

# VIKING PRESS

Whitehall High School Newsletter

Volume IV Issue II

## October 2013

October is the month where everything falls into place. Leaves fall off the trees, and students fall into the new school routine. With October comes the joys of fall. Hot apple cider, hay rides, bonfires, and frigid Friday nights are what make fall special. October is a wonderful time at Whitehall High School.

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*“October is the fallen leaf,  
but it is also a wider  
horizon more clearly seen.  
It is the distant hills once  
more in sight, and the  
enduring constellations  
above them once again.”*

*~Hal Borland*



Pictured: Cheerleaders lead the student section in a chant at the football game.

## Highlights

- Viking victories
- Powder Puff Football Game
- The Big Crunch

# Students in Shadow

By: Sam Sawyer


With thousands of careers to choose from and a million places to go, students at Whitehall begin to prepare for their futures and look at what they want to become. Two of Whitehall's students are taking a proactive step in this process by job shadowing a profession they one day would like to pursue. Over the course of the school year students Kathryn Rought and Hannah Jurcich followed around an expert in their career choice and from that learned what comes with the job, what tasks must be completed, and become trained to do the job themselves. By job shadowing these students will have a head start on their futures.

Rought is job shadowing a mechanic named Ron Vandermolen. Vandermolen owns a body shop called RBR Specialties in Muskegon. Rought began job shadowing during the second week of the school year and hopes to continue until she becomes a full-time employee. She first became interested in mechanics her junior year. She attended Muskegon's Career Tech Center automotive service and found she had a natural talent as well as a passion for motors. Although she never grew up around cars and they are not a big part of her family, she said that she has always had a love for them. She loves the experience and said it makes her passion for cars grow more and more each day, and she is excited to excel in the business.

During her time shadowing, Rought does a mixture of working on the cars and watching Vandermolen as he works. Usually, she works on the vehicle while Vandermolen

watches her and instructs her on what to do. "I like it more than I thought I would," said Rought. "I feel that I learn a lot more on the job than being at tech, and I love how it is so hands on...it is a great experience that I am glad I am a part of." Over the course of job shadowing Rought is earning college credits through Muskegon Community College. After high school she plans to take her career plans to the next step by studying heavy equipment at an university and prepares to become a mechanic.

Jurchich will also job shadow throughout the school year. She will shadow a midwife named Patrice Bobier who runs Full Circle Midwifery in Hesperia, Michigan. A midwife is someone who specializes in natural prenatal care, delivery, and infant checkups. Midwives believe in natural birth without inducing labor or using chemicals and medications. Most midwives deal with home birthing but are also willing to go to a hospital for those who prefer that setting. Jurcich first became interested in the career after hearing about it from a family friend. She was researching holistic health careers when she stumbled across midwife. Holistic health is the study of looking at the body as a whole instead of in parts and using natural ways to treat medical conditions. Jurcich contacted her family friend who gave her some information and encouraged her to job shadow Bobier. So far, Jurcich said that she loves the experience and that it has made her more confident in choosing to become a midwife. "I didn't know what to expect," said Jurcich, "It is a fun, happy time, and I enjoy the work." Jurcich began shadowing in September and will continue to visit and shadow once a month. While job shadowing, she watches and observes the midwife, holds and cares for the babies, and examines the babies. During her time at home when she is not shadowing, she watches



## The Big Crunch

Whitehall participated in Muskegon County's effort to break the world record for the most people eating a Michigan apple at the same time on October 24. Near the end of the school day, students and community members gathered at district buildings and took a bite at 2:12 p.m. Muskegon County students held the record at 9,329 last year until last May, when New Zealand broke the record with the help of the JAZZ Apple Company. The new world record stands at 17,064. Muskegon County's new goal is to reach 18,000. For more information about Muskegon's effort to become healthier, visit [1in21.org](http://1in21.org).

*Writer: Sam Huebler*

videos and documentaries as well as reads books that were provided to her by Bobier. After high school, Jurcich plans to attend a community college where she can earn her general credits and then transfer to a college of midwifery where she will earn a certificate in midwifery which will allow her to begin working. Once she has her certificate, Jurcich plans to move to Hawaii where she will practice midwifery full time. Jurcich said, "I feel like the medical system has become corrupt and I want to make it my job to keep things natural." She also mentioned she is excited to continue the job shadowing process and she looks forward to where the experience takes her in the future.

## New Face, Old Tunes

By: Kelsey McGuire

The 2013-2014 school year for Whitehall High School welcomes new staff members; one of which is Mr. Bradley Saniga. Saniga took over the role of Choir teacher which was previously occupied by Mrs. Cindy Moore. Moore taught at Whitehall District for 24 years. According to high school Principal Mr. Dale McKenzie, "She resigned the position of choir teacher earlier this September."

Saniga acquired this position even though he did not apply for it. His first interview was for the band director position, now filled by Mr. Matt Raab, but was happy to be called back to teach choir. Saniga has been interested in music since high school. He wrote music as a high school freshman. He graduated from Jenison High School, even though he moved around in several states as a child.

Before obtaining the choir position, Saniga achieved many accomplishments. He graduated from Grand Valley State University in April of 2013 with a bachelors degree in musical education. During his time at GVSU he studied saxophone; he played in a saxophone quartet and received 'honorable mentions' in a GVSU concerto competition. Saniga also marched Euphonium for two years and sang in the University Arts Chorale for one year.

In the summer of 2013 he married his fiancé Jera Saniga. Mrs. Saniga is also involved in helping with the choirs. She plays as the accompanist on days she can make it to the school. She works with the different sections of the choirs with pitch and wording of songs.

Saniga's position requires him to travel between the high school and middle school every day to teach all of the choirs. He said, "I enjoy teaching both, but the amount of time to get to the middle school is short." Saniga likes the district as a whole. "The students and teachers have all been very supportive." Saniga explained the town of Whitehall has a nice small town feel and atmosphere.

This year Saniga said he plans on having the October concert, Holiday Cheer concert, Pops concert, along with

festival. Most of these activities occur every year, but the October concert is new for the district. It was planned for October 27, and was a cancer benefit concert.

Different songs are sung at each concert, and Saniga has put in his own techniques for teaching the songs involved. The students seem to enjoy their new teacher's style. Junior Rachel Robinson said, "He really stays on task, and tries to have everyone work hard and try their best." Even though Saniga is changing some things involving the department he is also keeping some traditions. The choirs will still be singing *T'was the night before Christmas* and *Sia Humba* as they always have during the Christmas concert now called the Holiday Cheer concert.

The choir department is experiencing some changes with the new director, yet traditions are still held true. Saniga and the students are enjoying their time together with the different techniques he uses. Whitehall is happy to welcome Mr. Saniga as one of the new staff members for this school year.

## Tennis Triumph

Congratulations to senior Tell Sutton for winning his 100<sup>th</sup> match and being nominated the WZZM/Meijer Scholar Athlete of the Week for the week of September 30. In his high school career, he has won the Greater Muskegon City Championship three times. Sutton said, "It was a huge honor for WZZM to pick me, and I am very thankful for this prestigious award."

*Writer: Sam Huebler*



# Singing for a Cure

By: Leah Thompson



It's a full house tonight. As family and friends sit patiently in their seats, excited performers wait for curtain call backstage. The house lights dim, and a hush falls over the crowd. The choir walks out on stage with their director. A pianist plays the first chords of the opening song, and the concert begins.

The fall choir concert was Sunday, October 27 at 6:00 pm in the high school auditorium. Many students, friends, and family members filled the auditorium to maximum capacity to hear the joyful sounds of the choir. The choir director, Mr. Bradley Saniga, led the choirs in a number of the songs. To start the concert, the eighth grade select choir sang "Love Story" by Taylor Swift. The Women's Ensemble sang "Queen Jane" acapella, and "Love Song" by Sara Bareilles. Junior Riley Andrew said, "I love that I can share my passion with our school and community." Chamber Ensemble sang "Danny Boy" and "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz acapella. Many brave singers sang a song of their choice either by solo or as a duet. Brandi Balzer sang "Yesterday" by John Lenon and Paul McCartney. Kameron Gear sang "I'm Gonna Love You Through It" by Martina McBride. Also, Zoey Elliott sang "Hero" by Regina Spektor. Jeff Bowne played the guitar while singing "Carry On" by Fun. Tyler Quillen played the ukulele while Andrew sang the song "Eight Days a Week" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Stephanie Cross sang "Good Enough" by Amy Lee. Carlie Bishop played her guitar while she and Jessica Harris sang the song "Us" by Spektor. Toward the end of the concert, the Women's and Chamber ensembles ended with the song "This is Halloween" by Danny Elfman.

This was no ordinary choir concert, however. The Women's Ensemble had the idea to have this concert be a cancer benefit. The money raised from the donations will help Whitehall High School teacher Rhonda Gregory in her battle against cancer. A total of \$312 was raised. A number of the choir students shared their various opinions of the cancer benefit concert. "I think it is great. A few people in my family have had cancer, and I know the struggle that they went through," said senior Kara Potter. Freshman Rhabecca Spicklemire said, "I appreciate the cancer benefit concert very much. This is because my grandpa was recently diagnosed with stage-four lung and bone cancer, with not long to live. So in a nut shell, I believe it is a great cause and that we can help a lot of people with this charity."

The fall concert was a great way to start off the year for the choir students. It was exciting for them to share the music they have learned with their family and friends. Also, it gave the new choir members a taste of performing and what is in store for them for the rest of the year. Overall, the fall cancer benefit concert was a great success.

## Small World , Big Cause

Imagine not receiving a secondary education because you are a girl, or eating the same meal day after day or not being able to choose whether you can learn to drive. These are just some of the issues people think about in other countries. The Whitehall School District community is invited to learn more about specific countries that are underdeveloped.

Whitehall High School's Current Issues class learned about a specific developing country. As a result of their research and hard work they hope to educate the general public about the lives of people around the world. On Monday, Nov. 25 students invite the public to learn about five developing countries: Nepal, Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, Iran, and Ethiopia. The presentation will be in the high school auditorium from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

During their 12-week study, students researched the institutions of education, religion, culture, economics, and politics to see how each contribute to their country's developing status. Students learned quickly there are many factors that play into a country being underdeveloped. In their course of study students became aware of how differently people live compared to the average American, said Current Issues teacher Bobbi VanderLeest. It is their hope that they can also raise awareness of the problems these countries face.

The class began with the documentary "Girl Rising" produced by the organization called 10x10. This film highlighted how girls in developing countries often don't receive the same opportunities of education as their counterparts do. The premise of the film was that if countries invested in the education of all girls around the world the world would be a better place both economically, politically and socially. This film sparked the students' interest in learning more about what makes a developing country developing.

"It is our hope that by raising awareness of the plight of developing countries we will become more global in our thoughts and make a difference in those around the world," said VanderLeest. The students each worked collaboratively to make a 30-minute presentation on their country that highlights each of the institutions they researched.

# Meet Mrs. Barkel

By: Ashleigh Wilks

Whitehall High School and Whitehall Middle School has the opportunity to welcome a new school psychologist. The school psychologist's name is Laurelin Barkel. She graduated from Zeeland High School and graduated from Hope College with a major in Psychology. She earned her Education Specialist Degree and a Masters Degree from Northeastern University in Boston. Barkel's degree from Northeastern University is in School Psychology.

After graduate school in Boston, she moved to Kansas City where she lived and worked as a school psychologist for five years in a high school with a student population of 2,100. Both her and her husband wanted to move back to West Michigan, which is how she found herself back in this area. According to Barkel, Whitehall was an exciting opportunity due to the district being a small size, in which you can become part of the community and make a difference quickly. She was excited about the opportunities to make a big impact on students, staff, and families.

Barkel particularly likes working with high school students, which was another reason she was excited to come to Whitehall. She enjoys having conversations with students and finding that high school students are particularly engaging as they are able to develop and articulate their own thoughts and plans for their future. She likes helping them reach their goals.

Barkel wanted to become a school psychologist as she has always been involved in education in her family and believes it is important to make each student's school experience a positive one. She first became interested in psychology back in high school and was told about the field of school of psychology by her high school psychologist teacher. While at Hope College, she had the opportunity to do an internship with a school psychologist, and she enjoyed the experience.

Barkel said, "A lot of how I help students is "behind the scenes." I work with teachers, counselors, administrators, and parents to come up with plans for students and figure out how to get them any help they might be needing. I also enjoying talking with students directly to hear their thoughts on school and how school might be able to be better for them. If students need help, they are welcome to visit me. If I can't help, I'll help direct them to who can." Barkel is usually at the middle school on Mondays and Wednesdays and at the high school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fridays she is split between the buildings wherever she is needed. Barkel's services are open to any student who is in need of her help. Superintendent Jerry McDowell says he thinks Whitehall needs a school



Pictured: Mrs. Laurelin Barkel

psychologist because, "We feel the position is valuable as a resource to the classroom but in support classroom teachers in making the best Instructional decisions for our students."

During her free time, Barkel enjoys running. She runs half marathons and

marathons. She also love other types of exercise such as CrossFit. She enjoys going to Lake Michigan and doing almost any outdoor activity (like camping, hiking, and skiing). With this opportunity to have a new school psychologist, Whitehall is excited to welcome Laurelin Barkel to the Whitehall school staff.

## Proud to be a Viking

This fall, both the boys' and girls' cross country teams made it to state. On Saturday, Nov. 2 the teams traveled to Brooklyn, Michigan. They boys team finished 18th, and the girlsteam finished 21st overall. This season was a great one for the cross country teams.

Also, the boys' varsity soccer team made it to the state semi-finals. They traveled to Hope College to play one of the most exciting games of the year. They suffered a tough loss of 0-1. In the end, the boys gave it their all and pushed through to have a great game and a fantastic season.

*Writer: Leah Thompson*



## Powder Puff

The night of October 16 started off with a whistle and some drizzle for teams on either side of the bridge. Whitehall and Montague Powder Puff teams faced each other on that rainy Wednesday to play a hardy game of girls' flag football. The annual event was hosted by Montague DECA. Members of Montague DECA Samantha Huebler, Morgen Myers, and Sarah Schmiedeknecht organized the event for Whitehall. Over 50 players signed up to comprise a junior varsity and varsity team for the Vikings. Coaches who helped girls understand plays and practices were junior varsity and varsity football players. Coaches



and players practiced runs and plays for hours at the high school in preparation for the match against Montague. The final score for the junior varsity game was 42 to 14, a Wildcat win. Sophomores Maegen Myers and Lauren Lopez scored the Viking touchdowns. For the varsity game, Tessa Dancz scored the single Whitehall touchdown; final score 14 to 7, another Wildcat victory. Overall, the night was a success. From admission fees and concessions alone,

DECA raised over \$600. The money that Whitehall DECA members raised will go toward Juvenile Diabetes research and they will use this event to compete at the Regional Conference for DECA.

*Writer: Sam Huebler*

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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