

Viking Press

Volume I,
Issue I

**October
2010**

*Inside this
issue:*

October's
Calendar 2

November's
Calendar 3

Principal's
Note and
Counselors'
Corner 4

Academics 5

Fine Arts/
Clubs and
Birthdays 6

Sports 7

Student
Spotlight 8

New tricks by WHS students

You can't teach old dogs to do new tricks. A select 25 students will try to prove that old adage wrong. For the first time in Whitehall High School history, students will produce the monthly newsletter for the parents of Whitehall High School.

We are excited to provide parents quality information about the day-to-day happenings at Whitehall High School and also provide parents an opportunity to plan for what is upcoming. We hope this monthly publication will help parents understand a little more of what is going on in their students' lives and also give students the opportunity to communicate to parents the upcoming needs they will have.

In the past, the Whitehall High School monthly newsletter was published by the office staff. With many changes within the district, Whitehall High School students received the opportunity to take over this endeavor. With this change, you will find a new, redesigned newsletter. This is a first time endeavor, so please be patient with us as we continue to work out the kinks.

The stories, photographs and information will be produced by students. The newsletter editors are Kassey Lohman and Hannah Zwemer. Writing stories will be Andrea Garvey, Lauren Nelson, Sarah Griffin, Ben Fielstra and Lauren Throne. Photographers are Blake Whittington, Hannah Collins, Hannah Potter, Sabina Colston, Kelsey Sorenson, Elise Shaffer and Desiree Lewellyn.

Because we are looking to do things differently, we would also like to distribute the newsletter in a new manner. We will post the newsletter on the Whitehall District School's homepage, via the high school button, on the third Friday of the month. By posting the newsletter online it not only allows us to get information to parents in a timely fashion, but also allows us to conserve our resources. You are able to print off all or just a few pages of the monthly newsletter from our website.

We are very excited in taking on this new endeavor and look forward to serving the community. So, sit back and take a look at what new tricks WHS students have produced.

Sincerely,

Bobbi VanderLeest
Advisor



These students work hard to produce a quality newsletter for parents of Whitehall High School.



October 2010

| 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 Club's Choice Delivery— Immediately after school | 20 Freshmen Social Studies MEAP | 21 Half Day—Parent Teacher Conferences 12-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Junior Parent Meeting 7-8 PM | 22 | 23 Jenison Band Invitational |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Band O Rama— Halloween Concert Fr. & So. Awards Assembly 1:45- 2:28 | 27 Sing For Hope Concert/ Talent Show 7PM MEAP Social Studies Make-Up | 28 Jr. & Sr. Awards Assembly 1:30- 2:28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

November 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|--|--|---|--|-----|
| 31 | 1 <i>Food Drive (district wide)</i> <i>HS Fall Concert 7:30</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>No School NHS Leaf Rake MANDATORY 10am-1pm</i> | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 <i>Chamber Festival at West Ottawa HS</i> | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 <i>Chamber Christmas walk</i> | 20 |
| 21 | 22 <i>Full Day 1st Hour Exams</i> | 23 <i>Half Day 2nd and 3rd hour Exams</i> | 24 <i>Half Day 4th and 5th Hour Exams</i> | 25 <i>No School Thanksgiving Day</i> | 26 <i>No School</i> | 27 |
| 28 | 29 <i>2nd Trimester Begins</i> | 30 | | | 29 | 30 |

Counselors' Corner

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION . . .

COUNSELORS

Mr. Lucas and Ms. Hicks are the counselors at Whitehall High School. Ms. Hicks will be working with students with last names beginning with A-K. Mr. Lucas will be working with students with last names beginning with L-Z. Mr. Lucas and Ms. Hicks are available to talk to students about academic, career and personal issues. Mrs. Brown is the Registrar in this office. Our phone number is 893-1029.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

College applications can be done online or on a paper application. In each case, the student must work with the Student Services Office to get information to the college. If applying by paper, the student must complete the application fully and bring the application to the office. The counselor will fill out the high school portion of the application and send it in along with an official transcript. If applying online, you may be directed to print out a "high school" or "counselor" page. Bring this in to the office to be sent out with your transcript. Most colleges require an application fee. Bring a check in with your application or include a credit card number on the application. Applications may require up to a two-day processing time, so do not wait until the deadline to submit the application. Finally, students must provide a stamped, addressed envelope.

ACT TESTS

Limited registration packets are available in the Student Services Office. Students are urged to register for the ACT online. Students who want to take the **December 11** test must register by **November 5**. All Juniors will take the ACT as part of the Michigan Merit Examination in March. Juniors who want to take the ACT early, and seniors who want to retake the ACT to improve their college options and scholarship eligibility can register online at actstudent.org.

Social Studies MEAP Tests

All freshmen took the MEAP social studies test on October 20 (make-ups on October 27).

Scholarship Information

Seniors should register for scholarship opportunities at fastweb.com. A list of current scholarships is available on the Student Services section of the high school website. Most scholarships have online applications. Scholarships that require paper applications are listed and described in a red binder located in the Student Services Office. Those paper applications are available in the office as well.

Sophomore Career Tech. Tour

All sophomores will visit the Muskegon Area Career Tech. Center on December 15th during the school day. The Tech. Center is an extension of our high school, offering 20 half day programs to Juniors and Seniors. More information is available at www.muskegon-isd.k12.mi.us/ctc-new/. Students can sign up for Tech Center classes during the scheduling process.

A Note From The Principal



It is great to be back at the high school! It is exciting and rewarding to see the growth and maturity of my former middle school students. My philosophy has always emphasized that parent involvement impacts student success. This is essential at the high school level as well, and parents will be able to continue to monitor their student's academic progress online with the parent viewer. There is also an opportunity to follow along with your student's academic studies by viewing staff member's lesson plans posted each week. To access this site, go to the staff page and click on your student's teachers to view their weekly agendas. I look forward to working with you this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at 893-1020.

Academics

A New Take on Student Academics

By: Andrea Garvey

As parents take a look at their child's schedule, they may notice their child attending a Response to Intervention (R.T.I.) class. They may have either a Math R.T.I. class with Mrs. Kathy Hector or a Reading R.T.I. class with Mrs. Virginia Rogers or Mr. Mike Kahlo. What exactly is Math or Reading R.T.I.?

Dave Rodgers, Director of Instruction and Administrative Services, explained R.T.I. classes as "an approach or educational philosophy, more so than a class. It is based on creating systems within and across schools and grade spans that allow teachers, administrators, students and parents to proactively monitor the educational progress of each student individually as they strive to reach established learning targets or benchmarks." Mr. Rodgers said the reason R.T.I. was established to teach the basics in a subject (Math or Reading) the student had missed in previous classes. These skills are necessary in order to continue on to more sophisticated material. Mr. Rodgers said he realized many students have trouble seeking or accepting help. He hopes this course will help alleviate some of that trouble.

Mrs. Rogers and Mr. Kahlo are in charge of the Reading R.T.I. classes, which is called Reading Workshop. These classes may have different teachers but are structured the same way. Mrs. Rogers said that Reading R.T.I. is an elective class that any student can take. In these classes, they teach their students reading strategies and how to keep track of each student's progress. Mrs. Rogers stated that she and Kahlo are "life-long, avid readers." They teach Reading Workshop in hopes their students will become marathon readers.

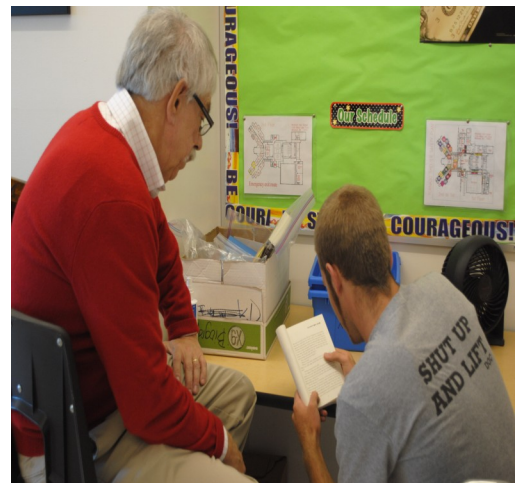
According to Mr. Kahlo, in order for students to better understand how to read, they must all participate in Reading Workshop. This is a series of strategies that give students many choices of books to read. This class shares an aspect that Book Clubs have which includes having are grouped together. In their group they pick out a book out of a selection of books. From Mr. Kahlo's past teaching, he said that all of these activities increase individuals' passion for reading, improve their reading stamina tremendously, and their assessment has grown a lot. Basically, Reading Workshop makes an impact on the students' reading abilities.

Math R.T.I. is another Response to Intervention class that is taught by Mrs. Hector. When asked what material is taught in Math R.T.I. class, Mrs. Hector said that it depends on the particular student. The specific material comes directly from the Grade Level Content Expectations as defined by the Michigan Department of Education. The usual age group of students Math R.T.I. focuses on are mainly freshmen and sophomores. They are able to strengthen their skills before they are required to move onto the higher levels such as Advanced Algebra. "We are trying our best day by day and hoping for the best results," Hector said. "It is a lot of work and a struggle for many of the students."

Responses to Intervention classes are a new concept at Whitehall High School. The district hopes these new classes will help students gain ground on their math and reading skills.



Samantha Sherwood reads at her desk.



Mr. Kahlo reads with Dan Hite.



Lexis Reid relaxes as she reads.

Fine Arts/ Clubs

Super Heroes Take the Stage

By: Andrea Garvey

The air was filled with excitement at Whitehall High School as Homecoming edged forward. However, who plans Homecoming? This event was a job for Whitehall Student Council members. Student Council is the group who organized the parade and floats, planned the dance, ordered tickets for the Homecoming football game, and updated the student body on what was going to happen for this annual event.

Every year, the Student Council organizes all of this. Christine Mallory and Bernice Switanowski supervised the Student Council, guided them, and set them off to coordinate the event. When Homecoming was over from the year before, Switanowski said that she and Mallory helped the Student Council by showing them details of the past year to use as a reference.

Mallory added that the council listed successful things they did previously to help them organize the current year's homecoming event. By doing this, student council members reflected on what worked well and what didn't work so well.

According to Mallory, the most difficult part of planning Homecoming was the Parade. There were so many things that go into the annual parade. They had to notify all those who participated in it and pick a Grand Marshall. This year's Grand Marshall was James Heeres. The Student Council is also in charge of counting the ballots for the court. This year's court members were Freshmen Janelle Uganski and Tell Sutton; Sophomores Hannah Potter and Steven Sika; Juniors Kassey Lohman and Cameron Lewis; and Seniors Rachel Copley, Maddie Johnson, Hannah Mahoney, Riley Mahoney, Rachel Uganski, Derek Bruckner, Ryan Butzer, Travis Love, Nathan Rohen, and Blake Whittington. The planners admitted that the parade was a very stressful job. However, when the parade pulled away from the parking lot, and the band began to play, it was all worth the hard work. Student Council would like to thank the drivers who volunteered their cars for the parade.

Ten selected members from student council pose for Super hero day: pictured left to right; Gwen Horning, Logan Ridge, Summer Klomp, Riley Mahoney, Kirsten Briegel, Blake Zenobia, Hope Rillema, and Autumn Christenson.



Birthdays

- Oct. 22**
John McIntire
Brayden Berson
- Oct. 23**
David Jackson
- Oct. 24**
Nathan Johnson
Sheldon Cregg
Michael Flowers
- Oct. 25**
Sam Kuipers
Brittney Cain
- Oct. 26**
Karly Griffin
- Oct. 28**
Brittany Johnson
- Oct. 29**
Zachary Carlson
John Amante
- Oct. 30**
Joseph Helm
Kalup Bentz
- Nov. 3**
Austin Vandermolen
- Nov. 4**
Garrick Moss
Masley Young
- Nov. 5**
MorganDavey
- Nov. 6**
Jeremiah Adkins
- Nov. 7**
Jane Kuipers
- Nov. 8**
Danielle West
- Nov. 9**
Hannah Scheid
Kameron Gear
- Nov. 10**
Mark Stone
Lauren DuBois
Greg Madendorp
Adrian Valdez
- Nov. 11**
Kaitlyn Mack
- Nov. 12**
Clarissa Ingle
Elise Shafer
- Nov. 13**
Meghan Lehner
Anthony Kelly
- Nov. 15**
Kalena Tennant
Noah Sowle
- Nov. 16**
Jacob Kellis
- Nov. 17**
Savannah Trombley
- Nov. 18**
Paris Leek

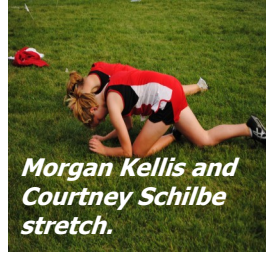


Jake Harris leads the way.



On the move.

Sports



Morgan Kellis and Courtney Schilbe stretch.



Lining up.

Hard Work Pays Off

By: Lauren Nelson

Not many people know about Whitehall’s cross country team nor know what the sport is about. There is more to it than just running. “You need to be willing to push beyond your limit,” said Mrs. Kathy Hector, Whitehall’s cross country coach. “Cross country takes lots of hard work and dedication,” senior cross member Kimberly Jackson said.

Day to day practices are an important variable in learning life lessons and succeeding in meets. Whitehall’s cross country team follows a “hard, easy” approach in practice; one hard day, then one easy day. A hard day consists of a fifteen-minute warm-up run, stretching, strides and plyos. For the workout that day team members run 12, 400- meters (12 laps around the track) at race pace, following with a 15-minute cool down run. Easy days consist of a three-to-six mile run, strength training, and a long run that is usually six to 12 miles long.

What is the most important part of being a team? “To be able to understand that there will be great physical struggles the team will have to go through together,” said Mrs. Hector.

Many people have questions about how a meet is set up, and what it takes to be in charge of setting it up. Before a meet, someone (usually Mr. Scott Hector) sets up a course, and paints arrows around it to inform runners where to go. A measurement wheel is used to make sure the course measures up to 5,000 meters or 3.1 miles. Someone also has to draw up a course map for the opposing teams. Finally, there are five to six volunteers needed to work the meet to ensure it goes smoothly. Many people do not realize the difficulties of setting up a course.

Cross-country is an endurance sport that you need to “get comfortable with being uncomfortable,” said Hector. It is all about who can handle their tiredness the best. Whitehall’s cross country team knows how to overcome its exhaustion!



“I loved being part of the team and watching the runners all enhance their skills. I felt like an important part and it helped the overall cross country team as a whole.”
**-Janet Madendorp
Girls' Manager**



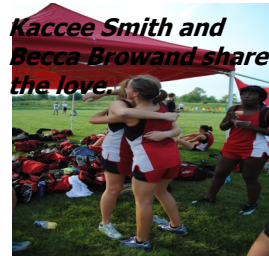
Girls on the run.



Waiting patiently.



Running hard.



Kaccee Smith and Becca Browand share the love.



Taking off.

Student Spotlight



By: Sarah Griffin
Hello, Hallo, Guten Tag, Konnichiha, Halaa. That's how you say hello in the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, and even Oman, which is where all of Whitehall's exchange students are from this year. There are six girls, all between the ages of fifteen and seventeen.

Franziska Lodd, sixteen years old, admitted she missed the chocolate back home. Lodd is visiting here from Germany and is currently staying with the Pam and Richard Edgerton family. Malin Kuht, sixteen years old, and Cornelia Holzbauer, fifteen years old, both from Germany, love the landscape and scenery here. Kuht currently lives with the Heather and Curt Babcock family and Holzbauer stays with the Phylinda and Paul Pladies family. Kuht stated how much she loves the chance to live by a lake, which she doesn't get the chance to do back home.

Madelon Brand, sixteen years old, who stays with the Jenelle and Mel Eacker family, misses having her independence that she did back home. She's from the Netherlands and said that back home they ride bikes everywhere so they never have to ask for rides places.

Sakaya Tsutsumi, seventeen years old, is from Japan. Tsutsumi came to the United States because she really wanted to learn English and learn the different cultures here in America. She found everything here very different from home, but for the most part she was very pleased with her experiences. Tsutsumi lives with the Edgerton family as well.

Last, but definitely not least, is Nahiya Al-Anqodi, fifteen years old, She is here all the way from Oman and also stays with the Plaidies family. She seems to really like it here so far too. She said it's different here because back home they don't have high school. So for her, the entire high school experience is exciting and insightful. Overall, the girls seem to enjoy Whitehall and America and are very excited for the rest of the year.

Top, left to right: Malin Kuht, Madelon Brand, and Franziska Lodd. Bottom left to right: Nahiya Al-Anqodi, Sakaya Tsutsumi, and Cornelia Holzbauer.

Far Into the Future...

- Christmas Dance: December 4 8:30-11:30 p.m.
- Deadline for senior pictures, due to Mrs. VanderLeest December 10
- Financial Aid Meeting December 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Christmas break: December 20-31, school resumes January 3

Valhalla

This newsletter is produced by the Viking Communications class of Whitehall High School. Students in grades ninth through twelfth learn various skills producing this newsletter. Writing, photography, layout, interviewing, and communications skills are just some of the items students gain from participating in this class.

Vahalla Newsletter Staff:

Editors: Kasey Lohman and Hannah Zwemer
Writers: Sarah Griffin, Lauren Nelson, Andrea Garvey, Lauren Throne, and Ben Fielstra
Photographers: Blake Whittington, Hannah Collins, Hannah Potter, Desiree Lewellyn
Advisor: Mrs. Bobbi VanderLeest

