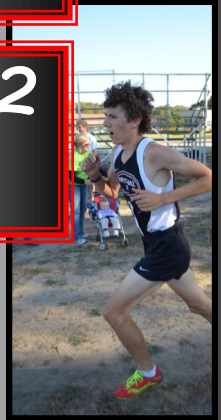
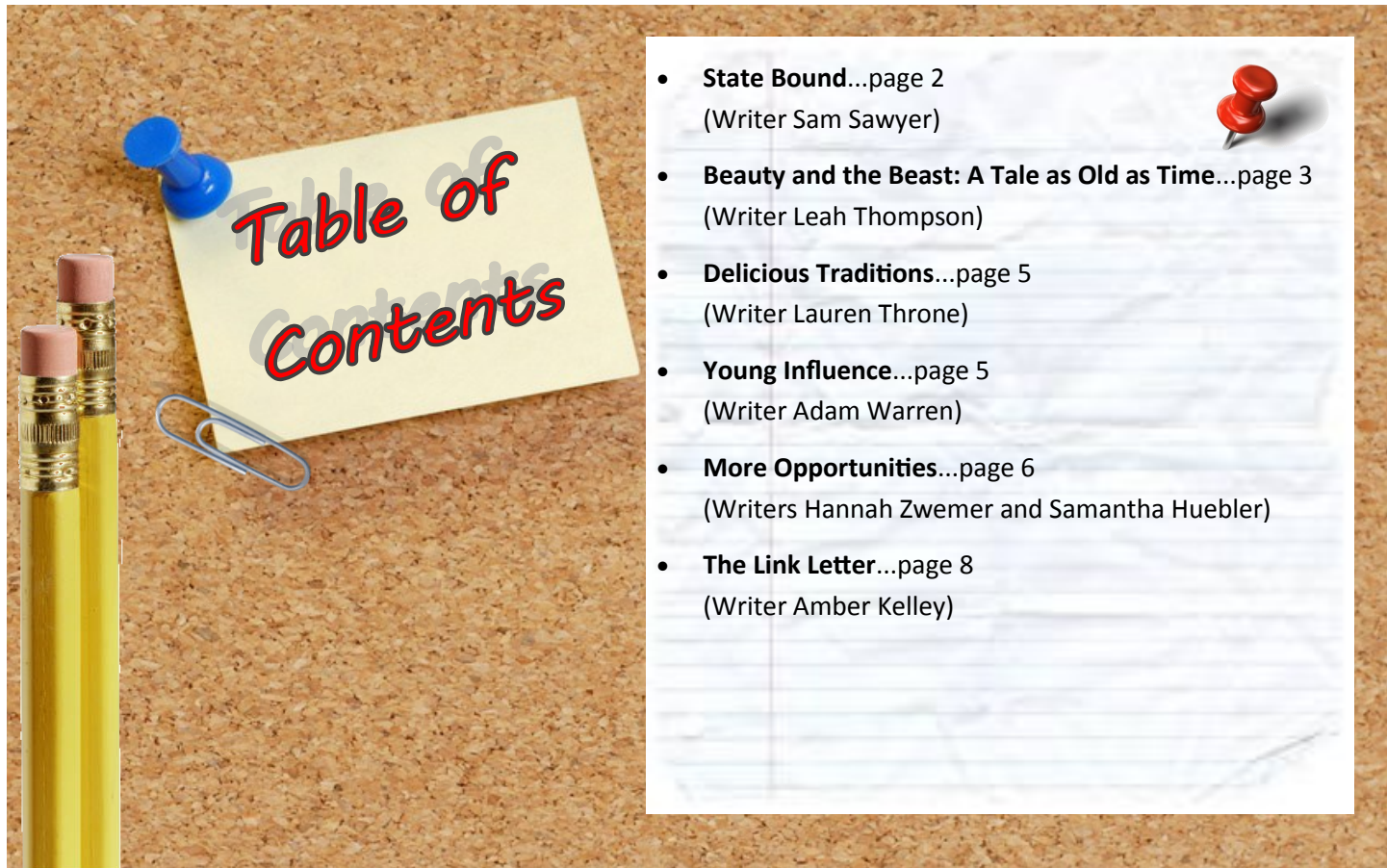


VIKING PRESS

Volume 3 Issue 2

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November





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State Bound

Throughout the summer, most of Whitehall's students spent time in the sun, catching up on sleep, and spending time with friends. However, the boys' cross country team spent a large portion of its summer training for its season that was right around the corner. Although cross country practice did not officially start until August, many of the boys started conditioning back in June. From the beginning of their season up until October, the boys put in their best effort in order to reach their goal of qualifying for state.

The boy's cross country



Pictured: Tyler Grove racing toward the finish

team, coached by Kathy Hector and assisted by Mike Smith, was complete with 20 boys. Each boy ran their hardest and gave their best effort in both practices and races, all to get a little bit closer to the dream of making it to the state finals as a team. Practices were two hours a day, six days a week, for 16 weeks. During practices the boys would run 4-11 miles a day, along with additional speed and strength workouts.

Throughout the season, the boys took many wins and top placements at each of their meets, including The Hill and Bale located in Freemont, and the City meet which took place at the Muskegon Community College cross country course. Many of the boys also continued to break and create new personal best records for themselves. From the beginning to the end of the season, each boy improved his best time by about two minutes. By the time regionals came, the boys knew that if they ran their best, they would have the potential to make it to state. As a team, they challenged themselves to run as hard as possible and reach that goal. With all of the hard work that they put in throughout the

(Continues to page 3)

-State Bound-

season, the boys were able to achieve their goal and be the first ever cross country team from Whitehall to qualify in the Division II state meet, located at Michigan International Speedway in Jackson, Michigan. Only varsity members could run in this meet, which consisted of the team’s top seven runners. They included Logan Irey, Tyler Grove, Mitch Boyce, Brayden Berson, Keaton Smith, Alex Dennis and Reiley Brown. Senior Casey Robinson was also among the varsity runners, but was unable to compete due to a stress fracture.

Once the boys qualified for state, they had set a goal of ending in the top 10 in the state. The boys had high hopes of being in the top 10, as did many of their fellow classmates and peers. Some of the girl’s cross country team even made shirts and posters to support the boys, and went to the state meet, along with some of the other student body. Fellow cross country runner Rebekah Beehgly said, “It was fun to go out and support our boys. You could tell that they were excited and it was a great experience for them.” The boys finished the season in 22nd place out of 29 teams. Although they did not achieve their goal of finishing in the top 10, the boys still had an amazing finish. Coach Kathy Hector said, “This was a great group to coach. They work hard, have integrity, and compete. It was a memorable season.” Varsity runner Keaton Smith said, “It was a fun experience, and I hope to be able to do it again next year.” For such a young team from a small school

district, qualifying for Division II state finals was a huge achievement. The season was a great way for seniors to end their high school cross country career, and a great experience to encourage the underclassmen to strive to meet these goals again in years to come.

-Writer Sam Sawyer

*Beauty and the Beast:
A Tale as Old as Time*

The lights dim, the orchestra plays the opening notes, and the black curtain slowly starts to open. A marvelous cast dressed in elaborate costumes tells a story with memorable songs, suspenseful scenes, and just a dash of humor. This story is the classic Disney fairytale, Beauty and the Beast the musical.

The fairytale has a wonderful story to it. The spell that the enchantress (Hannah Zwemer) puts on the castle can only be broken when the beast (Marcus Moore) learns to love again. When Belle (Kara Potter) arrives at the castle, everyone believes that she is the one to break the spell. Her and the beast hit a bit of a rough patch in the beginning, but with the help of Lumiere (Tim Hiemstra), Cogsworth (Tracy Lawrence), Mrs. Potts (Marlee Anderson), and the rest of the inanimate objects, the beast and Belle begin to fall in love. In the end, the spell is broken and Belle, the Prince (Sky Christenson), and the rest of the inanimate objects live happily ever after.

The way the cast brought the

characters to life made the audience feel as if they were a part of the story. Whenever Lumiere and Cogsworth were together, the audience burst with laughter at their hilarious antics. The audience was on the edge of their seats as the beast transformed into a prince, and they all cheered for the cast as they took their final bow. Also, the cast received a standing ovation from the entire audience.

There were lots of people involved with the production of the play. First, Mr. Boughton and Mr. Browand were the producers of the play. They were involved with the entire production. This was also the end of their career of producing



Pictured: Kara Potter (as Belle).

(Continues to page 4)

musicals and plays for WHS. Also, there was the main cast. Their elaborate costumes helped them bring the characters to life. The songs they sang also showed the audience how they were feeling at that point in time. However, learning the part of a character is a difficult thing to do. "The only part of my character that I felt was challenging was to get used to the weight of the wardrobe; it put so much weight on my shoulders," said Lexis Reid, who played Madame de la Grande. "I think that being a main character in a play requires more time and effort, but ultimately it is a lot more enjoyable," said Mitch Boyce, who played Gaston. The cast also had their favorite scenes. "I really enjoyed my scenes with Gaston. They were really fun, and he's such a great actor, so it made the scenes easier," said Potter who played Belle. Also involved in the play was the high school's Chamber and Women's choirs. They were involved in the larger songs such as *Be Our Guest*, *Mob Song*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. Their voices helped add more power, enthusiasm, and energy into the songs. It helped the songs come alive as well. "I loved being in the musical and after pulling everything together last minute went way better than I expected," said chorus member Jessica Harris. There were also some students who were in the chorus, but they weren't apart of choir. Their voices also helped with the choral songs come alive. "It was cool to be a part of one of the biggest songs because it's one of



Pictured left to right: Ana Whitener, Alyssa Grover, Victoria Learman, Carlie Bishop, Maryssa Endres, and Hannah Zwemer (as napkins).

the big scenes and kind of glues the whole show together," said chorus member Allison Donahue. There was also an orchestra which was part of the musical. They played the accompaniment to all of the songs during the musical. The orchestra was directed by Browand. Being a part of the play gave everyone new opportunities. "I like that the chorus members aren't on stage too much, so we get a chance to talk to people. We also get a chance to make new friends," said chorus member Claire Beaman. "I enjoyed being in the musical because of the part I was given for a short time. I would like to be in another play as a major role," said choir member John Spofford. "Being in the musical gave me energy. I have never been a main character before so this is different from other plays I have been in. Also it made me feel like I have the talent to move on in this as a career, along with singing," said Reid.

In addition to performing the musical, the cast held a Breakfast with Belle on Saturday, November 3 at the high school commons. During the breakfast, the cast entertained everyone, and the children were able to meet them. Also, each child was given an

autograph book to get the autographs of the cast members. In total attendance, there were 130 little princes and princesses. "The breakfast had a big impact on the kids because they got to see all of the characters. It was kind of awkward at first because I was just walking around and didn't really talk. But it was still fun!" said Marcus Moore who played the beast. "The kids were so happy, and they were all so cute. Some of them were dressed up in princess dresses too," said Potter.

Whitehall High School put so much of their time and effort into making a wonderful show for everyone to enjoy. This tale as old as time was quite an adventure, but the show must go on!

-Writer: Leah Thompson



Pictured left to right: Jake Gillhespy (as LeFou) and Mitch Boyce (as Gaston)

Delicious Traditions

The holidays are a cause for the kindling of many traditions. From decorating Christmas trees to making snowmen, there is an array of different activities for high school students and their loved ones to enjoy. Although all of these traditions may be considered instrumental to celebrating the holidays, they all seem to come back to be centered around the same thing: food.

The students at Whitehall High School all have different food-related traditions during the holidays. Sophomore Jessica Harris always looks forward to enjoying green bean casserole, sweet potatoes (but only with marshmallows on them), brownies, mashed potatoes, carrots, green beans, and fruit. Harris usually helps her family prepare for their meal by making the green bean casserole. Harris said, "My family usually deep fries our turkey instead of putting it in the oven."

Finding food that she is able to enjoy may be a little more difficult for senior Kari Grove this holiday season. Grove recently decided to become a vegan, which means she does not consume any product that was made from an animal. Grove said that she is hoping her mom will let her try some tofu turkey, but she really is looking forward to eating mashed potatoes mixed with peas. Grove said, "I used to think I was really cool when I was little and my mom and grandma would let me help peel potatoes!"

Junior Kara Potter is excited to mix her corn and mashed potatoes together, and to eat stuffing. Potter is also looking forward to spending holidays at her Uncle Bruce's home, where he usually carves the turkey.

Senior Jonna Johnson says, "I like to help my mom and grandma make pie. I usually play with the dogs and dance more than I help though."

Senior Dustin Chamberlain has plenty of experience in the kitchen, due to his job as a cook at Gary's Restaurant in Whitehall. This holiday season, Chamberlain plans on making a turkey with secret seasonings, stuffing, and a German dish consisting of noodles, meat, and cheese. He also plans on making a Russian dish containing meat and potatoes.

Sophomore Ross Morningstar said, "For Thanksgiving, I am going to make homemade rolls with my Aunt Linda."

John Spofford, a freshman, enjoys baking pumpkin pies with his mom the day before a holiday.

Although the students at Whitehall have many different ways of celebrating the holiday season, they are all able to come together and agree on the importance of enjoying and sharing food amidst their festivities.

-Writer Lauren Throne

Young Influence

America is full of young adults who are looking for new opportunities and ways to affect the

world. They are searching for more freedom and independence, but at the same time they need to know that certain restrictions are in place and need to depend on their government. They want to influence their world and make sure where they live will be a stable place to live. The presidential election gives these young men and women a chance to really make their hopes a possibility. Eighteen year old Whitehall High School students had the chance to affect their lives in a very important way by voting for America's next president.

Barack Obama and Mitt Romney were the candidates for this year's election. The candidates had two very different points of views and different policies. They had their own opinions on every subject from abortion to military spending. The country was split because of these different views, but the opinions of students who were interviewed seem to be one sided. Young voting is highly recommended in the United States and many believe that once you are able to vote, you should. Voting for the first time is a unique experience that everyone should participate.

Trenton Moyer voted for President Obama and admitted the decision wasn't hard, much like the voting process as a whole, which he considered simple and quick. Moyer felt that he needed to support his country by voting for what he considered was a superior candidate. "Obama is just a better option for President. He might not be the best ever, but his plans and ideas were much clearer and straight forward than Romney's. Romney said he had a



plan, but wouldn't explain," Moyer said. His choice for president was easy and he voted confidently. He explained that lines were short and registering was very simple. He needed only a small amount of assistance and casted his vote quickly.

Ana Whitener, another Whitehall High School voter, admitted she didn't know much about either candidate. She said she knew enough about Obama's stance on health care and welfare to vote for him. "Every time I see Romney speaking, I hear him saying something about a plan he has for when he becomes President to fix everything, but he never says what that plan is." said Whitener. She said her experience of voting was a lot easier than she expected. Whitener encouraged anybody who could vote to vote because the process took almost

no time to complete and the impact it had was exponential.

These students were happy because of the President's victory. But there are many students who have yet the chance to impact the decision of the next president. Given four more years and they will all have the chance to let their opinion affect the United States. Every student wants to make sure the United States is a place they can live comfortably and happily and they can all influence the outcome of each election.

-Writer Adam Warren

More Opportunities

The faculty members at Whitehall High School are taking the time to ensure students receive the help they need. The computer labs in the high school media center are open after school every day of the school week,

except for Friday, from 2:40 until 3:40 p.m. Teachers will be there to tutor students who are in need of academic assistance. This open lab time gives students the opportunity to work on homework and use computers if they do not have one at home. They will also be able to practice the ACT and ask teachers questions. Certain subjects will be covered on a set day with the teachers who work in that field. The teachers in each subject department rotate shifts every week, so there will be a different teacher helping out weekly.

-Writers Hannah Zwemer and Samantha Huebler

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Monday | Math & Spanish |
| Tuesday | Science |
| Wednesday | English |
| Thursday | Social Studies |

November

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 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 | 30 | |

Events to Remember

- ◆ October 30... Freshmen and Sophomore Academic Awards Ceremony
- ◆ November 1... Junior and Senior Academic Awards Ceremony
- ◆ November 8... Lip Sync
- ◆ November 9... Dodge Ball Tournament
- ◆ November 15-17... High School Musical "Beauty and the Beast" 7:30 pm and 2:30 pm on the 17
- ◆ November 19-20... Parent Teacher Conferences at 4-8:30 pm
- ◆ November 21-23 NO SCHOOL
- ◆ November 26... second term begins
- ◆ November 28... Laurie Stewart



The Link Letter



Pictured left to right: Colin Zenobia, Connor Boyd, John Spofford, and Isaac Love.

The end of Thanksgiving begins the new trimester for all the students who take electives at Whitehall High School. This is a new phenomenon to the newly graduated freshmen. The Link Leaders organization was there to help the freshmen in their

transition. The leaders have permission from the instructors, to leave class five minutes early to escort their freshmen to the classes that they could not find. This was very beneficial to the freshmen in helping them get to know their school and their classes. Yet another new development that the link leaders planned was to transform the

freshmen hallway into a winter wonderland in honor of the Christmas spirit. The L.C. (Link Communications) group was in charge of this production and created plans to hang lights and draw pictures of Santa and other Christmas characters. The Link Communications group was established to cover all the little projects the groups comes up with. They also prearranged Christmas goodie bag ideas for the freshmen, mimicking their Halloween bags that were filled with candy.

One of the many inspirational instructors of the Link Crew was Carrie Goodrich. When asked why she decided to begin the Link crew, Goodrich said, "We wanted to build the Viking Family concept here at Whitehall. We believe our school community can be stronger if we start with the transition year." She is a very large part of Link Family, along with her husband, Dave Goodrich, and other instructors that contribute to the Link Crew.

-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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