



# WE ARE SPARTANS

— ACHIEVEMENT RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY —

IMMS Messenger January 2019 Volume XIV Issue XLI Indian Mound Middle School McFarland, WI

## Survey cheers our place with lots of Space

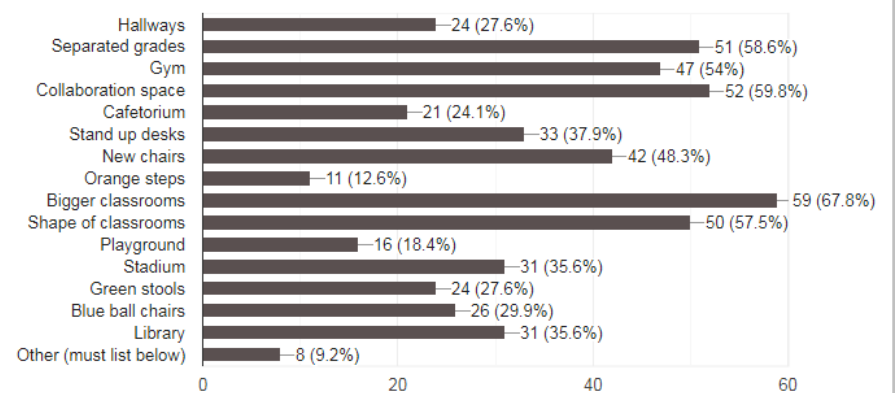
By IMMS Messenger Staff

The IMMS Messenger surveyed students and staff, asking them what they liked best among the changes wrought from the construction project completed at the beginning of the school year. Highest on the list was classroom size. A majority of respondents also liked the shape of the classrooms, the separation between grades, the gym update and having collaboration space. In addition to choices listed, respondents wrote that they also liked having more windows. Further results are in the graph at right.

One respondent wrote, “I like the spacing but not just between the grades but between the classrooms too it’s like all the teachers have their own like corner and windows.

Which of these areas or items do you feel have enhanced the school because of the redesign?

87 responses



Photos by Peyton Kampmeier and Ava Van Houten

Background photo features one of the new chair options. Inset photos feature the classroom space exemplified in Kelsey Garvey's room (left) and the seventh-grade collaboration space (right).

## Family Fun Night realizes a success worth repeating

By Ava Van Houten

IMMS 7th Grade

After a successful Family Fun Night at IMMS on Nov. 8, organizer Sandy Schoen, art teacher, answered these questions:

**Did you have any inspiration for Family Fun Night? If so what?**

My children go to school at O’Keeffe Middle School in Madison. They have an event called Fine Arts Night that has music and activities all over the school. My

family really enjoys it every year and I really wanted to bring the experience to McFarland.

**How often do you plan on doing this/ When is the next time you want to plan it?**

I planned to try Family Fun Night and see how it went. It was very fun and well attended so I am looking at doing the event again next year but maybe in the spring instead.

**Were any activities more popular than others?**

I didn’t check attendance in each event but it seemed that all the activities were popular. I never found any of the activity spaces empty. I think there was something for everyone!

**How long did it take you to plan it? Who helped you?**

I started planning last year in the spring. I needed to pick a date and make sure that I had help. During the initial meeting I found that most of the teachers and staff who were interested in participating were advisors and planned to have

their clubs sponsor an activity. Some clubs used the event as an opportunity to fundraise for their group and others just created fun activities. In the end, Family Fun Night was very student driven. The event could not have happened without help from all the students and their advisors! We also had quite a few volunteers from the community as well as the MYC, the PTO and the public library. Ms. Pili from the front office organized the volunteers and Ms. Feralin from the library helped with marketing and tech needs.

# Mornings and Mondays are sleepest times

**By IMMS Messenger Staff**

Nearly 100 students answered the question “Are you tired?” in a second-quarter survey by the IMMS Messenger. An analysis of the results showed that Mondays led the days of the week students were most tired. Though Tuesday

was nearly as tiring for seventh-grade respondents, Monday was nearly twice as tiring as the other days for those in sixth and eighth grades.

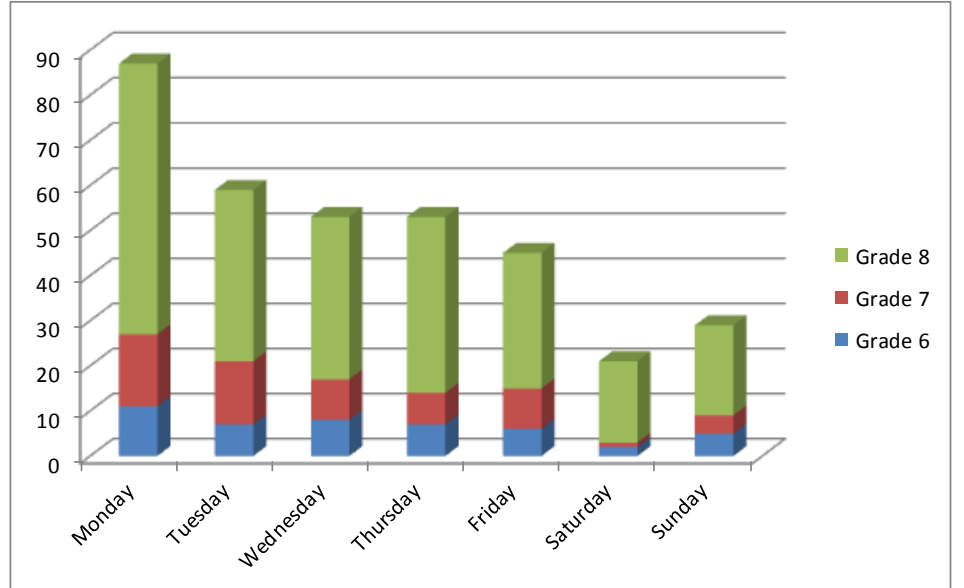
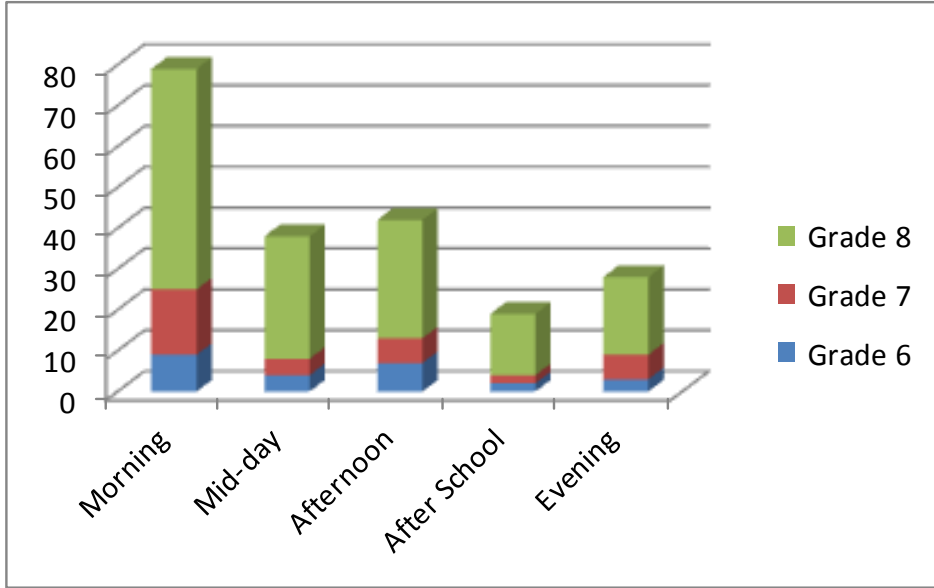
Respondents also overwhelmingly selected mornings as the most tiring time of day, though sixth-graders selected af-

ternoons as a near second.

Students said their feeling of wakefulness is affected by bedtime, amount of homework, their moods, environment and temperature, level of activity, food, soda or caffeine.

Some of those items were repeated in

the list of ways students try to wake up. Other strategies for waking up include playing music, staying hydrated, showering, getting help from parents, spending time with pets, using excess energy at recess, engaging with friends or interesting activities.



## Why color your hair?

**By Peyton Kampmeier and Levi Deadman**

IMMS 7th Grade

We asked a few IMMS students to share their experiences in dyeing their hair. Here’s what they told us about their reasons, parents reactions, methods, and time (either for process or endurance).

**DW**

Why: It was for Halloween, but also wanted/liked the style

Parent reactions: worried because they didn’t know how she would like the look

Color: red/blue

Where: home

Cost: \$30

Type: Unspecified

Time: lasted a month or two

Techniques: wear gloves

**LW**

Why: Sister thought it was good idea

Parent reaction: Scared but happy for me

Colors: Red

Where: At home

Cost: \$2

Type: 3 year

Time: 3 hours

Techniques: By hand and brush

**JK**

Why: Felt like it

Parent reactions: Didn’t care

Color: pink/blue/green; currently: red

Where: Home/sister did it

Cost: \$10-\$15.

Type: ION at Sally’s

Time: depends on the dye

Techniques: Googled tricks, and techniques; don’t get the bleach too close to the scalp for minimal pain

**PK**

Why: To express myself and be unique

Parent reactions: Uncertain at first, but came around when it was explained why I wanted to do it

Color: red/purple/blue, teal/blonde; currently-green teal

Where: At home

Cost:\$25

Type: Manic Panic/IOS

Time: 1-2 hours; Lasts a week-3 months

Techniques: Bleach hair

**AH**

Why: Wanted to change look, expression

Parent reactions: They were cool with it, liked the look

Color: pink/purple/blue; currently: green/teal

Where: Friend/salon

Cost: Salon-\$80-\$100. At home-\$15-\$20.

Type: Splat

Time: 1.5 hours average

Techniques: Layering, don’t just start messaging it in if you want an even look

**VR**

Why: It was part of a costume; also it was just a fun way to express myself

Parent reaction: Parents were okay with it

Color: blue/teal

Where: Family friend who works at a salon

Cost: \$100; used long lasting

Type: Unspecified

Time: first time, 4 hours; second time, 2.5 hours; it lasted

Techniques: Specific conditioner and shampoo



Photos by Peyton Kampmeier

IMMS students Veva Riddle and Dani Wise share their hair coloring techniques.



**IMMS Messenger contributors include:** Levi Deadman, Ellie Johnson, Peyton Kampmeier, Grace Morris, Veva Riddle, Ava Van Houten and Avery Weaver. To participate, contact Adviser Ms. Ndlovu at NdlovuT@mcfsd.org.

# Opinion: Save the waters

By Ellie Johnson and Grace Morris

IMMS 7th Grade

Did you know that each year an estimated 18 billion (that's billion with a b) pounds of plastic waste enter the world's ocean from coastal regions? Each hour, 1.5 million pounds of waste are tossed into the ocean. This is important to us because we have seen multiple pictures of how bad our oceans, lakes, and rivers are because of how much plastic waste is just carelessly thrown away.

Lots of people, including us, don't realize where this plastic is going and how it is affecting marine life. Turtles, sharks, whales, and fish can all mistake plastic for prey or they can inhale it because the plastic may have broken down into tiny

little pieces. This plastic can be deadly. Fish and other marine animals are dying.

There are, in fact, ways to help stop this:

- Say no to straws. Do you seriously need to sip your drink out of a straw?
- Don't chew gum. Part of a piece of gum is just made out of plastic. Yes, if you are chewing gum right now, you are chewing on plastic.
- Encourage the adults in your life to use reusable shopping bags instead of buying paper or plastic at the store.
- Use reusable bottles and bottle caps.
- Use reusable containers and lids as well.

These are five easy ways to help stop plastic from taking over our waters. Save the waters, and do your part of the clean up!

## My name is Megan Binns

By Veva Riddle

IMMS 7th Grade

I silently watched as the cars drove across the sky, and the birds fluttered and chirped as they flew gracefully on the ground. As I hung upside down in a tree by my knees, the blood rushed to my head, and I had a bit of a headache, but didn't care. My glasses slid down my face a bit, and my hair dangled down. Everything was calm and peaceful. It was a Sunday, and I could enjoy the breeze, and the smell of the dewy spring air all day. It smelled like dirt, and rain, and mud, and new baby plants, and-

"Megan Binns, what are you doing?!" snapped my grandmother from the doorway.

And that, friends, is the last thing I remembered before I fell on my head, blacked out, and woke up in a hospital bed.

I should introduce myself. My name is Megan Binns, otherwise known by my classmates as "trash Binns." Yes, yes, very clever, Karla Burns, my nemesis since the third grade when she dropped a spider on my face in the middle of math class. I'm the *nerd*. No one wants to be my friend and frankly I'm fine with that. I don't need friends.

I bet you're thinking right now "Megan you need people because the power of friendship!" Or something stupid and cheesy like that.

I don't! I hate everyone, and everyone hates me. Or at least that's what I thought until I met Collin Gray.

Collin Gray's personality is..... fluffy..... He's just sort of..... I don't know just somehow really strange, but in a good way. He's always been carrying a sketchbook and pencil. To be perfectly honest, that pen behind his ear combined with his overall appearance of curly brown hair, freckles, and gray eyes, mixed with his personality made him mildly attractive. *Mildly*.

May I emphasize that I don't like Collin Gray. Or..... do I? No. I don't need anyone. I don't need friends, or for goodness sake a boyfriend.

As I walked through school with a cast on my leg and arm in a sling, I felt a few balls of crumpled paper ripped from a textbook hit my face and head. Stupid textbook.

I walked into gym with a doctor's pass not to participate, as I had broken my arm and leg in the fall, and gotten a concussion. I walked into the large room and inhaled the smell of the ever so familiar- ah- sweaty socks. I handed the pass to my teacher.

He didn't speak, just silently nodded and pointed to a chair, in a corner.

Yay, the naughty corner for falling out of a tree. The corner was in the far end of the gym, and was dusty and gross with a scruffy chair. I sat down and began to read.

As I read and watched the class play dodgeball, I suddenly found myself staring dreamily at Collin Gray. Watching his curly brown hair bounce up and down as he ran, and his stormy gray eyes follow the ball. He was skillful and quick, and whenever he whipped around, his expression was almost like-

Wait a second, was I stalking him? Was I being a creep? Was I-

I suddenly felt a sharp whack to my broken leg and cried out.

Karla Burns had thrown a textbook at my injured leg. Always textbooks. She came over after changing into her regular fancy, girly clothing and snickered.

I clutched my now aching leg, on the verge of tears.

"You gonna cry trash Binns?" Karla teased as a few of her friends joined the party.

I was silent, and winced as someone threw a pencil and it hit my still sore head. Um *ouch*. I held back a sob, and closed my eyes, pulling my knees close.

They continued to hit me.

I could feel my jeans now wet with my tears. I could hear them laugh. And snicker. And yell. And shout. And- Suddenly a voice sounded.

"Hey!" it called, "cut that out!"

"Why should I!?" Karla responded sassily.

The voice growled, "because I can and will smack you with my sketchbook!"

Oh my.... I knew who that voice was..... I peeked over my knees and saw Karla roll her eyes and walk away. I looked back at the source of the voice, Collin Gray, and saw that he was still brandishing his sketchbook, but also holding his hand out to me. To me. I felt weak in the knees, and not just because Karla and her friends had kicked me in the shins. I tried to seem less like a wimp and wiped away my tears.

"I-uh-you didn't have to-um-I-uh-thanks....." I stuttered, my voice quiet and shaky. I looked down at my feet and shifted slightly.

Collin smiled. "No problem." He said as if it was a simple favor.

As I took his hand I felt a shock go up my arm and through my body. Like an electric current.

He helped me up. "You ok?" he asked.

I nodded sheepishly, "yeah... again

thank you, but I should get to lunch...." I began to walk away but felt his hand on my arm and stopped, looking back.

His smile had faded slightly. Makes sense, he was talking to me. *Usually people only smirked or gave me the stink eye. He looked down at me, being a foot taller, almost as if he was studying me.*

"Want to sit with me at lunch?" he asked, after a few moments of awkward silence.

I was honestly in shock. Someone had just offered me a place at an actual table rather than the floor. Collin had offered me a place. The boy I liked- and yes I will stop denying it, I liked him.

I blinked for a second before responding. "Uh sure." I said and smiled like an idiot.

He, to my utmost surprise, smiled back.

I packed up my stuff with a struggle and dropped my book. I was then surprised to see Collin pick it up.

"I can carry this" he said kindly, his smile returning.

I didn't decline the offer. I walked to my locker which was near his.

He followed silently, walking next to me, and handed me back my book.

I smiled at him and grabbed my lunch, putting my stuff away and following him to his locker where he did the same.

"So how'd you hurt yourself?" he asked curiously.

"I was hanging in a tree and I fell." I mumbled. It wasn't exactly my proudest moment, and I didn't want him to know what an idiot I was for getting so startled and falling.

He grinned, which made me feel a little warm and fuzzy inside. "It's cool that you climb trees, I'm too scared of heights." He looked at me as we walked and smiled.

I shrugged. "I am too; I climb low," I said, "apparently not low enough; I broke two bones when I fell."

Collin laughed and it filled my heart with joy hearing it. "I guess," he said.

We reached the lunch room, and he sat at a table with two other boys and a girl. I didn't know any of their names.

I sat through lunch mostly silent, though I felt happy. I felt like I had friends.

Karla Burns left me alone the whole lunch period. She sent me a look and stuck out her tongue, but Collin sent her a nasty look back and she stopped. I enjoyed that.

Later, Collin asked me to come over after school. As I sat in his bedroom, I looked out the window and thought, maybe even I needed someone in my life that made it a little more enjoyable.



### Saying goodbye

IMMS students decorated lockers of two students who passed away around the end of December, showing that Sarah and Anna will be missed.

Photos by Levi Deadman





Photo by Avery Weaver

Director DeDe Bouzek, top left, helps the lemurs make a human throne for their ruler, King Julian. IMMS students, left to right, include Katie Young, Evan Sercombe, Logan Spahos and Sierra Binger. Under Jake are Charlie Malueg and Julia Jones.

## IMMS students ready to roar in musical

By Ava Van Houten

IMMS 7th Grade

As more than 100 students and staff at IMMS prepare for performances of *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure Jr.*, we got a look at what's going on behind the scenes with a few questions and answers with Ms. Schoen, who's leading the tech crew.

### What is it like working on the play?

I work with the tech crew. We build sets and make props. We meet after school 2 days a week. We also have a build day at the theatre to put all the sets together. We the play starts my set builders become the run crew. They change the sets between scenes.

### Describe some fun things you usually have.

We have a great time planning and making things for they play. The crew really enjoys problem solving ways to make something new. We also enjoy spending time together. This year's crew likes to name things. Like the water fountains in Stoughton are called Salty and Norman

### How many students would you say are involved?

My Tech Crew has 20 students.

### Any New techniques that the Tech Crew is using?

We are using a fly system in Stoughton this year. This means things are hung from the above and are lowered into the set. MHS didn't have this but they will in the new facility.

### IF YOU GO

Performances of *Madagascar* will be held at Stoughton High School, 600 Lincoln Ave., at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Jan. 24-25, and 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26.

# Mr. T goes to China

By Levi Deadman

IMMS 7th Grade

The IMMS Messenger staff wanted to know what Principal Tarnutzer brought back from China. What he gave us were these answers.

### When did you go to China? And where?

I was in China from October 11 through October 19. I spent the majority of the time at the Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School in Shijiazhuang, China. I spent my final three days in Beijing doing some sightseeing on my own.

### Why did you go?

We have had a relationship with this school and the Global K-12 Education Research Association for several years including having staff present at their annual conference, hosting middle school students at our school for several days, and having teachers go to China and teach summer school. I was invited to speak at their 4th annual conference with the focus was on health education. They were so generous as they paid for my plane ticket, food, and hotel while I was in Shijiazhuang.

### What did you do there?

I was able to do so many things. The school organized a wonderful experience for us. First, I was able to attend the conference and learn from other educators from around the world including Costa Rica, Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, and many more. I was a member of a panel that answered questions from teachers from China about what they term "Psychological Education." I provided a 20 minute presentation about social/emotional learning and what we do with ARRE time and restorative practices. I also participated in many other meetings as part of the conference. The conference was amazing with an opening ceremony that felt like the Olympics. Second, I was able to meet people from the school and have a tour of this school and a school out in the country. I had a host teacher who taught 7th grade English who checked in on me throughout the day and told me what was next. I had dinner with a student and their family. We visited classrooms where students gave presentations and played traditional Chinese instruments. Third, I was interviewed by the local media and asked to share how our school and students are



Submitted photo

IMMS Principal Tarnutzer has his photo snapped at the Great Wall in China.

different and similar than in China. Our days were very busy and exciting.

### What did you learn?

I learned that the world is so small. We have more things in common with schools, students, and educators around the world than we have differences. We were all experiencing the same challenges and trying the same things to address these challenges. I also learned about some of the differences. For example, students in China spend much more of their day in school focused on academics versus shorter school days and opportunities for activities such as clubs, athletics, and music. Chinese students also spend much less time collaborating. On the teacher side, our teachers have much more flexibility in what they teach and how it is taught as the teachers there are given the curriculum. On a personal note, I learned a lot about myself and gained the confidence to travel on my own. I also learned how much I love the food and that they don't eat much rice in China.

### What was the hardest part?

The hardest part was the language. Most of the people I met only

spoke Chinese and what I read was only in Chinese. For example, I had someone drive me to the Great Wall, which took 2 hours and he didn't speak any English. We had to gesture in order to communicate. It was also kind of fun.

### Was it hard to speak the language? What did you learn to say?

The language was very hard to speak as there are inflections that change meaning of the words. I learned to say, "Hello" and "Thank you." I used translating apps quite a bit.

### What did you do for your own interests?

After the conference I went to Beijing where I visited the Temple of Heaven, Forbidden City, Great Wall, and did some shopping. One day I walked 10 miles just seeing things around the city. I learned so much about Chinese history and culture.

### What did you bring back?

I brought back some gifts for my family and lots of snacks and candy, including packaged meats. I bought a painting while I was there and was given a few things such as some figurines that I have in my office.

## Spartan Spotlight: Nate loves his three pets

By Ava Van Houten

IMMS 7th Grade

We have seventh-grade student Nate Hammer in this issue's spotlight. When selecting a topic of focus, Nate immediately selected to share about his pets.

### What pets do you have?

Katie, Parker, and Bobo.

### What breeds are they?

Mutt, Mini Australian Shepherd, and house cat.

### What activities do you enjoy doing with them?

Playing with them in the snow, Snuggle with them, Sleep with them at bedtime, one of them gets to go on rides in the car, and just play with them.

### How long have you had them?

Total 14 years

### In the future, do you see yourself getting more pets?

Yes, because I love animals and I think they are very lovable.



Nate with his dog Parker.

Submitted photo