

# Viking Press

Volume I,  
Issue 2

November  
2010

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## Thanksgiving At Whitehall

By: Sarah Griffin

Thank you — two simple words that most people forget the sincere meaning, but this month that changed. Here at Whitehall High School, the student body showed how thankful it really was by giving back. For starters, the student council coordinated a food drive to collect food and supplies to help many of the Whitehall School District families during these hard times. The students collected food from November 1 up until November 18. Students sorted all of the food in the auditorium, making sure it was ready to be delivered to the 40 families. The food drive was a district-wide collaborative effort. Students were assigned various school buildings to coordinate food collection. At the end of each week, the numbers kept growing. Whitehall High School truly cares about the people in the community, and definitely shows how Viking spirit helps others in need.

The students enjoyed helping these families and creating new ways to give back to the community. The National Honor Society gave back to families, within our district, with a blanket making activity. The week of November 8, N.H.S. students spent a couple hours each day making fleece blankets to give to the local people for the upcoming winter season. Whitehall students enjoyed giving back, and learned many life lessons in doing so. The students were thankful for all that they had and for the ability to share with people in the community.

As everyone in the White Lake community prepared for Thanksgiving and showed their appreciation and gratitude for the things they had in their life, Whitehall students were doing the same. Students from each grade were asked what they were most grateful for this year. Some responses can be found in the box on the side. Everyone at Whitehall High School had their own unique things that they were thankful for. On behalf of the entire Yearbook!



*Freshman Amber Kelley counts food for the food drive.*

Laura Flores:

*"My friends and family.*

Warren Crummet:

*"A loving mother and to be a citizen of the United States."*

Samantha Sawyer:

*"A good education and my great friends and family."*

# November 2010

un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	S
	1 <i>Food Drive (district- wide) HS Fall Concert 7:30</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>No School NHS Leaf Rake MANDATORY 10am-1pm</i>	6
	8	9 <i>Chamber Festival at West Ottawa HS</i>	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Chamber Christmas Walk</i>	20
	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
	29 <i>2nd Trimester Begins</i>	30 <i>Girls V Bball– Away Girls JV Bball– Away</i>				30

more information on the game times please see the winter sports schedule on the high school web

# December 2010

in	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
			1 <i>Wrestling V-Home</i>	2	3 <i>Girls V Bball-Home</i> <i>Girls JV Bball-Away</i> <i>JV Wrestling-Away</i>	4 <i>Christmas Da</i> <i>8:30 - 11:30 p</i> <i>Varsity Wrest</i>
	6 <i>Christmas Collage</i> <i>All Bands- 7:30 HS Gym</i> <i>Girls V Bball-Away</i> <i>Girls JV Bball-Away</i>	7 <i>Boys V Bball-Away</i> <i>Boys JV Bball-Away</i> <i>Freshmen Bball-Away</i>	8 <i>V Wrestling-Away</i>	9 <i>Girls JV Bball-Home</i> <i>Boys JV Bball-Home</i> <i>Freshmen Bball-Away</i>	10 <i>Deadline for Senior Pictures</i> <i>Due to Mrs. VanderLeest</i> <i>Girls V Bball-Away</i> <i>Boys V Bball-Away</i>	11 <i>V Wrestling-</i> <i>(V(B) Wrestling</i> <i>JV Wrestling-</i>
cert	13	14 <i>Financial Aid Meeting</i> <i>6-9 p.m.</i>	15 <i>Sophomore's Field</i> <i>trip to Career Tech</i>	16 <i>Educators- 7PM</i>	17	18
	20 <i>Christmas Break</i> <i>Begins</i> <i>V Girls Bball-Away</i> <i>JV Girls Bball-Away</i>	21 <i>Boys V Bball-Away</i> <i>Boys JV Bball-Away</i>	22	23	24	25
	27	28	<b>Christmas Break</b> <small>29</small>			

Worksheets will be available for the FAFSA form and Bruce Wierda, Financial Aid Director from Muskegon Community College, will be answering questions on how to answer questions accurately to qualify for the most financial aid possible.

Sophomores will be updating their Career Cruising profile in late November and early December to prepare for the sophomore field trip to the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center on Wednesday, December 15. This trip will allow students to view all of the programs at the CTC and help them decide if they would like to attend a program in their junior year.

The second trimester starts November 29, 2010. Students will be able to pick up their new schedule before school on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Seniors:**

Here is a brief list of some current scholarship opportunities for you. Each year, we have Whitehall HS graduates receive scholarships from the two foundations below. Please note that the Gerber Foundation scholarship is unusual, in that you must have a GPA of 3.7 or LOWER.

Athletes, the deadline for the Scholar Athlete Award is approaching. See below.

Please note the websites for each of these scholarships. A longer list of scholarships is available on the Student Services Section of the high school website.

#### **Community Foundation for Muskegon County Scholarship Program**

Applicants visit [www.cffmc.org](http://www.cffmc.org) to apply. Eligibility varies. Academic performance and/or financial need are considered. Scholarships available for technical/vocational training and traditional college programs.

Award Amount: \$1,000- \$20,000

**Deadline: March 1, 2011**

#### **Gerber Foundation Merit Scholarship Program**

Applicants may visit [www.gerberfoundation.org](http://www.gerberfoundation.org) for more information. Eligibility is a GPA of 3.70 or **lower**, leadership qualities, and participation in school/community activities.

Award Amount: \$2,000

**Deadline: February 28, 2011**

#### **MHSAA Scholar Athlete Award**

Applicants may visit [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com) for more information. In order to be eligible students must have a 3.5 GPA, one varsity letter, involvement in other activities in and out of school, two letters of support, and a 500 word essay regarding sportsmanship. Applications must be filled out online and submitted to Student Services Office.

Award Amount: \$1,000

**Deadline: November 24, 2010**

## **A Note From The Principal**



As technology progresses in society, schools also try to use technology to improve communication between the district and parents. Look for Mr. McKenzie's podcast next month. He will communicate his message via this podcast. To listen to it go to the high school homepage, [www.whitehallschools.net](http://www.whitehallschools.net), and click on the

**Mr. McKenzie** button under Mr. McKenzie's name. Check out this communication tool throughout the month as Mr.

Mr. McKenzie will have several different messages

# Click Your Way to an "A"

By: Andrea Garvey

Test day; normally students come to class prepared with a pen or pencil, but some students at Whitehall High don't even need a writing utensil to ace the test. There are a select number of teachers at Whitehall High School who are approaching a new direction in test taking. Mrs. Autumn LeaTrea and Mrs. Linda Welsh are two teachers using electronic clickers. Clickers are remote devices students use to record their answers anonymously for the teacher. Each clicker is equipped with buttons that correspond to the answers to multiple choice questions that are projected in the front of the room.

Welsh uses the clickers for test review in her accounting class. "I don't use them for actual chapter tests," she admits. Welsh explained how the clickers work. "I use an online test taking site called Quia.com. This site scores the objective tests automatically." There are benefits with using clickers. Welsh pointed out that one convenience is students get automatic feedback on their answers. By gaining immediate feedback, students and teachers are able to determine what each student knows and doesn't know. Welsh added in an extra benefit- the top student who gets the most answers correct gets a prize.

LeaTrea uses the clicker devices for Geometry class too. This is her second year using them. She uses the clickers for test review as well. However, unlike Welsh, LeaTrea uses these devices for each chapter test. Every student grabs the actual print out test at the front of the room and takes a clicker with their assigned number on it. When students take the printed multiple choice test, they use the print out test to find the answer. When they find it, they punch the answer into the clicker, and send it electronically. The students do this for each individual problem. LeaTrea will also have the students record the answers on their individual tests so they can use the printed tests to use as study guides. LeaTrea said the advantages in using the clickers are immediate feedback, and it also creates faster and easier transitions into the next activity planned.

The clickers were purchased from the textbook publishing company Pearson Prentice Hall. The school district recently purchased new math and social studies textbooks and materials from Pearson Prentice Hall, this gives teachers the ability to gain access to games and tests that use the clickers, according to LeaTrea.

There are also inconveniences to this new method of test taking. LeaTrea admitted that having to buy the clickers cost a large amount of money. She said that for each set of clickers, containing around 32 individual devices, the cost can be over two thousand dollars. Another small detail is maintenance. The owner of the clickers has to keep up with changing the batteries and making sure every single clicker works. Maintaining the clickers both economically and physically are some challenges the school will need to address.

There are pros and cons to this method of test taking and studying, like there are with every other method. Clicker devices are a very recent way of reviewing for and taking tests. According to the teachers, this strategy works pretty well. As long as it works good for the students, the use of the



*Back row from left to right: Lee Waruszewski, and Alex Mendez; front row from left to right: Kaleb Evans and Ashley Ward, all put the clickers to use.*



*Selected students use clickers during class.*



By: Lauren Nelson

As winter approaches, there are some students preparing for fun, dance, and music. They find all of that in winter guard. Winter guard is an organized group that performs mixed routines to music, and they also perform in competitions. This group is much like the Color guard that performs with Whitehall High School Marching Band. Anyone can check out the Winter guard's routines at home basketball games. Flags, rifles, and other props help performers jazz up their routine. "It is a complex activity and a workout, but is so much fun," said Brittany Wessels. Wessels is a senior participating in winter guard. Practices vary week to week, most of them are after school and about two times a week for up to three hours.

There are four main people who help organize the group. The leaders of the group are Rebecca Browand and Courtney Schilbe, the choreographer is Vanessa DeCouto, and the program is advised by Mr. Browand. Winter guard at Whitehall is open to anyone; the more people the better. Wessels said that her favorite part of winter guard is, "The mixed atmosphere, so many different people join and it gives you a chance to meet new people."



- Michael Forrest  
Seth Schmiedeknecht
- Nov. 21**  
Kandas Grant  
Hannah Zwemer  
Jeanelle Sprague
- Nov.23**  
Breanna Colson
- Nov. 24**  
Kaylee Swanson
- Nov.25**  
Nicholas VanderLaan  
Shariah Gill
- Nov.26**  
Kaitlin Shaffer  
Samantha Huebler
- Nov.27**  
Jacob Harris
- Nov.29**  
Emily Dennis  
Jay Otto
- Nov.30**  
Ben Battle  
McKenna Johnson  
Kristen Scouten  
Ryan Shields
- Dec.1**  
Isaac Quinn  
Abby McCormick
- Dec.2**  
Mallory Parmley  
Taylor Boyd
- Dec.3**  
Connor Knapp  
Holly Cherney  
Devin VanSanden
- Dec.4**  
Eric Denhof
- Dec.6**  
Ashley Moline
- Dec.7**  
Alex Harsch
- Dec.8**  
Tiffany Campbell  
Alex Mendez
- Dec.10**  
Kim Jackson
- Dec.11**  
Traci Spicklemire  
Ryker Morningstar  
Brandon Spears
- Dec.12**  
Valerie Muyskens
- Dec.13**  
Derek Skinner  
Ben Parmley
- Dec.14**

# Sports



## A Painful Loss...

By: Lauren Throne

The Whitehall Varsity Boys' Soccer team excelled in the 2010 season. The boys gave every game their all, including the semi-finals against Grand Rapids South Christian. It was in this game that the team was defeated, and the journey of the fight to win came to an end. "Our biggest struggle this year was playing consistently as a team. We were looking to play with intensity for an entire game," Coach Bryan Mahan said. Although the team lost in the state semi-finals, they had an outstanding season. The boys won almost every game in their regular season and moved through the state playoff system until they suffered a tough loss with the final score of 4-0. "I thought the team did amazing this year, when you make it to the final four, it is very difficult to complain about anything," said Mahan.

Not only did the team improve its skills, but it also bonded. Their goal as a team was not to take any game for granted and to play to win. The toughest opponent during the regular season was North Muskegon. This game ended in a 1-1 tie and was called because of weather. When asked what the team was going to work on and try to improve for next year, Coach Mahan responded, "Something we need to improve for next year is our consistency on offense, passing, and control. Once we have that, we aren't going to be any fun to play."

The team ended with a 20-4-1 record. It was a great way for seniors, Casey Reagan, Nate Rohen, Joe Gilbert, Derek Shaw, Lane Olds, and Mitch Clark to end their high school soccer career. The team claimed both the Regional and District Championship titles. In the end, every drop of sweat, sore muscle, grass stained article of clothing and every second of time the players had to give up for the good of the team was worth the memory of making it to the final four.



Photograph By: Chelsea Carlson

This year's Boys' Soccer team made it to the State Semi-Finals. The boys worked hard and are proud of how far they have come. At the final game against Grand Rapids South Christian High School, the team lost 4-0 in a hard-fought game.





Greg Rogers works to fix a HVAC system at his Career Tech class.

By: Andrea Garvey  
 From Auto Body Technology to Visual Design, or from Public Safety to Financial Management, Muskegon Career Tech offers a large variety of different areas for students to gain experience in different career fields.

Greg Rogers, a senior at Whitehall High School, has Career Tech added to his daily school schedule. The field he works in is Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC). In this class, the students are given difficult jobs to perform that are similar to what is done in the real world by HVAC technicians. Rogers said, "Some of the work is on computers and other work is done by building and/or fixing real HVAC systems."

Rogers said that this is his second year in HVAC, and he has responsibilities that greatly differ from his first year in the class. "This year, I was elected foreman of the team," Rogers said. "Now I have to be a leader in the classroom and when we go out to work on houses." Rogers admitted that whenever another student makes a mistake, he is responsible because he is currently the foreman of the team. Rogers said that he is glad that his teacher does not make his job any easier than it normally would be just because he is a student, because that is how everything works in the real world. However, he claimed that being in the class makes him feel more independent, and it makes him want to work even harder.

Although there are many advantages, there are disadvantages from being in Career Tech. Leaving school earlier has been an inconvenience. Rogers said, "I have not been able to attend the academic awards assembly for the past two years. I was supposed to receive academic awards both years."

Career Tech students sacrifice some high school activities in order to attend Muskegon Area Career Tech Center. Rogers looks past it all, as he works toward his Bachelors of Science in HVAC degree from Ferris University. FSU works closely with Muskegon Career Tech to give students more options. Being in Career Tech is a great experience for Rogers and other Career Tech students.



## Brand New!

[www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com)

- Make deposits and monitor your student's meal account!
- At no cost, you can monitor items your student has been purchasing at lunch
- For a \$2.00 per deposit fee, you can deposit money into your student's account
- Any questions? Contact Dan Gorman, Food Service Director, at [dangorman@whitehallschools.net](mailto:dangorman@whitehallschools.net)

### Valhalla

This newsletter is produced by the Viking Communications class of Whitehall High School. Students in grades nine through twelve learn various skills producing this newsletter. Writing, photography, layout, interviewing, and

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