



WE A.R.E. SPARTANS

— ACHIEVEMENT RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY —

The IMMS Messenger, Virtual Edition 1

October 30, 2020



Creepy crawlers

Spiders are common among Halloween decor around McFarland. Check out page 4 for more of the local fright scene.

Photo by Sofia Bexson, IMMS 8th Grade

Sports connections during COVID closures

**By Rachel Stolyarov
IMMS 6th Grade**

It's Fall and COVID is still with us. Due to COVID almost everything was shut down. However, people are adapting to this change in many ways. The IMMS newspaper staff is here and eager to share with you these changes and give you some opportunities to check some sports out.

McFarland Community Ice Arena: McFarland Community Ice Arena is open both for hockey and figure skating. Masks are required for both activities, and social distancing is promoted. Figure skating has many options and opportunities for skaters, Learn To Skate, a class that meets weekly, and regular ice time for you. Hockey is great, too, with many youth options, and lots of fun!

Infinity Martial Arts: Infinity Martial Arts is located at the edge of McFarland. Infinity Martial

Arts offers both in-person and Zoom classes. Masks are required for in-person classes. The instructors are and will do their best to make sure that anyone who chooses to Zoom gets the help and attention they need to excel.

Soccer club in McFarland: Soccer club in McFarland is also another great option to check out. Masks are not required since the activity is outdoors. They offer many different teams, to make sure everyone's skill level is met and challenged. Being in a team is a great learning experience and a valued life skill.

If you want to learn more about any of these sports please check out their websites:

<https://www.mcfarlandhockey.org/>

<https://www.mcfarlandsoccer.org/>

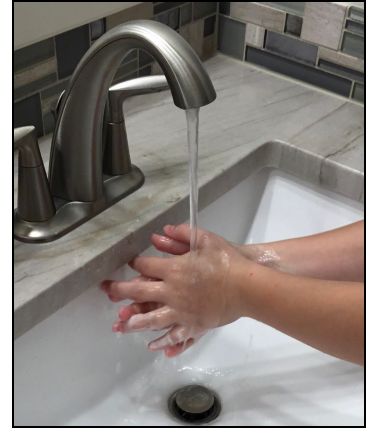
<https://infinityma.com/Location>

<https://swfsc.clubexpress.com/>

Safety tips

By Maggie St. Clair
IMMS 6th Grade

It is important to stay clean in this tough time. Some ways to stay safe are to wash hands frequently, wear a mask, and it is important to get outside, get fresh air and vitamin D. Some ways to go outside are going on walks and going to the park. But before and after you go to the park, you should wash your hands with soap or use hand sanitizer.



IMMS interacts through many clubs

By Kate Mischnick
IMMS 6th Grade

Hello! Welcome to the update on clubs. All of the Club links can be found in the written announcements, in case you realize that you forgot about the club and it's starting in thirty seconds.

GSA is on asynchronous Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m.

Alliance of Allies is on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Art Club meets every other Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Game Club is on Thursdays at 11:20 a.m.

Ambassadors is on the second and third Wednesdays of the month at noon.

Another club that has started is **Student Council**. Sign up forms should be in, and those meetings will be on the first and third Wednesdays at noon.

Newspaper Staff meetings started a few weeks ago, and the staff meet every Wednesday from 12:30 to about 1 p.m. You can join any time or contribute items, as well as participate in contests.

There are plans for a **Drama Club** to start later on this year, and more news can be heard about this plan in future announcements and issues. The form for Drama Club was due Monday, Oct. 26.

Another planned club is the **Media Club**. More information (zoom link, time, etc) can be heard about this later on in the year.

Suicide prevention starts with awareness

By Piper Willenbacher
IMMS 6th Grade

As many of you know, September was suicide awareness month. The staff working on the IMMS Messenger feel it is important that we include some information on who is more vulnerable to having suicidal thoughts and how to get help for yourself or someone else.

Risks are raised for people with mental illnesses such as depression, mood disorders, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, and other certain personality disorders. Other risk factors include impulsive and/or aggressive tendencies, major physical chronic illnesses, or previous suicide attempts. There are many other risk factors that can play into someone thinking about suicide.

If you are worried about you or someone else that you know, make an appointment with our guidance counselors Mrs. Tryggestad at trygges@mcfsd.org, Mrs. Runde at RundeJ@mcfsd.org, or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at: 1-800-273-8255. If you would like to know more the risk factors and warning signs, or how you can help visit Suicide Awareness Voices of Education at save.org.

McFarland Youth Center opens during COVID

**By Maya Bondre
IMMS 6th Grade**

Did you know there is a place in McFarland just for middle-schoolers? Did you know there's a safe hangout place open during COVID-19? The best place in McFarland for middle-schoolers to hang out is the McFarland Youth Center. It's the best place to hang out because there is a lot to do there; it is safe during COVID-19, and the people there are fun to meet.

The McFarland Youth center is an activity place just for middle-schoolers; it's across from the McFarland High School next to the McFarland Shopping Centre, and it's free.

The McFarland Youth Center is the best place to get together because there is a lot to do there in person. There is an arts and crafts program, a science experiments program, and a computer and video game lab. Also, there is a virtual arts and science program. The art program has a lot to do like decorating your own treasure chest, making wind chimes, and making your own foamy paint. I have participated in the art program and I loved decorating cookies and cupcakes! Some of the science experiments they're going to have include making your own robot hand and making a tin foil boat. I love the science program because I loved making the DIY bouncy ball, making slime, and digging for bones. In the computer and video game lab they play computer, video games, and group trivia games. That sounds amazing! If there is any free time after the activities, I have played bingo, jackbox games, foosball, outdoor group games, and a lot of other activities.

Secondly, the youth center is the best place in McFarland to hang out because it's safe during COVID-19. I talked to Megan Beckler, the managing director of the youth center, and she said, "When COVID-19 started we had to take extra cleaning precautions. We had to put COVID-19 safety precautions into place like social distancing, masks, and hand sanitizer." She said they had to get

individual activity supplies and individual snacks for each kid. The center also limits attendance to 6-8 kids each day, and they take everyone's temperature. Cyann Caradine, another middle-schooler who attends the youth center, said, "The projects and games are fun. It allows me to see my friends in a safe place, and I'm not stuck at home." I agree with Cyann. All of these safety precautions make me feel good because I can hang out with friends and feel safe.

Another reason the youth center is the best place to hang out in McFarland is because all the staff members are really friendly, excited, and enthusiastic.

Tyler Morton, the assistant director, said, "I love getting to know and hanging out with all of the kids at the youth center!"

Megan Beckler said, "I'm grateful for so many things. I'm mostly grateful for all the awesome kids that come into the youth center!" Megan also said, "It's a good place for kids to get homework help, tutoring, and mentorship!"

In my opinion, the staff members make the youth center a positive place by thinking of cool projects, playing games with us, and having fun with us.

The McFarland Youth Center has to raise money because it's free for middle-schoolers. It might not be easy because of COVID-19. I asked Megan what their fundraisers are and she told me they're going to be doing a donation newsletter and maybe a car wash in spring as long as it's safe. I think a car wash sounds exciting! We can donate to keep the youth center open for McFarland middle-schoolers. We can donate by contacting the youth center, or we can email them at mcfarlandyouthcenter@gmail.com, or we can go to their website mcfarlandyouthcenter.org and donate.

Finally, the McFarland Youth Center is definitely the best place in McFarland for middle-schoolers to hang out. There are a lot of activities to do, people are safe there, and all of the staff members are really positive. I recommend that middle-schoolers should sign up for a program because of all these reasons!

IMMS Fall Messenger Staff and Contributors

Sofia Bexson, Maya Bondre, Ada Geiger, Lexi Krieg, Kate Mischnick, Maggie St. Claire, Rachel Stolyarov, Annabel Willenbacher, Hayden Willenbacher, Piper Willenbacher. For information on how to get involved, contact Adviser Ms. Ndlovu at Ndlovut@mcfdsd.org.

FRIGHT SIGHTS AROUND MCFARLAND



Photos by Sofia Bexson and Lexi Kreig, IMMS Grade 8

HAUNTING ON HALLOWEEN

By Hayden and Piper Willenbucher
IMMS 6th Grade

“Hi, David! Hi, Noah!” Amy said, shouting at her friends as they walked up the gravelly driveway towards her house. Noah stumbled up the steps in his big inflatable dinosaur costume.

“Why on earth did you wear that thing?” asked David coming into the house behind him.

“It’s funny,” replied Noah. Amy led both of them to her kitchen so that she could finish painting an ugly bruise on her face. The Zombie makeup on her looked so bad that it almost looked real. She was covered from head to toe in thick layers of paint and fake blood. David shuddered at the sight of it; just thinking of a zombie apocalypse made him want to crawl into a hole.

Noah nudged him, “What’s wrong, little buddy?”

“Nothing. Can we go now?”

They all walked out of the house into crisp autumn air.

“Halloween here we come!” Amy shouted to the dark sky. Amy walked towards a house, but not just any house. Amy walked towards the scariest house on the street. It was green with black shutters. The curtains were drawn closed but they could see a faint light shining through. The porch was dirty and covered with leaves. Noah followed but David stayed behind, hiding next to a dumpster.

“What’s the matter, scaredy cat?” Noah shouted, teasing David.

“Umm n-nothing” David stutters, looking

around nervously.

When they all got to the door, Amy shouted, “Trick-or-“

Noah grabbed Amy and covered her mouth. “Are you sure we should do this?” he asked.

David whispered, “It seems pretty scary.” He and Noah started running away.

David, being smart, stopped and walked back to the house knowing what would come next.

Noah kept running. Amy backed up and charged as fast as she could, tackling Noah with ease. “Ok you got me,” he said standing back up and rubbing off dirt.

“We are knocking on this door, no questions about it!” she shouted at the boys. Amy ran up and pounded on the door.

“TRICK OR TREAT!” she screamed with an ear piercing tone.

A nice old lady answered the door.

“My my, what great costumes we have. Take all the candy you want; no one ever comes to this house,” she said in a frail quiet voice.

“Janice, get back here. We need to finish watching The Bachelorette; things just got serious. Bobby and Mathew got into a fist fight over Danica!” an old man called from inside. Janice closed the door and the kids walked away.

“Well, who forgot to grab the candy?” Noah said. They all raised their hands and laughed walking away to the less scary and weird Halloween houses giggling and laughing the whole way.



Streetscape specters

Ghosts play amongst the yard decor in McFarland’s celebration of Halloween 2020.

Photo by Sofia Bexson, IMMS 8th Grade

Book Talk: Recommending *The One and Only Ivan*

By Kate Mischnick
IMMS 6th Grade

Welcome to Book Talk! I would like to start this year with my all time favorite book, *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. If you have read this book, I'm sure you'll agree that this is a wonderfully written story. If you haven't read it yet, I recommend you do as soon as you can. The format of this book is almost like poetry, with short chapters as strategic paragraphing. It emphasizes the important parts in some chapter and continues everyday life in other, longer ones.

Another reason I love this story is because of the plot. I don't want to spoil anything, but I can tell you the basics. The main character is Ivan, the gorilla. He

lives in the Big Top Mall along with several other animals such as Stella the elephant and a few others. Their life is pretty normal, with a circus every day, until Ruby comes. Ruby changes Ivan. She tells about when she was really young and lived in the wild. And so Ivan made a promise to Stella.

If I told you the promise, or what became of Ivan, I would spoil the story. So I hope you'll read it and agree with me. Also, I recommend you read the book before watching the movie, because while the movie is great, the book is still better (as it is in most cases). And if you want to read *The One and Only Bob*, you should definitely read *The One and Only Ivan* first. You understand a whole lot more than you would have otherwise.

Wolves changed Yellowstone

By Ada Geiger
IMMS 6th Grade

The gray wolves of Yellowstone National Park have changed the ecosystem and even the rivers within the area.

In 1926, the last wolf pack in Yellowstone was killed by cattle ranchers moving into the land outside of the park. The cattle ranchers killed the wolves to protect their cattle from being harmed by them. All of the wolves in the park were gone, and it quickly took a toll on the ecosystem of Yellowstone. With no wolves in the park to control animals, like deer for example, the populations spiraled out of control; since there were so many deer, the fields and grasslands of the park were soon being overgrazed and reduced to almost nothing. The lack of plant life caused river banks to be unsteady and to frequently collapse and fall in which caused rivers to widen and become shallow.

On Jan. 12, 1995, wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park; 31 wolves were brought into the park by truck from southern Canada. In 2008,

wolves were taken off the endangered species list. The wolves started to control the population of the deer, and the deer stopped hanging around the areas that they were overgrazing because it was an easy hunting area for the wolves.

The plant life soon grew back and thrived, which made the rivers sturdy and allowed them to narrow and create pools and ripples that are great for wildlife. In the areas that were once open plains and grasslands, they became strong aspen and willow forests. After that happened, so many more animals started moving in; for example, beavers moved into the thriving rivers, and they built dams that were homes to other animals like muskrat and otter. More animals started moving into the newly grown forests like rabbits, foxes, mice, and weasels; those were good food for birds like vultures and falcons so they moved into the park, also.

Today, Yellowstone is one of the most thriving national parks in the U.S., but we couldn't have done it without the gray wolves that started the great chain reaction to a thriving ecosystem we call Yellowstone National Park.

Spartan Spotlight: IMMS Assistant Principal Mr. Jondle

By Hayden Willenbucher
IMMS 6th Grade

Q: What was your favorite and least favorite subject when you were in school?

A: Fav: P.E., social studies, anatomy/physiology. Least fav: Geometry, art.

Q: Why did you join IMMS?

A: I used to teach in Iowa, then I moved to Appleton. I started to miss my family and my friend told me that if I got into the McFarland School District I could move to

McFarland. I applied and started teaching 7th grade social studies. I then became associate principal.

Q: Any odd talents?

A: I can impersonate people really well.

Q: What is a cool fun fact about you?

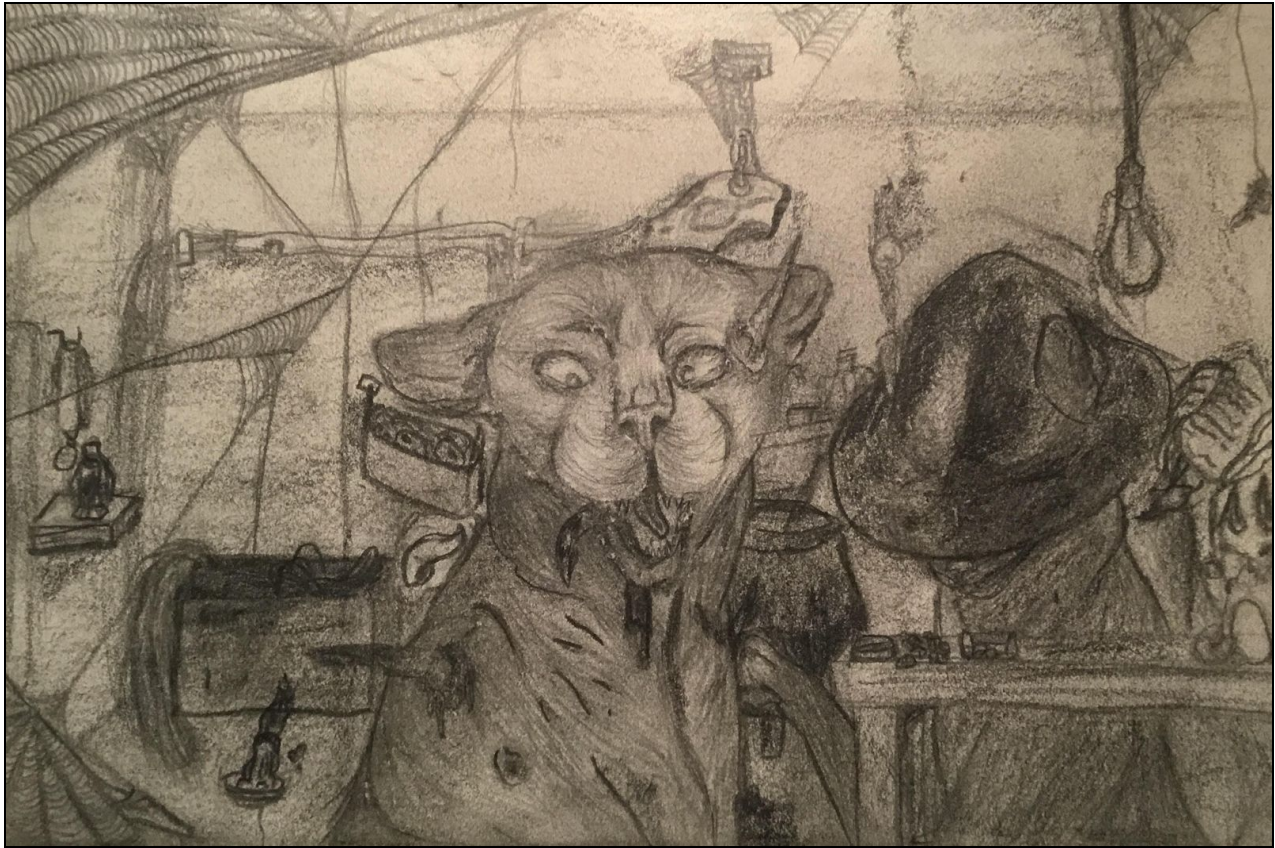
A: I played basketball at Clarke University.

Q: What is your favorite quote?

A: Life is ten percent of what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it.



IMMS Messenger Fall Drawing Contest Winner



IMMS student Eddie Bresette submitted this drawing, saying it "took about five or six hours, two pencils, and a lot of weird thoughts to make."

AoA group gets active to support Special Olympics



The Alliance of Allies Group (AoA) from IMMS participated in a 5K Virtual Run during October which is National Bully Prevention Month. There were a combination of 41 AoA members 6th-8th graders and staff who joined together to get out and run, walk, bike, or swim a 5K (3.1 miles). The AoA Team raised over \$1,500 to support Special Olympics, the sponsor of this run. For the week-long run, the AoA team accumulated 566.43 total miles. This run was a kick off event for the group to promote an awareness of acceptance of all students and staff at IMMS and in the community. The AoA Group meets weekly from 11:30-12 on Tuesdays. Look for the zoom link in the daily announcements. Thanks to all the participants and Special Olympics for sponsoring this event.

Photos submitted by AoA

