

Viking Press

A NEW PLAN FOR THE ACT

By: Andrea Garvey

Time is going fast this year since the ACT/PLAN testing is getting closer. This year, on Tuesday, March 6, the juniors of Whitehall will take the ACT test along with sophomores who have chosen to take it. Sophomores will take the PLAN test, both of which will start at 8:00 A.M. While juniors and sophomores will be testing, all freshmen and seniors will not be expected to attend school that day. The PLAN test will be done at 11:00 A.M., and the ACT will end at 1:00 P.M. Lunch will be provided for the juniors but not sophomores. Bussing will be provided for the sophomores, but juniors will need to arrange a ride home or take the normal bus route home. During the following Wednesday and Thursday, March 7 and 8, juniors are scheduled for another test, the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which will be from 7:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. All students will report these days for a regular school day.

Mr. Dale McKenzie, the principal of Whitehall High School, described the ACT test as a standardized test that is taken to determine where students are in their education, and how ready they are for college. It is required by the state government that all juniors take the ACT. The PLAN test is a test very similar to the ACT and is like an ACT pretest. The MME, McKenzie explains, is not standardized and is comparable to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP). This test focuses more on how well the students understand Michigan's high school content standards.

In the past, the ACT/PLAN testing took place in the choir and band rooms every year, which allowed a large number of students to all test at the same time. As opposed to that schedule, this year the juniors will report to the classrooms upstairs for the ACT test, and sophomores downstairs for the PLAN test, both of which will be taken in multiple classrooms with roughly fifteen students per classroom. McKenzie believed this idea was better because the fewer students there are, the better the environment will be for a student to take a test.

Last year's ACT test takers Kirsten Briegel and Dalton Grimm, who are currently seniors, took the ACT with a different schedule. "I think the testing was over a span of three days," Briegel said. "Each day we reported directly to our assigned room based on our last name and then from there we took the ACT, work keys, and the MME. The testing was split up each day, so we only had one test per day."

The PLAN test is given to every sophomore in preparation for the ACT. Briegel and Grimm have a contrasting opinion on whether the PLAN test really helps. Briegel believes that the PLAN test was too much for her because she said her test score on the PLAN was way off compared to her results from the ACT. However, Grimm said, "The PLAN test was a tremendous help. The PLAN really gives you a glimpse of what to expect on the ACT. It also introduces you into a timed testing experience; something most sophomores are not used to."

Briegel said that another good way to prepare for the ACT was the ACT prep class. Briegel learned many strategies to eliminate answers and how to use the letter of the day. Grimm said the ACT prep class helped a little. However, he also said practicing on his own time really helped him. Grimm did this by purchasing an ACT practice book, which he said included multiple full length tests, tips, etc.

For all juniors and sophomores who need more suggestions, talk to seniors and juniors you know who have already taken the ACT/PLAN tests. Also ask teachers any questions you have before March 6. Good luck to all the ACT/PLAN test takers this year.

January 2012

Volume II, Issue IV

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For information on the games and times, please see the winter 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	31				

JANUARY

- 1/3- School resumes
- 1/16- NO SCHOOL
- 1/18- Clubs and Orgs pictures
- 1/26- Half day— Parent Teacher Conferences: 12-3 pm and 5-8 pm

Haven't ordered a yearbook yet? Get one now! They are \$55, and \$60 if you would like a name printed on the cover. Order through March. Click on the link below to get your 2011/2012 yearbook now:

<https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/>

FEBRUARY

- 2/17- 20- NO SCHOOL, Mid- Winter break
- 2/21- School resumes
- 2/29- Half day a.m. only

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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 *			

Birthdays

Jan. 28- Megan Lapree
Kobe Mayhew

Jan. 29- Antwan Burks
Victor Keith
Robert Hawkins
Kaitlin Bowen

Jan. 31- Sidney Norris
Austin Carlson
Ashley Golightly

Feb. 1- Lake Pickard

Feb. 2- Dustin Ruzicka
D'Mario Walsh

Feb. 3- Chance Moreen
Alejandro Reyna
Jordan Bullock
Cameron Chester

Feb. 4- Travis Hunt
Carlie Bishop

Feb. 5- Matthew Murphy
Trevor Picard
Jourdain Joslin

Feb. 7- Brenna Hayes
Dakota Hoffman
Jacob Carr

Feb. 8- Jessica Friend
Robert Schneider
Steven Card

Feb. 9- Jared Jaekel
Mitchell Wilson

Feb. 10- Alayna Klco
Lainey Peterson
Matthew Thompson
Reese Wabsis
Felecia Walsh
Rebekah Beeghly

Feb. 11- Logan Irely
Kara Thomazin

Feb. 12- Hope Rillema
Kaitlin Cagney

Feb. 14- Kortnie Williams
Tony Stout

Feb. 15- Christian Zwit

Feb. 16- Paul Josephson
Lauren Throne
Andrew Jennings

Feb. 17- Morgan Kellis
Brandon Ketchum
Lauren McGahan

Feb. 18- David Corder
Patrick Gilland
Tyler Goerbig
Austin Hite

Feb. 19- Chase Barnard
Marcus Moore

Feb. 20- Austin Cole
Sarah Gautraud
Drew Courser

Feb. 21- Samantha Sherwood
Tyler Carr
Scott Jackson
Gary Kroening

Feb. 22- Jacob Colquitt
Olivia Frazier-Guerrero
Noah Sroka

Feb. 23- Eric Veurink
Patricia Roldan

Feb. 24- Kodi Minyard
Stefani Trask
Kelsee Connell

Whitehall High School

Rocket Riley

By: Lauren Throne

When the topic of winter sports arises, the typical student thinks of the sports that Whitehall High School has to offer such as basketball and wrestling. It is not often that a student will think of sliding, even though the only luge track in the USA open to the public is located in North Muskegon. However, there is one student from Whitehall whose entire life revolves around sliding.

Riley Stohr, a sophomore at Whitehall, was first introduced to sliding at the age of 10, when his dad encouraged him to test out the track at the Muskegon Winter Sports Complex. Stohr had to go down the track only twice before he was hooked on the sport and decided to join the Luge Club. It didn't take long before a visitor watched Stohr luge and said, "Man that kid goes like a rocket." The name stuck, and he became known as "Rocket Riley".

The young athlete's career soon began to snowball to lengths his family never dreamed of achieving. Toward the end of his second year sliding when Stohr was 11, the Muskegon

coach sent him to Lake Placid to try out for the national team. Stohr's chances were slim, but he managed to receive a letter from USA Luge welcoming him to the D team. USA Luge is broken down into four levels; A,B,C,D. The D team is where everyone starts. Due to his extreme involvement with his sport, it is difficult for Stohr to balance schoolwork with his training. It is rare that Stohr is able to attend school in Whitehall, so he mainly studies online.

Soon enough, Stohr had the opportunity to train on a track in Austria. This was where Coach Duncan Kennedy, who is known for rarely complimenting anyone, stated that Stohr was one of the most improved athletes he had ever seen. The next year, Stohr moved up to the C team, meaning more time away from his family. He was able to go on a trip to Calgary, Canada, and spend a week learning that track. Coaches believe that he may be the only US athlete to luge five different tracks by the time he was 14.

According to Stohr's dad, his 2011-2012 season started out rough. He spent a month and a half during the summer in Lake Placid until he crashed on his sled and severely fractured his right foot in three places.

After two and a half months, he was cleared to slide. He had to build a sled from spare parts but didn't get all the bolts tight. As a result, his first run down he crashed, striking the same foot. He did not have any fractures, but he was back on crutches for another week and a half.

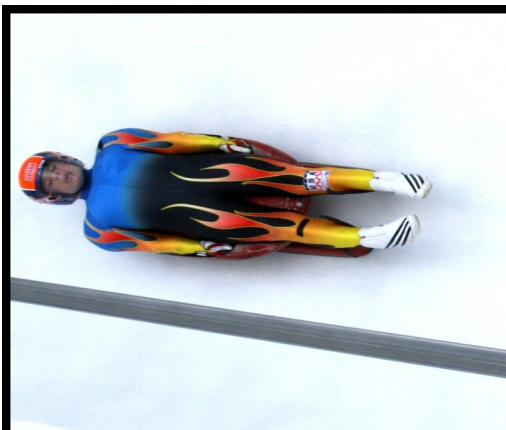
Sliding is a physically and mentally demanding sport. To be a luge athlete, you have to be able to withstand up to five G's of pressure while sliding at 70-80 mph on an iced track, and making split second adjustments and maneuvers in a sport that measures time to the 1000th of a second. To be able to keep up with this, Stohr is required to spend hours in the weight room and gym building up his body strength. During testing, he did three chin-ups with 40 lb. weights attached to his 160 lb. body.

Although Stohr's sliding career has been unforgettable, it has only just begun. In five years, he hopes to be on his last year of Junior legibility and try out for the Senior National Team. There is no doubt that Rocket Riley will be able to soar through whatever he sets his mind to.

Leader of the Pack

By: Jessica Harris

"Lights, camera, action!" said Mr. Vince Browand, director of Whitehall High School's musical *Leader of the Pack*. The stage lit up and students shone. The first song was sung, and the crowd was in the palm of their hand. After long hours of working together,



Pictured above is Riley Stohr sliding on an ice track.

Whitehall High School

this was a musical that showcased brilliant young talent.

The directors of *Leader of the Pack* were Cindy Moore; vocal instructor, Vince Browand; choreographer, Julie Browand; pianist, and Greg Boughton; acting instructor. All of the directors of the musical were important and vital to learning parts, acting, singing, and dancing. "Even though in the beginning the cast was a bit off task, they soon became focused and worked hard together. They have improved greatly," said Boughton. Moore said, "The cast was young in experience, but they were very passionate and energetic." The main characters of the cast were:

Ellie Greenwich; Stephanie Cross, Jeff Barry; Mike Miller, Gus Sharky; Josh Keller, Annie Golden; Marlee Anderson, Darlene Love; Emily Dennis, Tina Turner; Shelby Cooley, Patti Darcy and Shelley; Kara Potter, Waitress; Libby Gillhespy, Lounge waitress; Zoey Elliott, Rosie Greenwich; Alayna Klco, Mickey; Claire Beaman, and Jivette; Jasmine Sharpe.

The musical was an autobiography of Ellie Greenwich. She was a young girl who wanted to become a musical artist. The musical took place in New York during the 1960's and began with young Ellie who dreamt of being the best songwriter in the country. When Ellie aspired to be a songwriter, her mother commanded her to get an educational degree before she became a composer. In Ellie's spare time, she sang in a small,

funky group called the Jivettes. They send one of their best songs, the "*Jivette Boogie Woogie*," to the head of the singing foundation in New York also known as Gus Sharky. Gus laughed at the Jivette's song, and this offended Ellie. As Ellie faced Gus, she sang her own song that Gus loved, and it became a top hit. As she started her first job as a songwriter, she met fellow songwriter, Jeff Barry. Shortly after they met, they fell in love and wrote songs together creating many popular hits. Eventually, they were married. Ellie's obsession with working and music and Jeff wanting to settle down made their relationship crumble. In the end they divorced. Even though Ellie was sad and alone, her friends were there for her. By the end of the musical, Ellie found a happy life with her music and friends.

Throughout the musical, the cast sang peppy and energetic songs. The songs were from the 1960s. "The play will be different from other musicals we have done because people will know the songs and most of the play is singing and dancing," said director Vince Browand. There were a total of 21 songs.

The costumes were based upon the 1960's era. Girls wore knee length skirts, colorful sweaters, and long beautiful dresses. Boys wore collared shirts with the collars up and vibrant blue jeans. "It was definitely a challenge to get the perfect costume, but the costumes ended up greatly fitting the era," said Moore.

According to the directors, the theme to *Leader of the Pack* was about true friendship and conflicts with choices. Ellie's friends were always there for her through rough and bad times. Also, Ellie had to pick between being Jeff's wife or her dream, which was songwriting. Following your dreams and staying true to yourself were yet other life lessons the audience learned from this play.

The musical took place at the Whitehall High School auditorium and was performed January 12-14. It was made possible by the directors, the school, and of course, the students who participated in it. People will always remember the musical and what a great accomplishment it is to Whitehall High School.

Getting Down to Business

By: Sam Huebler

Whitehall High School would like to congratulate students who attended the Business Professionals of America Regional Leadership Conference for moving on to state competition. Anyone from grades 9-12 is eligible to be a part of B.P.A. Students could choose from over 65 events to compete in. Those events were grouped into four categories including Information Technology, Financial Services, Administrative Support, and Management/Marketing/Human Resources. This year, the students showed off their imaginative talents in digital designs, presentations, and

Continued on pg. 7

BPA Results

NAME	EVENT	PLACE
Kayla Jagnow Logan Flowers Nichole Sloan Savannah Parmley	Administrative Support Team	1st
Ray Copley Zac Carlson Chris Lopez Parker Garman	Financial Analysis Team	2nd
Brayden Berson Cassie McAllister Morgen Myers Janelle Uganski	Presentation Management Team	2nd
Patrick Gilland Brandon Ketchum	Economic Research Team	2nd
Kirsten Briegel	Advanced Interview Skills	2nd
Janet Madendorp	Advanced Word Processing Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications	2nd 1st
Summer Klomp	Business Spelling	4th
	Legal Office Procedures	1st
Brandon Ketchum	Database Applications	2nd
Patrick Gilland	Database Applications	4th
Parker Garman	Database Applications	5th
Nicole Kelley	Desktop Publishing	3rd
	Graphic Design	4th
Samantha Huebler	Desktop Publishing	5th
Ray Copley	Financial Math & Analysis Open	2nd
Savannah Parmley	Fundamental Accounting	1st
Logan Flowers	Advanced Spreadsheet Applications	3rd
Hannah Potter	Graphic Design Promotion	1st
Kayla Myers	Interview Skills	2nd
Brayden Berson	Visual Basic Programming	2nd

Getting Down to Business Continued...

academic skills on January 6. The competition was at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, and the students competed against 18 other schools. Seventeen individuals and four teams excelled when they earned their awards and placed high enough to move on to the State Leadership Competition at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids in March. Their long, 12 hour day at Davenport started bright and early at 6 a.m. when the school bus arrived at the high school to take the students.

Students may have either chosen to be in a team event, individual event, or both. Typically in a team event, there are two to four people, and they have to work to create a video or presentation on the required theme. Logan Flowers, with the Administrative Support Team, said, "This is my first year of doing B.P.A. and I'm so excited that we were able to make it to the state competition." On the same team, Nichole Sloan added, "We studied and researched the material after school, so we felt more prepared." With the Economic Research Team, Patrick Gilland said, "We had to write a paper that was supposed to take four months to write in just two days. We also had to interview a lot of teachers, and they helped us with the research."

Individual events usually required the event and a test over the event material afterwards. Some individual events could be taken prior to the regional or state competitions although the written tests were still taken at the regional or state leadership conferences. Also at the conferences, students may participate in what is known as an Open Event. This means that anyone who was in B.P.A. could take an optional test over material such as accounting or spelling. It was possible for students to make it to State if they placed high enough just with these open events. After all events and testing were done, the awards ceremony took place. All of the schools gathered in the gymnasium on Davenport University's campus. Pledges were made and speeches were given at the start of the ceremony. Then representatives for B.P.A. began naming off the results.

The 2012 Business Professionals of America Regionals Leadership Conference concluded to be successful with the many awards received. A special thank you was given to Mrs. Welsh and the other parents and teachers who helped out at the regional conference this year. Unfortunately for some, this competition was the end of their B.P.A. experience this year, but many other students earned the chance to move on to the State Conference in March.

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 communication skills are just some of the advantages students gain from participating in this class.



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