



# THE VIKING VOICE

December 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

### Now Close the Windows

By Robert Frost

*Now close the windows and hush all the fields:*

*If the trees must, let them silently toss;*

*No bird is singing now, and if there is,*

*Be it my loss.*

*It will be long ere the marshes resume,*

*I will be long ere the earliest bird:*

*So close the windows and not hear the wind,*

*But see all wind-stirred.*



## 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 :)

## December Word of the Month:

**Abnegation (noun)** - the act of renouncing or rejecting something

**Sentence** - This abnegation would help explain the creative decline with the committee .

## Joke Time!

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

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

# Teacher of the Month- Mrs. Gripton!

By Taylor Underhill & Bea Lewis

For this month's teacher, we have a bright holly-jolly spirit elected for it! Mrs. Gripton! Coach of the competitive cheer team with Mrs. Briseno by her side, winning first each time! Today, you're going to read gathered information about Mrs. Gripton and into a deeper part of her life! Let's get started, shall we?

## Icebreakers:

Mrs. Gripton is 55 years old... "double nickels" She has a husband (Jason) who works in Holton and has two daughters- Gabrielle (25), who dances professionally on crew ships and Jillian (22), who teaches second grade at Fremont. Words people describe Mrs. Gripton as are: "quirky and energetic." "Determined" -Bea Lewis, "Inspirational and a good pep-talker" -Taylor Underhill.

Mrs. Gripton's random secret is student teaching in England... Her hobbies are coaching (cheer and track), downhill skiing, yoga, kayaking, going to the beach, hanging out with friends, and going to concerts. She LOVES Jimmy Buffett and Kenny Chesney, and PINK. Her former career before teaching here for 30 years was a lifeguard! A waitress as well! If you ever have been in her class before you know her go-to thing is giving her students DUMDUM SUCKERSSS!

## Wisdom:

"Make a difference today!" (She's a math teacher and is making a quirky math joke...)

## Mrs. Gripton's Early Life & Memories:

In her early years she played basketball, volleyball and track! She was a FREE THROW CHAMP and won two years in a row! She went to Reeths Puffer for highschool and graduated in 1986, then graduated from CMU in 1991. Her favorite thing to do as a kid was to be on her pogo stick. She grew up in a big neighborhood where everyone was always outside and they played games as a neighborhood. She would ride her pogostick everywhere like it was a bike! Her mom used to always tell her brothers to go run around the block when she was cooking dinner, she was always racing her brothers because her mom wanted her out of the house. Her favorite memory as a kid was actually going on vacations all the time!! She went to Florida every year. Her mom was pregnant with twins, her sister and her went through the neighborhood sitting on a curve because she couldn't wait at home and waited for her mom. She sat together with her sisters coming up with names her twin brothers should be named, but she came home and their names were "Scott" and "Steve" VERY disappointed!

Getting off the jolly spirit, a traumatizing event happened to her; her sister-in-law died in a car accident a year ago, and that was really hard. She has 4 nieces but she kind of has to take over parenting and it's been hard on her husband and hard on her family. Our hearts go out to her and her family and hope that they all have a great holiday season!

Thank you for reading all about Mrs. Gripton! If you see her give her a big congratulations on earning the title of Teacher of the Month for December!

# Poetry Competition

By Mathilda Morneau



## Who?

You!

## What?

For The January Edition of *The Viking Voice* we will be doing a poetry competition.

## Where?

WMS!

## When?

To enter, please complete the form in your advisory google classroom by Wednesday, January 17th.

## How?

The directions are simple: Write a school appropriate poem that is no longer than 16 lines. There is no theme for submissions, you may pick any theme you'd like as long as it fits within the criteria! You may submit through the form given to you by your advisory teachers.

## Why?

We want you and your talents to be recognized and showcased here at WMS! Several members of the news team will vote on which one is their favorite. If you win, your poem will be the poem of the month for January.

Good luck to all that enter, we are excited to see what you can come up with!

## Quote of the Month

By Hunter Bisson

*"Your future needs you,  
your past doesn't."* -

Unknown



## Surprise Advisor Interviews- Favorite Holiday Movies

Let's hear from our Viking Voice advisors and what their favorite holiday movies are and why...

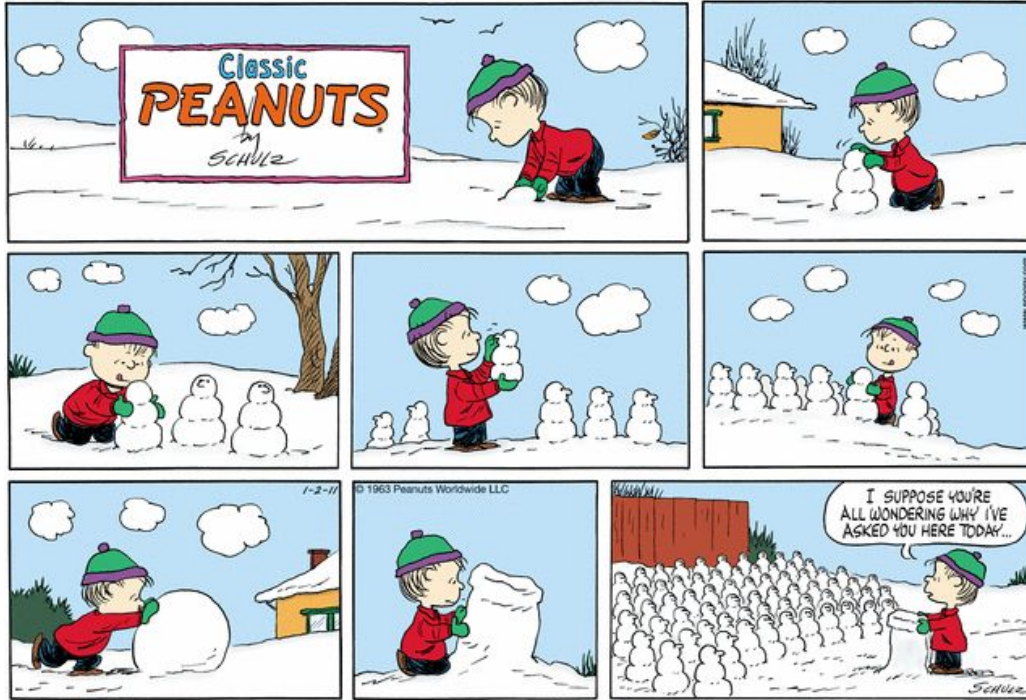
Kenzie Cregg: "I love The Santa Clause with Tim Allen. I grew up watching that series every year with my siblings and it never gets old!"

McKayla Tyers: "Home Alone, because I grew up watching it with my dad every Christmas and I have a lot of good memories attached to it."

# Comic Of The Month

By Helen Penczar-Brown

Every month a comic relating to the seasons will be published either found online or created by me! Please enjoy this month's comic from the peanuts classic jingle bell junction by Schule. If you come across a comic you want published, put it in our submissions box in the commons!



## Phobia of the Month

By Isaac Davis

**Astraphobia-** Astraphobia is a fear of thunderstorms. This fear is common in children, but can persist in adults. Treatment for most fears is exposure therapy. This fear is also common for animals such as dogs and cats. If you have any other phobias you'd like to learn more about, put your suggestion in the Viking Voice suggestion box in the commons!



## Teacher Quote of the Month

By Alexa DeCheney

This month's teacher was Mr. Huizegna and the quote he picked was: *“Surround yourself with people who make you better!”*-Anonymous.

# Interview With Mrs. Reid

By Delaney Davis & Brayden Kelley

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

A: Her favorite class was English because she liked to write creatively.

**Q: Do you have siblings?**

A: She has a brother that is 3 years older.

**Q: Who is the favorite child in your birth family?**

A: She said that her brother was her parents' favorite child.

**Q: How long have you been teaching?**

A: She has been teaching for 28 years.

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

A: She said she would teach English because she likes writing and the subject.

**Q: What is your favorite type of music?**

A: Her favorite type of music is classic rock.

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

A: Her favorite singer is Neal Diamond.

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

A: She likes traveling and has traveled to many countries.

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

A: She likes to do a lot of stuff out of school but some of her favorites are going to the beach, hiking, and traveling.

**Q: Do you have kids?**

A: She has 2 kids.

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

A: Her kids were her favorite students.

**Q: What is your dream vehicle?**

A: Her dream vehicle is a Jeep Grand Cherokee.

**Q: Where would your dream house be located (after you retire) and why?**

A: When she retires she would like to live on the beach and write.



# The Cleanest Desk

By Aria Tindall

A competition between teachers to see who has the cleanest desk.

## What was my experiment?

We started by putting on gloves. We then took the bread (untouched) out of the bag and then placed it on a teacher desk or table for 5 seconds. After that, the bread was put in a ziplock bag and sat there for 4 weeks. Through the process the mold struggled to grow, so for about the last week and a half of their growth they were intruded on oxygen and we placed a couple drops of water into the baggies to help set the stages of mold growth. The pictures below show the bread after the experiment.



**Mr. Hanson-** His piece of bread got first place. There was no green or red mold, just the common white specks that were on all the pieces of bread. Very clean desk, Mr. Hanson!



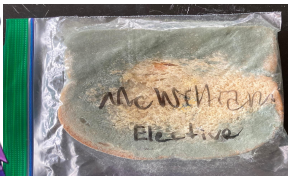
**Mr. Buntley-** This bread got 2nd place in our bread experiment competition. There was only a bit of mold in the corner.



**Mr. Lupa-** The red mold on this bread is normal because it contains protein.



**My Hand (right)-** I placed my unwashed right hand on the piece of bread for 5 seconds.



**Mrs. McWilliams-** We didn't place the bread piece on her desk, we put it on the table Mrs. McWilliams uses the most. (Kids also are around that spot a lot.)



**The Control-**This one was put straight into the bag. As you can see, no mold grew on this piece of bread. This indicates that the mold growing on the other pieces of bread is due to bacteria on the desks of teachers, and not a normal part of the bread decomposing.

# Author of the Month

By Bella Bishop

For the author this month, I chose April Henry. I chose her because her writing style is good and I love her books! I like her genre, which is mysteries and thrillers. You can find her books in the school library, and also online if you want to read her books!

## Some things about April Henry:

- 1959 (age 64 years)
- Won the Anthony Award for Best Young Adult Novel
- Her genre Mystery fiction; Thriller
- She buys most her clothes off ebay
- She cannot parallel park
- She had a bunch of old jobs one including a german translator

## Some of her books (probably read them in order also):

- Circles of concussion (1999).
- Square in the face (2000).
- Heart shaped box (2001).
- Buried diamonds (2003).
- Girl stolen (2010).
- Count all her bones (2017).
- The Body in the Woods (2014).
- Blood Will Tell (2015).



# The Hall of Photos

By Anna George & Mathilda Morneau

Some of you may know that in the high school there's a wall with pictures on it. Would you like to hear more about what those pictures are? Read this article to find out!

The earliest picture we could find dated back to 1905! The program started in 2014 as part of the Alumni Picture Project. The pictures will continue to be placed and the high school is working on finding space for the ones that weren't put up immediately. Famous people on the wall of photos include Miss Michigan Stacy Shepherd and major league baseball player Nate McLouth. Below is a picture of the 1923 class. These pictures are a pretty cool way to honor Whitehall alumni! Thanks for reading!

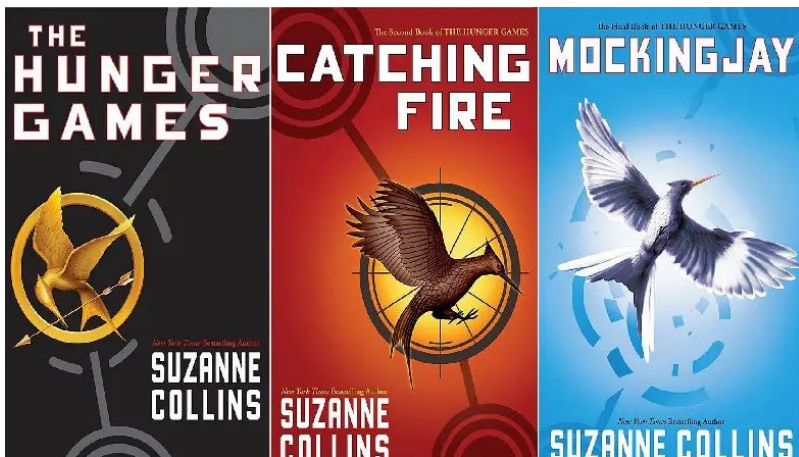


## Book Shoutout

By Emily Luna

Each month I will be randomly picking a teacher and asking them their favorite book! Here is our December pick from Mrs. Gripton:

For this month it is not a book but a series, the amazing, fantastic, "Hunger Games." The plot of this cool book is about a nation called "Panem" that is separated into 12 districts, each nation is forced to select 2 people ages 12-18 to fight in the hunger games, while people watch them fight to death until there is only one person left alive. The two main characters are Katniss and Peeta. The author of this book is Suzanne Collins! It's a great book and movie series, you should check it out! That's all for this month's book shoutout, see you next month!



## Other Upcoming

### Announcements/Events:

#### 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.

#### Plant Club:

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 20th.

#### Gymnastics:

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

#### Holiday Break:

Friday, December 22nd- Monday, January 8th. Enjoy your break!

## Thank you for reading the December 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:

Orna-mints!