

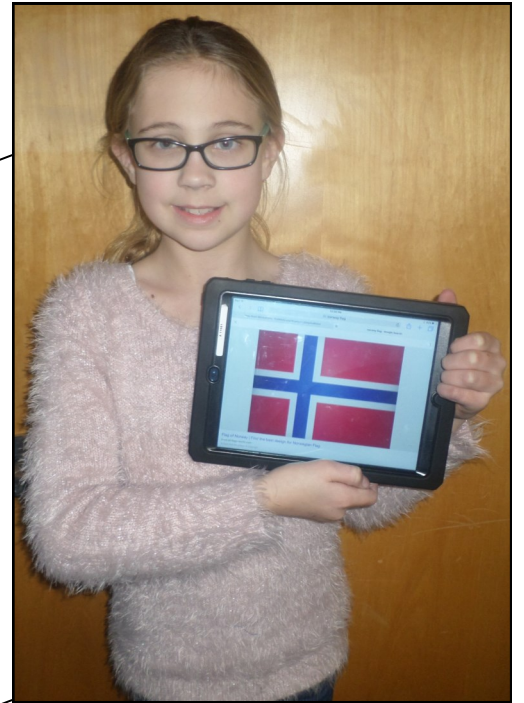
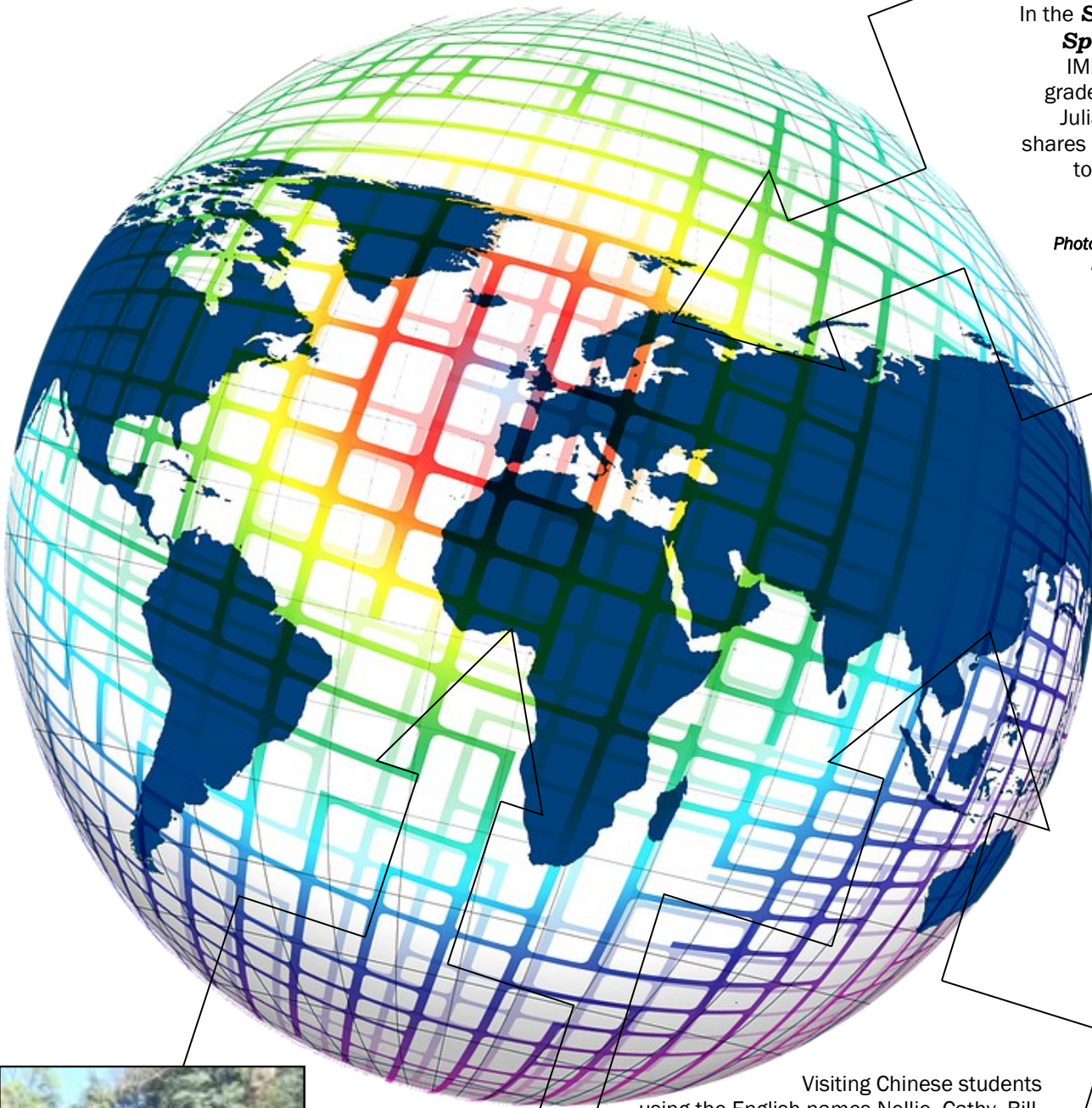


WE ARE SPARTANS

ACHIEVEMENT RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY

IMMS Messenger April 2016 Volume XI Issue XXXIII Indian Mound Middle School McFarland, WI

Globally engaged



In the **Spartan Spotlight:** IMMS sixth-grade student Julia Spilling shares her visits to family in Norway.

Photo by Jayden McClendon

Julia Spilling visits family in Norway

By Greta Blau
IMMS 6th Grade

Julia Spilling is an 11 year old girl in sixth grade at IMMS. Julia and her family love to travel. But the most frequent spot they travel is Norway. She goes to the cities Oslo, Geilo and Korshan. Norway is a country with many mountains. Norway also has some beautiful rivers and lakes nearby the mountains.

In Oslo, Julia loves to play in the woods and explore with her friends after school. She said that she loves finding hiding places in the woods, such as big holes or dens.

In Geilo, Julia and her family love going downtown. "All the stores are meant for grownups, but I still like shopping there," Julia said.

In Korshan, Julia has many cousins. She and her cousins explore in a greenhouse full of cats and kittens in all different sizes and colors. She loves when she plays with the cats, and plays hide n go seek.

A tradition Julia and her family do is hike up a mountain and visit a lighthouse museum. A fisherman used to live there. All of his fishing gear, and home essentials were left as they were. Shortly after he died, the lighthouse became a museum.

Julia has many people in her family who live in Norway. They include her grandma (Fama) and her grandpa (Fafa), along with her aunt, uncle, great uncle, and her four cousins.

School in Norway is much different than school in Wisconsin. In Norway you get a half an hour of homework. Gym class is just gymnastics. At her school you have to do choir. Another cool fact is that you have to eat cold lunch in you classroom.

Julia loves Norway because all families interact together. Many families like to ski, just like her family, but Julia also likes to go on family bike rides. On the bike ride she likes to buy candy and other treats.

Norway, Wisconsin. Completely different places. We are lucky to have our peer Julia Spilling, who happens to live in both.

Visiting Chinese students using the English names Nellie, Cathy, Bill, Stephan, and Billy pose with their IMMS hosts Sara Yavas, Audrey McMillan, Larissa Mikelbank, Luke Mandli, and Owen Tran.



Maeve Christlieb and Freya Gilbertson take in sights on a visit to Benin. Story on Page 4.



IMMS students host visiting peers from Chinese school

By Audrey McMillan
IMMS 7th Grade

You may remember that IMMS recently had five Chinese students visit our school. These students went by common English names which they chose in class back in China; they were Nellie, Cathy, Bill, Stephan, and Billy. The Chinese students came from Shijiazhuang, China, where they attend Shijiazhuang Foreign Language

School.

They were hosted by IMMS students Sara Yavas, Audrey McMillan, Larissa Mikelbank, Luke Mandli, and Owen Tran. These four seventh graders and one eighth grader were followed to classes by their Chinese visitors so that they could experience what American school was like. It was soon made clear that they are learning much more difficult topics than those at IMMS, when we were told about how the concepts we are just beginning to

learn they were taught in the fourth grade. They also get out of school much later than we do and usually spend the rest of the night doing homework. They were also surprised to see how lenient and laid back our teachers were compared to theirs.

It was a shocking and educational experience for both Chinese and American students to see how things in different cultures vary so much when we don't even think twice about these everyday things.

Dreams

Dark brown eyes
Seen too much.
But have seen so little.

You married the girl of your
Dreams
It's all you've wanted.

You walked the world.
You've saved *lives*.
Isn't that...
What you want?

You're a hero.
I know you are.
I know you're real.
I know.

But..
Have you seen too much?
Or have you *really* seen too little.

Did you marry the girl of your
dreams?
Is that *all* you wanted?

Did you,
walk the world?
Save
lives?

Is that *really* what you want?

Are you a **real hero**?
Oh...
You wish you were.

Your
Just
A
Boy.

With brown eyes.
You want to see *everything*.

You don't *have* a girl.
Only in your dreams.

You've never walked the world.
Or even saved lives.
But,
It is what you want.

I
Do this to you.
Make you...
Believe.

I
Am in a different world.
Everything,
Everything.
Is possible here.

Here.
In this... Make believe world,
You can be a **hero**.
Get **married**.

Be...
COMPLETELY
TOTALLY
AWESOME!
But that will
Never
Ever
Happen

Unless...
You wake up.

~Claire Hall

Firestorm on the ice over helmet requirement

By Klaus Schwoerer

IMMS 8th Grade

The days before every Celebration Day are filled with hype, with mobs of kids ready to celebrate passing the quarter. However, on the January 2016 Celebration Day, some felt just plain angry.

A new rule had passed for ice skating requiring skaters to wear helmets, hockey or otherwise. Those who chose the ice skating option and did not have a helmet were sent to the Games Plus option.

Lots of people greeted this new rule with dismay. One eighth-grader ranted about it every time it showed up on the announcements. It sparked a controversy between hockey players and figure skaters and non-skaters alike. Some thought it should not have been even conceived, and some figured this would avoid liability issues with the school and the rink.

You could've begged for Assistant Principal Jondle, Principal Tarnutzer, or even Superintendent Briddell to revoke the rule.

But I know for a fact that you would've been barking up the wrong tree.

I learned from Mr. Tarnutzer

himself that this was NOT a school decision.

Why was this rule created? Unlike some people believe, it wasn't helicopter parents.

It was actually David Patton, the current manager of the McFarland Ice Arena, who instituted the rule.

On the Celebration Day, Patton sat for an exclusive interview after school.

It turns out Patton's a very cautious man. The hockey industry is very dangerous. I would know. Someone who was on the ice at the time had five concussions in his high school career. Patton only wants to keep everyone safe.

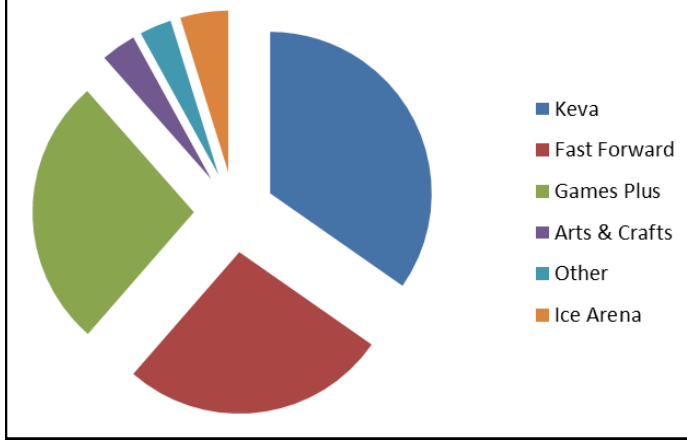
"But Fast Forward doesn't have a helmet rule," you might say. That is true, and they don't even hand out any protective gear at all, but Patton doesn't like that. He believes they are taking an unnecessary risk.

Some students were driven away by the rule, but Patton doubted that would happen to many.

The rule doesn't apply to public open skates. The hockey and figure skating organizations run those.

So that's that. The helmet rule is here to stay. Better get used to it, or take it to the rink.

Second Quarter Celebration Day Choices



The choice of the Ice Arena dropped from 101 in 2015 to 26 in 2016, causing some to blame the helmet rule.

Ice Arena Comparison 2016 to 2015



Ask Lili: Patiently talk to friends about empathy, breakups

By Lili Grossman

IMMS 7th Grade

Advice of the year

I know that I might sound a little bit repetitive to you, but getting the message across that being yourself is worth it. I've had some of my friends complain to me that they feel like they can't be themselves because people would laugh at them. If people laugh at you for being who you are, then they're the blind ones. They're the ones who don't see how amazing you are. And not everybody's going to like you. To think that is unrealistic. But the people who matter will be friends with you because you're yourself.

Advice of the quarter

Stand up for yourself and what you believe in. I started writing this column because I want to give advice to people who need it. Some people have been making fun of me for writing this column because they don't think I give good advice, or they say that I'm not qualified to give advice to people. But I love writing this column, and if some people don't like that I'm doing it, oh well.

You should never stop doing something because people are making fun of you. Stand up for what you believe in, because that's what makes you, you.

Advice to you

My friend is... well, not being that nice to me. You see, my grandpa just died and she thinks that her Ipad being taken away for a few days is more important. She's not really showing empathy to me, and I wish she would be more nice. What should I do?

The best thing to do is talk to her. Be honest. Some people are (and I'm going to be up-front with you) selfish and think that everything is about them. You need to let her know (nicely) what she's doing. Tell her that she should be more empathetic of others. Don't bring yourself in the equation, or you will sound not only selfish, but a hypocrite. Just tell her that you've heard her being not really showing empathy to people and that she should show more empathy. Chances are, if she's doing this to you, she's doing it to other people.

Well my best friend who's a boy and my other friend used to

date each other, but then they broke up. Now I'm stuck in the middle. They both hate each other now and I don't know what to do. The girl keeps saying not to be friends with him anymore because he is a jerk. What should I do?

Wow. Talk about drama. This is why I say that you shouldn't be dating at this age because it just leads to drama. I'm not saying you can't be friends with the person you like, but there is no reason to put the labels on. But back to your problem. It sounds like your guy friend isn't bugging you too much. But your girlfriend, needs to stop. And you need to tell her that. Who you're friends with is not her decision. It's yours. Tell her she's being rude by trying to decided your friends. You think he's a nice guy, and you like hanging out with him. Just because your friend doesn't like your friend doesn't mean you can't be friends with him.

So, I have a crush on this one guy. The problem is, he's dating my best friend. What do I do?

Oh boy. There's really not too much you can do. But I can

help you with what you shouldn't do. Do not start treating either person like crap. You'll end up losing your friend, and there's no way your crush will hang out with you. Most likely, they're gonna break up, because most middle school relationships don't work out.

When, (or if, you never know) they do break up, don't instantly try to snag the guy. Let your friend get over the break up, and give it some time. Be patient. Some people don't get over breakups quickly. After they get over it, wait for a few more days. Hey, better safe than sorry. Then, (if you want to still, though I don't recommend it) you can start dating him. If you're in high school when this happens, if you want to, you can date him. If you're in middle school when the break up happens, I'd wait until high school. Middle school relationships just don't work out too well. But then again, neither do too many high school relationships. So wait for the relationship to end and then support your friend afterwards. And if the guy isn't worth waiting for, then he's not worth dating.

Talent Show tenacity

IMMS staff and more than three dozen students came together for the school's annual Talent Show on March 18 to share their prowess in singing, playing instruments, performing magic, identifying songs, dancing, synchronizing gymnastics routines and wielding weapons in martial arts forms. Practicing the latter in preparation for the event are Lexi Kohn and Savannah Kohn, who closed out the show to a roaring ovation.



Photo by Jayden McClendon

IMMS Messenger April issue contributors include:

Riyadh Albasri, Greta Blau, Maeve Christlieb, Erika Granados, Lili Grossman, Ellie Kregness, Jayden McClendon, Kami McGinn, Audrey McMillan, Klaus Schwoerer. To participate, contact Adviser Ms. Ndlovu at NdlovuT@mcfsd.org.

WhiteLand: Chayote, the Shack & survival

By Lillian Grossman

IMMS 7th Grade

Chapter one

Chayote

White. No matter where I look, all I see is white. From the stupid snow on the ground, to the tips of my fingers. Everything is white.

On my way to the Shack, I glanced over at the Other Side. The Other Side is DarkLand, the exact opposite of WhiteLand. Over there it's warm, and there are more colors than WhiteLand. Well, they have one color, besides darkness.

Unfortunately, it's hard for me to see DarkLand across Nothing. And I don't mean nothing. I mean Nothing, the land that separates DarkLand from WhiteLand.

Years ago, when my mother told me about the history of our land, she told me about Nothing. It's a place that nobody can live in because it is so... different. She told me that there is no food, no water, and once you enter, you can't get out. It's the land of the dead. My mother made me promise her never to go in there. I told her I wouldn't.

My mind traveled as I reached the Shack. The Shack is where we get our food and supplies. Mom told me the Andells said that we need them to survive.

I sighed as I realized I was thinking about my mother more and more these days. But she's dead, lost in the blizzard like a bunch of other folks. The only thing left to do is make sure I don't die of grief like dad.

When I reached the front desk with my food, I saw that Jay was working the counter. His hair was in a state where it looked like he just rolled out of bed. And knowing Jay, my only friend on this messed up planet, that's probably true.

Jay looked at me with his brown eyes. "You gonna pay for that, Chaya?"

I rolled my eyes at him. "You know I hate it when you call me Chaya."

He put his hands up. "Fine, I give up. But I'm giving you a nickname Chay-Chay." Jay then smiled at me. "What can I do for yah?"

I placed my fifty cents I found in the snow on the desk. "Is this enough for a loaf of bread?"

Jay looked at the money. "Yah, it'll be enough. So, how have you been... doing?" he asked.

I was about to ask him with what, but then I remembered. My dad. Because he was so upset with my mother's death, he walked straight into Nothing.

I shrugged, really not wanting to talk about it. "I'm okay, really."

Jay put his hand on my

shoulder and made me look him in the eye. "If you need me," he said, "you know where to find me."

His gaze held on longer than usual. And it was starting to creep me out. "I know Jay," I said, breaking eye contact. "I know."

I quickly left after that. I didn't want to think about how weird it felt to look into Jay's eyes and yet it felt... good. And that's what scared me. As far as I knew, love led to destruction.

As I neared the border again, I remembered a love story my mom told me years ago.

A long time ago, a girl from DarkLand and a boy from WhiteLand traveled to the end of 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 has it that when the world swallowed them up, they were sent to a better world, a world of goodness and freedom.

What School? Annie's deadly first day

By Kami McGinn and Ellie Kregness

IMMS 6th Grade

Chapter One

Everyone knows how hard it is to be the "new kid." Okay, almost everyone but not in my case.

I, Annie Bradley, hate my new school in Seattle, Wash., called the Star Coast City. Isn't that the snobbiest name ever?! The real reason hate this place is because I had to leave my good friends for the people here, *cough* Sabrina Hudson *cough*. She's the meanest of mean girls. Actually, I'm being generous by calling her a mean girl. She's really a pit bull T-Rex breed with lipstick on, wearing really cute boots and living in more popularity than she deserves. Not that I'm jealous of her. You might be thinking that she can't be *that* bad. But you're wrong.

Do you want to hear the short story or the long one? You're getting the long one.

It all started when I first walked into school; everyone stared at me like an undead zombie in purple lipstick. But I kept walking to try to find the office. The school is so big; there are like six Starbucks in this school, and not just in the teachers' lounge. When I finally found the office, it was full of people, who, unfortunately, included Sabrina and her little crew, Lizzie Janson and Ally Bailey.

Sabrina walked up to me and growled, "Move out of my way, Psycho!" as she pushed me into the trash can.

I landed in something pink, which I really hope was just yogurt. So I ran to the bathroom to get it off when I ran into a girl. No literally, ran into her. She looked at my shirt.

"Oh, you must've met Sabrina. Hey, you're luckier than me though. And by the way, that's not yogurt."

"EWW!" I shrieked.

"Yeah, I know. It happens to me every year. Those witches make a potion in their cauldron and put it in all the trash cans to push some person in there!"

"Hey, what's your name?"

"Oh, my name is Crissy."

All of a sudden a loud bell rang. "Oh no, I'm

late!" I screamed.

Crissy shook her head. "No, you're not. That's the first bell; you have to be there in ten minutes. I'll show you the way. What's your first class?"

"Science," I said, remembering my schedule. "I think with Mr. Jelly?"

She laughed. "Oh that's mine, too; his name is Mr. Jillian. Sorry, he's a psychopath."

"Funny, that's what Sabrina called me."

All it took was one look at my science teacher, and I agreed with Crissy. He looked like Albert Einstein with bright pink hair and leathery gray skin. Plus he kept muttering in a creepy voice.

"More subjects..." I thought I heard him say. I backed away slowly.

"I... think I'm in the wrong classroom," I said and tried to run for it. Just then he grabbed onto my shoulders.

"Wait! You're Annie Bradley."

"Y-yes," I said tentatively. "How do you know that?"

"I make it my business to know my new subjects... I mean students' names. Please sit down."

I took a seat next to Chrissy, and across from her was the cutest boy I had ever seen.

"What's your name?" I asked him.

"My name is Ben Dones."

OMG, he is so cute! I thought. His dirty blond hair and baby blue puppy dog eyes are to die for!!! And don't even get me started on his muscles. The best part about him was his kakashi sensei T-shirt.

"Hello? Earth to Annie, earth to Annie!" whispered Ben kinda cutely.

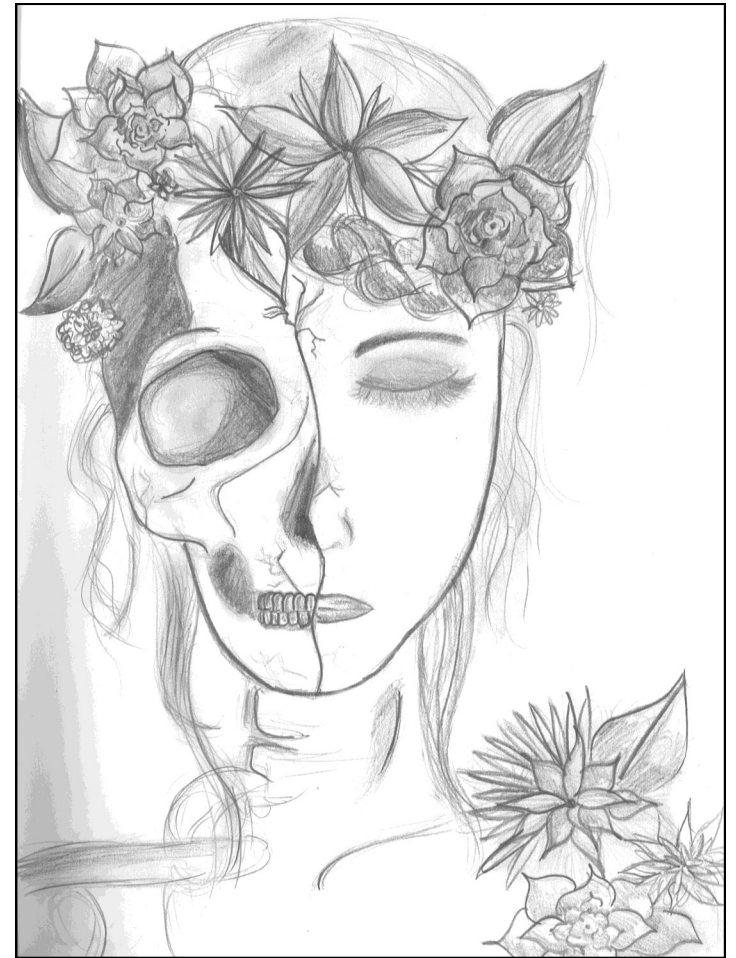
"All right students, tomorrow we are dissecting a *monkey's brain* so you will be missing recess and art."

"WHAT?!" said a kid I didn't know.

After I forced my way through one horrible moment after another, I finally reached what I thought was the end of the worst first day ever. But instead of an after-school bell, I suddenly heard an ear piercing scream. I ran into the school and saw Crissy, my only friend at this stupid school, on the ground missing a head. A flying guillotine lay not that far away.

Then suddenly it all went pitch black.

Drawing Contest winners



The drawing "Half Alive" by 7th grade student Shaleah Yang received first place in the IMMS Messenger third-quarter drawing contest.



Second place in the contest went to Jennifer Thompson, 7th grade, for her drawing "Two-sided," featuring fragile structuring. Anastasia Myers, also 7th grade, received third place for her untitled drawing, below.



IMMS students learn life in Benin is beautiful, challenging

IMMS students Freya Gilbertson and Maeve Christlieb and their fathers went on a journey of a lifetime in January of 2016. The group left on Saturday, Jan. 16, and after a day and a half of flying half-way across the world, they finally arrived in Cotonou, the largest and “unofficial” capital of Benin.

“The main reason we went to Benin was to explore the cultural life and visit Freya’s family,” Maeve said.

The night they arrived in Cotonou, they stayed in a hotel. They left early the next morning on a crowded bus heading for Natitingou. A guy tried to sit on Maeve’s lap, when there were plenty open seats left, but because they didn’t understand French that well, Freya’s dad, Chris, had to yell at him to find another seat.

In Natitingou, they spent a lot of time at Freya’s aunt’s house.

“She prepared meals for us, and we hung out around her house for a great amount of time,” the girls said.

They also spent several days in the village where Freya’s mother grew up. They stayed in huts that were basically

hotel rooms for tourists.

“We swam at the waterfalls a little over a mile from the village, and it was paradise,” they said. “We climbed part of the waterfalls and jumped off!”

In the village Tanganou, they stayed in a “cute bed and breakfast,” which was basically a mud like hut with a cement floor.

“It was very nice and the village people were very welcoming. We played soccer with some of the kids, and took lots of pictures with them. Whenever they would see their picture on the screen, they would screech and laugh at each other. It was definitely one of my most memorable moments,” the girls said.

“One thing we noticed that was different right when we got there was the fact that people like taxi drivers and vendors were sometimes very annoying. Many of them would keep pestering us to buy something until Chris would step in,” Maeve explained.

The official language of Benin is French, but almost all of the natives speak tribal languages. People who have been in school make up most of the people who



Few children in Benin, a country in West Africa, go to school because of expense and safety.

speak French.

Freya and Maeve noticed that a lot of children don’t go to school. Most of the

time it’s because the parents can’t afford tuition or the walk to school is too far or unsafe, they found.

“When we saw kids, a lot of them had bloated bellies,” the girls added. That is a sign of malnutrition, or not getting enough food and nutrients.

They also described Benin as having a very large trash problem. The people use so many cheap plastic bags that end up just floating on the streets. The villages don’t have an organized trash collection, like those here.

“Tanganou is littered with trash, and if they would clean it up, it would make the town that much more beautiful,” the girls said.

The group left Benin on Feb. 1, connecting from Paris to Chicago.

“My all-time favorite memory was our last day in Tanganou: We were outside the family compound, taking pictures, blowing bubbles, and teaching kids how to play Frisbee. I will never forget their laughs of pure joy,” said Maeve.

“We both learned so much, met so many wonderful people and made lots of memories.”

Forensics Club is fun, diverse

By Jayden McClendon

IMMS 6th Grade

Natalie Curtis, an IMMS 7th Grade, offered this information about the school’s Forensics Club.

Q: What do students do in forensics?

A: Lots of things, including monologues, large groups, groups, standup comedy, speeches, and storytelling.

Q: Why do you want to do it?

A: “I enjoy comedy.”

Q: Who would be interested in forensics?

A: “People who were in the play and loved it, people who like to read aloud with voices, joke tellers, skit performers, story tellers.”

Q: What is your performance about?

A: A girl gets shrunk and lives life as a Barbie doll.

Q: In your opinion is forensics fun?

A: “Yes.”

Q: How do you prepare for a meet?

A: “Practice actions, voice, memorize our script.”



Natalie Curtis



Net interests

Thirty-five IMMS students participated in an after-school volleyball tournament in March and April. The between-seasons event raised funds for the American Heart Association and promoted getting active for Fuel Up to Play 60. At the time of printing, two teams remained: Eighth grade team Sugar & Spike, pictured below right, with Ethan Nichols, Maddie Johnson, Erin Eggers, Lizzy Fortune, Donovan Hudson and Max Hanson; and seventh grade team Spartans with Matt Amrhein, Kibie Smith, Leah Caple, Morgan Butler, Kennedy Edwards and Kierra Downs. Below left, eighth-grader Michael Sutor prepares to serve.

Photos by Klaus Schwoerer



Kavion Guillen dances to “Windows Down” at the Talent Show.

Spartan Spotlight: Kavion shares love of dance

By Audrey McMillan

IMMS 7th Grade

Kavion Guillen is a seventh grader here at IMMS who loves singing and dancing. Kavion performed in the talent show while dancing to “Windows Down” by Big Time Rush. Kavion likes dancing and entertaining others with his dance moves. You might remember his energetic and enthusiastic dance complete with props and impressive moves.

Kavion decided to pursue dancing by taking lessons. He likes to dress up in special costumes when he dances and interact with the songs to which he dances along. His favorite songs are “Windows Down” by Big Time Rush and “Bad” by Michael Jackson. He also loves to watch the dance moves of bands and solo artists to get new ideas and see how everything blends together. He doesn’t watch dance shows but likes to keep up with new and popular dance moves.

Kavion also performed in the school play “Lion King Jr.,” where he played a party animal in prude three. His favorite song to sing and dance to was Hakuna Matata. He loved learning the dance moves with Theresa the choreographer.

Kavion often likes to show people his newest moves at recess. He is also in the school choir.

“It is awesome,” he says.

One thing is for sure: Kavion has some serious talent.