



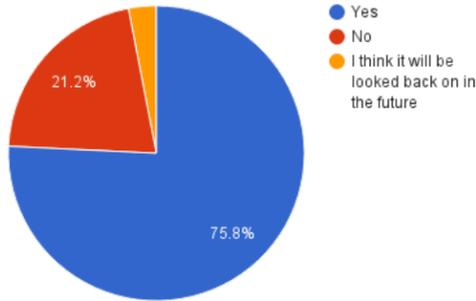
WE ARE SPARTANS

ACHIEVEMENT RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY

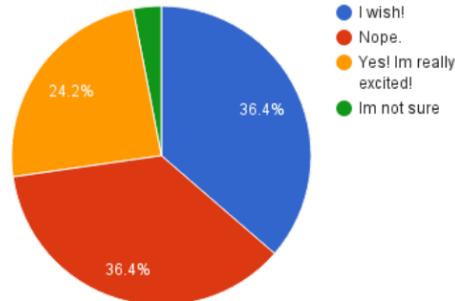
IMMS Messenger November 2016 Volume XII Issue XXXV

Indian Mound Middle School McFarland, WI

Do you think this election will cause problems for the next election?



Will you be old enough to vote in the next election?



Students say candidates can't hide faults

By Claire E. Hall
IMMS 8th Grade

With so much negativity surrounding the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the IMMS Messenger surveyed students on their thoughts for improvements. Many of their ideas are recorded in the accompanying graphs. For questions that required a short answer, the students had many different opinions. These included what they thought the biggest challenge is in this election, how they thought we could get better candidates to run for president, and what the most important issue is for them in the presidential election.

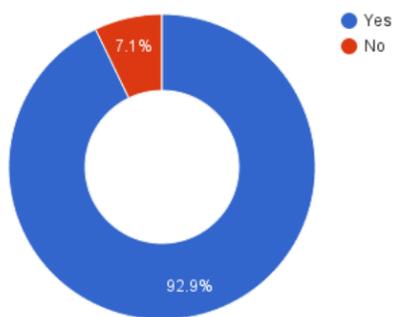
One of the students responding to the IMMS Messenger election survey thought that "the candidates" are the biggest challenge. Many also expressed their dissatisfaction with Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, with about two-thirds of respondents saying they are not a good

fit for America and the same number predicting the Democrat's victory. One student even wrote, "HAVING A TERRIBLE PRESIDENT FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS #SAVEAMERICA." Even Syria and Isis also made it to the list.

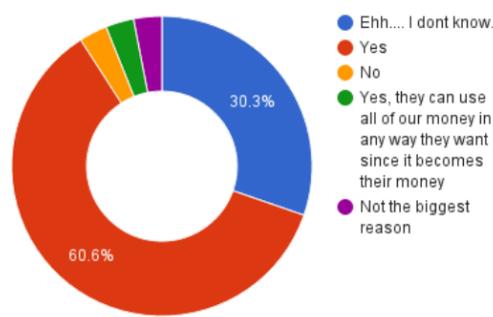
Many of the students also thought that to get better candidates, we should "ask them to run" or "only have candidates who haven't been in recent or past crimes or (show) discrimination." Another idea was "Have limits on the amount of money donated by groups and businesses." Other students disagree. One student said, "DON'T VOTE #SAVEAMERICA." Others thought that, "We don't need better. Trump for president!" Many also thought that "The way [we're] doing it now" is fine.

There are many issues in the U.S, and students had many thoughts on important issues. They included: immigration, equal pay for women, and achieving and maintaining peace.

Do you think technology has made it more difficult for candidates to hide their faults?



Do you think money has too much influence on the election for president?



Upgrading IMMS gym

By Lindsey Lonigro
IMMS 8th Grade

On Nov. 8, community members are voting whether or not to pass a referendum to fix and upgrade facilities in the district.

The referendum proposes to expand the IMMS gym and replace the outdated floors with new wood floors, along with other renovations to this and other schools in the district.

McFarland parent of three and Girls Youth Basketball Coordinator, Amia Lonigro, is pushing for the referendum to pass because of athlete safety concerns.

Amia expressed concerns for the middle school gym floors, saying, "The floors were only meant to last five years and here we are 25 years later."

McFarland legend and longtime coach of volleyball and basketball, Ms. Stokes, validated that the floors are unsafe because of their original construction. "It's a tile floor on concrete. It's like the tile you have in your kitchen."

The students of the McFarland School District also are affected by the threats of the gym, as expressed by varsity basketball player Brooke Lonigro. She said, "The floors are outdated and dangerous; it's an injury hazard."

Amia and other community members are expressing concerns about the lack of space there is for kids to perform activities in the gym. "The referendum will resolve the dangerous floors, but honestly we need a field house," she said.



Photo by Forrest T. Waddell

Halloween Joker

Kavion Guillen sports an elaborate costume at IMMS on Oct. 31.

New trail would link McFarland bikers to Madison

Claire E. Hall
IMMS 8th Grade

The completion of a \$10.5 million bike trail connecting Madison with McFarland is one of the many features making our community anew. Like the new schools, the bike trail has many interesting qualities: a bridge with an accessible fishing pier and a floating boardwalk over wetlands.

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi has included this bike trail in his proposed 2016 budget. "The proposed budget needs 3.5 million dollars to complete the first part of the Lower Yahara River Trail," according to his budget proposal.

The first section of the trail will start where the Capital City Trail ends at the Lussier Family Heritage Center near Lake Farm County Park and finish at McDaniel Park in McFarland. The county has already spent 2 million dollars on the project for

planning and design.

Grants from the state Department of Transportation will pay for the remaining costs of the 2.3-mile trail. It will eventually continue on to Stoughton and draw an estimated 175,000 bicyclists every year. If the budget is approved by the County Board, construction could begin next spring and the trail could open a year later.

"It will be a real unique experience; it will be a unique view, and it will tread very lightly on the environment," Parisi explained.

Above, there is the proposed trail connecting McFarland and Stoughton to Madison. The pink line is the Lower Yahara river trail. (First section) the Blue Line is the Future Trail that they plan to build.

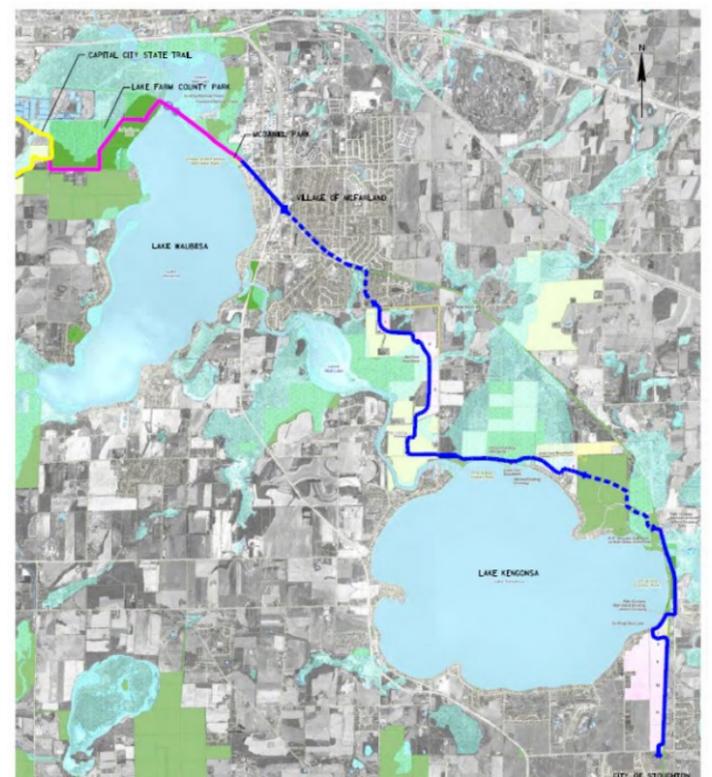
The proposed budgeting is just under 36 million dollars for capital projects. The Lower Yahara River Trail is one of the

most expensive projects because it includes building the boardwalk over and around areas where evidence of ancient human remains turned up in a recent dig.

"We want to be very respectful of that area," Parisi added.

It's called a floating boardwalk, but it really rests on the ground and adjusts itself when the water moves, especially as it freezes and unfreezes during the winter and summer. Josh Wescott said, "It doesn't break apart like when you leave a pier in the lake and you don't take it out in the winter."

The main plans for the trail include use of an existing railroad bridge that goes across Lake Waubesa and Upper Mud Lake. Initially the idea was scrapped for safety and practicality reasons, but those have been remedied. The new bike path bridge will allow boats to pass underneath it, Wescott added.



LEGEND
- LOWER YAHARA RIVER TRAIL - PHASE 1
- FUTURE PHASED WORK



Author Brittany Cavallaro visited McFarland in September.

Book review: Author offers insight on *A Study in Charlotte*

By Audrey McMillan

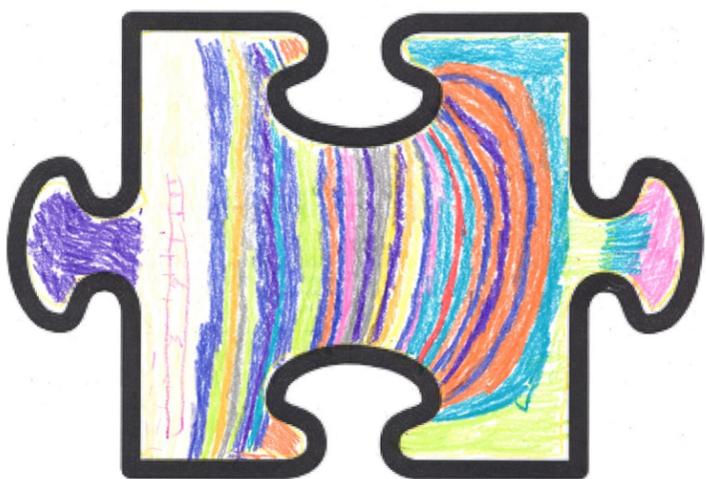
IMMS 8th Grade

A Study in Charlotte is a twist on the classic stories of John Watson and Sherlock Holmes. The story follows the great-great-great-grandchildren of the detective duo, and the present day teens are every bit like their crackling forefathers. Charlotte Holmes is a cold and isolated genius who has her fair share of difficult problems created by her unloving family. She has been trained from birth to feel no emotion and be the pinnacle of detective success. Jamie Watson loathes his new Connecticut boarding school, which is not far from his father whom he hasn't seen in years. Sherrinford also happens to be home to the one and only Charlotte Holmes. It seems that the two will never meet until a student, with whom both have a past, ends up brutally murdered with a cause of death right out of one of the famous detective novels. Jamie and Charlotte find themselves as the prime suspects and must tap into their ancestry to prove themselves innocent and find the murderer.

Author Brittany Cavallaro visited our local E.D. Locke Public Library on Sept. 28 to talk about her book. She started the evening reading from her book and then went on to describe all of the little Easter eggs, or hidden parts. In 2012, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes was named most portrayed literary human character in film and TV with 250 adaptations and counting. Cavallaro, too, has many hidden references within the pages of her book. But the enduring detective was not her only inspiration to write *A Study in Charlotte*. Cavallaro said she began to think about female genius characters and realized there aren't many. That inspired her to create one. She admitted she dabbled with the idea of making both Charlotte and Jamie females but decided that she really wanted to make a statement with a female hero and her quirky male sidekick.

Cavallaro also talked about why she chose to write YA. When she wrote, she realized that she mostly wrote about teenage characters. "I don't change my writing style when writing for teenagers, kids in high school are reading real stuff," she said when talking about the difference in her style when writing YA and her other work. She says she likes YA because it isn't one specific genre and that there are so many different stories in that category.

A Study in Charlotte is a truly enticing novel that grabs you by the wrist and drags you along with it from the first page until the last. Charlotte and Jamie will leave you laughing, crying, and everything in between in their suspenseful fight to find a killer and navigate high school all with their freedom on the line and a clock that is ticking.



Puzzle Stripes

Highlighting the IMMS Messenger's "Get Connected" design contest, eighth-grader Andy Buchholz created this single piece featuring bands of color.

IMMS Messenger November issue contributors include: Aren Desai, Lili Grossman, Claire Hall, Luke Keller, Ellie Kregness, Kami McGinn, Audrey McMillan, Drew Muellenbach, Julia Spilling, Forrest Waddell. To participate, contact Adviser Ms. Ndlovu at NdlovuT@mcfsd.org.

Referendum: Should it pass or should it not?

By Lizzie Maly and Jewel Sherchok

IMMS 8th Grade

Indian Mound is the most overcrowded school in the district, and more students are coming every year. The class of 2023 gained 19 students at the start of the 2016-17 school year. The building is not big enough to support the growing surpluses of kids. The kids and teachers struggle with many issues, and that needs to be fixed. The rooms are too small, the hallways crowded, and the gym unsafe and too small.

School superintendent, Dr. Andrew Briddell, said, "The middle school has the smallest student per square foot ratio than any building in the district." He wants to increase the number of classrooms and improve the configuration of the classrooms. Though this process is part of a \$65.15 million renovation proposal, he feels like it's worth it, and that they're only spending what is needed to support the students and teachers for the next 20 years or so.

What is wrong with the school?

IMMS students interviewed voiced similar complaints: "The classrooms aren't square and there isn't enough room." "There isn't enough space at the lockers." Because the hallways are overcrowded, students struggle to get to the

lockers. Especially as the kids get older and bigger, they don't fit in the limited space. One girl, who was on crutches because of an injured foot, had to shove her way down the hall. If there was more space, everyone would be happier and feel more comfortable.

How will the school be better if it passes?

When the students and teachers heard about how much better the school would be, they gave lots of positive feedback. Mrs. Halverson, an eighth grade teacher at IMMS, said, "Behaviors will be so much better with more space!"

Multiple students, one being eighth grade student Grace Nelson, said, "I like that we will have more space. It will help kids concentrate."

Proposed changes will open up current classrooms, eliminating awkward shapes and doubling their size. That will give the students more room to move and work interactively. With all this room to interact, students will learn much more effectively.

Because Indian Mound is so crowded, the referendum can greatly benefit kids, if it is passed. The happiness of the kids will be noticeable, and the enthusiasm toward learning from the staff and students will skyrocket! Now think: If you were a student at IMMS would you want the referendum passed?



Photo by Julia Spilling

Running on

IMMS Cross Country racers finish through a line of spectators during competition at the Sept. 22 meet in Stoughton.

Ask Lili: Help stop bullying at IMMS

By Lili Grossman

IMMS 8th Grade

Advice of the Year

Now, I know everybody who's read my column last year is going, "NO! Don't say it Lili; you said it was gonna end last year. Don't do it-" but the advice of the year is be yourself. After you groan, consider it really is the best advice you can give anyone. I should just say advice of your life instead of advice of the year. Any problem that's going on, whether it be from a break up to a friendship problem, can be solved with being yourself. I myself need to listen to this information because sometimes I try to please other people when I should just be myself and do what's right. That actually just happened when I was trying too hard to be someone I wasn't for a friend of mine. Let's just say, we aren't friends anymore. But if he couldn't accept who I am as a person, then I'm glad he's gone. So just

be yourself and, I promise, there will be people out there who love you for it.

Advice of the Quarter

My advice for you this quarter is to trust your instincts. When you're in a bad situation, your gut will know it. And it's trying to tell you to get out of that situation. Listen to it! There's a reason we get that "I shouldn't do this" feeling. It's to warn us not to do something! Again, I should listen to my own advice or risk being called a hypocrite. And when all else fails, believe in yourself and follow your heart. You will get to wherever you're trying to go.

Advice to you

Dear Lili,
Do you think we have a problem with bullying from popularity groups? Also, would you say that bullying is a problem at our school?

Bullying can come from anyone, but I have heard from my friends that they've either seen or experienced bullying from someone who's "popular."

But really? Someone's only popular these days because that's how their grade named them. And "popular" people get a bad rap for it. I've talked to many who are considered the "popular girls" and pretty much all of them are amazing! Sure, there are some bad eggs here and there in the group, but that happens with everybody, not just the "popular" group.

On the note of bullying, I do think it is a problem at our school. I've seen people be rude, but I've never really come across people bullying each other. But I hear enough about it from other people to know that it is a problem. Please, if you ever see anyone being bullied, help them. Think about what it would be like if you were in that position. And then please try to help that person in any way you can, whether it be confronting the bully, talking to a teacher, using Sprigeo, whatever you can do to help. Let's make IMMS a bully free zone.

And if you are a bully, stop. No one likes it.

What School? Accusations and needles

By Kami McGinn and Ellie Kregness

IMMS 7th Grade

PREVIOUSLY:

Annie Bradley started at Star Coast City, a school in Seattle. She narrated, "The real reason I hate this place is because I had to leave my good friends for the people here, cough cough, Sabrina Hudson. She's the meanest of mean girls ... a pit bull T-Rex breed with lipstick, cute boots and more popularity than she deserves."

In Chapter 1, Annie met new friend Crissy, who said, "It happens to me every year those witches make potions in their cauldron and put it in all the trash cans to push some person in there!"

She attended Mr. Jillian's science class, in which he said, "I make it my business to know my new subject-... I mean students' names."

She also met Ben Dones, whom she described as "the cutest boy I have ever seen."

But before the day ended, Annie found Crissy's body lying on the floor.

"Sorry Annie," Ben said at the beginning of Chapter 2. "Crissy's gone."

"Yes, Ben, I think Sabrina killed Crissy!!" Annie theorized, but he disagreed.

At the end of the chapter, Annie learned Crissy's brain was missing, and she is called to the office.

Chapter 3

"Annie, please sit down," the principal said calmly.

"Can you tell me why I'm here?" I said still standing.

"Where were YOU when Crissy was KILLED?!" he yelled like a psychopath.

"Wait, what??" I was very confused. "WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME THAT?!"

He glared at me, pointed and shivered with the effort to hold back his intensity, "YOU are NEW here ... you were seen talking to her ... HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT EVIL YOU ..."

He was interrupted by the crackle of the speakers.

"ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF PLEASE REPORT TO THE CAFETERIUM FOR THE ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE."

I ran out of the office as fast as I could. *Where can I go that's safe? Safety in numbers?*

I hastened to the cafetorium, where Ben waved at me. I ignored him; we're not on speaking terms, 'cause, you know, the Sabrina thing and all. I turned to one of the stations and saw a girl, who, I think, is in my math class.

"Hi, welcome to the blood drive. I know the big needles seem scary and all but you can do it! By the way my name's Stacy!"

"*She is way too peppy to be doing this!*" I thought.

"Hi, my name is Annie," I said, "*please don't hurt me.*" "Wait did I just say that out loud?"

"I won't be the one hurting you, by the way. I would stay, but this blood thing is freaky. What were they thinking?"

Yeah, we've seen enough blood, I was thinking and almost missed Stacy ask, "Want to talk tomorrow?"

"S-sure," I said stammered as the station was prepped with tubes and needles.

"Good. See you tomorrow."

Help me, I thought.



Photo by Forrest T. Waddell

Creatures crossing

Jacob Brendemuehl looking at slow moving turtles and scaly and slimy creatures at the McFarland Family Fun Fest in September.

Diary found in WhiteLand

By Lili Grossman

IMMS 8th Grade

Chapter three

Chayote

As I walked away from the shack, I tried to picture what the world was like before this. Most of the books here are in really bad condition, so it's really hard to find a picture of what life looked like before all of this crap.

I turned my head as I walked away, looking back at the Shack. The name is really misleading; it's not really a shack, or at least, not a broken down one. It's a big, sturdy building that is covered in snow. That is not really a surprise here in WhiteLand.

I suddenly tripped and fell face first in the snow. The snow burned my hands for a second, which then went num. Because I've lived and tripped in the snow for so long, the cold doesn't bother me. Not as much as it used to anyway.

I got up, brushed the snow off my pants and looked at what tripped me. It was a square rock with a thin layer of ice over it.

I knelt down in the snow. Something seemed really weird about this rock... I shook my head. I'm thinking about rocks. Something is wrong with me.

Yet, I couldn't help but feel mesmerized by this "rock." I picked it up and tried to wipe the thin layer of ice with my sleeve.

After soaking both of my hoodie sleeves, I cleared the ice off the rock. That's when I noticed I could open it, and thin pieces of paper stuck out of it.

It wasn't a rock. It was a book. Or at least a part of it.

I opened up the half ripped off cover and started reading. My mom was one of the lucky few in this world who knew how to read, so she taught me.

Dear Diary,

I can't believe the world I live just seems wrong.

What has this world come to?

Why did it have to come to an end? Co

I will find an answer to this. And I wi

much of my life I spend working on it, but I will ma

be happy and safe and not have to liv

But I will mark my words I will fi

The rest of the letter was ripped in half.

I turned to the next page, curiosity taking over me.

Dear diary,

What have I done? What have I do peace, to tranquility, to anything goo more darkness.

I have destroyed this world, eve

I can't live with myself. These will be th

myself. I have done nothing to help th

Let this be a lesson, to those who try t

a way to destroy itself.

I turned the page again, but nothing was there. Just the half ripped off back cover.

I sat down in the snow, soaking my pants through to my butt. What was the person saying? They didn't make any sense! They destroyed the world? What lesson?

I looked back at the letters. *Whose diary was this?* I wondered.

I stood up and walked back home, carrying the letters close to my chest.



Photo by Forrest T. Waddell

Stokes' smiles

IMMS teacher Becky Stokes, far right, takes one of her legendary Friday Night Lights photos of a group of IMMS seventh-graders during the last football game of the season, Thursday, Oct. 13.

The Kid and Grandpa: In the Future...

By Luke Keller

IMMS 7th Grade

The kid was sitting in school one day.

"School is so boring," said the kid.

"Blah blah blah ... take this homework ... blah blah blah," said the teacher.

But then Grandpa showed up and asked if he wanted to get outta here.

"YES GET ME OUT OF THIS PLACE!" said the kid.

"Wait take your 1,000,000 pages of homework!" said the teacher.

"No because I'm never coming back!" said the kid.

"TAKE THEM NOW! CLASS ATTACK!" said the

teacher. But the kid already left. The school chased behind them with pitchforks and torches.

"Come on, Marty!" said Grandpa.

"My name isn't Marty, Grandpa," said the kid. "I like to be called The Kid."

"Well my name isn't Grandpa! It's Wally," said Grandpa.

"I don't care, Wally," said the kid. The kid hopped in the minivan. The teacher threw the homework at the mini van.

"Hey, Grandpa, why is the time machine a minivan?" said the kid.

"Because in the future ... MINIVANS ARE COOL!" said Grandpa.

"NO ... THIS COULDN'T BE REAL ..." said the kid.

Grandpa started the van and drove to October 27, 2015. Then they went through a vortex really fast.

"OH MY GOD! THIS IS REALLY FAST!" said the kid.

Grandpa barfed out the window. They arrived outside a building into which people were crowding. They all looked like Shrek.

"These people dress weird," said the kid.

"That's because this is Comic Con!" said Grandpa.

"What is Comic Con?" said the kid.

"I don't really know, but I think it's when people get weird," said Grandpa.

To be continued.



Photos by Claire Hall and Luke Keller

Banner Day gets wacky inside

At top, Principal Tarnutzer shares the names of the sixth-grade ARRE time groups during Banner Day on Sept. 22. The wet weather drove the day's Wacky Olympics indoors, but play continued undeterred, as shown by seventh-grader Arkaya Graf and other Herbst Hawaiians, at left. Above, Halverson's Heroes work on their eighth-grade banner.

Tips for keeping iPhone batteries working longer

By Aren Desai

IMMS 8th Grade

Have you ever wondered why your iPhone batteries drain so fast? I know you've heard of remedies like "turn down your brightness," but I found a few ways more in-depth than that. Here are four:

1. Turn off push mail

Push mail is a setting that makes your iPhone constantly check for mail. This sounds good, but it checks way too often. This constant check takes up a lot of data.

You can turn this off by going into **Settings**, going into **Mail, Contacts, Calendars** and then **Fetch New Data**. At the top of the screen it should say **Push**. Turn that off, and go to the bottom of the screen. Check one of the options for

Fetch (I suggest Every 15 minutes). Finally, go to all your **individual emails** and switch them to fetch. This will fix the problem.

2. Turn off Diagnostics and Usage Data

Diagnostics and Usage Data is a service that sends data on how you use your iPhone to Apple. This data includes mostly information about simple things, such as system performance, and logs on different apps you use. These logs are what you should be worrying about, though. These cause the iPhone to have to use power to send the log, and that can add up to more usage than you think.

You can turn this off easily as well. First, go to **Settings** and head to **Privacy**. Open up **Diagnostics and Usage Data** at

the bottom. Select **Don't Send** to turn this off.

3. Turn off notifications

If you see an app or game ask you for permission to send notifications, you might just press "okay" and not think about it. That is probably "okay" like it says, but if you really don't need it then don't let it send notifications. These notifications turn on the lock screen, quickly draining the battery, probably more than most of the other methods I already listed. This is why you want to turn them off.

To turn this off, first go to **Settings** (as always) and then **Notifications**. You will see a list of apps, and they will either have "off" or "on". If you don't want an app's notifications to drain your battery, then press "off". If you really want that

app's notifications, then either turn off or leave them on.

4. Completely power off your phone

When you power off your phone, there still might be apps running. These apps will drain the phone's battery, as the phone constantly has to be on for them.

To completely turn off your iPhone, **hold down the power button** until you see a "power off" slide. **Slide it**, and the phone will completely turn off. It is also good to note that if you try to turn the phone off like this by holding down both the home and power button, that might cause more problems than solutions.

I hope this helped you counter how fast your battery drains. If these still don't work, you might want to look into getting a new phone, or getting better batteries.

Spartan Spotlight: Brooke shares her passion for dogs

By Claire E. Hall

IMMS 8th Grade

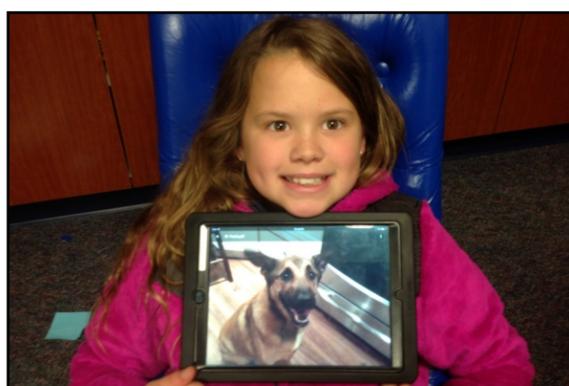
Brooke Mietz is one of a million dog lovers. Brooke adores German Shepherd Lab mixes, Boston Terriers, retrievers, Huskies, Poodles and Chihuahuas.

"Dogs are my passion," Brooke explained. "They're capable to hang out with humans. They're funny, cute and I love it when they make those puppy eyes when they want something, but it's so hard to say no to them, because they're so adorable!"

Considering Brooke is a dog lover, it is not surprising she has a dog, a cute German Shepherd Lab mix. How she got the dog is a little unusual. One day, Brooke's mother was walking. She found a dog and brought her back to their house, so they could take care of her. But soon the dog had puppies. Jagger and Axel were only two of the litter. Brooke ended up getting Jagger and Axel. "They were so adorable, fluffy and squishy."

"My parents decided to adopt them. My mom

[searched] online and found that it was bad to adopt two dogs at one time, because they will bond together by biting and getting mad at each other." Brooke soon ended up giving Axel away and keeping Jagger. "He's been a



Brooke Mietz, an IMMS sixth-grader, shows a picture of her dog, Jagger.

good dog over the years."

"Since my mom is allergic to cats, we can only have dogs." Because Brooke is only allowed to have dogs, she was destined to be a fan.

Brooke told me many tips about dogs:

"When you're going home from school, and you see a dog growling at you, don't ever go up to the dog(s) or run. Otherwise the dog will chase after you."

She also made a big deal to, "Never ever, EVER go up and pet a strange dog, because it can bite you."

Some tricks that Brooke told me about include, "If you're riding a bike, put the kickstand down on the bike so [the bike is] blocking you. If the dog is really close to you, go into a rock pose or a tree pose, and then it will go away."

"When I grow up I want to be a veterinarian, because I love working with animals, and I know a lot about animals, like what it feels, what to do, stuff like that. It's wonderful having dogs because they are passionate, cute, and so many other things."