

VIKING PRESS

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THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHITEHALL'S GOT TALENT... WRITER: LEAH THOMPSON	1
"HAMAS-ON" OPPORTUNITY... WRITER: SAM SAWYER	3
DEFLATED EXPECTATIONS... WRITERS: SAMANTHA HUEBLER & HANNAH ZWENNER	4
SHOWCASING WHITEHALL'S TALENTS... WRITER: ADAM WARREN	4
THE LINK LETTER... WRITER: AMBER KELLEY	6

Whitehall's Got Talent

People file in through the doors. Forty minutes left in the countdown. Friendly faces greet people as they pay for their ticket. Thirty minutes. All the seats are taken leaving only standing room. Ten minutes. Loud chatter fills the auditorium. Five minutes. People ask their neighbors what time the show starts. One minute. The house lights dim. Thirty seconds. A hush falls over the crowd. Ten seconds. Whispers can be heard from backstage. Five...four...three...two...one. Showtime. A spotlight falls on the stage, and the curtain slowly opens, signaling the start of Whitehall's Annual Talent Show.

The talent show was put on by the National Honor Society. Mr. Marty Shafer is the NHS Advisor, and he helped with the talent show. Emily Dennis, Cassandra McAllister, Allison Potter,

Devin Schweigert, and Hannah Jurcich also helped make the talent show happen. All of the money earned went to NHS. "There was great student involvement for the talent show. Over 40 acts auditioned, and 20 were selected. There was also a great turnout at the show. "Over 700 people attended, and there was standing room only." said Shafer.

This year the talent show was Saturday, March 2. There were a total of 20 acts at the show, and students from each school in the district performed. There were many different kinds of acts: singing, dancing, acrobatics, and more. Attendance was so high at the show, only standing room was left for the people still coming in the auditorium.

There were three acts from Shoreline Elementary. Second graders Sarah, Brooke, and Kathleen Petersen sang "Part of Your World" from "The Little Mermaid." First grader Becky Gomez performed a gymnastics routine to the song "Stay, Stay, Stay" by Taylor Swift. Also a

first grader, Natalie Conners sang "What a Wonderful World," by Louis Armstrong.

From Ealy Elementary, there were three acts. Fifth graders Emma Hector, Jaden Mikkelson, and Luci Nieboer sang "The Subway Song", an original song which was a parody to the song *Dynamite* by Taio Cruz. Fourth graders Shelbie Noel and Lelaina Greve sang "I Knew You Were Trouble" by Taylor Swift. Fourth grader Riley Bond played "The Fairies Harp" on the piano.

Three acts also came from the middle school. Seventh grader Mikayla Varso-Suits sang the song "Bubbly" by Colbie Caillat. Seventh graders Ni-Aisha, Neasia, and Dorrean, *The Extreme Three*, danced to the song "Run the World" by Beyoncé. Also a seventh grader, Madison Bond played the guitar and sang the song "Ready or Not" by Bridgit Mendler.

A total of 12 acts came from the high school. Senior Marcus Moore sang, "Locked Out of Heaven" by Bruno Mars. Sophomores Randi Mikkelson,

(Continues to page 2)

Patrick Taylor, DJ Sharp, and freshman Kaylee Picard performed the song *"Shenandoah"* on the saxophone, tuba, clarinet, and flute. Freshman Abbie Meredith danced to the song *"Just Give Me a Reason"* by P!nk. Senior Nate Burns played the song *"Corridors of Time"* on the piano. Sophomore Sydney Bedford, and freshmen Kassi Schmeihil and Nichole Bogue, The WHS Dance Team, danced to the song *"Science and Faith"* by the Script. Juniors Luke Westrate and Sky Lownds, also known as *String Fury*, yo-yoed to the song *"Radioactive"* by Imagine Dragons. Senior Lexis Reid sang *"Valerie"* by Amy Winehouse. Junior Hannah Jurcich danced to the song *"Girl Gone Wild"* by Madonna. Freshmen Morgan Mitteer, Kaylee Picard, and Gabby Vogler performed an original song called *"Tales From a Broken Heart."* Sophomores Riley Andrew and Tyler Quillen sang and played ukulele to the song *"Grow Old With You"* by Adam Sandler. The WHS Competitive Cheerleading Team did a routine to a cheer remix. Senior Shelby Cooley sang the song *"Listen"* by Beyoncé.

After all of the students had performed, the judges went out of the auditorium, and they picked one act from Shoreline and Ealy, the middle school, and the high school to be awarded a Showstopper Award. While the judges were deliberating, high school teacher, Mr. Mike Snell performed the song *"American Pie"*, while playing the guitar. When the song was over, the showstoppers were announced.

From Shoreline and Ealy, Gomez received the award. Varso-Suits received the award for the middle school. From the high school, Cooley received the showstopper award.

The talent show was a very exciting event for many of the performers. "It was a lot of fun being in the talent show because I got to show everyone the gift God has blessed me with." said Cooley. "It was great performing in the talent show. I have never been in one of the school's talent shows before." said Reid. Before the show, there were many mixed feelings from the performers. "Before the show started, we were just practicing and making sure we knew what we were doing. It was exciting seeing so many people fill into the auditorium. I was really excited," said freshman Madi Vold, who performed with the cheer team. The students who performed were very pleased with their acts. Westrate said, "I liked our performance because it was cool and different. Also, it was not too serious, so we could mess around and have fun with it." Everyone backstage felt pressure, but they were all there for each other. "Everyone supported one another. I felt the pressure as the time went by because I saw how amazing everyone was doing. I thought, 'Oh Lord how am I going to do this?,' but I trusted that God would give me my voice, and things turned out all right." said Cooley.

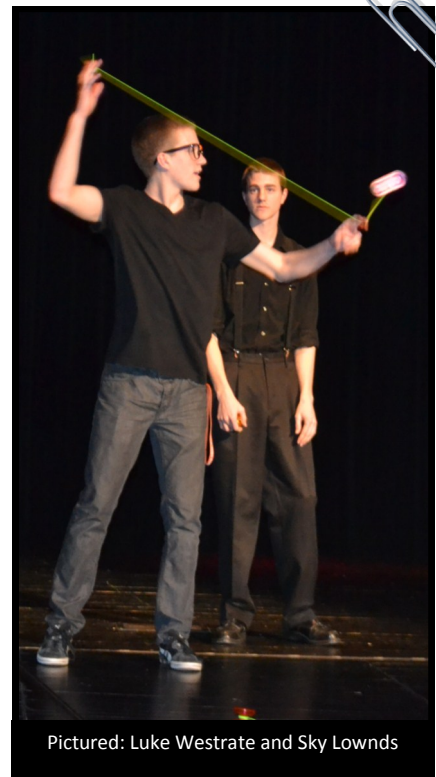
Overall, the talent show was full of very talented students.

Each and every one of the performers gave it their all. No matter what anyone says, Whitehall's Got Talent, no doubt about it.

Writer: Leah Thompson



Pictured: Hannah Jurcich



Pictured: Luke Westrate and Sky Lownds

*“Hams-On”
Opportunity*

As Whitehall High School enters its last trimester of the school year, some students are getting busy in the lab. Whitehall’s advanced biology students recently received a much anticipated package full of fetal pigs to dissect.

Advanced biology teacher Bryan Mahan created an advanced biology class that is new to Whitehall this year. The class is split up into three trimesters. The first trimester students learn about anatomy, the second trimester they learn about cells, and during the third trimester they will learn about physiology. During this trimester, students spent a portion of the class in the lab dissecting fetal pigs. They used the past two trimesters to learn about the anatomy and functions of the body and prepared themselves for dissecting.

In past years, Michigan’s Department of Education has encouraged students to participate in dissections. In recent years the MDE has not encouraged the activity, and took it out of the state mandated curriculum according to Mahan. This leaves the option of whether or not to dissect in the classrooms up to the teacher. Mahan believes that dissection is an important piece in the biology curriculum. He also believes that it is a fun and effective way for students to get to know the body and how it works. After years of not doing any in class dissections, he

is happy to be able to bring the opportunity back to students.

Students began dissecting March 19 and continued the process for about two weeks. They learned that it took many steps and a large amount of time to complete a dissection. Students began the dissection by getting to know the external anatomy of the pig. They first observed the pig, and determined its gender. After becoming comfortable with the external anatomy of the pig, students began dissecting. During the process of dissection they examined the internal anatomy and found the major muscles and organs in the body.

After becoming familiar with

those muscles and organs, they were tested on being able to identify them in the pig for a grade. Each pig cost about \$25.00, and the school received a shipment of 26 pigs. This allowed students to be in groups of two. Being in groups of two made the process easy for all students to participate in the project.

Most of the students enjoyed the experience and said that it helped them become more familiar with the body’s internal anatomy and its functions. Senior Taylor Quinn said, “I really liked doing the pig dissections. I thought that the

hands-on activity was a very fun and helpful learning

experience.” Another student, junior Kelsey Mcguire said she thought the pig dissection was fun and educational and helped her and her classmates better understand what they have been learning all year. Mahan also mentioned that it was enjoyable to watch his students take part in the activity and take in a great actual view of anatomy. Overall, the activity was a success, and Whitehall hopes to be able to allow its students the opportunity to do more dissections in future years to come.

Writer: Sam Sawyer



Pictured: Senior Duncan Miller dissecting his pig named “Christmas Dinner.”

*Deflated
Expectations*

No school today? Are you sure that is what the phone call just said? These were the questions that darted across students' and staff's minds as they heard the cancellation of school announced on their phones on Thursday, March 7. Numerous students were confused as to why class was canceled because there was little to no snow on the ground, and the roads were suitable for driving. Later, they found out that the air in the buses' tires at the bus garage was leaked. In order to evaluate the situation further, the school district has been cooperating with the Whitehall City Police Department. They have appreciated their support and guidance related to the incident. Superintendent Jerry McDowell said, "It should be noted how excellent the City of Whitehall, Chief Roger D. Squiers, Detective Lieutenant Brandon Mahoney, and our Police Liaison Officer Travis Bolles have been throughout this ordeal." After a week of investigating, the police and the district came to the conclusion as to who the perpetrators were. As for the result of the retribution, the school district will take time to assess the situation and come to an appropriate conclusion based on the gravity of the situation, according to McDowell. They recognize the impact this had on the community and will respond in a fair and thoughtful manner.

Many people in Whitehall, primarily students, do not realize the ramifications this act cost the district. As for the damage done to the tires, there were a variety of costs to

consider. They included the equipment damage to the tires themselves, additional time of employees to attend this matter, time from Montague School District employees to assist, the cost of the Gingham Tire Co. After the buses returned to working conditions, they had to undergo a road test. Other necessary expenses that were processed that day include the lost wages of support staff, the cost of daycare to local families, the cost of local employees who did not have employees to do their jobs, and more.

March 7 was a day scheduled for high school juniors to take a portion of the state required Michigan Merit Exam test. Because school was canceled, school advisors put many hours of their time into rescheduling a day for the testing to occur. The assessment team had to reorder tests, return unused tests, and spend time on the compliance issues. According to McDowell, the students' preparedness to do their best was delayed to March 21, when they were finally able to finish the MME testing. McDowell also shared that students may have to make up this lost day of education later on in the school year depending on how the weather acts and the mechanics of the district throughout the rest of the school year. McDowell stated, "People were disappointed. Students like to be in school learning. We are a strong, comprehensive, public school and we are a place that students want to be." After looking back on the event, he also added, "I would encourage to students to think be-

fore they act. They must always consider all those who are impacted by a choice they make. The impact of every one of your decisions makes a difference in the lives of others. I would encourage them to always put their best foot forward and to their own personal best. Vikings are strong and that we need to work together to be the best that we can be in every situation. Always do the right thing ... especially when no one is looking."

Writers: Samantha Huebler and Hannah Zwemer

*Showcasing Whitehall's
Talents*

West Michigan Student Showcase is a celebration of excellence for West Michigan area high school students. Students are selected by their schools in the areas of academics, athletics, literary arts, performing arts, and visual arts. The event was at the Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts on Wednesday, March 20 and Thursday, March 21. High school students from Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, and Ottawa counties have an opportunity to be recognized. For Whitehall student nominees this could be the shining moment of their high school years. The Whitehall participants in showcase were as follows: Mitch Boyce-Academics, Emily Dennis-Literary Arts, Billy



Wilson-Visual Arts, Isaac Love and Bailey Seeger-Athletics, and Lexis Reid -Performing Arts. Showcase was divided between competitive and non-competitive events. Literary Arts, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts were competitive events; Academics and Athletics were not. Monetary awards were given to the first-, second-, and third-place winners in the competitive events. A Showstopper Award was given to the act in the performing arts that was the most well received. Students who were selected for this opportunity were put through a specific process. Mrs. Christine Mallory said, "Each school may nominate a student from each of the categories. Students are chosen in different ways depending really on the category. For instance, in the arts, I ask for seniors and juniors to submit two pieces of artwork and I ask a few











Pictured: Mitchell Boyce at showcase for Academics

teachers to help choose. Mrs. Cindy Moore usually holds auditions with staff making suggestions. For academics it's based on scores and grade point, etc." "Each student stands on stage and is given a bio that is read off to the audience," said Emily Dennis. "It's a good experience and I'm happy I was a part of it," said Isaac Love. Students may be skeptical to if this really helps them, but history of the West Michigan Student Showcase shows differently. Sylvia Yacoub won the Showstopper award at Showcase 2011 and the next year she was a contestant on "The Voice". Talent scouts come to Showcase and look for the most promising contestants. This is the opportunity that Whitehall students look forward to and they have worked hard to receive.

Writer: Adam Warren

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 
3	4	5 	6 	7 	8 	9
10	11 	12	13	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 	

Events to Remember

- ◆ March 2... District Talent Show
- ◆ March 5... sophomore PLAN testing and junior ACT testing
- ◆ March 6-7... junior MME testing and parent-teacher conferences
- ◆ March 8... No School
- ◆ March 11... New Trimester
- ◆ March 17... St. Patrick's Day
- ◆ March 29... Spring Break

The Link Letter

Coming into a new school filled with challenges and tribulations can turn any outgoing and courageous 8th grader into a shy and unsure freshman. An older brother or sister can make this experience new and exciting, but for those freshmen who did not have advantage, the Link Crew was there for them, in their 2012-2013 school year. As the year comes to a close, Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich asked the upper classmen to reflect on their year as part of the Link Crew. After the many parties, gatherings, meeting, tailgates, and chances to become friends with their freshmen, the Link Leaders had their last after school meeting together on March 15, Friday afternoon during their early release. They discussed their accomplishments, played games and ate food. Most importantly, the Goodrichs handed all their faithful Link kids a survey on how they felt the Link Crew 2012 went. Sunday, March 24 was the crew's final celebration. The Goodrichs hosted an end-of-the year festivity, with food, games and

being together as their second to final task. As for their final task, they have to send a heart-felt note to their freshmen, as their last deed to send them off. These notes will include the Link Crew's wishes for their freshmen and their own experiences they have learned from high school. Mrs. Goodrich said, "The leaders have given a lot of their time to help WHS continue to become a family. They have made a difference here at WHS. Thank you to all the leaders and the teachers who have supported this program. We are looking forward to growing and developing the Link Crew for 2013-14 school year." Applications for the Link Crew 2013 will be available in April. The application includes each student writing an essay about why they feel they could benefit the Link Crew and how they would make a difference for our incoming freshmen."

Writer: Amber Kelley

This newsletter is produced by the Viking Communication Class of Whitehall High School. Students in grades nine through twelve learn various skills producing this newsletter. Writing, photography, layout, interviewing, and communication skills are just some of the advantages students gain from participating in this class.

-VALHALLA-



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