

# Viking Press

## AND THE WINNER IS...

*By: Andrea Garvey*

Every year, the Coach of the Year Award is given to a wrestling coach from each of the four divisions in the state of Michigan. This year, Whitehall's very own Coach Cliff Sandee was given the Division III award. Division III is the size of the schools that have an enrollment greater than 417 students but less than 724 students.

Starting out in 2008, Sandee has been coaching wrestling in Whitehall for five years. Receiving the Coach of the Year Award, Sandee said, "I am extremely proud of this award. I think it is the highest honor a coach can receive; not just the label, but more importantly to be recognized by other coaches."

Since Sandee started coaching wrestling in Whitehall, the team has won three district titles, one regional title, and five Greater Muskegon Area Championships in those five years. This year, the wrestling team made it to the semifinals by defeating Grant and Fremont in team districts, Comstock Park and Allendale in the Regional, and Remus Chippewa Hills in the quarter final. However, the team lost to Dundee in the semifinals.

Even Mr. Dale McKenzie, principal, had something to say. "This is a great honor for Coach Sandee and Whitehall High School. He has worked hard to build a great program. It is wonderful that other coaches from around the state recognize his work ethic and his desire to have his kids be the best they can be."

The Coach of the Year Award has no criteria for winning. The process is to nominate coaches for Regional Coach of the Year Award, which eight coaches are selected. Then all the wrestling coaches in Michigan vote on who will be the recipient for the Coach of the Year Award. One coach from each of the four divisions is named coach of the year.

Sandee received one of eight Regional Coach of the Year awards prior to winning the Division III Coach of the Year Award. Sandee mentioned that, the assistant wrestling coach of Whitehall, Coach Jason Johnson, was also named Assistant Coach of the Year in the state two seasons ago. Sandee said, "I think both awards are a team effort, including all of the boys and the entire coaching staff."

Sandee said the best trait he possesses as a wrestling coach is building life-long relationships with all of the athletes he coaches. He said, "It is important that a coach lets their athletes know how much they mean to them. I tell my boys on a daily basis that I love them, and that I am proud of them and I genuinely mean it."

Hunter Shaw is a sophomore who finished his second year in wrestling this year. In Shaw's opinion, Sandee's best quality as a coach is that he puts all of his heart and emotion into coaching. Shaw also said that Sandee treats his wrestlers like a family, and those were the traits that make Sandee a great coach.

Of all the careers he could have chosen, Sandee picked the coaching field. The reasons he gave for being a wrestling coach is he loves working with kids and competing. Sandee's father was always a coach, which influenced him greatly due to the fact that he saw the influence his father had on kids' lives through the years. Sandee grew up around sports, which also gave him the passion he has for coaching.

According to Sandee, Whitehall was not the only school that gave him a

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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

## MARCH

- 3/1- Half day a.m. only (4th and 5th hour exams)
- 3/2- NO SCHOOL  
prof. development day
- 3/5- New trimester begins
- 3/6- Sophomores and Juniors take ACT/MME  
(Seniors and Freshmen do not attend)
- 3/13- Food Drive
- 3/14- Showcase at 7 p.m.
- 3/16- Talent Show at 7 p.m.
- 3/17- National History Day Contest
- 3/20- Dodgeball Teams must be submitted
- 3/22- Food Drive ends
- 3/23- Dodgeball Tournament
- 3/26- National Honor Society Induction
- 3/27 and 28- PT Conferences 5-8 p.m.
- 3/29- Full day
- 3/30- NO SCHOOL

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

# APRIL

- 4/2-4/6- SPRING BREAK
- 4/9- School resumes
- 4/27—State Band Festival

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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	30					

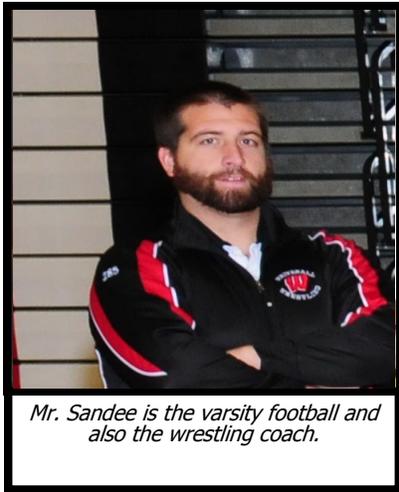
## Birthdays

Mar. 30- Logan Potter Hudson Marecek Amber Pulaski	Apr. 9- Emily MacArthur Rachel Robinson	Apr. 17- Luke Westrate Brooke Fellows Austin Garvey	May 1- Joe VanLoon
Mar. 31- Katelyn Rederstorf	Apr. 10- Jared Christenson Alexis Bays	Apr. 18- Brent Phillipo Logan Petrie	May 2- Kaleb Huff Zachary Herbert Ian Zweigle
Apr. 1- Brandy Haynes Kyle Mueller	Apr. 11- Cameron Lewis	Apr. 22- Rachel Balkema	May 3- Mitch Boyce Logan Morningstar
Apr. 2- Chase Christenson	Apr. 12- Frank Owens Matthew McCollom Zachary Uganski Starr Woods	Apr. 23- Nathan Smith Makayla Lavasseur	May 4- Zach Balzer
Apr. 3- Renee Noom Hannah Uithoven	Apr. 13- Jacob Grinwis	Apr. 24- Daniel Fox	
Apr. 4- Logan Goins	Apr. 14- Brittany Taylor	Apr. 25- Ashley Settler Mayleigh Myers	
Apr. 5- Austin Bean John Schilbe Shelly Wilson Jaelynn North Matthew Rohen Lauren Thomas	Apr. 15- Lisa Kraai James Rissi Cheautenae Anderson Rebecca Munoz Victoria Orent	Apr. 26- Brooke Hinkley	
Apr. 6- Benjamin Freed	Apr. 16- Elissa Bradfield Shelby Hite Kaitlin Skoglund Timothy Hiemstra	Apr. 27- Nick DuBois Warren Crummett Alexis Freed Gunner Lamb	
Apr. 7- Alyssa Grover		Apr. 28- Josh Hansen	

# Whitehall High School

coaching job. Sandee said he coached boys and girls tennis at Coldwater High School. Sandee also coached baseball at both Coldwater and Kenowa Hills.

Sandee brought all his experiences, influences, and attitudes with him to Whitehall's wrestling team. Because of this, it's no wonder how he came home with the Division III Coach of the Year Award. Congratulations, Coach Sandee.



*Mr. Sandee is the varsity football and also the wrestling coach.*

## Spotlight On Whitehall

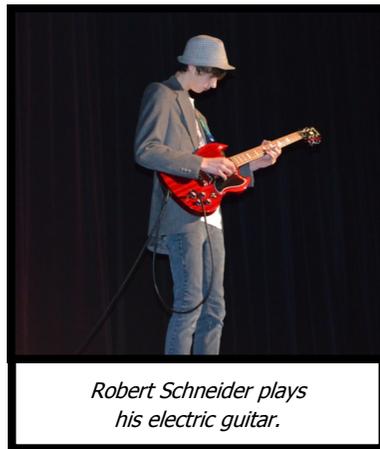
*By: Sam Huebler*

Students beamed under the bright lights as they presented themselves in front of a supportive audience on March 17 for the district-wide Talent Show at Whitehall High School. This year's talent show was directed by National Honor Society members Trevor Picard, Kaitlyn Mack, Zachary Nic, and James Cousins.

It was their NHS senior project. Mack's favorite part was, "seeing how packed the auditorium was. It was cool seeing how great of a turnout it was."

Many students decided to sing. There were six performances. One was fifth-graders Lauren Rake and Sydney Spooner who sang "Love Song" by Selena Gomez. High school junior Dylan Hall and freshmen Riley Andrew performed "Hazy" by Rosi Goslan. Junior Marcus Moore and graduated student Tanner Thompson performed "Keep Your Head Up" by Andy Grammer. Also, first-grader Kya Mahoney sang "Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer". Maddie Bond and Maddi Boyd performed "Be OK" by Ingrid Michaelson. Lastly, Morgan Mitteer and Gabby Vogler performed "Popular" from the musical *Wicked*.

Some students chose to play an instrument like Robert Schneider. He played "The Star Spangled Banner" on his electric guitar. Nate Burns also took the



*Robert Schneider plays his electric guitar.*

stage as he played a great song on the piano called "The Maple Leaf Rag." Burns is a junior and is self-taught. In addition, Riley Bond played "Swans on the Lake" on the piano. Bond is a third grader and has Mrs. Debbie Karaba as a

teacher.

Many wonderful dancers and dance groups performed during the talent show. Kayleigh Schropp performed a dance routine to "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele. Schropp, who is a freshman, has been dancing for nine years at Spotlight Dance Academy. The break dancing team Bust-A-Move, which included Graycelyn Shepherd, Evan Ritchie, and Chase Baker, worked the stage as they danced to an upbeat song. These students are all in first grade at Shoreline Elementary. Juniors Katie Beaman and Hannah Zwemer sang and danced to "Make You Feel My Love" by Adele. Beaman has been involved in multiple musical activities. She was in chamber choir and also plays the guitar. Zwemer has been dancing for 14 years. The Willow Birds performed a dance routine to "I Whip My Hair" by Willow Smith. The Willow Birds consisted of sixth grade students Ni-Aisha Cooper-Harris, Neasia Cooper-Harris, Divine Lewis, Dorrean Wright, and Aaronesia McGlothlin.

The talent show had many other interesting acts throughout the night. Megan Baker performed a great gymnastics routine where she dazzled the audience with talented flips. Baker attends Ealy Elementary and is in fourth grade with Mrs. Karey Parling. Fifth-grader Brennen Rowell, also known as "The Magic Man", performed extraordinary feats of magic. These feats consisted of cards, handkerchiefs, magic boxes, and a magic coloring book. Rowell has performed in a previous talent show and loves to do magic tricks.

The group called Dirty Mike and the Boys went to extreme measures of entertainment. Their surprise skit included chewing and swallowing already-been-chewed food. Seniors Dillon McCarthy, John

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Beeghly, Dalton Grimm, and Seth Schmiedeknecht got creative as their plan forced them to mix up food in their own mouths to make a protein shake because they did not have a blender. They used foods such as eggs, carrots, a McDonald's burger, and juices. The crowd became queasy after this unusual act but at the end gave a roaring applause.

After that, a group called Truth, which included eighth grade students Kaylee Picard, Morgan Mitteer, and Gabby Vogler performed an original song called "Sidelines". Picard originally wrote the music and over the course of several weeks, Mitteer came up with music for the violin, and Vogler thought of creative lyrics.

The final act was the middle school and varsity cheerleaders. Their performance included many stunts and flips to go along with a song mash-up, which is multiple songs put together to make one. The large group gave a lot of effort toward coming up with the new routine.

All of these acts together made up a great talent show overall and the auditorium was overloaded with people even sitting in the aisles. There was not a designated winner that night, although the experience was made memorable for the audience thanks to all of the wonderful performances.

## A Trip to the "Windy City"

*By: Sam Sawyer*

The "Windy City" was visited by a group of Whitehall students on Saturday, March 17. Whitehall's theater club, along with other WHS students, traveled to

Chicago to see the Broadway production of "Bring it On" at the Cadillac Palace Theatre. They also visited the ever famous Cheesecake Factory. The group was led by theater teacher, Lindsay DeRose. Between the delicious food at the Cheesecake Factory and the comical production, the trip was a hit.

"Bring it On" is a Broadway musical based on the well-known cheerleading movie. The creative comedy brought laughter to the crowd through its humorous lines and scenes. Along with laughter, the students also left the theatre with a life lesson or two. The musical was about team rivalries in competitive cheer. It taught the audience that winning is not everything, and that sometimes the losers are the real winners.

The Cheesecake Factory was also an enjoyable experience for many of the students. Because of all of the delicious dishes, many did not know what to choose. Most students chose a huge lunch entrée, and then decided among the many choices of cheesecake after lunch. Many students agreed that lunch was excellent, and that they would go back if they had the chance.

In the time between lunch and the musical, students got the chance to explore a small portion of Michigan Avenue. Michigan Avenue, also known as the Magnificent Mile, is a large stretch of stores and restaurants. It is a well-known tourist destination. While some went sightseeing along the street, others traveled to places like The Water Tower Place to look around and do some shopping. Although there was not much time, many students enjoyed the sights of the large buildings and crowded streets along with the unique shops and stores they do

not see every day.

Overall, students agreed that the trip to the Chicago was a success. Students expressed how they enjoyed the experience and hope to attend other similar trips in the future. Many were also interested in encouraging friends to attend future trips. Seniors, who attended, said that it was a great theater trip, and that they were glad to be a part of it. They said that it was a great way to get ready to end their high school careers, and that they will miss doing things like this. Senior Logan Ridge said, "The food was great, and the musical was really cool. I'm glad I had the opportunity to go." Some also hope that trips like this will influence students to attend future trips and even join theater class. Theater teacher Lindsay DeRose, said that it was probably her favorite theater trip so far. She said that between the fun, responsible group, and the not so typical Broadway production, it was a great experience. It is planned that next year's trip will go just as well as this year's, considering there are already students looking forward to going again.

## "A Revolution in Learning"

*By: Sam Sawyer*

Becoming a nationally recognized competition, National History Day is a growing program at Whitehall High School. National History Day is an extracurricular activity that students in grades 4-12 can participate in outside of school. All students are given an annual theme, and from there they must choose a topic in history that relates to the theme. Students also

## History Day Continued...

choose whether they would like to work independently, or make the project a group effort. Once they choose a topic, students do endless amounts of research on their topics from late fall, all the way up to the week of the competition in March. Once they have completed their research, students present it to judges in one of five ways. These ways include an exhibit, a documentary, a performance, a website, or a paper.

Once students present their research to the judges, they anxiously anticipate the results. All students have a goal of making it to History Day Nationals, which are in Washington D.C. at the University of Maryland. In order to make it to Nationals, students must first make it out of Regionals. The top three students in each division will move on. Whitehall's regionals were held at Grand Valley State

I've ever worked in my life, but it is all worth it in the end because I know I did the best I could." He also mentioned that most all of his free time was dedicated to his project, and although his project took an endless amount of hours to complete, he had a feeling of success by the end.

Whitehall High School is proud to have so many students participating in this program and hopes to have even more join in the future. Coaches Jan Klco and Rob Zoellmer work hard to help each student get as far as they can in the competition and help them set goals. They volunteer numerous hours to each student participating, and dedicate themselves to helping each participant in every way they can. National History Day is a great program that teaches life lessons, such as patience and cooperation



*National History Day participants*

University on March 17. This was the hardest district for Whitehall to break out of, but the students who are able to will move the state competition, located at Central Michigan University. Presentations at the state competition will then determine what students will move on to the national competition. This is quite a challenge, considering only the top two students will be able to move on from each competition.

This year, the History day

skills, and helps students gain and improve skills for communication, research, and various other things for both inside and outside of school.

### A Showcase Of Talent

*By: Lauren Throne*

Although the talent here at Whitehall was incomparable, there are other schools in our area that shone just as brightly. On Wednesday, March 14, and Thursday, March 15, schools from all over the West Michigan area came together at the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts in Muskegon to show off their variety of talent. The event was dubbed "2012 West Michigan Student Showcase." Between the two

theme was, "Revolution, React, Reform in History." Whitehall had 15 students participating overall; seven students were able to advance to the state competition. High school students who moved on to state included Summer Klomp, Dean Hewitt, Randi Mikkelson, Mariah Olsen, and Alayna Klco. The other Whitehall students who participated included Lauren Geiger, AJ Larson, Mackenzie Brandel, Robbie Berg, Sonya Gring, Madi Mennenga, Bradley Kellis, Will Scheids, and Kadir Walker. There were over 230 students were judged at the competition, making it a tough competition for many. Although not all were able to break out of regionals, they all worked hard and put in much effort to complete their research and present their projects. Freshman, Dean Hewitt said, "It is defiantly the hardest

nights, there were 42 performances from 35 different area schools. Students were nominated under categories including Academic Achievement, Athletic Achievement, Performing Arts, Literary Arts, or Visual Arts.

From Whitehall, Ray Copley had three poems entered into the Literary Arts category. Daniel Westrate was nominated for his Academic Achievement. Dillon McCarthy and Catherine Stout were nominated for Athletic Achievement. Austin Bean's table that he created in woodshop was nominated for Visual Arts. Shelby Cooley, Lauren Cain, Sky Christenson, Stephanie Cross, Emily Dennis, Libby Gillhespy, Joshua Keller, Tracy Lawrence, Alex Mark, Mike Miller, Scott Murphy, and Kara Potter performed the scene "River Deep, Mountain



*The "River Deep, Mountain High" group gets ready to sing.*

High" from the musical "Leader of the Pack." Shelby Cooley also did a solo vocal performance. The first poem that Copley entered was titled "The Great Pine." The poem described the many uses of the White Pine and how generations have cherished and put the tree to use throughout the centuries. Copley's next poem, "Tiger," described the majestic appearance of tigers in the dark wilderness. His last poem, "Old Sable," talked about the struggles of attempting to preserve a lighthouse.

The group that performed "River Deep, Mountain High" got the idea from choir director and co-musical director, Cindy Moore. A larger group of students performed the musical "Leader of the Pack" in January, and Moore thought it would be a good idea to take the best scene of the musical to Showcase. The song was originally performed by Tina Turner, but Cooley sang Turner's part and was accompanied by the rest of the group for back up singing and dancing. Cooley closed the performances on Wednesday night with her solo vocal performance, "Listen" by Beyoncé. All of the performances truly "showcased" the talent that students possess in the West Michigan area.



*The welcoming sign.*



*The talented athletes.*

## 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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