

# Viking Press

## RISE AND SHINE, IT'S TIME FOR SCHOOL

By: Andrea Garvey

The ringing of alarm clocks everywhere filled the morning air as students from Whitehall District Schools got up early for school. The first day of school for Whitehall was September 6. As the school was filling up that day with students, the staff of Whitehall High School was getting ready to greet the student body with a welcoming assembly.

Mr. Bryan Mahan was the MC of the assembly. With his clever improvisational skills, Mahan introduced every speaker, teacher, sports team, and games that were played by the students. Mahan said he wanted to get students excited about coming back to school, and for students and teachers to have fun. Mr. Dale McKenzie, principal, and Mr. Ken Jahn, teacher, both spoke to the student body.

McKenzie talked about the new cell phone policy that hit home with the students at Whitehall High School. This policy allows students to have their cell phones on them more often, but they must be turned off during class.

McKenzie said it took about an hour and a half to plan for this morning event over all. McKenzie said he most enjoyed communicating the vision for the building with the student body.

Jahn's speech went in a different direction than McKenzie's. Inspired by the movie *Pay it Forward*, he spoke about the importance of helping others. This speech was more interactive, and Mr. Jahn said, "It was my intent to show students, by having them shake hands at the assembly and tell two other people they cared, how dynamic the action was and how quickly everyone could be affected." He also said, "I thought if we could help other people in need, or at least do or say something positive to another person on a regular basis, we could make Whitehall an even better place to be."

Aside from trying to get the students to be involved and excited about school this year, the assembly also welcomed new students to Whitehall. Daniel Sharpe, a freshman, said, "Whitehall High School isn't as terrifying as I thought it would be." Sharpe said he was excited about school and the assembly because it gave him a chance to see all of his old friends as well as his friends who are older. Shelby Cooley, a new student who is a junior, said that her first impression was that Whitehall High School was a great school. She said she felt connected to everyone and that the high school treated each other equally. Cooley said Whitehall High School was heart-warming to her, and this school made her feel like she belonged.

Everyone agreed this was a great way to kick off the school year. McKenzie said that he felt the assembly went well. Mahan said he would not change a thing about the assembly. Congratulations to the co-advisors of the student council, Mrs. Christine Mallory and Mrs. Bernice Switanowski, for creating such a fun way for students to be excited for the start of school. Everyone was looking forward to another great year at Whitehall High School.

October 2011

Volume II, Issue I

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### Inside this issue:

October Calendar	2
November Calendar	3
Gr8 New Rulz	4
Whitehall Steps Forward	4
Hard Work Concludes in Major Success	5
Kicking Off the Season with a New Coach	6
9,329 Apples a Day.. and Valhalla Staff	7



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

## OCTOBER

- 10/12- PSAT for Soph. and Jr.
- 10/17- Clubs Choice pickup
- 10/19- MEAP (freshmen)
- 10/22- Powder puff game @ Montague High School
- 10/27- Half day for students (P/T conferences) 12-3 p.m., 5-8 p.m.
- 10/31- Halloween, students are welcome to wear costumes

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 *	20	21	22 *
23	24	25	26	27 *	28	29
30	31 *					

### Whitehall/ Montague Fashion Show

The Montague/ Whitehall fashion show will be at the Montague Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 18. The show is free but donations will be appreciated. Donations raised from the Whitehall audience will go toward "The Make a Wish Foundation". The money raised from Montague is going toward the DECA Project. Raising money will be a competition between the two school districts. Hope to see you there! Any questions please contact Sarah Griffin or Kassey Lohman.

### Blood Drive

There will be a community Blood Drive November 14, in the high school band room. The time of this event is yet to be determined, announcements will be made regarding the time at a later date. There are special requirements one must meet in order to donate blood, please see the link below. All blood donations will go to the American Red Cross Association for medical purposes of those in need. For more information contact Kim Champoux or Hannah Collins.

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood/eligibility-requirements>

# NOVEMBER

- 11/4- NO SCHOOL, NHS leaf rake 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 11/10- Lip Sync at 7 p.m. in the auditorium
- 11/14 NHS Blood Drive
- 11/18- Whitehall/Montague Fashion Show
- 11/21- 1st hour exams, full day
- 11/22- Half day, 2nd and 3rd hour exams
- 11/23- Half day, 4th and 5th hour exams
- 11/24- NO SCHOOL
- 11/25 NO SCHOOL
- 11/28 second tri begins

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

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
20	21 *	22 *	23 *	24 *	25 *	26
27	28 *	29	30			

## Birthdays

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| Oct. 14-<br>Dylan Hall<br>Madison Bonebrake<br>Hunter Kurdziel  | Oct. 20-<br>Cody Sarazen<br>Jordan Hite<br>Nia Wade              | Oct. 29-<br>Zachary Carlson<br>John Amante<br>Jesse Kidner | Nov. 9-<br>Hannah Scheid<br>Zoey Elliott<br>Kameron Grear |
| Oct. 15-<br>Joshua Vogt   | Oct. 21-<br>Ashley Dore<br>Alexander Michael<br>Claudia Rockwell | Oct. 30-<br>Kalup Bentz                                    | Nov. 11-<br>Kaitlyn Mack<br>Keanyn Brown                  |
| Oct. 16-<br>Juanita Jackson<br>Nicholas Rands<br>Jerry All<br>Christina Cousins<br>Alyssa Lewis<br>Adrian Roy | Oct. 22-<br>John McIntire<br>Brayden Berson                      | Nov. 1-<br>Sarah Root<br>Keaton Smith                      | Nov. 12-<br>Elise Shaffer                                 |
| Oct. 17-<br>Sarah Schmiedeknecht  | Oct. 24-<br>Michael Flowers                                      | Nov. 3-<br>Austin Vandermolen<br>Jordan Dillinger          | Nov. 13-<br>Anthony Kelly                                 |
| Oct. 18-<br>Caitlin Machinski   | Oct. 25-<br>Sam Kuipers<br>Brittney Cain                         | Nov. 4-<br>Garrick Moss<br>Masiey Young                    | Nov. 14-<br>Kathleen Allen                                |
|   | Oct. 26-<br>Karly Griffin<br>Jeremy Carrier                      | Nov. 6-<br>Hannah Tariske                                  | Nov. 17-<br>Savannah Trombley                             |
|   |  | Nov. 7-<br>Jane Kuipers                                    | Nov. 18-<br>Andrew Granger                                |
|   |  | Nov. 8-<br>Danielle West                                   |   |

# Whitehall High School

## GR8 New Rulz

*By: Lauren Throne*

Excitement was in the air at the assembly held in the Whitehall High School gymnasium on the first day of school. There were rumors spreading about a change in the cell phone rules, but most students could not believe that the rules might change. It was only after Principal Dale McKenzie stated the new rules that students finally began to realize that Whitehall High School wasn't keeping the same rules that students had been honoring since the 1990s.

McKenzie stated "Cell phones need to be turned off and out of sight during class. If a teacher wants students to use phones in class they may. Students may use them (their phones) at lunch and between classes."

As soon as McKenzie began stating the new policy students began to cheer. He patiently waited for students to quiet down and continued with the new rules. "Teachers' concerns were phones being used during tests. Students might try to take pictures of the test and share it with their friends or text each other answers. We don't want this to happen, so teachers are allowed to take students' phones before they hand out a test."

When asked what brought on the change of rules, McKenzie answered, "Phones are a part of students' lives. They've been here for a while and they're not going to go away. Technology is moving forward and we need to keep up with it."

Previously, students' cell

phones were required to be turned off and in their lockers all day. McKenzie admitted that he had thought about changing the rule all summer and was nervous about changing it. "It will probably be after we get back from winter break when I stop being nervous. Students need to be constantly reminding and checking each other so that I don't have to switch it back to the way things were. I don't want to have to do that."

Teacher Scott Hector said, "I think the vast majority of our students are responsible and behave respectfully. The policy opens us up to some serious repercussions if a member of the small minority abuses the privilege and does something they shouldn't. However, I believe that students here are respectful and if they are not our administration will address the issue swiftly and fairly."

Mr. Morningstar said, "I don't mind as long as it doesn't interfere with my class. Now the bells, I want those back! I am a creature of habit."

"I like it, because if I forget stuff I can tell my dad to bring it to me," said freshman Stephen Ogden.

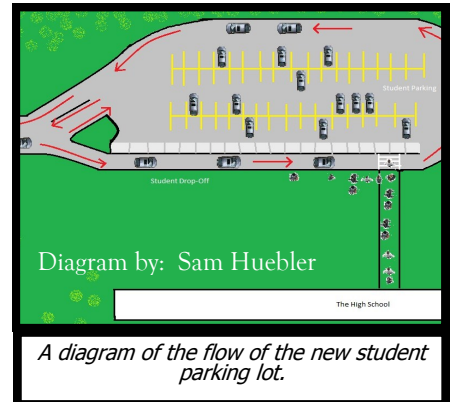
"I like it, because I have friends who are graduated and friends in other states, and I can talk to them at lunch. It's hard to talk to them after school because I work," said senior Kim Champoux.

"Since I don't have a phone it sucks," said sophomore Hunter Shaw.

## Whitehall Steps Forward

*By: Sam Huebler*

As the 2011-2012 school year fell into session, several big changes and developments exhilarated students and faculty at Whitehall High School. In the last



few months, the parking lots at Whitehall High were renovated. The east side of the building is now where the faculty parks, along with the bus drop-off and pick-up. Parents are to come in through the west entrance and follow the path as directed all the way around the parking lot after dropping off students at the crosswalk. Students also park on the west side of the high school. It is permitted to take a left at the top of the hill when entering the parking lot.

Nicole Kelley, a Whitehall senior said, "I don't like the new parking lots because it's small and hard to get into. The parents have to drive around the entire parking lot to exit." Elise Shaffer, a Whitehall junior said, "I like the new parking lots because it's bigger spaced and not so crowded. It's way easier to get out so there isn't a huge line when we're trying to exit." Another student, Dustin

# Whitehall High School

Ruzicka, said, "I like the lines and the way its paved but the parking spaces are too small for my truck so I end up taking two spaces." These are some of the many opinions that circulated the building about the new parking areas.

One other advancement in the schools was the new Smart Boards in every classroom. "I like how they can do so many different things at once. They were surprisingly organized," said Jordan Jerome, a Whitehall sophomore. In most classrooms, students get to go in front of the class and interact with the Smart Board during lessons. "It is important to keep up with the current technology and Smart Boards are perfect for aiding and engaging students in their learning," said Mr. McKenzie, the high school principal, "We are only scratching at the surface of what Smart Boards can do."

In addition, the sports facilities were updated and created. Now at Whitehall High School campus, there is a new tennis complex. Their opening home match was September 17, 2011. The old tennis courts at the middle school were demolished. Taking their place was a practice football field for the middle school players. Also at the middle school, the soccer field is now shared with the football field and has a brand new concessions building along with locker rooms for home and



Photo by: Nichole Sloan

*The revised staff parking lot.*

visiting teams. The bleachers were extended for an exclusive section for the marching band. Near the freshly painted water tower, the John C. Huizenga Baseball Field is being fixed up along with the girls' softball field. "We have so many exciting things going on in Whitehall Schools. Our buildings look great and our fields are remarkable," said the new superintendent Jerry McDowell. With all of these amazing developments in the district, the schools are becoming more useful, productive, and helpful for students' every day achievements.

## **Hard Work Concludes in Major Success**

*By: Jessica Harris*

As Mrs. Deanna Cullen's sweet voice rang through Whitehall students' ears in her chemistry classroom, no one ever guessed her success was right around the corner. Cullen participated in a three-year program at the campus of Grand Valley State University, called Target Inquiry. The long hard work was well worth the amazing accomplishments from her scientific chemistry entry in The Journal of Chemical Education.

The purpose of the program was to advise chemistry teachers to incorporate inquiry learning into their classes. In the summer of 2008, eight West Michigan chemistry teachers began this program by starting a research project. Cullen's project was about antibacterial resistant bacteria. Not

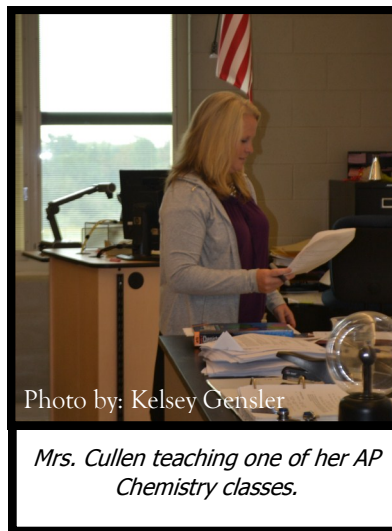


Photo by: Kelsey Gensler

*Mrs. Cullen teaching one of her AP Chemistry classes.*

too long after, in the spring of 2009, Cullen presented her project at a regional American Chemical Society conference in Illinois. Each of the eight teachers in her division had two

research projects which were also published on the GVSU website. These projects and labs were used by teachers all over the world. They were given a package of instructions to run the projects. In August 2010, Cullen presented her periodic table at the Biennial Conference of Chemistry Education (BCCE) in Denton, Texas. Her division also presented their second project. For Cullen, her project was about Electrochemistry. Electrochemistry is a branch of chemistry which studies chemical reactions in a solution with conductors and the transfer between the electrolyte and electrode. She tested her 2009-2010 Advanced Placement chemistry class before and after they took her lab. She found her class progressed after taking the lab. The lab consisted of an electrochemist cell that the students could easily manipulate. The lab assisted students in their understanding of electrochemistry concepts by explaining what was happening at each level. Cullen wrote her article about her electrochemistry lab and it is published in The Journal of



## Hard Work Concludes in Major Success Continued...

### Chemistry Education.

Principal of Whitehall High School, Mr. Dale McKenzie, said, "Wow! This is just simply amazing and it is so awesome that one of our own staff members did this. It shows just how knowledgeable she is! This is such a great personal record for Whitehall District Schools." This was one of the highest magnitudes of success a Whitehall staff member has ever had in Whitehall District Schools according to McKenzie. The Target Inquiry was extremely tough and intense for all of the teachers who participated in this program. Cullen found herself making many strong bonds both professionally and personally with the teachers she

worked with. She used what she learned from this program in her classes every day and was proud of the work she and the other teachers accomplished. She has learned to use her resources and everything else that was usable in her classroom and in her life from this process. "I have always enjoyed writing, so it was exciting for me to work on the article. Now that I have gone through the process, I am more likely to write another article," said Cullen. Cullen had to rewrite her article five times before even submitting it to the journal. Once the journal accepted her article, she had to go through four more rounds of rewriting her article until it could be published

into the journal. Also, she would like to thank her GVSU division for advising her through this journey and for editing her paper.

Cullen's three-year program was inspiring and successful. She persevered strenuously. She also plans on writing more articles about chemistry. Cullen, who has been teaching for 18 years at Whitehall District Schools, is a staff member Whitehall High School is very proud to have.

## Kicking Off the Season with a New Coach

*By: Sam Sawyer*

It is a bright new year at Whitehall High School, with a new team, new stats, a new field, and a new coach. Many might know of Cliff Sandee as part of the football community over the past few years, the varsity wrestling coach, and one of Whitehall Middle School's teachers. This year he is also the new head coach of the Whitehall High School's Varsity Football Team. Leading toward success, Sandee lives up to the name of head football coach. Looking back on recent years, the Vikings continue to work hard to redeem the title of champions.

After a sudden change in plans, Dan Holden, Whitehall's former head coach, earned the job as Newaygo High School's new athletic director. With the position open, Sandee was immediately brought in to fill the position. "...It's not much different from

assistant coach," said Sandee. "I'm more involved with the team. Spending more time with them helps me get to know them on a whole different level."

Antwan Burks, a junior football player, is very positive about the surprising change in coaches after having a short notice of just two weeks before the first game of the season kicked off. "...I think Mr. Sandee becoming head coach wasn't that bad. We all knew him and he coached us through seventh and eighth grade. He's a great coach and we have a big season ahead!"

The team progressed into the season and put in a lot of hard

work and effort to create their 5-2 record. After considering that the last time the Vikings qualified for the playoffs was in 2006, many of the teammates made the weight room a top priority off season and all through the summer. "I'm just there to guide the team," said Sandee. "The way the season is

going isn't because of me, it's because of them." Although both Coach Sandee and the team along with dedicated fans are very pleased with how the season is going, Sandee still keeps in mind that there is room for improvement. He says

not to be "mad or happy about a game" because there is a long way to go in the season and a lot can happen before the end.

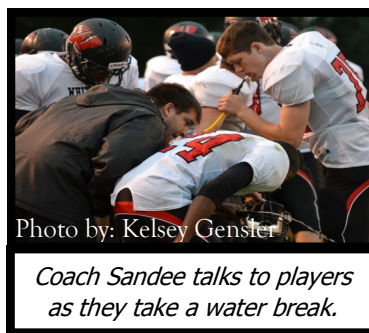


Photo by: Kelsey Genster

*Coach Sandee talks to players as they take a water break.*

## 9329 apples a Day...

Wednesday, October 5, Whitehall District Schools joined five other districts in Muskegon County in an attempt to break the world record for the most people eating an apple at one time. The purpose of this event was to promote healthy eating and local agriculture, according to Whitehall/Montague Food Service Director Dan Gorman. High school students and staff formed a "W" on the practice fields while our very own Mr. Mike Snell flew above with a yearbook staff member to get aerial photos. Mr. Goodrich counted down for everyone to bite into their apples at 2:12 p.m. Shoreline Elementary students and staff formed an apple on the old soccer field, while Ealy and the Middle school scattered on the track. Although the record would be unofficial, Dan Gorman hopes to report to Guinness next year with the new record of 9,329 people eating apples at one time throughout the participating districts.



Photo by: Hannah Collins

*Shoreline students eating apples.*



Photo by: Nichole Sloan

*Students at the middle school raise apples in excitement.*

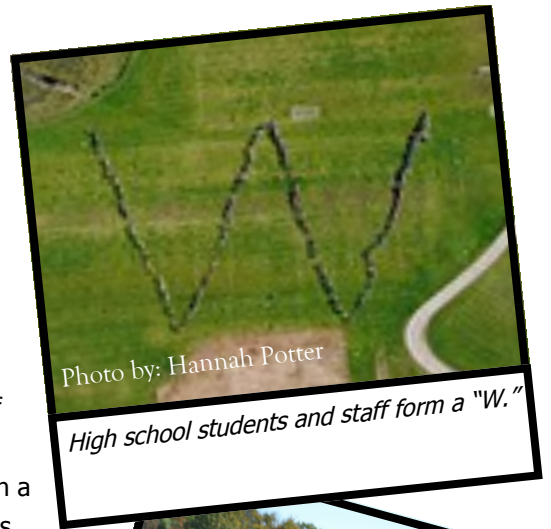


Photo by: Hannah Potter

*High school students and staff form a "W."*



Photo by: Sabina Colston

*High school students get ready to take a bite.*

## 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.



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