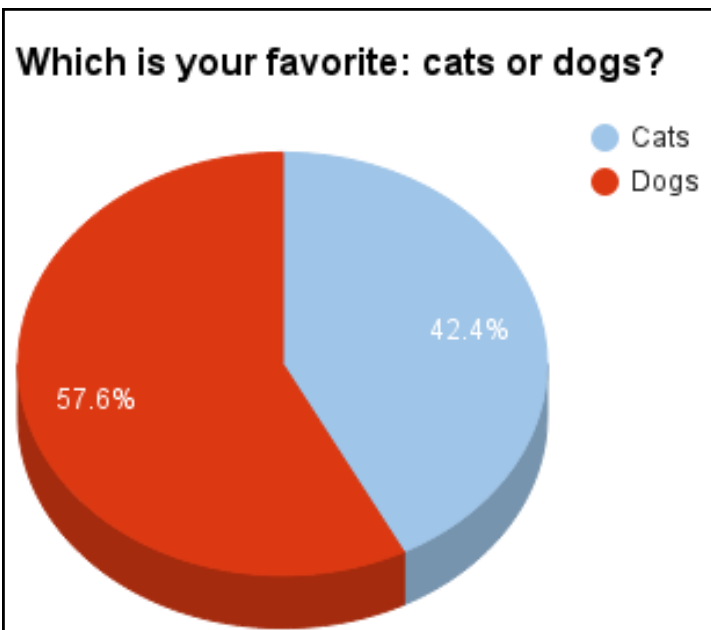
Lindsey enjoys many activities, such as reading, swimming, swinging, baking, gardening, and completing art projects. She would welcome you to enjoy any of these activities with her. Take the opportunity to get to know this classmate.



### Getting on track

IMMS students worked hard throughout the spring to prepare for track season. Among the participants are Aric Anderson, Jeremiah Price Johnson and Gavin Wood, above; Kynaeda Gray, Alayna Unke and Peyton Witt, below left, and Thomas Jenkins and Jonathon Cain, bottom right.

Photos by Ellie Kregness



### IMMS students prefer dogs to cats

"Happiness is a warm puppy," according to Peanuts author Charles M. Schulz. IMMS students tend to agree. In the IMMS Messenger survey for the fourth quarter, students were asked to weigh in about their preferences for cats or dogs. Students were offered a number of options for showing their preferences, including submitting a photo, drawing, poem or opinion piece. A survey also was displayed on the library home page. Those who participated selected the survey option. The results were in favor of dogs. More than 57 percent of respondents selected dogs in preference over cats.

### Spartan briefs

#### Spelling Bee

Skyler Li won the 2016 IMMS Spelling Bee. Shelby Ferrell earned second place and was first alternate for the regional bee in Stoughton.

#### Poetry Night

Ten IMMS students shared pieces at the Open Mic Poetry Night on April 12. They include seventh-graders Alex Daspit, Will Karls, Gavin Hammer-Perdew, Anya Myers, Alexia Stoehr, Claire Hall and Liam Morrison, as well as eighth-graders Sophie Kvalheim, Kimmy Koppenhaver, Rachel Hansen.

#### Science Bowl

These IMMS students competed against 19 teams in the Wisconsin Regional Science Bowl: Sara Yavas, Skyler Li, Gavin Wood, Christy Zheng, Jacob Hummer, Nick Molitor, Matt Amrhein, Felicia Zheng, and Gabe Lee.

#### Sailing club

The Lake Waubesa Sailing Club is offering a public Family and Friends Sail Day from 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, July 24, at McDaniel Park (next to Green Lantern). Anyone interested in learning to sail is invited to attend.