

Viking Press

Volume I,
Issue 5

March 2011

*Inside this
issue:*

March's
Calendar 2

April's
Calendar 3

Counselors'
Corner 4

Principal's
Note

Academics 5

Fine Arts/
Clubs and
Birthdays 6

Sports 7

Student
Spotlight 8



Sticks and Stones

By: Andrea Garvey

Whether it is in the form of a fist, words, or a Facebook comment, bullying is a reality in Whitehall High School. Unfortunately, it occurs every day. Name calling, put downs, rumors, and physical fights are all forms of bullying. Recently, students are also using social networks like Facebook, email, or texts to bully others.

Every two years, The Muskegon County Health Department surveys freshmen in the county. In the survey, which is the school's domain, students anonymously answer questions about sex, drugs, alcohol, and bullying. Within the last year, according to the survey, 92% of Whitehall students said they have heard others get put down or called names one or more times; 92% of students said they have heard rumors or lies spread about another student one or more times; 55% of students said they saw another student get purposely excluded from one game or activity one or more times; 25% of students said they have read rumors off the Internet about another student one or more times; and 14% of students said they have read threats through the Internet one or more times.

Those statistics explain what the students see or experience. The teachers have a different perspective on how much bullying occurs. Out of the five teachers that were interviewed, two said that they saw bullying occur in their classroom, the hallways or online, and three said that they haven't seen it at all. When the five of them were asked which bullying they thought was more common among this generation, two of them said emotional bullying, and three of them said cyber bullying.

The five teachers were also asked if they could do more as a teacher to prevent bullying. Mrs. Cindy Moore, the choir teacher, said that one of the things she could do would be to make herself more available to the students who are being bullied and to, "keep an ear more to the community," around her. One thing that Ms. Leigha Golden, Mr. Marty Shafer, Mr. James Morningstar, and Mrs. Deanna Cullen all had in common was they already take occasional time in class to discuss a common theme that prevents bullying- tolerance. The four teachers said they explain to their classes that although people may disagree, they should all respect each other.

Local school districts are not the only ones which take bullying seriously. The state has a policy that encourages schools to enforce a local policy that prohibits bullying, and to act upon it by talking to both the victims and the bullies to resolve the issues. One of the biggest issues high school Principal Mr. Dale McKenzie said he faces is that there will be cases where students are bullied but will not say anything to anyone about it. The problem is that if a victim has to deal with bullying, that will influence their grades and attendance because of how much of an impact bullying has on a person. If students do not address this problem, the school has no way to resolve it.

(Please continue on page 4)

FACESPACE



*An example of a social network login page;
where most bullying begins.*

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2	3	4	5	
		ACT/ MMIE for Juniors					
6	7	8 <i>Full Day 1st hr Exams</i>	9 <i>1/2 Day 2nd and 3rd Hr Exams</i>	10 <i>1/2 Day 4th and 5th Hr Exams</i>	11 <i>No School Professional Development For Staff</i>	12 <i>Band- Irish Festival</i>	
13	14 <i>3rd Trimester Begins</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>Talent Show HS Auditorium @ 7:00 p.m.</i>	19	
	<i>Spring Sports Officially Begin</i>		District Choral Festival Grand Haven				
20	21	22 <i>"An Evening of Chamber Music"</i>	23	24	25	26 <i>State HS Solo & Ensemble Festival</i>	
27	28	29	30	31			

For information on the games and times, please see the spring sports schedule on the high school website.

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Spring Break					
10	11 <i>Back to School</i>	12	13	14 <i>Junior Career Fair @ Reeths Puffer HS</i>	15	16
17	18	19	20 Full day for students Parent/Teacher Conferences 5-8	21	22 No School (Good Friday)	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Mid-Marks</i>	30

For information on the games and times, please see the spring sports schedule on the high school website.

“Sticks and Stones” continued...

However, McKenzie also explained how most of the bullying doesn't even go on in the classrooms or hallways. He said that social media (MySpace, Facebook, etc.) and text messaging are where most of the bullying takes place. In fact, McKenzie said that there was a recent issue between two students where he had to make one student block the bully's number and block him/her off of Facebook. Even though bullying is working its way through technology, Whitehall Schools continue to try to resolve issues.

The students' perspectives on bullying, however, varies. Nine students were randomly asked a few questions. Five of the nine students said they think cyber bullying happens the most, and four students said emotional bullying occurs more. Two male students claimed to be bullies, and seven other students said that they were neither a bully nor a victim. The controversial question came up- should the school be allowed to make a student delete a comment off Facebook if it affects another student negatively? Three students think Whitehall Schools should have that right, and six students said no. Anna Goddard, a freshman, who agreed with the school monitoring students' actions through the Internet, thought that if the comment disrupts class time, the school should make students delete the hurtful comment. However, a sophomore, Halie Wabsis, disagreed because she said that Facebook isn't school property, therefore, the school shouldn't have a say in who deletes any comments.

The face of bullying is really changing due to Facebook, text messaging, and emails. Some say it is even worse. However, from a different angle, cyber bullying is also avoidable. As for the bullying in the classroom or hallways, all the student has to do is tell someone so the conflict can be resolved. Yes, bullying is a problem, but like any other problem, it can also be solved.

Counselors' Corner

Summer Talented Youth Program

If you are in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade you may be able to earn six free college credits this summer at Muskegon Community College. Applications are available in the Student Services Office. Pick one up soon, because you must apply to MCC, fill out the Talented Youth Program application, and take the MCC placement tests by March 25.

Junior Career Fair

All Juniors will be attending the Muskegon County Career Fair on April 14 at Reeths-Puffer High School. Over 150 individuals will be there representing career fields, colleges, and the military branches. Students will travel by bus during the school day. Juniors should be checking their school email for more information about the Career Fair.

Principal's Note



Mr. Dale McKenzie

The 3rd trimester is here, and the end of the year activities will be fast approaching. We will be sending a letter home to all Seniors regarding graduation activities. Please look for this in the mail and also on our website. The master schedules for the 2011-2012 school year will be developed right after spring break. If you have any questions regarding the 2011-2012 schedule, please give me a call. Enjoy the 3rd trimester and the beautiful spring weather.

Academics

Securing Financial Independence

By: Lauren Throne

When planning their senior schedule, some students may not realize that they can fulfill their required math credit by taking a Senior Finance Class to help plan their financial future. Senior Finance is taught by Mrs. Carrie Goodrich. This class is one trimester long. Senior Finance units taught include: values, goals, life cycle of financial planning, understanding your paycheck, spending plans, saving, investing, saving tools, identity theft, credit report, credit cards, insurance, housing, and transportation. Students who choose to take Senior Finance participate in many hands-on activities, including being able to teach second and fifth graders a lesson on saving and investing their money. Senior Finance is an elective class that was designed to help seniors who are in need of a math credit their senior year. Students are required to take four years of math classes to fulfill the Michigan Merit Curriculum in order to graduate. According to Mrs. Goodrich, "It is a course that addresses the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors associated with the management of family economics and financial education." Greg Madendorp, a current senior, who is very involved in track and cross country, took this class because he needed another math credit. Madendorp would recommend this class to students for next year but felt that the most challenging part of the class was the insurance section. Overall, Madendorp would describe the class as, "a good learning tool to prepare for college and beyond." Senior Finance is a very hands-on class as well. Madendorp's favorite class activity was a review game called "spoons" that was used with the insurance unit. The students played the card game with their insurance terms.

Senior Finance is meant to prepare students for successful management of their personal finances. This is very useful because many young people can get caught up in their life and not realize that their financial situation is less than satisfactory. Ironically, financial decisions made within the first five years of graduating can have a dramatic impact on students' financial futures. Being unprepared or financially irresponsible can make the difference between being a "billionaire" or having to collect welfare. Senior Finance is different than most classes at Whitehall because it focuses mainly on preparing students for life after high school, and gives them an idea of what to expect in the "real world". Instruction for this class includes hands-on activities, as well, as lectures, group discussion, guest speakers, use of technology, and other methods. Students have the opportunity to work both individually and as part of a small group to complete assignments. Above all, students will walk away from Senior Finance knowing they have taken the first of many right steps in the path of financial success.



Ashley Pladies, Clarissa Ingle, Jacob Uithoven, and Dre Lewis play a game with second-grade kids.



Meghan Mead, Tiffany Campbell, and Devin Beals read to second-grade students.



Carrie Pollock, Dominick Hull, and Lucas Conkle work with second graders on their math.

Fine Arts/ Clubs

Building Business Skills

By: Ben Fielstra

The workforce is constantly changing. Society continually raises standards and expectations for the younger generation in an effort to mold a more intelligent and efficient society. By offering programs such as Business Professionals of America, Whitehall gives its students the opportunity to become more competent individuals in the business world.

What is Business Professionals of America? According to the BPA website, it is a student organization that teaches students to prepare for the world workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. Students exhibit their ability to solve problems concerning finance, management, information technology, and computer skills. Furthermore, students who demonstrate exceptional performances within their event participate at state and national levels. A total of 21 Whitehall students will attend the BPA State Competition in Grand Rapids at the Amway Grand Plaza March 24-27. If students advance to the BPA National Competition, they will compete in their event in Washington, D.C. May 4-8. Many members have participated in Business Professionals of America all four years of high school. Senior Rachel Copley, who has participated in the organization all four years said, "BPA is a great way to meet other people and learn more about the professional world. It is also a lot of fun and an unforgettable experience." Several members recently joined the organization seeking the exciting experience of going to the state and national competition that veteran members always look forward to attending.

Linda Welsh, leader of the BPA chapter at Whitehall High, has worked with students for 11 years. Welsh said, "I love watching students gain confidence, skills, experiences, and friendships! I think BPA opens doors to experiences that some students wouldn't otherwise get to have such as getting recognized on stage in front of 2,000 people, flying to a national conference, and experiencing another state such as California."

State Qualifiers for BPA

Advanced Interview Skills	Rebecca Browand
Advanced Office Systems	Veronica Greve
Advanced Word Processing	Janet Madendorp
Banking and Finance	Taylor Oldham
Basic Office Systems	Krystal Bean, Heather Dillon
Database Applications	Michael Pollock, Traci Spicklemire
Desktop Publishing	Ashley Ward
Financial Math & Analysis	Ray Copley
Financial Analysis Team	Krystal Bean, Jake Kellis
Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications	Michael Pollock, Kayla Jagnow
Fundamental Word Processing	Kristi Lydens
Graphic Design Promotion	Hannah Potter
Interview Skills	Kirsten Briegel
Legal Office Procedures	Summer Klomp
Management, Marketing, and Human Resources	Jake Kellis
Medical Office Procedures Concepts	Rachel Copley
Parliamentary Procedures Team	Rachel Copley, Heather Dillon, Alyssa Uganski, Rachel Uganski, Summer Klomp, Kacee Smith

Birthdays

Mar. 1

Jackson Wolf
Autumn Sherman
Francella Currier

Mar. 2

Jessica Grin
Kimberly Champoux
Kyle Zack

Mar. 3

Mackenzie Breckler
Joyce Grin
Nathaniel Burns
Austin Bush

Mar. 4

Katie Cross
Jake Erdman

Mar. 7

Joseph Strandberg
Corinne Beckman
Kaeleb Suarez-Evans

Mar. 8

Brittany White

Mar. 9

Allison Burchart
Forrest Bernhardt

Mar. 10

Christopher Saunders
Joseph Cornfield

Mar. 11

Derek Bradish
Brittany Golightly

Mar. 12

Benjamin Fielstra
Tomas Collins
Jordan Duff
Janelle Uganski

Mar. 13

Devon Schmidt
Alexander Colby
Kateri Stachowicz

Mar. 14

Anthony Bower
Lindsey Fuller

Mar. 15

Shannon Parker

Mar. 17

Kaleb Efting
Lee Waruszewski
Evan Bultema
Quentin Thrall

Mar. 19

Lauren West
Cody Kirchen
Shashaina Dagen

Sports

Whitehall's Claim to Fame

By: Blake Whittington

2011 is the year that will forever change the record books. On Saturday, November 12, the Whitehall Sports Hall of Fame will induct its first prestigious class. Whitehall Sports Hall of Fame is a program which stands to not only recognize and promote athletic accomplishments but also raise money for upcoming projects. What started as a teachers' lounge idea in 2008 is quickly becoming something that will be remembered for years to come.

The Whitehall Sports Hall of Fame is in large part a community effort. However, this would not be possible without geometry teacher and baseball coach Warren Zweigle. A teachers' lounge discussion led to naming 60 all-state athletes in the past ten years alone. Zweigle decided something needed to be done. A committee of Zweigle and other coaches: Kirk Mikkelson, Scott Hector, Bryan Mahan, Ken Jahn, Greg Russell and Ted Edsall was formed and the project was underway.

Nominees for the Whitehall Sports Hall of Fame must be a Whitehall alumni that has been graduated for ten years. There will be only three to four athletes inducted per year ensuring the Hall of Fame remains an exclusive group of athletes for Whitehall to showcase. Nomination forms for the Whitehall Sports Hall of Fame are available on the school website at <http://www.whitehallschools.net/athletics/whitehallathletichalloffame>.

Long-time coach and Whitehall teaching icon Jim Heeres was very influential in the nomination process. Heeres also served as an invaluable contact during the research phase of nominees. Heeres' vivid memory made it much easier for the committee to determine the scope of the accomplishments of athletes. Committee members Hector and Mikkelson agreed, "Heeres helps us out with the toughest part- coordinating and validating all accurate information."

The gym hallway area will become home to the Whitehall Sports Hall of Fame. Along with the Hall of Fame, students and spectators will notice several other honors and certificates. Every player to attend Whitehall High School and play Division I athletics will have a framed jersey and description. All teams that have claimed a state championship will be featured with a picture and plaque. Also all athletes who have received the title First Team All-State will be represented by a plaque.

Honored athletes will be proud in mid-November, and Whitehall will be proud for years to come.



Student Spotlight

Learning Lifestyles

By: Elise Shaffer

Studying is a big part of high school academics. Most students have to work extremely hard to achieve a good grade while some don't work as hard. Here are a few comments from students about their study habits and advice.

"In middle school, I never studied, never looked over notes and did great on tests. When I came into the high school I quickly realized it was very different than that. In ninth grade, it was total opposite and you had to study to reach the grades you wanted. I had to change my study habits and start to study for every test."
– Grant Santa Ana (Freshman)



"Studying has always been a big part in my life. I studied all through middle school and still I study my hardest for every test. I will always continue studying because it always makes me feel better when taking tests and helps me memorize and know my facts better."
–Heather Dillon (Senior)

"Studying doesn't work for me. I just look at the book once and get how to do most of the work. I have never studied for a test and still achieve great grades."
– Nate Zack (Senior)



"Take advantage of every second you have to study. Studying a lot really pays off and will get you to the grade you want."
– Janelle Uganski (Freshman)



Far Into the Future

- Senior class meeting w/ Ms. Romine, Mrs. Tate, and Mr. McKenzie in auditorium@ 9 a.m. (April 19)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences 5-8 pm (April 20 and 21)
- No school for staff and students (April 22)
- Mid Marks (April 29)
- Prom at Fruitport Golf Club (May 7 from 8:30-11:30)
- Senior class meeting w/ Mr. McKenzie in auditorium @ 9 a.m. (May 17)
- Pick up Senior checkout sheet at lunch (May 20 & 23)
- Senior exams (May 23, 24, and 25)
- Last day for Seniors (May 26)

Valhalla

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 Newsletter Staff:

Editors: Kassey Lohman and Hannah Zwemer
Writers: Elise Shaffer, Blake Whittington, Andrea Garvey, Lauren Throne, and Ben Fielstra
Photographers: Hannah Collins, Sabina Colston, Desiree Lewellyn, and Hannah Potter
Advisor: Mrs. Bobbi VanderLeest

