



# THE SPARTAN NATION



SPRING  
2019  
ISSUE

▲ **MASTERING ROBOTICS:** Imlay City Schools sponsored two FIRST Robotics teams: the high school's Spartronics (pictured above) and the middle school's iSpartans. Please turn to Page 2 to learn how fun and learning go hand-in-hand.

## Inside this issue:

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Spring offers new opportunities

We are nearly three quarters through the school year, and I'm proud of the work that has been conducted by our students, staff and school community to date. In this issue of *Spartan Nation*, you'll read about the incredible accomplishments of our robotics teams, our science fair and spelling bee competitors, MSBOA music award winners, several distinguished alumni, and more.

Week after week, the members of our Spartan Nation are growing, learning and contributing to not only our school community, but the greater Imlay City community as well.

But spring isn't a time to look back. It's a time to look forward to new growth opportunities. You'll see in this issue exciting information about opportunities for our newest Spartans; namely, kindergartners and preschoolers. We look forward to partnering with our outstanding school community for a strong finish to the 2018-2019 school year.



**Dr. Stu Cameron**  
Superintendent

*Stu Cameron*



## Important dates to remember

### District

- **APRIL 15:** 16.5 minutes added to each school day
- **JUNE 18:** Tentative last day for students (additional days missed may add days)

### Weston

- **APRIL 11:** Preschool registration, 9:30-11 a.m., and 3-6:30 p.m.
- **JUNE 7:** Field Day (rain date June 10)
- **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:** Carnival

### Borland

- **MAY 3:** 5th Grade Carnival (tentative)
- **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:** Field Day

### Imlay City Middle School

- **MAY 23:** Fine Arts Festival (tentative)
- **JUNE 3:** 6th Grade Honors Assembly, 1 p.m.
- **JUNE 4:** 7th Grade Honors Assembly, 1 p.m.
- **JUNE 5:** 8th Grade Honors Assembly, 1 p.m.
- **JUNE 7:** 8th Grade Dance, 6 p.m.

### Imlay City High School

- **MAY 16:** Fine Arts Night (time TBD)
- **MAY 30:** Honors Convocation, 7 p.m.
- **JUNE 2:** Graduation, 2:30 p.m.
- **JUNE 6:** Honors Night, 7 p.m.

### Venture

- **JUNE 3:** Graduation, 7 p.m.



▲ The middle school's iSpartans robotics team.

## FIRST Robotics teams make learning fun

Imlay City Schools' two robotics teams are building a tradition of excellence. Spartronics, at the high school, is in its 6th season. The team has been involved in the world championship twice and state championship four times. Its awards include Rookie Inspiration, Rookie All Star (2014), Industrial Safety (2015), Imagery Award (2016, 2017, 2018), Team Spirit (2015, 2016, 2019), and Finalists at Competition (2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.)

iSpartans, at the middle school, currently wrapped up the 2018-2019 competition season strong and with a new appreciation of realizing that hard work and team spirit pays off. With 8 of 11 team members being new to robotics this year, the team worked hard. There were many successes and failures during the build season and on the playing field. However, team members' work paid off and they ran a great competition at qualifiers. With many late nights and long meetings, the build team worked to overcome design challenges and the programming team went into overdrive to accommodate last-minute coding changes as needed. In the end, iSpartans placed 18th out of 42 at qualifiers. The team will begin working in the off season, beginning in April, to continue tweaking the robot as it prepares for off-season competitions.

Both teams participate in FIRST Robotics. FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. FIRST is a non-profit organization founded nationally by Dean Kamen in 1989 to promote science and technology to high school (and eventually) middle school students. The robotics competition consists of a game that changes each year. Teams have six weeks to design, create, and test a robot for competition with specific restrictions.

The FIRST Robotics Competition annual competition helps young people discover the rewards and excitement of education and careers in science, engineering, and technology. It challenges young people to work with professional mentors in designing a robot and competing in high intensity events that measure the effectiveness of the robots.





## Kindergarten, Begindergarten registration continues for kids at Weston Elementary

**Weston Elementary is registering Kindergarten and Begindergarten students** for the 2019-2020 school year. To register students, you must have the child's original birth certificate, a picture ID with current address or other proof of residency, the child's immunization record, and information regarding any medical issues a child may have.

Weston Principal Devon Caudill said, "At Weston Elementary, we are committed to immersing your child in a learning experience that provides quality academic instruction, promotes creative and critical thinking, encourages caring, kindness, and friendship, and provides opportunities for your child to develop their own individual interests."

Parents interested in registering a child for Kindergarten or Begindergarten, or who have questions about the programs, may call Weston Elementary at (810) 724-9812 or email Weston Principal Caudill at [dcaudill@icschools.us](mailto:dcaudill@icschools.us).



## Preschool programs offer opportunities for young families

**Registration is now open** for 3- and 4-year-old children for preschool for the 2019-2020 school year. Weston Elementary provides several high-quality preschool programs designed to meet families' needs. Applications are now being accepted for:

### Imlay City Preschool

- Tuition-based preschool for 3- and 4-year-old children
- Sessions are two, half-day sessions each day Monday through Thursday
- Tuition assistance is available for qualifying families

### Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

- State-funded (free) full-day preschool program for children who meet certain eligibility requirements, including income verification
- Children must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2019

### Head Start

- Federally funded (free) full-day preschool program for 3- and 4-year-old children
- Eligibility is based on factors, including income verification

### Childcare

- Weston offers full-day childcare from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Parents may stop by the Weston office to pick up paperwork and/or register for preschool. Additionally, Weston is hosting a preschool "Meet-and-Greet" on Thursday, April 25. Parents may bring their upcoming preschool children and tour preschool classrooms, meet teachers, learn more about the programs, and have questions answered.

## Weather affects 2018-2019 school calendar

**Due to the inordinate number of school cancellations** due to inclement weather, Imlay City Schools must modify its current year calendar to comply with the state law. These are the modifications to the 2018-2019 school calendar:

1. **Adding 3 days of instruction.** The last day for students will now be Tuesday, June 18.
2. **Adding 16.5 minutes to the school day** beginning on Monday, April 15 through the end of the school year. The end of the school day for students in each building, beginning on April 15, will be:
  - Weston Elementary, 3:57 p.m.
  - Borland Elementary, 3:47 p.m.
  - Imlay City Middle School, 2:32 p.m.
  - Imlay City High School, 2:27 p.m.
  - Venture High School, 2:22 p.m.

Start times at each building will remain the same. Should inclement weather or other issues necessitate any additional cancellations, additional days will need to be added to this year's school calendar.



## BLUE AND GOLD ZONE

### Bowlers, wrestlers make their mark

#### Bowling:

The boys bowling team qualified for state competition for the first time in school history. Adam Van Buren qualified for the individual State Bowling Tournament.

#### Wrestling:

Three members of the wrestling team placed in the state. They are:

- Wesley Hampton, senior, 4th place
- Hunter Mullins, senior, 4th place
- Joe Harper, junior, 7th place

## Next year's school calendar sees changes

There have been some changes to the calendar from previous years for school-year 2019-2020. In constructing the calendar, the primary goals were to ensure as many uninterrupted instructional blocks as possible while meeting state obligations, establishing a more reasonable end day for school (as early in June as possible), and taking measures to minimize the likelihood of needing to add make up days due to weather-related school cancellations. The best way to meet these goals was to consider a slightly earlier start to the 2019-2020 school year. As a result, students this fall will start school four days earlier than in the past three years.

The start date for students for the 2019-2020 school year will be Monday, Aug. 19. The tentative end date for students will be Thursday, June 4, 2020.

The full calendar is posted on the district website, [www.icschools.us](http://www.icschools.us)

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### Adults can be healthy role models

**Adults in the school community** can have a great influence on kids in schools. This is true from a character standpoint, in regards to their work ethic, as well as their health choices. As a parent or family member, you can do many things to serve as a healthy role model for children. Here are just a few ways you can influence the health of children in the community:

- **Show by example:** Eat vegetables, fruits, and whole grains with your meals and snacks. Let children see that you like to snack on raw vegetables.
- **Go food shopping together:** Grocery shopping can teach your child about food and nutrition. Discuss where vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy and protein foods come from. Let children make healthy choices.
- **Get creative in the kitchen:** Cut healthy foods into fun and easy shapes with cookie cutters.
- **Reward with attention, not food:** Show your love with hugs and kisses. Comfort with hugs and talks. Choose not to offer sweets as rewards; that lets your child think sweets or dessert foods are better than other foods.
- **Be a good role model:** Try new foods yourself. Pair these foods with ones your child already likes. Offer healthy new foods at the beginning of a meal.

Working together, we can help instill healthy eating habits in children—habits that will last a lifetime.

(Adapted from [choosemyplate.gov](http://choosemyplate.gov))

## Rotary members bring the gift of reading

**One of the more special annual Reading Month events** at Weston Elementary is when members of the Imlay City Rotary Club visit. This year, seven IC Rotarians visited Weston to read to students. They read to every classroom, preschool through 2nd grade. Not only did students get to enjoy stories from guest readers, every Weston student

also went home with a new book, thanks to the IC Rotary Club. That totaled over 550 books. "We cannot thank the Rotarians enough for their generous donation and for sharing the love of reading with our students," said Weston Principal Devon Caudill.



▲ Weston Elementary youngsters benefit as Rotary members visit during Reading Month.





▲ (L to R) Science Fair finalists Vinnie Guerin, Tyler Kanai, Ella Nelden, James Lauwers, and Montanna Eads. (Back) Teacher Dave Spence.

## Borland students soar at Science Fair

**Of the 74 participants** in the Elementary Division of the 2019 Flint Regional Science Fair at Kettering University, 27 of them were from Borland Elementary. Borland students participating were: Josh Beal, Emma Clark, Ethan Collins, Brady Czapiewski, Brady Detwiler, Zachary Duckworth, Montanna Eads, Savannah Eppler, Ethan Everhart, Vinnie Guerin, Brody Gutierrez, Kaylyn Isaacson, Tyler Kanai, Landen Kipke, James Lauwers, Carsan Milovich, Wade Murray, Ella Nelden, Madisyn Robberstad, Grace Sample, Aubree Seagram, Sophia Sills, Madison Singleton, Natalie Thompson, Austin Thrasher, Rylee Tyack, and Kale Woolner.

Borland 5th grade students started their Science Fair projects in early winter 2019 under the supervision of teachers Carrie Bell, Kathleen Brady, Jenny Buhl-Hagey, Lori Dick, and Dave Spence. Additionally, K-5 music teacher, Jill Campbell is involved in helping students at school and coordinating their Flint Science Fair participation. Students spent several weeks working at home and at school to complete their projects, write their information, and find a way to display their process and findings.

Student projects had to be transported to Kettering University on March 15. Students had the opportunity to ride the school bus to Kettering to get their projects up in time. Preliminary judging took place that evening with no students present.

On March 16, students again could ride the bus to Kettering. Only judges and students were present during the Elementary Division judging. Students answered questions and explained their project to judges. The awards ceremony was March 17.

Student accomplishments are as follows:

Honorable Mentions: Kale Woolner, Grace Sample, Savannah Eppler, Emma Clark, Ethan Collins, Austin Thrasher, Madison Singleton, Sophia Sills, Kaylyn Isaacson, Brody Gutierrez, Landen Kipke, Brady Czapiewski, and Aubree Seagram

Research Fellows: Josh Beal, Madisyn Robberstad, Wade Murray, Zachary Duckworth, Ethan Everhart, Rylee Tyack, Brady Detwiler, and Carsan Milovich

Special Awards: James Lauwers – NASA Earth Science Award, Zachary Duckworth – Michigan Association of Hazardous Material Professionals Award, Sophia Sills – Ascension (Genesys – Cellular & Molecular Biology) Award, McLaren Health Care Corporation (Cellular & Molecular Biology) Award.

Finalists: Natalie Thompson (6th Place), Tyler Kanai (6th Place), Vinnie Guerin (6th Place), Montanna Eads (4th Place), Ella Nelden (4th Place), and James Lauwers (4th Place).

## ICS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT Distinguished legal career starts at ICS



**Shamra M. VanWagoner** graduated from Imlay City High School in 1983. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Economics/Business

Administration and a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Kalamazoo College. After attending Indiana University School of Law, in Bloomington, she joined the law firm of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C., in 1990.

Shamra practiced law at Howard & Howard until 1998, when she joined the firm of Smith, Koning, VanWagoner & Beck, P.C. Here, she continued to concentrate her law practice in the area of business succession planning, estate planning, and probate/trust administration. She served as the firm's managing partner from 1999-2006.

In 2006, she returned to Howard & Howard and served as their Managing Partner until 2011 when the firm restructured and formed the firm of Beck, Bowser, Chalmers, Shinar & VanWagoner, PLLC, also known as Beck-VanWagoner Law Firm.

## HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHT Keep valuables away from school

**Students are encouraged** to avoid bringing items of value to school. Such valuables can include toys, hand-held games, jewelry, expensive clothing, and electronic equipment. These can be tempting targets for theft. The schools cannot be responsible for their safekeeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

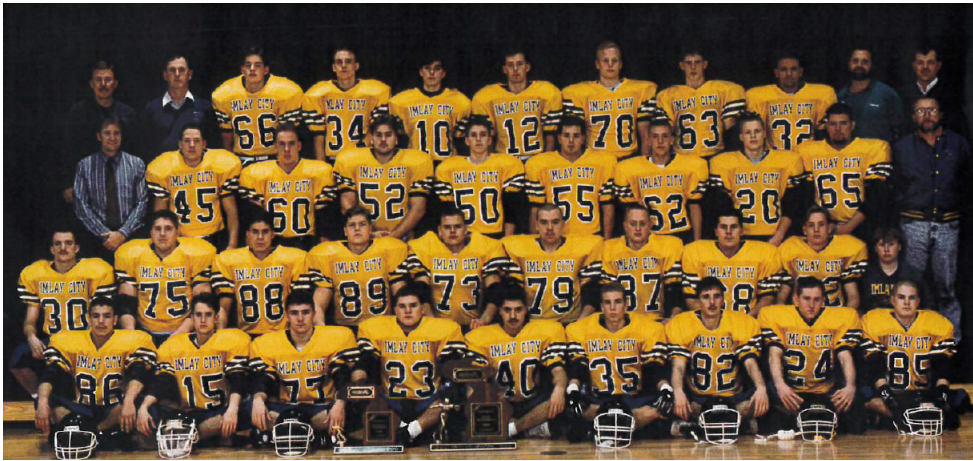




## ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

# Class of 2019 has outstanding additions

This year, three individuals and one team were inducted into the Imlay City Schools Athletics Hall of Fame.



## The 1993 Football Team (team)

The 2018 season marks the 25th anniversary of the 1993 Spartan varsity football's dream season. The team reached the state final for the first time in the school's history. The 1993 team was a powerhouse, defeating its opponents by an average of 21 points.

### SEASON

- Imlay City 14, North Branch 7
- Imlay City 48, Madison Heights Bishop Foley 14
- Imlay City 40, Cros-Lex 19
- Imlay City 42, St. Clair 14
- Imlay City 21, Marysville 24
- Imlay City 56, Algonac 20
- Imlay City 50, Richmond 15
- Imlay City 20, Marine City 6
- Imlay City 47, Mt. Clemens 22

### Regionals

- Imlay City 42, Flint Beecher 20
- Imlay City 36, Caro 11

### Semi-Finals

- Imlay City 49, Country Day 33

### Class B State Final

- Imlay City 14, Kingsford 35



## Doug Maison

**Doug Maison** is a 1952 graduate playing football, basketball and baseball. He was a four-year varsity starting quarterback and Tri-County All-League selection in both football and basketball in 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1952. He was selected to the 1951 Football All-State 3rd Team and in 1952 selected to the All-State 2nd Team in football and basketball. He played football for Michigan State University in 1952-1953 before transferring to Hillsdale College where he became a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-American, setting several passing records for Hillsdale College. In 1957, he was drafted by the Green Bay Packers.

## Ruth Ann Prey



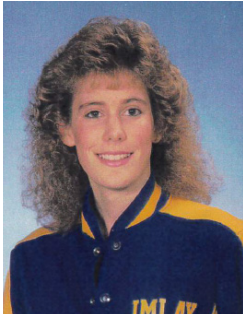
**Ruth Ann Prey** is a 1963 graduate. She has 35 years of operating the clock and announcing high school and middle school sporting events for Imlay City

Schools. She received the 2015 Thumb Area Friend of Youth Award and the 2002 Lapeer Community Schools Outstanding Contributor Award. She has been selected to be the Detroit Tigers special guest announcer for Grandparent's Day.





## Tracey (Moenaert) Combs



**Tracey (Moenaert) Combs** is a 1990 graduate playing basketball and softball. In 1990, she was named the Female Student-Athlete of the Year for the St. Clair

Area League. In 1990, for basketball, she was selected to the Associated Press Class B 1st Team All-State Team. She also was named to the Detroit Free Press All-State Team, Blue Water Area Dream Team, and the Lapeer County Dream Team. In softball, she was selected to the 1990 MHSSCA 1st Team All-State Team and was selected to play in the high school senior all-star game at Michigan State University. She was a three-time All-District and All-Region Player. She played basketball for Saginaw Valley State University and earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Tracey is currently a kindergarten teacher for Imlay City Schools.

## Honors Band has a local sound

**The following Imlay City Band students performed** in the MSBOA District 3 Honors Bands on Jan. 19. They were: Olivia Moore, 12, flute; Olivia Friedenstab, 12, bassoon; Kyle Morocco, 11, tenor saxophone; Andrew Dodge, 12, baritone saxophone; Renae Brewer, 12, trumpet; Adam Dodge, 11, trumpet; Ruby Hellebuyck, 11, tuba; Alyssa Elder, 9, percussion; Elizabeth Lauwers, 8, clarinet; Emmerson Lacommaré, 8, clarinet; and Asia Salcedo, 8, bass clarinet.

## Consortium fills a niche

**The Consortium for Exceptional Children (CEC)**, Special Education Department, is a collaboration between three districts in Lapeer County: Imlay City, Dryden, and Almont.

The CEC and Imlay City staff are dedicated to addressing a wide range of needs. The Consortium currently provides services to more than 400 students with a variety of social, emotional, and learning impairments.

Imlay City students recently participated in their final Special Olympics event for the 2018-2019 school year. They participated in a variety of competitions throughout the year, including track and field, bowling, basketball, and swimming.



## High school, middle school choir students perform well at district competition

**The Imlay City High School choir**, "Spartan Harmony" earned a Division "I" rating at the Michigan School Vocal Music Association District 3 Choral Festival March 11 and 12 at Swartz Creek High School.

This rating qualifies the choir for State Festival at Central Michigan University in May. The middle school choirs, "Blue and Gold Voices" (6th grade), "Belle Canto" (7th grade), and "Couer de Musique" (8th grade) all earned a Division "II" rating.

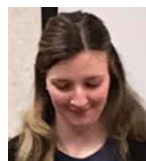
The teams were led by choir teacher Alan Demski, with Mrs. Van Dyk accompanying on the piano.

## Technical Honor Society adds members

**Five Imlay City High School students** were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. NTHS is the acknowledged leader in the recognition of outstanding student achievement in career and technical education. New members are:



**Anna High**  
11th grade  
Agriscience/  
Horticulture



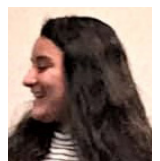
**Sarena Houston**  
11th grade  
Health Science  
Professions



**Gerilynn Hummel**  
11th grade  
Health  
Occupations



**Jacqueline Perry**  
11th grade  
Health Science  
Professions



**Yamilex Zepeda**  
11th grade  
Health  
Occupations

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# Postal Customer

## Reading Month supports literacy at all grades

March is Reading Month activities saw students and staff at all four Imlay City Schools buildings involved in promoting literacy.

Weston and Borland staff planned around the theme, "Reading Makes Your Imagination Soar." Both buildings participated in "One Book, One School" and all students and families were given the book, *The Chocolate Touch* by Patrick Skene Catling, to read at home. Throughout the month, there were school activities that went along with the book and building Facebook pages posted videos of staff reading chapters aloud.

They also welcomed author Alan St. Jean into their buildings. After reading many of his books, such as *Big Fella*, *Spooky Mooky*, *Oinkadoodlemoo*, and *Oinkadoodletwo*, he visited Weston and Borland students. His message was one full of fun, music, and positive encouragement. That same evening, he attended Weston and Borland's Family Reading Night and autographed books and enjoyed meeting Imlay City families.

Imlay City Middle School welcomed author and illustrator Tom Woodruff for a two-day residency. During that time, he hosted grade-level assemblies and small group workshops for students as they focused on writing. Some of his books include *Michigan*, *An Illustrated History for Children*, *Great Lakes and Great Ships*, *Indians of the Great Lakes*, and *Prehistoric Great Lakes*. In addition to working with students during the school day, he hosted an event for families, too. This opportunity for students in grades 6-8 was possible due to a generous grant from the Four County Community Foundation.

The English Department at Imlay City High School planned some new activities to support reading at the high school level. Teachers shared, over the PA system, excerpts from some of their favorite books which communicated a wide-range of genres and highlighted that even as adults, we read constantly. Also, students participated in a #booklove project. For this project, students created posters with titles of their own favorite books. These posters created a display of #booklove in the high school's main hallway.



▲ Posters from the #booklove project at the high school.