

VIKING PRESS

September 2013

The month of September is a fresh start for students all over the district. It is a time to begin again and pursue excellence. For freshmen, September is a newly discovered stretch of land that they will walk along for the next four years. Sophomores and juniors are making an impact on those who surround them as they continue their journey at Whitehall Senior High, and seniors are beginning to see the light at the end of the path, where graduation looms.

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“There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning .”

- Jiddu Krishnamurti



Pictured: The junior class cheering at the first-day-of-school assembly

Highlights

- The results of homecoming king and queen
- Pictures of Spirit Week
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Pictured left to right: Zachary Uganski, Mikkel Flaar, Kelsey Gensler.



Pictured: Homecoming Court members playing a balloon-popping game at the pep assembly.



**“How the Grinch Stole Christmas”
Pictured: Ryker Morningstar dressed as the Grinch.**

Spreading the Seuss Spirit

By: Ashleigh Wilks

Homecoming? You know what that means; dress shopping, shoe shopping, and tie shopping. It also means the excitement of the football games, getting asked to the dance, and Spirit Week. As we all know, Spirit Week is the week Vikings get to show school spirit with a special theme. This year student council chose the theme to be Dr. Seuss, each day was based on a Dr. Seuss story. Monday was *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, students wore ugly Christmas sweaters. Tuesday was *All the Places You'll Go*, students wore college or vacation attire representing the places they are going. Wednesday was the traditional Wacky Wednesday where students wore all kinds of crazy clothes, anything from mismatch outfits to weird colors. Thursday was *Green Eggs and Ham* and this day was theme day where you dressed up as any Dr. Seuss character, students were also offered the opportunity to eat green eggs and ham for lunch. Friday was *One Fish, Two Fish, Red, White, and Black Fish*. The freshmen wore white, sophomores wore red, juniors wore black and seniors wore red, black

and white. Junior Alexis Coron said she enjoyed spirit week because, “I love getting to show my school spirit.” Sophomore Caleb Tallquist said he dressed up for spirit week because, “I love showing my sportsmanship, and it’s a great way to show that I’m grateful to be at Whitehall.” Senior Michael Flowers said he loved dressing up for spirit week because it’s his last year in high school. “I felt the need to outdo everyone.” Freshman Levi LaVasseur said that, “most freshmen think it’s weird to dress up because they are the new kids in school but I wanted to dress up and make a point.” Spirit week is always such a fun week for the Vikings because students get to show school spirit and sportsmanship. Each class had such great participation dressing up and showing school spirit during the pep assembly.



Pictured: Michael Flowers got a group of friends to hold these signs when asking Sydney Bedford to the homecoming dance during the pep assembly.

Throwing, Crowning, and Dancing

By: Leah Thompson

Imagine a beautiful Friday night in mid-September. The football stadium filled to maximum capacity, with standing room only. Cheerleaders fire up the crowd with their exciting chants. The buzz of the student section can hardly be contained. Football players run out onto the field, the crowd jumps out of their seats and cheers them on. Stadium lights come up, and the officials blow the whistle. Whitehall's homecoming game is underway.

The week of homecoming at Whitehall is a special and exciting time. So much is going on all at once. From dressing up for spirit week, to the parade and dance, and to the big game, there is so much excitement throughout the school and community.

On Friday night before the game started, various floats were involved in the homecoming parade. The floats included the Class of 1963, who was celebrating its 50th class reunion, the Grand Marshall (a member of the Class of 1963), homecoming court, sports teams, cheerleaders, foreign exchange students, LINK Crew, WEB, and the marching band. "I liked when the soccer team went through on the fire truck," said freshman Andrew Tallquist. "I thought it was cool when the cheerleaders came through on a different fire truck. They looked so cute!" said freshman Sky Harsch. The parade started at the Community Services Building on Slocum Street, went to Mears Avenue, onto Colby Street, where they turned onto Franklin Street to go back to the CSB. Many community members and students stood along the streets to watch the parade. "My favorite part of the parade was when the foreign exchange students came by. It was cool that they were featured in the parade," said sophomore Elle Bachelder.

After the parade all of the students and spectators headed back to the football stadium to secure a seat for the game. The varsity, JV, and 8th grade cheerleaders all cheered on the football players. "I loved all of our awesome team spirit in the student section," said junior Hannah Uithoven. "I enjoyed the marching band at the game," said junior Cameron Chester. During the first half of the game, the Spartans were ahead by one point, an 8-7 lead over the Vikings. When it was halftime, the homecoming court came out on the track, and the announcer talked about each representative. Name, activities, sports they were

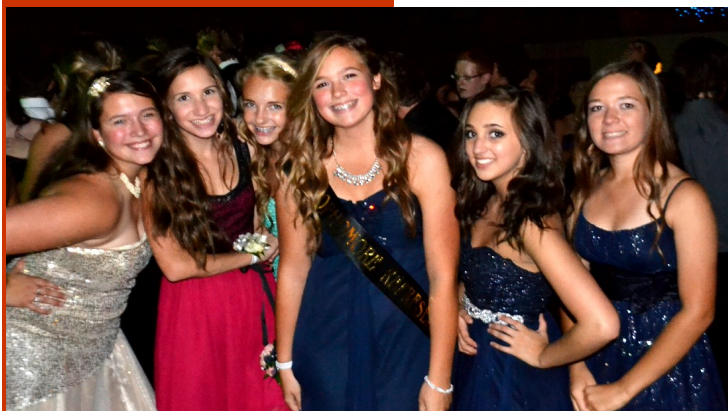
involved in, and what they would like to be when they were older were given as each representative walked down the track. Representing the freshmen class were Rhabecca Spicklemire and Jarrett Ferrier. Emily Christensen and Nolan Throne were chosen by the sophomore class, and Rebekah Beeghly and Cheston Manns for the junior class. For the seniors, Hannah Jurcich, Alison Bourdon, Logan Holt, Miranda Jacobs, and Samantha Huebler were the nominees for homecoming queen, and Yuri Walsh, Logan Flowers, Tell Sutton, Zach Uganski, and Alex Mark were the nominees for homecoming king. In the end, Alex Mark and Samantha Huebler were elected homecoming king and queen. At the end of the game, the Vikings lost to the



Pictured: Zack Uganski cheering to one of the many songs played at the dance.



Pictured: Cassie McAllister and Keaton Smith dancing at the Homecoming Dance.



Pictured left to right: Kennedee Semans, Rebekah Townsend, Brook Klingel, Emily Christensen, Rachael Diehm, and Rhianna Sheesley.

Mason County Spartans with a score of 21-7. The announcer also said which class won hallway decorating. "I loved hearing that the sophomores won hallway decorating," said sophomore Robby Jacobs.

Saturday night, after everyone had freshened up and put on their ties and high heels, the high school students went to their homecoming dance. It was from 8:30-11:30 p.m., and about 450 students attended. It was a wonderful night filled with laughs and good times. The Viking Center was decorated with props from the hallways in the school. "My favorite part of the dance was when everyone crouched down and then all jumped up and danced wildly," said senior Rafaela Estrella. "I had fun dancing and seeing the kids pick up Yuri. Also, shout out to my date, Allison Donahue!" said senior Zack Uganski. The DJ also had a quote about the students at the dance. He said, "If you ever want

me to work a high school dance for Whitehall again, I will. These kids are the best kids in all of West Michigan. I never once had to stop the music due to issues on the dance floor. Please let them know how awesome they were!"

All in all, the homecoming week was a great week for all students. There was a big turnout for the parade, game and dance with numerous students and community members. Even though the Vikings lost the game, the students shook all their troubles out at the dance.



Musically Moving On

By: Sam Sawyer

As Whitehall High School welcomes back its students for a new school year, it also welcomes one of a few new staff members. Former Whitehall graduate, Mathew Raab was welcomed to Whitehall High School as the new band director.

After 23 years of directing at Whitehall, former band director Vince Browand announced his retirement at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. His retirement led Whitehall to reach out and find a new director to lead the band. Browand had mentioned the job opportunity to Raab in June. He believed that Raab had great potential as a music instructor and that he would be able to smoothly take over the program after his retirement. Raab was interested in the position and felt honored that Browand considered him as a potential replacement.

Raab came from a musically inclined family. His father was a musician and his mother also came from a musical background where she both played music and sang. This influenced Raab's love for music. He began taking piano lessons at the age of five which led him to develop an interest in other instruments. He also began playing in the school band in 5th grade, which was directed by Browand. His favorite type of instruments to play are those in the percussion section. He also enjoys playing a variety of string instruments like a number of guitars. He has the ability to play all instruments involved in the band, however he plays most of them for teaching purposes and sticks to string and percussion instruments when playing for enjoyment.

Raab first started playing as a band student for Mr. Browand in 5th grade. He continued as a Whitehall band student all through his school career, and went on to Central Michigan University where he studied music education. He said he loves his new job. One of his favorite parts about it is being able to come back to the school and community where he grew up and formed him into who he is today after a decade of living away from Whitehall. He considers it an honor to come back to the

district and help to continue what Browand had established.

Raab decided to use this first year as a learning process to know what to expect for the future. He plans to keep the band on a regular schedule doing all of its regular shows and competitions this year such as the winter and spring collage and solo and ensemble. However, in the future, he would like to expand the bands playing experience by taking them on trips around the state and even take them to nationwide competitions to give them an opportunity to perform in different settings. He looks forward to implementing his vision.

Overall, Raab has enjoyed the beginning of his career in Whitehall and looks forward to continuing it over the years. "I love working with the kids and watching them improve more and more every day. I'm excited to work together with them and seeing what we can bring to the program as a band," said Raab. Band student and drum major Alex Mark also said, "Mr. Raab is a great director for the band and I can't wait to see the band improve over the next few years." It seems that both Raab and his students are enjoying working together and there will be a lot to expect from the program.



Pictured: Mr. Raab in the Band Room.

Hallway Decoration

Standings:

1st place:

Sophomores

2nd place:

Juniors

3rd place:

Seniors

4th place:

Freshmen

Deck the Halls

By: Kelsey McGuire

Every year, generally before school starts, an open house happens. This is so students and parents can find their way around the school and meet the teachers. The open house's date this year was changed to September 16, the Monday of the third week of school. It was deliberately scheduled to fall during spirit week. According to high school principal Mr. Dale Mackenzie, that was no coincidence, "We moved it to this week because of homecoming being so early. We wanted the parents to see the hall decorating that the students created. Because it was only the third Monday back, the parents could see the teachers and the hallways. Moving it to the third week also made it so teachers could learn a little about the students before the parents came in. Overall the participation was good for a Monday, and we will be looking at this and try to plan something similar next year." The open house's change of date was a significant change.

Teachers seem to agree the date change for the open house was for the better. Ms. Jody Romine, student council co-advisor, believed the change was beneficial. "I like it because the community is able to see the hallways. Before schools starts everyone is stressed out about getting everything done." Students and parents are more relaxed after school is started, and they have a routine. Mr. James Morningstar also reflected on the good qualities in pushing the date back. "It's nice because the parents can come and see the hallways since there are no longer floats." It was only a few years ago each grade made a float to put in the homecoming parade. Now that these floats are gone the parents do not get to see the students express themselves during spirit week. The open house brings this back to them.

The focus of the open house is still the parents meeting the teachers. Many parents came to see teachers. Some alone, some with their children. Most of these parents were those of freshmen or sophomores who had not yet become accustomed to the high school. The parents seemed to enjoy the open house. Mr. Moulds, parent of junior Hannah Moulds, stated, "Each hallway shows how much dedication the class put into it and it's nice to see. The open house is good because you can see the teachers surrounded by the students." Mrs. Martin, parent of junior Montana Martin, liked the idea of the open house being later this year for a completely different reason "It's a good idea to do it after school starts because you get a better idea of what your kids are into." There are an extensive list of after school activities that students can do, and after school is when most students find out about them. Generally parents do not have the opportunity to come in and ask questions about these activities unless they make an appointment; the open house is the perfect opportunity.

This year the open house was circled around homecoming and hall decorating. This is something students spend time doing the weekend before homecoming week. It is an optional thing, but many students enjoy it immensely. Caleb Tallquist, a sophomore, said, "It's a good time to be goofy in school, and it looks really cool when it's done." The time is spent with their own grade away from the pressure of school work and instead working on something fun. The Sophomore Class came in first for the hallway decorating this year with their interpretation of *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*. Winning isn't everything though just getting together and making the hallways makes it worth it. This year's freshmen clas



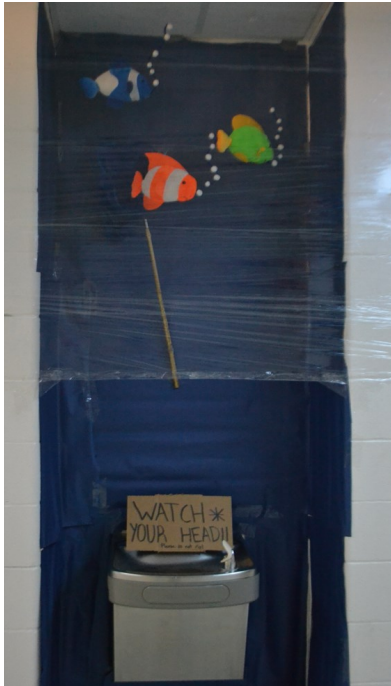
Pictured: Decorations in the freshmen hallway using props from the middle school play.



Pictured: The Grinch dressed as a Mason County football player in a chimney all created by the Class of 2015.



Pictured: Alexis Snyder painting a fish for the sophomore class hallway.



Pictured: A drinking fountain decorated as a fish tank in the sophomore hallway.

with its theme of *The Cat in the Hat* had fun its first year at hall decorating. Taylor Mikkelson said, "It's really fun, and all about getting to know your class. We wouldn't be able to do it if it wasn't for everyone's help." The freshmen came in last place, but enjoyed the new experiences. Juniors came in second place with *The Grinch Stole Christmas*. Bekah Beeghly was surprised it turned out that well, "I didn't think it would be good because no one showed up to the meeting, but it turned out alright because people came and brought things which helped with the low budget." Each class was given only \$50 to spend on its supplies for their hallways, and it took plenty of effort for the students. Seniors came in third with their spin on *The Lorax* were going as far as to put trees up in their hallway. In the end the hallways and open house were a success for everyone.

Small World, Big Cause

November 25 is an important day for those who are in Mrs. VanderLeest's Current Topics Class. On this evening, students will present projects that they have worked on over the course of the trimester during parent-teacher conferences. Students were placed into groups and they researched the demographics and statistics of a particular third-world country. Students may present their findings in either a video, a Powerpoint, a storyboard, or any other form of display.

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



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