



THE VIKING VOICE



January 2024



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 :)



January Word of the Month:



Aphantasia - Not being able to visualize things in your mind.

Sentence: "I feel really bad for them, they have aphantasia."



Poem of the Month

Sonnet 97: How Like a Winter Hath My Absence Been

By William Shakespeare

How like a winter hath my absence been
From thee, the pleasure of the fleeting year!
What freezings have I felt, what dark days
seen!

What old December's bareness everywhere!
And yet this time remov'd was summer's time,
The teeming autumn, big with rich increase,
Bearing the wanton burthen of the prime,
Like widow'd wombs after their lords' decease:

Yet this abundant issue seem'd to me
But hope of orphans and unfather'd fruit;
For summer and his pleasures wait on thee,
And thou away, the very birds are mute;
Or if they sing, 'tis with so dull a cheer
That leaves look pale, dreading the winter's
near.



Joke Time!



Where do stormtroopers go to warm up
on a cold January day?

Find the answer on the last page.

Surprise Interview with Mrs. Dahms

By Macy Sikkenga

Mrs. Dahms is the school librarian, but you already know that so let's talk about things that you might not know about her... Mrs. Dahms attended college at Sacramento State and GVSU. She has 4 children (3 girls and 1 boy), and 7 grandchildren (the eldest being 12 and the youngest being 3). She absolutely loves her job, her favorite part is helping students choose books and introducing them to all different types of genres. She said that if another opportunity came up for her to work at a different library, she would not take it because she loves the students and working with the staff. She said she has read around 400 of the books that are in our school library. For the final part of getting to know Mrs. Dahms is why she decided to become a librarian. She said that she comes from a family that loved and valued reading, her mom was a special ed teacher and after she got out of school she would go read to the kids, she loved the look of joy on the kids faces. As she got older she started reading more and she knew that she wanted to bring the love of reading to as many students as possible. That is some facts about our amazing librarian, Mrs. Dahms.

New Year's Resolutions

By Lainey Shepherd and Adriana Webb

As of January starting, it brings on an entire new year to look forward to! That can come with many challenges but also exciting things as well. Setting goals for yourself can be very beneficial, it can also give you something to look forward to and work for. Let us encourage you to create some goals for yourself like being more active or drinking more water, anything that you want to work for! Adrianna and I are working to get on our track grind for the upcoming season, we also are working on some small things like drinking more water and eating healthier. Scientifically speaking, people who set goals for themselves are 43% more likely to achieve them. Going into this new year don't be discouraged to set goals for yourself, it is not cringy! Take yourself into account and prioritize your mental and physical health. Even if your goal is small, you got this!

Phobia of the Month

By Isaac Davis

Ophidiophobia: The fear of snakes. This is most common in people who have had bad experiences with snakes. Put your fear in the suggestion box by the entrance of the building if you have any other ideas!



7 Fun Facts

By Delaney Davis

1. Spiders have clear blood.
2. A 3,000-year-old mummy can still have fingerprints.
3. It's widely believed that your hearing is the last sense you lose when you die.
4. A cockroach can live for over a week without a head.
5. Your eyes blink about 20 times a minute.
6. It's almost impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
7. The majority of your brain is fat.



Author Of The Month

By Bella Bishop

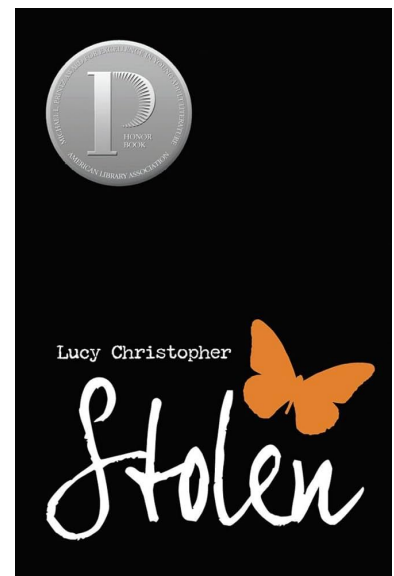
For this month's author I chose Lucy Christopher. I chose her because I like how mysterious her books are, and how she writes her books!

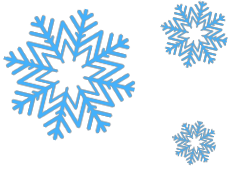
Some facts about Lucy Christopher:

- Lucy Christopher was born in Wales but grew up in Australia and currently lives by some woods in Monmouthshire.
- Lucy is 43yo.
- Lucy is a writer, a teacher, a speaker and academic.
- She also rides horses when she can.
- She travels a lot to visit all my family and friends across the world
- And read loads of books.
- She also won the won the 2010 Branford Boase Award

Books That Lucy Christopher has published:

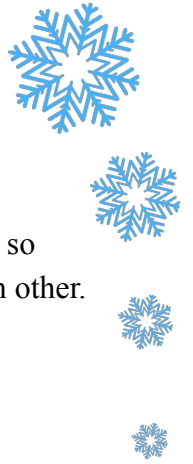
- Stolen
- Fly Away
- The Killing Woods
- Release





Giants in The Sky- Behind The Scenes

By Aria Danielle Tindall



Finding the Cast- I have been a part of many musicals, but never have I been a part of one with a cast so enthusiastic and fun as Giants in the Sky. Everybody was so supportive and we love working with each other.

Giants in the Sky Cast List:

Finn: Sammy Cribbs

Mel: Ember Heidelberg

Vin: Logan Morrell

Olin: Kolton Miller

Row: Audrina Habener

Sye: Kasydee Kolbe*

Farley: Morgan Parsons

Bert: Aria Tindall

Ernst: Ava McCullough

Gene: Akira Moore

Bev: Adalind Hain

Abe: Charlotte Chick

Jordan: Gracelynn Burnham

Phlem: Emma Cook

Ike: Ella Pate

Jed: Kalia Schmitt

Allie: Alexa DeCheney

Yorg: Emily DeCamp

Quale: Emily Zack

Cal: Kansas Kolbe*

Sven: McKaela Sohasky

Pat: Katie LeaTrea

Zeek: Chloe Bacon

Ensemble: Aubree DeChaney, Hadley Raad, Ashlyn Cosselman, Laken King

Student Directors: Anne Thielman, Halston Heidelberg

Directors: Mrs. Chen

Stage Manager: Mrs. Nillson

What is the Story Giants in the Sky About?

Giants In The Sky is about two young giants who venture down to earth from their home in the sky to explore. They meet new friends, learn about themselves, and have so much fun. This story has everything. We have gamer trolls, hooligans, a giant beanstock, elders, dollhouses and plenty of catchy songs.

Show Times!

Friday, February 9 @7pm @WHS Auditorium

Saturday, February 10 @7pm WHS Auditorium

Ticket prices will be \$5. Any child 5 years old or younger will get in for free. We hope you will come and see our show!



Whitehall District Schools Annual Talent Show



Last Saturday, January 27th 2024, National Honor Society students, Isabelle Musk and Natalie Conners, put on one astounding talent show. The talent show has been a legacy project of NHS for many years, and gets passed down each year to continue the legacy of allowing Whitehall students to feel comfortable and encouraged to showcase their talents publicly. It's no easy feat- Isabelle and Natalie had to jump through a lot of hoops from building use permits to rescheduling audition times due to snow days to make the show happen. In the end, there were 21 acts in this year's talent show that showcased talented dancers, singers, and even songwriters! Accompanying the performing arts, there was also a display of visual art pieces from Shoreline students all the way to high school students of carefully selected work from such talented artists!

The Viking Voice team would like to specially shout out the talent show and art display winners of the Whitehall District Schools 2024 talent show, and congratulate them on their dedication and bravery to showcase their work!

Visual Arts:

- 1st- Audrey Conners
- 2nd- Lexi Yordy
- 3rd- Aria Tindall

Performing Arts:

- 1st- Aria Tindall
- 2nd- Paige Barrett and Kadee TenBrock
- 3rd- Julia Russell



Congratulations winners, and all talent show participants for sharing your talent with the community and doing an *amazing* job! A huge thank you goes out to Isabelle Musk and Natalie Conners for putting this show on, and everyone else who made this possible!



Why You Should Move To Whitehall

By Braiden Conklin

The city of Whitehall has developed very slowly but is turning into a happy, safe community that has come together to form an amazing town in the little county of Muskegon. There are many things in Whitehall named after important contributors to the existence of the small City of Whitehall. With the current population of 2,984 which makes it one of the towns in the middle for population. But this town isn't just small and no fun, there are many fun things to do in Whitehall such as going to any of the shops in downtown Whitehall, or going to Michigan Adventures. Your chances of being subject to a crime in Whitehall is 1 in 604! This is a very safe and small town so there needs to be zero worries about being subjected to a crime. These are just one of the many reasons why Whitehall is an amazing place to live and one of the best towns in all of Muskegon.

January Poetry Contest Winners

This month, Mathilda Moreanu created an original poetry contest for WMS students to enter their own work, and we were happy to read the submissions! We would like to give a *huge* shoutout to everyone who entered this contest: **Kaylyn Blake, Alice Wilde, Lyla Hulett, Lillian Funderberg, and Laicey Chamberlain.** The two winners of this month's poetry contest are Alice Wilde & Lillian Funderberg! Please take a moment to read over each of these writers' work and be sure to congratulate them this week!

"Bees" by Alice Wilde

Be free like a bee- do your best cause life is short to test.

"The Sun and the Moon" by Lillian Funderberg

The moon and the sun will always miss you when you leave, the moon would be far ahead of us it would be your choice if you choose you, while the other would have never meet you, your choice. your choice which on you pick.

Science Olympiad

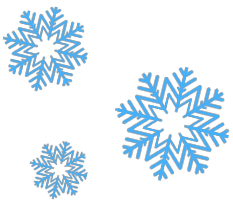
Written By Ethan Sylvester

Edited By Brayden Kelley

Science Olympiad is a nation-wide competition in which students compete in a variety of science related events. Some of this year's events include Flight, Wheeled Vehicle, Forestry, Reach for the Stars, and Aerial Scramble, which is a new event this year. This year the middle school team is hoping to place in more events than last year. We encourage you to ask Mrs. Tate about signing up for next year's competition! We want you to and hope you will join the team next year and help our team improve and score high next year!

How Many Days Until...?

- **Valentine's Day** (February 14th, 2024)- 14 days from January 31st, 2024
- **Groundhog Day** (February 2nd, 2024)- 2 days from January 31st, 2024
- **President's Day** (February 19th, 2024)- 19 days from January 31st, 2024
- **Danny DeVito's Birthday** (November 17th, 1944)- 9 months and 17 days from January 31st, 2024
- **337th Anniversary of the Discovery of Gravity** (Said to be September 23rd, 1687)- 236 days from January 31st, 2024



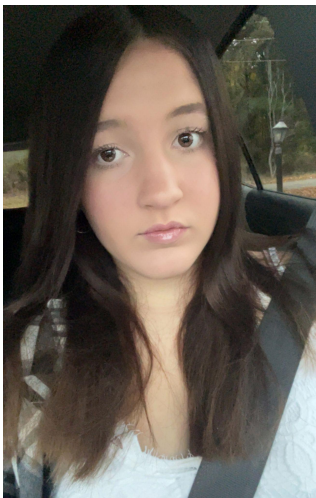
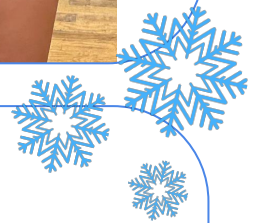
Meet the Future Viking Voice Co-Advisors!

By Kenzie Cregg- Viking Voice Co-Advisor

The Viking Voice is a legacy project created by my friend, McKayla Tyers, and I in 2019 during our 8th grade year at Whitehall. Unfortunately, we had to shut it down for a few years due to Covid, but as we joined the National Honor Society at our high school we decided we wanted to leave a true legacy- and we knew this is what we wanted to do. This team has brought together so many different students as they work together to produce these monthly editions, and we have absolutely adored watching each and every one of our team members grow their writing and interviewing skills as well as building lasting relationships during our Friday meetings. We believe it is incredibly important to give students a creative outlet, or, in other words, a *Viking voice*. As much as we love the team, it'll be time for us to move on in the next year, and McKayla and I must hand the team down in order for its legacy to continue. A project so special can't be given to just anyone, so we have chosen some of the most creative, responsible, and driven girls we know- Avery Siemen and Delaney Konecny. Avery and Delaney are freshman this year, and were some of our star Viking Voice students last year. They have been shadowing us for this year and will begin to slowly take the reins in the upcoming semester and next school year. We are beyond confident that The Viking Voice team will be in good hands with them, and we'd like to formally introduce them to WMS.

This is Avery!

Avery says, "I wanted to join the team last year mainly because I enjoyed writing so much, and it gave me something to do outside of school! I wanted to come back this year because I had so much fun and I missed everyone! The Viking Voice also helped me by giving me a little confidence behind my writing, and knowing that I could write about really anything I wanted!"



This is Delaney!

Delaney says, "Hi, I'm Delaney! I want to take over the Viking Voice because I love writing and helping people, and the Viking Voice is a place where I can do both of those things. I also want to take it over because of the amazing experience I had as a student of the Viking Voice last year. Kenzie and McKayla really inspired me as well. For the short amount of time I was in the Viking Voice last year, they were so kind and helpful with everything they did, and I would like to thank them for this amazing opportunity."

A Teacher's Favorite Quote!

By Alexa DeCheney

The teacher for this month was Mr. Hanson!
His favorite quote is- "Have a life, not an
existence." - Krista Blake.



Quote of the Month

By Hunter Bisson

The January quote of the month is: "When you
have a dream, you've got to grab it and never let
go."

-Carol Burnett



Other Upcoming Announcements/Events:

Yearbook Cover Contest: Enter your design for a chance to have your artwork on the cover of our 2023-2024 Yearbook. All designs must be submitted to the office by February 29th. Materials and instructions are located in the office.

Girls Basketball: 7th and 8th grade girls basketball tryouts will be starting on Monday, Jan. 29. All FinalForms requirements must be met to be eligible to participate in tryouts.

Tumbling: Tumbling Tuesdays with Josh at the VAC starting January 23
\$10 drop in classes - schedule is as follows:

3:00-4:00 - 6th and 7th graders

4:00- 5:00 - 8th graders

5:00-6:00 - all ages welcome

6:00-7:00 - high school



Soccer: Calling all 7th and 8th grade soccer players. The Viking Soccer Academy is held on Monday's from 6-8pm at the VAC. The focus will be on developing high level ball control and passing skills. There will also be time for specific training for goalkeepers. If you are looking to improve your skills while developing relationships come to the VAC on Mondays from 6-8 pm.

Thank you for reading the January 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:



The Darth Mall!

