

# VIKING PRESS

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# Table of Contents

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR LEAH THOMPSON	...1
RESOLUTIONS LAUREN THROME	...2
SENIOR PROJECT ADAM WARREN	...3
WHITE RIDING SAM SAWYER	...4
AUTOCAD ACCOMPLISHMENT HANNAH ZWEMER & SAMANTHA HUEBLER	...5
SALUTE TO FREEDOM HANNAH ZWEMER & SAMANTHA HUEBLER	...5
THE LINK LETTER AMBER KELLEY	...6

*It's the most wonderful  
time of the year*

A loud buzz of chatter occupies the room. The sweet scent of Christmas cookies fills the air. The Christmas tree lights up the living room with its radiant lights. Carols are sung by a small choir on the snowy streets outside while presents are exchanged indoors. With all of these wonderful things occurring at the same time, they can only mean one thing. It's time for the holidays. There is so much to look forward to during the holidays. Spending time with family, sledding with friends, two weeks of relaxing, baking, and so much more. Many students and their

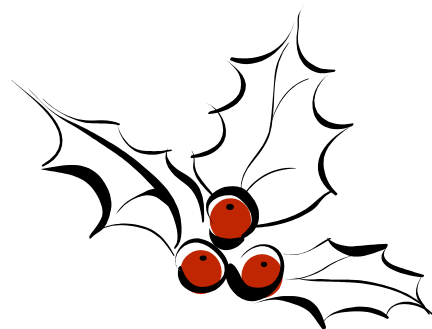
families have holiday traditions. Here are a few listed below:

- "My grandparents stay the night, and my uncle, aunt, and cousins come over the next morning for brunch," said freshman Lauren Lopez.
- "My mom makes breakfast on Christmas morning, and we have Christmas with her side of the family," said junior Jordan Loudermilk.
- "My family and I go skiing on Christmas after presents," said senior Autumn Sherman.
- "We all sit around the fireplace and tell holiday stories," said sophomore Zoey Elliott.
- "We try to go to my grandparents in North Dakota every two years,

and we did that this year," said senior Ryan Shields.

Many students look forward to the weather during the holidays. Whether it is winter sports, outdoors activities, or just the snow itself, many students enjoy the cold weather.

- "I enjoy snowmobiling over break," said freshman Erik Butzer.
- "During the holidays, I look



(Continues to page 2)

forward to skiing,” said senior Devin Schweigert.

- “I look forward to snow, a white Christmas, and winter sports over break,” said freshman Gabrielle Gripton.

Students also look forward to spending time with their families. Christmas parties, traveling to visit family, and just having a great time together as a family are some of the things to look forward to.

- “We watch Christmas Vacation with all of the family,” said Butzer.
- “My sister and I sleep on the stairs landing on Christmas Eve,” said sophomore Robin Gould.
- “My family and I have a Christmas party on Christmas Eve,” said freshman Drew Bolles.
- “I enjoy spending time with my family over the holidays,” said sophomore Windsor Marecek.

Some students also look forward to the little things that make the holidays so special. Christmas carols, sweet treats, and decorations are common around Christmas time, and they help to make the holiday season bright.

- “I look forward to the snow, and also staying up late to see Santa!” said Loudermilk.
- “I enjoy the food, and lots of it!” said Elliott.
- “Around the holidays, I look forward to decorating the house and Christmas music,” said Lopez.
- “I like the Christmas music and the cookies!” said Gould.

The holidays bring a lot of people happiness and cheer; it’s almost impossible to ignore. The beautiful lights throughout the neighborhood, frosty air chills people walking along the streets, snow glistens as it falls softly from the sky while the wind whistles through the pine trees. So many beautiful sights, sweet but oh so familiar sounds, and delicious scents are all around during the holidays. No matter where someone goes, there will always be some sort of holiday cheer to brighten their day. For the holidays are certainly, the most wonderful time of the year!

*Writer: Leah Thompson*



The beginning of a new year is a time for celebrating with friends and families, reflecting on the past year, and creating new resolutions to be certain the coming year will be even better than the previous one. Although resolutions are more common among adults than children, a group of students from Whitehall High School have created resolutions to better themselves during 2013. The responses of students that were asked are listed below.

- Junior Shashaina Dagen hopes to maintain or improve her current GPA at Muskegon Community

College.

- Sophomore Alexa Murdoch is going to work hard to improve her athletic ability so she will be able to compete for a spot on the soccer team in the spring.
- Freshman Kassi Schmeihil is going to eat healthier in 2013.
- Freshman Abigail Meredith said, “My New Year’s Resolution is to put forth 100% of my energy in everything I do! No more lazy!”
- Senior Madison Bonebrake holds the resolution to graduate.
- Freshman Charity Erickson hopes to earn all “As”, or to at least try her best in everything she does.
- Freshman Heather Dutcher wishes to keep her existing friendships, develop new ones, and get good grades.
- Freshman Alex Dennis plans to give up drinking pop for the new year.
- Senior Anthony Bower said, “My New Year resolution is to smile every day because you never know who you will make happy when they are having a bad day. And you never know that smile might even save a life or two. So smile on and make someone’s day!”
- Senior Courtney Schilbe decided to become a vegetarian for her resolution.
- Senior Lexis Reid said, “Mine is to write down a good thing that happened each day on a note in a jar.”
- Senior Montana Pierce-Hayes hopes to make herself and her family healthier during 2013.

## Senior Projects

Whitehall senior projects are organized plans of action that involve the seniors of Whitehall High School with their community that will leave a lasting impact. Students from Government and Economics classes have designed the projects, and have implemented them throughout the school year. Students formed groups and came up with a plan to assist a local organization or cause, such as Goodwill or anti-bullying. Living in Muskegon County gives students many opportunities to help out others.

Libby Gillhespy and Megan Kraus are organizing collections for Every Woman's Place, an organization that help women and children who have experienced abuse. They are

collecting items including shampoo and clothes. They are also selling bracelets to raise money for the organization. Gillhespy said, "It's a great cause and I'm happy to help."

Virginia Campbell and Maryssa Endres are working to unite the middle school and high school in a pen pal project. They discussed with the principals of both schools how to unite the kids. The plan is to assign a younger student with an older one to write to each other about the hobbies they enjoy and the subjects that interest them. This is an attempt to have younger students have someone to look up to and relate.

Sidney Norris, Duncan Miller, Ryan Shields, Jessica Reynolds, and Jake Erdman are running a book drive for the organization Books for Africa. They are collecting books in the community of Whitehall, in an undecided location, and plan on

delivering them to the organization located at Michigan State University. The lack of books and opportunities for knowledge result in the need for books in Africa greatly outweighs the need for them in any other part of the world. Norris said, "It doesn't take place until March, but I feel confident and good it'll work out."

Brent Phillippo, Devontae Vance, Kaleb Huff, Patrick Gilland, and Tomas Collins will be busy come spring with an interesting undertaking. They will paint a mural under St. Bridge on the Bike Path where the bike trail goes under. Their plan is to have the art designed by the art students, as a whole, along with Mrs. Mallory. They will be joined by selected students to help paint the mural. Gilland said, "I'm really excited. You know, it'll be something that I can return to years later and still see and know that more people



Pictured above is senior Logan Irely, cross country coach Kathy Hector, Muskegon Community College cross country coach Dan Fishel and the cross country team. Irely earned a scholarship to run for MCC. Fishel is also a Whitehall High School alumnus.

have enjoyed it, too.”

Trenton Moyer, Alex Mendez, and Derek Skinner plan to volunteer in local animal shelters. They are going to apply for volunteer work and run toy and food drives for the animals. They want to volunteer at least five hours a month. Skinner said, “I like animals. I want to help them out so they can have better lives.”

The senior projects are bringing students together to work for a common interest. “These senior projects are a good way for you to get out and affect your community before you graduate,” said Economics teacher Mr. Morningstar. They will graduate with something accomplished in their community and even in different nations. The senior projects will let the students really leave their own mark on the world in a beneficial way.

*Writer: Adam Warren*

## White Riding

As the winter weather rolls in, many of Whitehall’s students are eager to begin winter activities such as sledding, ice skating, and skiing. Some of them are also excited to take advantage of the school’s decision to allow students to ride their snowmobiles to school.

The City of Whitehall recently voted to allow

snowmobiling. It has been banned since the mid 1970s. The vote to allow snowmobiling in the city was a 795 vote yes to a 528 vote no. The referendum allows snowmobilers to ride throughout the city limits from December 1 up until April 1, between the hours of 7 a.m. to 12 midnight. However, the city has restricted snowmobilers from riding on Mears Avenue, Lake Street, Division Street, and Alice Street.

With this recent law, Whitehall High School has decided to allow its students to ride their snowmobiles to school as a form of transportation. Principal Dale McKenzie said that it was the same as allowing students to ride motorcycles or mopeds to school. He also said that the decision to allow students to ride snowmobiles to school will require a huge amount of responsibility from the students. It is hoped that this will be a fun new way of allowing students to get to school, however students must use safety precautions and abide the law. It is required by Michigan laws that anyone operating a snowmobile must wear a helmet. Along with that, students must be respectful of both city laws and school rules. McKenzie advised students to use trails and the local bike path as a safer route, rather than taking the roadways. If students choose to take roadways, they must be safe, responsible drivers by driving the posted speed limit, and abiding by all road laws.

If students choose to snowmobile to school as their form of

transportation, they must first register their snowmobile in the school office. When registering their motor vehicle, they must show proof of registration. Students between the ages of 12- 17 must also show a certificate of completion of a snowmobiling safety course. Once students have registered their snowmobiles, they may freely use them as a form of transportation to school throughout the winter season. McKenzie said that he would like students to enter the school by riding up the grass alongside of where cars drive into the student parking lot. He would also like them to park in the grassy area next to the garage near the tennis courts. McKenzie has requested that students stay out of traffic in the student parking lot and keep on the grass.

This new form of transportation is hoped to be a fun new way for students to get to school in the winter months. Junior Ryann Weaver said, “Words cannot even begin to explain how excited I am to be able to snowmobile to school.” While another student, senior Dustin Chamberlin said, “I think that it is a great idea for the school to allow students to snowmobile to school. I cannot wait to start driving my snowmobile to school.” With the winter weather approaching, many of Whitehall’s students are excited to take advantage of the schools new exception, and the school is excited to promote a new form of transportation to its students.

*Writer: Sam Sawyer*



*AutoCAD  
Accomplishment*

On December 11, 2012, Renee Noom, a Muskegon Area Career Tech Center student as well as Whitehall High School student, participated in a technology and computer challenge event. This event was at Baker College and hosted Career Tech students from all over the Muskegon area. Noom was selected by her teacher to compete in this event because of her work ethic presented in class. She tied for second place in her event, which was AutoCAD. Noom was given only a front and right view layout of a three-dimensional object and was expected to remake it. She explained that with this accomplishment under her belt she will have a better chance of getting a job than other applicants in her future. This Baker Challenge has been going on since

2006. Visual Communications Instructor Aime Brown, said that this year's competition was the largest group since the competition began.

*-Writers: Hannah Zwemer and Samantha Huebler*

*Salute to Freedom*









Mackenzie Brandel, a sophomore at Whitehall High School, participated in a competition known as National

History Day. She produced an exhibit on Rosie the Riveter, a cultural icon of the United States. Her work paid off when she found out she made it to the national competition level. In order to

make it to the national level, Brandel had to place high enough in rank at the regional competition, and then once again at the state competition. At state, she was informed of an essay contest that she was eligible to enter in. She decided to submit an essay and Brandel won a trip to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. Along with her essay, she included pictures and captions to show how our state contributed during WWII, particularly focusing on Rosie the Riveter. Part of Brandel's prize will be celebrating the Grand Opening of the new wing, The Boeing Center, with 50 other students, who will also have their essay and pictures displayed as part of a temporary exhibit. Brandel shared, "I had a lot of fun, it was such an enjoyable experience. When I won, I think my mom broke my eardrums."

*-Writers: Hannah Zwemer and Samantha Huebler*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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6	7 	8	9	10 	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

*Events to Remember*

- ◆ *December 24-January 6... Holiday Break*
- ◆ *January 7... School Resumes*
- ◆ *January 10... Financial Aid Seminar for parents of Seniors (6:00 p.m.)*



# The Link Letter

Thanks to the LINK crew holiday cheer and winter activities were on tap for freshmen. LINK crew members took a Sunday afternoon to spread Christmas cheer by decorating the freshmen hall. Freshman Emily Christenson said, "It was very fun and creative."

LINK crew members were also busy after the holidays as they organized activity nights. LINK leaders attended a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich prior to the activity night. They discussed ideas for new activities and games to enjoy with their freshmen. These games included Spoons, Ninja, and Pictionary Telephone. All the freshmen and members of the Link Crew convened in the gymnasium on January 18 and carried out these fun activities. These activities allowed the freshmen and LINK members to bond and talk about their year. At the end of the festivities, the leaders gave their freshmen papers to sign up for a Remind 101 account. This account will allow LINK leaders to send reminders to

come to game nights and also give inspirational quotes and advice. Freshman Jamie Westrate, who's Link Leaders are Hannah Jurcich and Trenton Moyer, said, "My favorite game was Pictionary telephone. It was really fun."

The LINK crew hosted game night January 26. Games such as Catch Phrase and Apples to Apples were played, and the Avengers was shown in the auditorium. All the Link leaders joined the many freshmen that attended, and brought food and drinks to share.

The Link leaders continue to try and improve each freshman's year. Many are in the process of tutoring their freshmen. Not only do LINK leaders host events to help their freshmen, but they also work individually by encouraging them. LINK leader Miriah McAdow sent her freshmen a letter of encouragement to participate in spirit week, which helped her be creative throughout the week.

*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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