



THE VIKING VOICE

November 2023

Welcome to The Viking Voice!

This student-driven newspaper will be published monthly, and will feature all sorts of fun spotlights on students, sports, and staff. If you have any ideas for stories, please reach out to [2024937mc@students.whitehallschools.net!](mailto:2024937mc@students.whitehallschools.net)

Fun Word of the Month

By Mathilda Morneau

Welcome to the word of the month section! This is where, every month, our team will find a word that we think is cool or interesting. If you have any suggestions for the word, leave it in the suggestions box, or email it to 2024937mc :)

November Word of the Month:

Verisimilitude (n) ver·i·si·mil·i·tude-
Something that is true or real.

Sentence: Many writers or filmmakers try for some kind of **verisimilitude** in their stories, to make them believable.



Poem of the Month

By Mathilda Morneau

“Hope” is The Thing With Feathers

By Emily Dickinson

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –*

*And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –
And sore must be the storm –
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm –*

*I’ve heard it in the chilliest land –
And on the strangest Sea –
Yet – never – in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of me.*



Joke Time!

What kind of key can’t open doors?

Find the answer on the last page.

Teacher of the Month

By Taylor Underhill

Teacher of the month for November is **Mr. Hanson!** We all know inside our very souls, Mr. Hanson was our favorite teacher at one point... And if he wasn't, boo!! Besides debates on who LOVES or LOVES Mr. Hanson, we have facts and things you probably didn't know! So let's get into it!

Mr. Hanson is 58 years old man with two kids, FJ (32) and Steven (28). Words used to describe him are: "Awesome Sauce" -Bella Zuniga, "Wrinkly" -Nickolai Briggs, "Bald" -Sofia Fredricks, "Funny and cool!!" -Taylor Underhill, "Goofy" -Domanic Puehler, "Silly" -Noah Kelly (All jokes aside, Mr. Hanson said this was alright... And he's ok with it! We love him and wouldn't ever want to hurt his feelings!!)

His secret talent is he can play guitar and hockey and is a good baker! "I love the cinnamon raisin bread" -Bella Zuniga. In his free time he enjoys hanging out with his friends and his sons! He's always been a teacher and he's never had any other job! Maybe he was secretly a McDonald's cashier in his early years?! Why does he cook Cinnamon Raisin Bread? He says, "I find it therapeutic to make things for other people." His favorite thing is to watch students grow. He's been teaching for 37 years.

Here's some wisdom from Mr. Hanson! "Enjoy and embrace each and every moment, even the hard ones."

In his early years when he was sledding, he hit his head right on a pole! His mom said there was blood EVERYWHERE! He claims to not really know if that's true, he forgot it, maybe cause he hit his head! Besides that really, Mr. Hanson is a great guy and loves his students! He really cares for everyone, if you're reading this he cares! Yes, even the teachers reading this. Anyways, He is really hurt when he wants his students to progress more than they do. A trend students do that he doesn't understand is wearing hoodies in the summer! Really, why do we do that? We complain how hot it is but really, it's our own fault. But, all and all his life is pretty much at stand by, always here if you need it and always here if I need it! If you love Mr. Hanson, make sure to tell him! With all the little information about Mr. Hanson, he's always a mystery and sometimes fails to even say anything about himself in person! He'll laugh, and nod, that's.. Pretty much it. BUT, we appreciate him even when he has no Idea what we're talking about!

RANDOM FUNNY MEMORY: The first memory he can ever recall is in first grade, in first grade he had a teacher named "Mrs. Cook" and he remembers going home to complain to his mom that it was "too hot like an oven" because of her name!

The Mr. Hanson





“Students in the Spotlight”

By Aria Tindall

Each month, “Students in the Spotlight” will feature a 6th, 7th, and 8th grader that exemplifies a true Viking in the eyes of teachers and staff at the middle school. These students are handpicked for their unique and outstanding behaviors in the classroom, and beyond. Please take the time to congratulate these students, and learn more about them in their spotlight:

Ember Heidelberg

This month our 6 grade Student in the Spotlight is an intelligent, humble, and unique person, this is Ember Heidelberg. Ember says that middle school is overwhelming and that she is still adjusting, but that doesn't keep her from taking part in extra curriculars. She is a part of the crew in the elementary musical, *The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever*. She is also playing the part of Sheldon in *Junie B. Jones the musical*. She is super excited for the role because of her solo song. To top it all off she is in the Viking Voice. Ember also finds gems in the journey of middle school. Things such as band and her favorite class STEM and Mr. Hanson’s Science class. She is truly one of a kind due to her love of musical theater. Her favorite musical include; Beetle Juice, Hamilton, and Six. This love of the theater all contributes to her biggest life long goal; making it to Broadway. There is no doubt in my mind that Ember is a student and person who truly deserves this award.

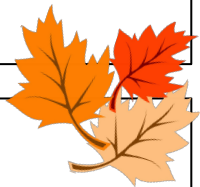
Nathan Van Nett

Our 7th grade Student in the Spotlight is Nathan. He is a student who definitely deserves this award. We would describe him as hard working and energetic. He says that he would like to go to Japan because he enjoys Anime. Nathan was nominated for Student in the Spotlight in 6th grade but now this year he is finally getting his chance to shine. Last year Mr. Hanson said this in his nomination for Nathan, “Nathan is a very bright young man that does what he needs to do to be successful in his classes. He does not seem to crave attention or rewards, but he certainly deserves them!” Nathan’s biggest dream/goal is to become a part of the NBL. He plans to play baseball this year. He says that his first year playing was rough, then his second year his team almost won the championships. Other than baseball Nathan also plays soccer. Oh last fact, Nathan thinks that pineapple belongs on pizza. He says that most people who say that they don’t like pineapple on pizza haven’t even tried it. Plus, he also says that pineapple is a fruit which is why most people don’t think it should be on pizza, but aren’t tomatoes a fruit, and they are on pizza. That was our amazing 7th grade Student in the Spotlight!

Rachel Szot

Rachel is this month's 8th grade Student in the Spotlight. She participates in band where she plays the flute. She also does volleyball, cheer, and basketball. She says that she really enjoys math. This has inspired her to want to be a math teacher when she grows up. Rachel told us that one of the hardest things she has ever had to go through was losing her cat. Everybody has one person who has changed their life, and Rachel’s is her mom. She said that her mom has taught her many things in her life. You can see that Rachel really respects her parents because if she got a million dollars she would buy her parents a house. Rachel is a truly happy and outgoing person. She deserves this title of Student in the Spotlight, and we are happy to crown her the November 8th grade Student in the Spotlight for 2023!

Way to go Rachel!



Mrs. Henderson's 26th Year of Teaching

By Brayden Kelley and Mathilda Morneau ft. Mrs. Henderson

Mrs. Henderson is celebrating her 26th year of teaching. Here's what she had to say when we interviewed her:

Q: What was your favorite class in school and why?

A: Math, because her dad taught math, so she knew that she wanted to be just like him.

Q: Do you have siblings?

A: She has three brothers and had to look after them growing up.

Q: Who is the favorite child in your family?

A: Chad, who is her youngest brother. She thinks that it might be because he was the youngest.

Q: What is your favorite childhood memory?

A: Spring breaks when she went to Tennessee. Her family always had that tradition.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: She has been teaching for a total for 26 years.

Q: If you couldn't teach math, what subject would you like to teach and why?

A: She would want to teach technology classes, but since it has become integrated into our everyday lives, it is no longer a subject.

Q: What is your favorite type of music?

A: She loves country music.

Q: Who is your favorite male and female country singer?

A: Her favorite male country singer is John Denver, and her favorite female country singer is Dolly Parton.

Q: What was your favorite year you taught? Why?

A: She said that this year (23-24) has been a good one. She also said that all of the years have started blending together.

Q: What grade would you like to teach besides seventh grade? Why?

A: She would want to teach eighth grade. After teaching seventh grade for all these years, and knowing sixth graders still act like they are in elementary school, she feels like the kids have had time to mature (unlike some kids that are in seventh grade).

Q: What's something that not a lot of people know about you?

A: She went skydiving and was pushed out of a plane. She said she would never do it again.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

A: Play with her first granddaughter, who is thirteen months old, or to be with her family. She also likes to scrapbook.

Mrs. Henderson's 26th Year of Teaching: Continued

By Brayden Kelley and Mathilda Morneau ft. Mrs. Henderson

Q: Who is your boyfriend/husband?

A: She jokes that her boyfriend is John Denver, but she has been married to her husband, Mr. Henderson, for a long time.

Q: Who is your favorite student?

A: Her exact words are "I like everybody and love a challenge. Hence Brayden Kelley."

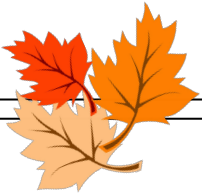
Q: What is your dream vehicle?

A: The car that she drives, which is only 2 years old.

Q: Where would your dream house be located (after you retire)? Why?

A: She wants to stay in Whitehall, where she built her house. All of her kids are located here as well. Her and her family are very close and do a lot together.

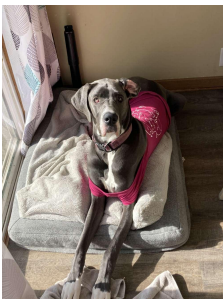
Be sure to congratulate Mrs. Henderson on her 26th year of teaching, and thank her for all she does when you see her around!



Which is Better: Cats or Dogs?

By Bella Bishop

- "Grew up with dogs. They show unconditional love. they love us, even when we are having a bad day and for all of our flaws."
- "Dogs provide unconditional love and companionship, cats only interact with you on their terms. *note: I like cats too, however in a head to head match, I'll always pick dogs :)"
- "I don't really consider myself a dog person, but I'm generally annoyed by cats. Mostly because they poop in the house, in a box of gravel. At least dogs poop outside...well, for the most part."
- "Dogs act happy to see me (more than cats do)."
- "I feel like dogs are overall friendlier. Cats are a little aloof. Plus if you die in your home alone, your dog will wait several days before it starts to eat you, and a cat would start eating the soft parts of your face almost immediately. Plus, litter boxes are kind of gross. But also the face-eating thing."
- "They are my ride or dies. Literally. They will wait to be SUPER starving to eat you if you die. Cats do not do that- they don't care and will eat you immediately."



Ten Fun Facts

By Delaney Davis

1. Giraffes are 30 times more likely to get hit by lightning than people.
2. Identical twins don't have the same fingerprints.
3. Your brain is constantly eating itself.
4. Headphones can increase the amount of bacteria in your ears.
5. Human teeth are the only part of the body that can't heal themselves.
6. The Eiffel Tower can be 15 cm taller during the summer, due to thermal expansion. Meaning, the iron heats up, the particles gain kinetic energy, and take up more space.
7. A 3,000-year-old mummy can still have fingerprints.
8. A cockroach can live for over a week without a head.
9. Sloths can hold their breath longer than dolphins.
10. Rats will laugh out loud if you tickle them!



History of Whitehall 1859-1900

By Braiden Conklin and Remy Stepp

The city of Whitehall Michigan was first recorded in 1859.

“Whitehall's recorded history began around 1859 when Charles Mears, a noted lumber baron to the area, platted the village along with Giles B. Slocum, naming it Mears. The population continued to grow due to its strategic location for floating and distributing lumber.”

Mears State Park was among 13 parks established in 1920 following the creation of the Michigan State Parks Commission a year earlier. The park land, which was once owned by lumber baron Charles Mears, was donated to the state by his daughter, Carrie Mears.

The main reason they were able to have a steady source of income was solely due to Giles, Slocum's grove where Charles had a large portion of the farming and lumber businesses. “The oldest historic spot in the White Lake region is where the Scenic Drive comes winding around the southern shore of Jibshi Sagagan (as called by the Native Americans of the area), or Duck Lake, as we know it today. Ripley describes an ancient cabin, estimated to have been constructed in the late 1700s, close to the south side of the mouth of Duck Lake, overlooking Lake Michigan.”



Charles Mears

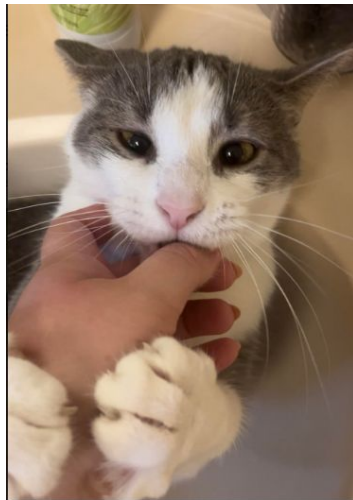


First Annual Cat Contest

By Isaac Davis

Hello, and welcome to the First Annual Cat Contest! We have three amazing cats: Edgar, Tinky, and Goose. Without further adieu, let's begin...

First, this is Grumpy Edgar named after Edgar Allen Poe. Edgar tricks are laying down And falling asleep on the couch. Edgar is a foster cat and originally was Mr. Hanson's son's cat, but his son moved into a non pet friendly building and now lives on Mr. Hanson's couch full time rent free.



Next, this is Queen Tinky and is Mrs. Nevitt's cat. Tinky is a rescue and was found abandoned outside too young to fend for herself. Now she is living her best life. Tinky is a drama queen and lounges in Mrs. Nevitt's sink drinking only the finest faucet water.

Last but not least, Best Boy Goose, Mrs. Taranko's cat. Goose is a Tuxedo Cat, he was rescued at 3 months old thinking he was going to be a small easy-going fluff ball. Instead he is a gray 12 pound mass that is sleeping or WWE wrestling Mrs. Taranko's dog. Goose loves his snacks and will run to his food bowl if anyone walks in the vicinity of his dish. He is not cuddly but has a purr that can be heard through the house.



And drumroll please... the winner for the November 2023 cat contest is ... **Queen Tinkey** with over 64% of the vote as Amazing Cat. Thank you to everyone who voted and special thanks to Mrs. Nevitt, Mrs. Taranko, and Mr. Hanson. And god save Queen Tinkey.

Alzheimers Awareness

By Delainey Shepherd

Alzheimer's is a disease that many people suffer from, it can tear apart families. It is a devastating sickness that can cause the patient to lose cherished memories. There are more than 6 million people that suffer from Alzheimer's disease, there are caregivers and families making in total 15 million. It deprives people of their precious memories, thoughts, and identities. This month celebrates many people and their families suffering from this disease and their strength to persevere through this tough time. So please think of people with this disease and be grateful for a healthy brain!

Ways to support people with Alzheimer's:

- Educate yourself before you assume
- Allow them to have as much control over their own lives
- Wear purple!
- Take on the go purple challenge. (info on the Alzheimer's association.)
- Go social! Use #longestday and #ENDALZ for your next posts.
- If you have somebody in your life with Alzheimer's make sure to spend time with them, even though it's hard because they can get confused very easily they still want to have somebody there for them.



The Viking Voices

By Aria Tindall

An article about the opinions from students in The Viking Voice.

Pineapple belongs on pizza...

McKaela, 6th grade: "Because of its taste and flavor, and it makes the pizza so much better."

Aria, 7th grade: "Because its flavor fits together like peanut butter and jelly. The sweet and savory just go well together."

Kenzie, Co-Advisor: "Because the sweetness contradicts the flavor of the pizza and puts together a truly beautiful melting pot of flavors."

Pineapple doesn't belong on pizza...

Bea, 8th grade: "Because they are two different kinds of flavors, sweet and savory don't go together."

Lainey, 8th grade: "Because it leaves pineapple juice on the pizza. That just doesn't look good and it doesn't taste good either."

Delaney, 7th grade: "Because it's fruit and pizza is a type of junk food and I don't feel like those two go well together."

McKayla, Co-Advisor: "Because those two things don't go well together, it's not a good combination."

Talent Shoutout- Morgan Parsons

By Mia Tolliver

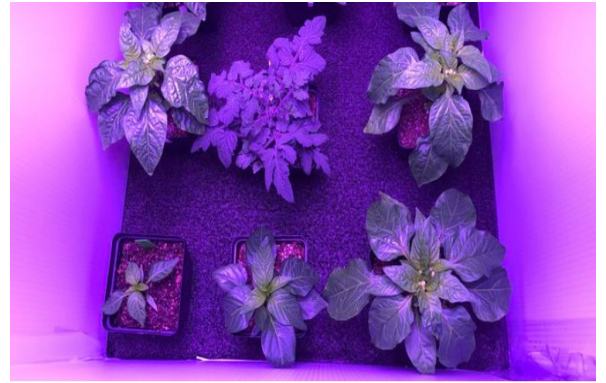
School has always been a place for learning, because of that many of the students' talents go unappreciated. Every month I will be finding one person that is noticeably talented in a certain area. This month's person is **Morgan Parsons**. Her love for singing began when she was in first grade, but she said "I've always had a love for music." She also says she loves performing and singing in groups. Even aside from singing, Morgan is very kind and hard working. She is an even better friend! I fully believe one day she will have a chance to become a professional one day. Thank you for being amazing, Morgan!



Ms. Tate's Mars Farm

By Alice Wilde

Growing beyond Earth (GBE) is a classroom-based citizen science project operated in partnership with NASA, designed to advance NASA research on growing plants in space. Ms. Tate has done this for two years, and last year Juliet Koegel and Mathilda Morneau helped work on it. Mathilda said "It didn't go very well," and Juliet said "Nothing had grown last year." But, it's doing better this year. What a cool project!



School, The Future!

By Anna George

It might seem weird to write an article about school, in school, but here we are. Have you ever wondered what the school might look like in different circumstances? Like in the future, or if kids designed it? Thanks to an awesome dropbox suggestion by Akira Moore, a few other students in the Viking Voice and I interviewed people to find out what they want the school to be like. I decided to instead interview a teacher from each grade. Let's see what they said.

Ms. Briseno, 6th grade: "If I could design the school how I wanted, I would like to have there be a while building for our cheer program. It could be named after Mrs. Gripton and I, and have all the mats and tumbling equipment we need."

Mrs. Henderson, 7th grade: "If I could design the school how I wanted, I would have girl classes and boy classes. I would have the classes be according to each student's academic ability, with school uniforms."

Mr. Boyd, 8th grade: "If I could design the school how I wanted, all of the humans would be focused on making others better, and not just themselves. Kindness would be an always thing and not a sometimes thing. Physically, I would change it so that my room wasn't always scorching hot, being next to the boiler, and we would have a way better heating and cooling system. Also, the really old cafeteria would be moved into a restaurant style with booths. The school would be a spot where everyone would want to be."



? Days Until...

From Tuesday, November 21st 2023:

- 2 days until Thanksgiving!
- 33 days until Christmas!
- 41 days until 2024!
- 85 days until Valentine's Day
- 117 days until St. Patrick's Day
- 131 days until Easter
- 164 days until National Lumpy Rug Day
- 337 days until Ryan Reynolds' 48th birthday

A Teacher's Favorite Quote!

By Alexa DeCheney

This months teacher is Mrs. Henderson. The quote she picked is: "Life is a math equation. In order to gain the most, you have to know how to convert negatives into positives."-Anonymous.

Quote of the Month

By Hunter Bisson

"Trust the timing of your life."

This means to trust when events in your life with happen, don't rush things, let everything happen on it's own.

Other Upcoming Announcements/Events:

Gymnastics:

Open gym for gymnastics for all grade levels at the VAC from 5-6 on Tuesdays. It costs \$10/session to participate.

Thanksgiving Break:

Thanksgiving Break will be from Wednesday, November 22nd-Sunday, November 26th. Enjoy your break!

Christmas Break:

Christmas Break will be December 22nd- January 5th. Keep pushing hard, the end of the semester is near!

Thank you for reading the November edition of The Viking Voice!

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or just want to get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to someone on our team, or email 2024937mc :)

Answer to the joke on page 1:

A tur-key!

