



# THE VIKING VOICE

October 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)

## Poem of the Month

By: Mathilda Morneau

### The Orchestra

By: 8th Grader, Riley Shafer

The roar of the Tuba.  
The whistle of the Flute.  
The raspy voice of the Trumpet.  
The hum of the Clarinet.  
The romantic elements of the Saxophone.  
The overpowering sense of the Trombone.  
The heartbeat of the drum.  
The lightness of the xylophone.

These are all different in their own way  
But combined, they can be powerful and do  
beautiful things.

Just like the people of the world.  
As long as we work together,  
Our voices can be heard.



## 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 :)

## October Word of the Month:

By: Mathilda Morneau

### Kakorrhaphiophobia (noun)

[kak·or·rhap·io·pho·bia]- an irrational or persistent fear of failure

**Ex:** What if I fail? What if I look bad?

**Sentence:** He suffers a severe case of kakorrhaphiophobia, I feel bad for him.

## Joke Time!

Why is it so easy to trick a leaf  
in October?

**Find the answer on the last page.**

# Cheer, A New Perspective: Continued

By: Anna George

Thank you to everyone that is reading this. It means a lot to me to be able to put my thoughts out there and know that someone is reading this. Here is a continuation to last month's story, below are the interviews with some of the fabulous girls from sideline cheer.

## Interviews:

### **Hannah Noom 1st year-**

Q: How do you like cheer? A: "Lovin' it!"

Q: What is your favorite cheer? A: "Red and White."

Q: Do you have any hobbies? A: "Drawing, listening to music, and singing."

Q: Do you want to say anything about the stereotype of cheerleaders? A: "It ain't true."

### **Emily Decamp 1st year-**

Q: How do you like cheer? A: "Fun, everyone's nice and welcoming!"

Q: What is your favorite cheer? A: "Viking Rumble."

Q: Do you have any hobbies? A: "Theater, art, choir."

Q: Do you want to say anything about the stereotype of cheerleaders? A: "Don't judge a book by its cover, first impressions can be false."

### **Emma Cook 1st year-**

Q: How do you like cheer? A: "I don't like the exercising, but we have a good time."

Q: What is your favorite cheer? A: "Viking Rumble."

Q: Do you have any hobbies? A: "Soccer, theater, choir."

Q: Do you want to say anything about the stereotype of cheerleaders? A: "There are some girls in the world like that, but that doesn't mean all of us are."

### **Chloe, 12th grade, 6 years cheerleading, 2 years helping the coaches, and Little Vikes-**

I didn't ask her the usual questions, because she isn't in cheer and she's done it for so long. She says, "Mrs. Briseno was my first real coach, not including Little Vikes, she's known me for 5 years now."

When asked about what it's like helping, she told me, "It's fun to watch everyone, everything is mostly about teamwork." Her hobbies include dancing (which she has done since kindergarten), and skiing.

Her favorite cheer is "Viking Rumble."

# Teacher of the Month

By: Taylor Underhill and Helen Penczar-Brown

## Congratulations Mrs. Briseno!

For October teacher of the month, **Mrs. Briseno** has been elected! She is a 57 year-old woman who has been favored by many of her students. There are many reasons why she is an awesome teacher. Some light information on Mrs. B before we get into a deep dive: she has two sons named Harrison and Jackson, one sister named Amy, and two grandkids named Liam and Luke. Her mother and father have sadly passed. But, onto the more interesting and fun topics!

### Let's start with her favs:

Season: Any season but Spring

Food: Mashed potatoes (presumably with gravy)

Thing: Ohio State Football

Mrs. Briseno is considered “feisty” and “independent.” She enjoys skiing, but mostly going to the beach! She actually hasn’t lived here in Whitehall for that long! In her early years, she moved from Ohio in 7th grade, but she did cheer for EVERY single cheer season in her youth. She was also a baseball manager and said that the biggest and hardest thing in her life was moving to this little town of Whitehall from such a city-like place. The only reason she ended up moving to Whitehall, and even Michigan in the first place, is because her dad got a job!

### Extras:

#### All About Cheer:

We all should know that Mrs. Briseno is captain and coach of the cheer team! So, for recognition, here is everything we’ve gathered about cheer:

- (1) She’s pretty much cheered and coached for as long as she can remember
- (2) She cheers because she likes how everyone in different grades, groups and ages can all come together!
- (3) Apparently back in the good days, cheer was called “Cheer Dance,” and you danced! She wishes that cheer was still that way today.
- (4) Her deepest wish is that people would stay with cheer once they found it hard, and when they got to highschool. She says, *“It’s just a bummer that they have to pick between sports.”*

Mrs. Briseno has a silly little secret you guys should know! In highschool, she was voted ***MOST PESSIMISTIC!*** If you’re not sure what pessimistic means, it means tending to see the worst of things and believe the worst will happen! Here are also some extra things she chose to say: she was previously a school counselor and case manager. She also wants all the students to know: *“We’re on your side.”*

### Conclusion:

That concludes teacher of the month! Next time on *Viking Voice* we’ll have a new teacher and new information to come! So think about your votes for the November Edition! What teacher would you like to know? Deepest secret? Favorite puppy? Or even their funniest moments! Make sure to think and get ready to vote! But for now, we’ve hope you’ve enjoyed!



# My Interview with Ms. O'Connell

By: Isaac Davis

**Q: How do you feel about being the new band teacher?**

A: "I am very excited about teaching at Whitehall."

**Q: Why did you decide to teach at Whitehall?**

A: "Both of my parents went here, also I have a distant relative that taught band here."

**Q: What do you think keeps most people away from doing band?**

A: "I believe most people think that you can't do it if you do a sport, like I do a sport, so I can't do band also. Even though it is not true."

**Q: What do you hope to accomplish at Whitehall?**

A: "I hope to help people find the benefits of music and help the community grow and learn."

**Q: If you could learn a new instrument right now what would it be?**

A: "Bagpipes."

**Q: Who is your favorite singer?**

A: "Tiny Habits or Lizzy McAlpine."

**Q: Do melons belong in a fruit bowl (not watermelon)?**

A: "Absolutely, melons are great."

**Q: Halloween or Christmas?**

A: "Christmas."

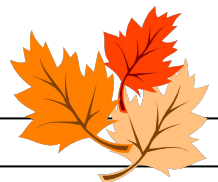
**Q: If you got a vacation to Hawaii, what island would you go to?**

A: "The big island, because I am not a tropical vacation kind of person, and it has so many activities."

**Q: Can you do any special abilities?**

A: "I can do the splits and make a Perry the Platypus impression" \*makes a very good Perry the Platypus impression\*

Special thanks to Ms. O'Connell!



## TEN FUN FACTS THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By: Delaney Davis

- Lego mini-figures have the largest population on Earth
- There's a 50% chance that two people will share a birthday in a group of 25 people
- A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out
- A shrimp's heart is in its head
- Only four words in the English language end in "dous"
- The color blue attracts mosquitoes more than any other color
- Most homes in France have pink toilet paper
- Ketchup used to be used as medicine
- Scotland chose the unicorn as its national animal
- Your ears never stop growing



# “Students in the Spotlight”

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:

Our 6th grade Student in the Spotlight is **Kade Gailey** is a very honest, social and easy going person. In his interview we discussed the topic that is on most 6th graders minds; middle school. He said that he is thriving, his classes are at a good level for him. That to most kids is truly incredible. He enjoys many sports and tunes in to watch football. One of his favorite teams is the lions. Kade can be described by past teachers as a leader, respectful and outgoing. Kade’s interview was one of the easiest ones I’ve ever done. He truly is an excellent example of a student in the spotlight. Congratulations Kade!



For this month’s Student in the Spotlight, 7th grader **Morgan Parsons** was nominated. Morgan is a very involved student. Outside of school, she is currently doing cross country and plans on doing the school musical and soccer later in the year. Morgan was a part of a small soccer team when she was 3 and then later joined the Breakers soccer team when she was 6. For her running is a family tradition and she says, “Running is apart of me and it just feels right to run.” One of her hobbies include singing because music has been a part of her life for a very long time and it makes her happy. She isn’t really sure about what she wants her life to be like after high school, but whatever her plans become, there is no doubt they will be excellent. Some of the most influential teachers in her school career include Mrs. Raab and Mrs. Zoellmer because they pushed her to be the best version of herself. One piece of advice that Morgan would give to future students is to treat others the same way you would want to be treated. One thing she would like to change about the school is to move breakfast back to the commons because people-including herself-often have to be late to advisory because they need breakfast. Morgan is an incredibly kind, determined, and creative person. She gives her all to everything that she does and is a wonderful friend who helps anyone that needs it. Congratulations Morgan!



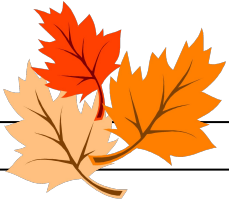
This 8th grade student in the spotlight is **Bella Zuniga!** Bella’s favorite color is also purple and she likes to bake in her free time. Her best friend, Brynlei, says that she makes the best mac and cheese ever. Bella also likes to draw and paint. Bella does cheerleading and hopes to do competitive in the winter. In the spring, you could find her practicing on the tennis courts with the middle schoolers. Bella is an awesome student who gets her work done and on time. She is really nice and cares for all of her friends. Bella is a really great person and that’s why she is our amazing student in the spotlight for October! Congratulations Bella!



# Vikings Go 2-0 To Win Their Tournament

By: Brayden Kelley And Greyson Konecny

On October 14th, Whitehall Middle School soccer beat Montague 3-1. They were losing by one in the first half. Then, right away in the second half, they scored one to tie it. Then later on that half, they scored one more to win the game. The goals were scored by Greyson Konecny, Isaac O'Boyle, and Tommy Leeke. Whitehall then beat Orchard View in the championship game. They played a nice back and forth game in both halves, but then they went into PK's (Penalty Kicks), and ended up winning. Thank you to our coaches Kevin Reid, Mike Holmberg, and all our Whitehall players.



## Polls of the Month!

By: Riley Shafer

The results are in! Out of 110 participants, here are the responses to this month's controversial questions!

- **Is a chicken a dinosaur?**
  - 50.9% say **yes**
  - 49.1% say **no**
- **Should Pluto still be considered a planet?**
  - 64.5% say **yes**
  - 35.5% say **no**
- **Peanut butter or Nutella?**
  - 59.1% say **Nutella**
  - 40.9% say **Peanut butter**
- **Dogs or cats?**
  - 68.2 say **dogs**
  - 31.8 say **cats**
- **Pepsi or Coke?**
  - 67.3% say **Coke**
  - 32.7% say **Pepsi**
- **Is the movie Nightmare Before Christmas a Christmas or Halloween movie?**
  - 63.9% say **Halloween**
  - 31.1% say **Christmas**

# The History of Halloween: Two Perspectives



## History of Halloween

By: Delainey Shepherd

Many people think of Halloween as a fun holiday for children to run around and get free candy, but it dates way back! It began as a Pagan religious celebration to welcome the harvest at the end of the summer. The townspeople would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory 111 designated November first as a time to honor saints. Soon to follow, All Hallows Eve was made a night, the only night of the year that spirits were to come back and visit the land of the living. The people would carve pumpkins and other vegetables as masks to keep evil spirits away. Halloween has become a more prominent American holiday, it is a kin to tricks, treats, and parties for all ages. The founders of this Pagan celebration would be quite shocked at how big this night has become. As you're running from house to house, filling your bag full of candy, steer clear of any spirits that roam on this night. And, most importantly, make sure your jack o'lanterns are lit up!

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## History of Halloween

By: Braiden Conklin

Halloween is a holiday with roots in the Ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. It was originally held on November 1st on contemporary calendars. Beliefs say that "On November 1st the souls of the dead returned to their homes, so people dressed in costumes and lit bonfires to ward off spirits. An old tradition of Halloween, because there wasn't much for entertainment. So, the trick or treaters would knock on the door and whomever opened the door the kids would throw flour at them. It is easy, fun and harmless- unless people have a gluten allergy. Over the centuries Halloween has developed drastically, Halloween transitioned from a Pagan ritual to a day of parties, costumes, jack-o-lanterns and trick or treating for kids and adults.

## A Teacher's Favorite Quote!

By: Alexa DeCheney

The teacher for the month was Mrs. Chamberlain! She picked: **“Never let fear rob you of the joy that is right for yours.”-Unknown.**

This is her favorite because a lot of the time people are scared and they won't even try, they are afraid of failing and not being accepted. This quote means, don't miss out on amazing opportunities just because you're afraid, take that first step.

## Quote of the Month

By: Hunter Bisson

“WHERE YOU ARE, IS NOT *WHO* YOU ARE.”

This quote means that you DO NOT have to change who you are depending on how other people act around you. Don't let others influence how you act, the people your around shouldn't determine your personality. You are you, and you are great ! 😊

## Other Upcoming Announcements/Events:

- Football, Sideline Cheer, Volleyball, and Soccer pictures are located in the office ready to be picked up at Mrs. Sholty's desk.
- The first meeting of Plant Club for the 23-24 school year will take place on Thursday, November 2nd from 2:55-4:00 in Ms. Tate's STEM room.
- If you did not receive your yearbook last year, please go see Mrs. Sholty in the office.

## Sub Shoutout of the Month

By: Adriana Webb and Maddy Betz

The sub shoutout of the month goes to... MR. GILBERT! Every sub could have this shoutout but we thought Mr. Gilbert really deserves this. He subs in all grades and all electives, he is such a big help to our school. He is kind to teachers and students and treats them all equally. Thank you for all you do Mr. Gilbert!

## Thank you for reading the October 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:

Because they fall for anything!

