The steel girder truss for the IMMS gym expansion was set in place in the first half of May. Workers communicated via radio with the 90-ton crane operator. Ironworkers continue to prepare the truss for integration with the existing roof structure. Masonry work on the gym expansion also was completed in May. Below: Outside new classroom, rough grading was final.

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.”

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?
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 raise funds 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 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 sleepiest 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 afternoons 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

IMMS 7th Grade

We asked a few IMMS students to share their experiences in dying 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


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

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.
Did you know that each year an estimated 18 billion (that’s billion with a b) pounds of plastic waste enter the world’s oceans 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 coming from or affecting how marine life functions. 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!

**Opinion: Save the waters**

By Ellie Johnson and Grace Morris

IMMS 7th Grade

I didn’t speak, just silently nodded and pointed to a chair, at 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 scrawny 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 tossed, and his stormy gray eyes follow the ball. He was skilful and quick, and whenever he whipped around, his expression was almost like a mix of mild surprise and delight.

I was silent, and winced as someone threw a pencil and it hit my still sore arm. I looked back at the source of the voice, Karla roll her eyes and walk away. I was…… I peeked over my knees and saw Karla Burns had thrown a textbook at me. Her boyfriend, almost as if he was studying me. I could feel my jeans now wet with sweat, and rivers are because of how much plastic waste is just carelessly thrown away.

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**My name is Megan Binns**

By Veva Riddle

IMMS 7th Grade

I silently watched as the cars drove across the sky, and the birds flapped and chirped as they flew gracefully on the verge of tears.

I could feel my jeans now wet with sweat, and rivers are because of how much plastic waste is just carelessly thrown away.

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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 ARRE (Association of K-12 Education Research and Reform) 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 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 how they teach and how they are 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.