

VIKING PRESS

Whitehall High School Newsletter

Volume IV Issue III

November 2013

November is a transition month. After the leaves have fallen, warm fall days turn into chilly winter nights. Students transfer from the first to second trimester and may change their classes. The snow begins to fall, and students get excited for holiday break to come. November may bring the cold, but it brings wonderful holidays and new experiences with it.

A Step Toward Healthier Living

Writer: Ashleigh Wilks

Read on page 2

A Test for a True Princess

Writer: Leah Thompson

Read on page 3

Technology for Students

Writer: Kelsey McGuire

Read on page 4

Caring for Our Beaches

Writer: Sam Sawyer

Read on page 4

“You have to go wholeheartedly into anything in order to achieve anything worth having.”

~Frank Lloyd Wright



Good Work Whitehall!

West Michigan's Big Crunch initiative now has the world record for the most people eating an apple at one time with the record of 19,087 community members. The record was reclaimed from New Zealand who challenged the Muskegon County record in 2012. Montague and Whitehall school districts food service director Dan Gorman stated, "We are very excited to have exceeded our goal of 18,000. This event is a great way to make healthy eating fun and to remind our community about our local agriculture and access to fresh local produce."

Writer: Sam Huebler



Highlights

- Results of the Dodge Ball Tournament
- Pictures from Once Upon a Mattress
- Sanitary Beach Pictures

A Step Toward Healthier Living

By: Ashleigh Wilks

Whitehall is trying something new this year. Over the summer, the district's kitchen staff was trained with chefs Jeremy and Jamie Paquin from the restaurant Mia and Grace. Mia and Grace is located in Muskegon on 3rd Street. All of the produce they use comes from West Michigan farms.

Considering that all the food is fresh, Whitehall has taken the opportunity to implement Fresh Thursdays at Shoreline Elementary and Ealy Elementary. On Thursdays homemade food will be served, exclusively. The plan is to introduce the items into the high school sometime this year. The goal of the program is to serve items that are made from scratch. Dan Gorman, the Food Service Director for Whitehall and Montague district schools said, "I believe the closer to natural is the healthiest for kids and adults. School meals have done a good job of offering healthy fresh fruits and

vegetables; it has been a challenge to make the main item from scratch." Foods that will be rotated as the main dish will include: Roasted Chicken Penne with Broccoli Pesto, Black Bean Chicken Taco Salad, Southwest Chipotle Chicken, Chicken Fried Rice, and Cran-appley Chicken with Superpower Rice, Quinoa with roasted Chicken and cranberries. Only offering one healthy meal a week may not make a big difference, but it's one step closer to healthy living. The kitchen staff for Shoreline Elementary thinks it is a good opportunity to serve the kids healthier foods, because it's one step closer to a healthier lifestyle. High school students think it's a good idea because they believe they will like the food better than usual school foods.



College Week

Seniors received special assistance this year from the counseling office on what to do for college during college application week. College application week is a national initiative that was started by North Carolina in 2005. This year, it was November 4-8 and a total of 37 states participated. The purpose behind college application week was to increase the percentage of first-generation and low-income students pursuing a college degree or other higher education credentials. With each year that Michigan has taken part in this initiative, more students has applied to colleges or other post-secondary programs. This year, there was an estimated 200 schools joining the movement in Michigan. Some colleges recognize college application week by waiving their application fees. In Michigan, 11 colleges waived their fees during this week in order to encourage students to apply. At Whitehall, Mrs. Carrie Goodrich met with the seniors the week prior and explained in a PowerPoint presentation all of the different options that they have after high school. The presentation included information about college expectations, the military, and technical or vocational schools. During the week of November 4, the counseling office spent six class periods in the lab helping seniors apply to colleges or apply for scholarships through different websites. Overall, Mrs. Goodrich's effort made a huge impact on this year's graduating senior Class of 2014. Through this initiative, the counseling office gave students the opportunity to explore their futures in a way that works best for them. The students responded that they were thankful for this opportunity and they were glad that they had someone there to help them and answer their questions.

Writer: Sam Huebler

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| Graduating Seniors | 158 |
| Participating Seniors | 65 |
| Seniors Previously Applied | 78 (25 Submitted Additional Applications) |
| First Time Applications | 40 |
| Fee Waivers | 39 |
| Total Applications Submitted | 124 |
| In-State 4 year Public | 71 |
| In-State 2 year Public | 33 |
| In-State Private | 18 |
| Out of State | 2 |

A Test for a True Princess

By: Leah Thompson

As tweets to encourage the actors were read onstage, the first performers prepare backstage. The minstrel tells the story of the Princess and the Pea while a prince, princess, and a queen act out the story. However, this is not how the story goes. The musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*, will tell the true story.

This year, the high school musical was November 21, 22, 23, and 24. The musical showed that people should not judge a book by its cover. There may be something special in a person who may not show it. Each performance told the “true story” of the Hans Christensen Anderson’s children’s story, *The Princess and the Pea*.

In the beginning, princesses are put to a test to see if they are worthy enough to marry Prince Dauntless (Andrew Tallquist). All of the princesses nearby fail the difficult tests put together by the Queen (Morgan Mitteer) and Wizard (Christian Mudge). A knight named Sir Harry (Alex Mark) goes out of the kingdom to find a princess for the prince. He brings back Princess Winifred the Woebegone (Carlie Bishop), and the Queen does not like her from the moment she walks into the castle. However, Prince Dauntless has fallen head over heels for her, and he helps her prepare for the test. The Queen places 20 mattresses on a bed and a pea underneath them. If the pea disturbs the princess, then she is a true princess and will pass the test. Also, the Queen gives the princess some medicine to make her drowsy so that she will sleep.

The minstrel (Tim Hiemstra) and jester (Jack Zwemer) learn about the test from the wizard, and they place many other items in the mattresses to also disturb her sleep. While all of this is going on, King Sextimus (Sky Christenson), the jester, and the minstrel play games around the kitchen; however, the King cannot speak. A curse was put on him, and until the mouse devours the hawk, he will not be able to speak. To communicate, the King uses charades to help people understand him. In the morning the Queen believes the princess slept the whole night, but she didn’t get a wink of sleep. The mattresses were so uncomfortable they disturbed her sleep. The Queen still says that Princess Winifred didn’t pass; however, Prince Dauntless becomes angry with her, tells her to



Pictured: Carlie Bishop and Andrew Tallquist acting as Princess and Prince.

shut up, and the Queen can no longer talk. The mouse has devoured the hawk, and King Sextimus can now talk. Prince Dauntless and Princess Winifred can get married, and everyone lives happily ever after.

Many people were involved in the musical. The talented cast performed well. The production staff helped with directing the play and with the small details of the

Please continue reading on page 4



Pictured: Sky Christenson performing as King Sextimus.

musical. Also, there was an orchestra that played all of the music for the songs. Everyone involved worked hard to make the musical a success. The actors and actresses enjoyed the musical. "My favorite part about the musical is definitely being with a bunch of new people that I can be myself around and also just telling an amazing story," freshman Jordan Harris said. They also enjoyed performing on stage. Tallquist said, "I like being able to involve the crowd and make them laugh." Many enjoyed their characters that they got to portray. "I liked to be a lord because I had to be all serious. I also got to dance with the queen," said sophomore Erik Butzer. "I was able to step out of my comfort zone. It was fun to be someone else," said Bishop. The musical was a success and portrayed that it is the little things that show how wonderful a person is.

Technology for Students

By: Kelsey McGuire

During the 2013-2014 school year staff members hope to find the perfect technology for some of the district's students. Many teachers are researching various types of technology such as Chromebooks and Surface, trying to find what will be the most productive for students and staff. Because the technology will be given to freshmen it is their teachers that are doing most of the research. Mrs. Medendorp, Mr. Sandee, Mrs. Hector and Mr. Snell are looking into different products.

Originally the plan was to give this technology to the freshmen during the 2013-2014 year after the Thanksgiving break, on Monday, December 2. This date was moved back. Instead the district plans to use the time they have this year to find exactly what it wants the students to have. The new technology will be given to students in seventh, eighth, and ninth grade during the 2014-2015 school year.

At this point, fifth and sixth graders already have a form of technology, but next year the district plans to include more grades. Samsung Chromebooks were given to fifth- and sixth-grade students earlier in the school year. The Chromebooks are devices that give students access to the Internet and Google programs. They are used for school work, and have filters that block students from accessing websites that are not educational. Electronic devices also prevent textbooks from being damaged because they give students the ability to have their books online.

Gaining new technology has a cost attached to it. Each Chromebook, itself, costs around \$250. At this point these expenses are being paid from earlier district bond money passed by the community. On February 25, there will be a vote for Muskegon County residents to pass a bond for technology. If it passes it would give Whitehall \$300,000 over 10 years, according to high school Principal Dale McKenzie. The money would help Whitehall with its technological advances. If this bond millage does not pass the district will have to find a different way to pay for the new technology.

Whitehall continues to move forward to acquire new technology for the 2014-2015 school year. It is the hope of the district that more students will have technology in their hands to help enhance their learning.

Caring for Our Beaches

By: Sam Sawyer

As a way to kick off the school year, Whitehall National Honor Society students went out and helped in their community by partaking in a beach cleanup on November 2. Students met at Duck Lake Muskegon State Park, where they gathered into groups and walked the beach all the way to the White Lake Lighthouse.

Along with NHS students, Whitehall's Business Professionals of America Club and Link Crew also helped, giving a total of over 50 students who participated in the activity. They spent a total of four hours on the shore of Lake Michigan, as well as Duck Lake. Although it was a chilly day, the sun remained high in the sky and the students faces were lit with smiles knowing they were doing a good deed for their community.

In past years, Whitehall's NHS program did a yearly leaf rake. This year, however, they chose to switch it up by cleaning the beach instead. The new NHS advisors, Warren Zweigle and Lisa Brown, thought the beach cleanup would be more beneficial to the community and a fun activity for students. The advisors said that in past years the leaf rake had not been as successful as they hoped, and they did not have enough people call in need of the service in order to organize the leaf rake this year. They thought that a beach cleanup would be a fun and easy substitute that everyone could be a part of. "I thought that it would be a great group opportunity that everyone could be a part of because Duck Lake has been a part of all of our lives growing up," said Zweigle. "We wanted to do

something where students interact with each other instead of in small groups. I wanted the kids to be passionate about what they were doing.”

After a long day of cleaning up, over 15 bags of trash were collected along with a spare tire and multiple pairs of flip flops. Both students and advisors believed it was a job well done. The NHS program plans to have another cleanup this spring where it hopes to have even more students involved. “I thought that it was a lot of fun and a great way for us to get hours and take part of our community. I am excited to see what the spring cleanup will be like,” said NHS President Megan Stout.

Overall, many of the students and staff agreed this was a fun way to get students out in the community and encourage them to look into other types of service. Both advisors were both pleased with the outcome of this event and are hopeful to continue it in the future.



Pictured: Allison Potter collecting garbage.



Pictured: Alexa Murdoch, Joe Kruszynski, Ciara Broadhead, Sky Christenson, Roger Champion, and Connor Miller.

Current Topics

The night of November 25 was the first success of the new Current Topics Class for Mrs. VanderLeest and her students. Despite a few technological malfunctions, the night ran smoothly and students were able to express their true understanding of the material even without the computer assistance. There were five countries the class explored: Nepal, Ivory Coast, Iran, Afghanistan, and Ethiopia. The viewers who came were pleased with the presentations, and the class earned a well-deserved celebration for all of their hard work and research.

Writer: Sam Huebler



Sadie Hawkins Dance

With new students and a new year, new traditions were made. This year's senior Class of 2014 decided to put on a Sadie Hawkins Dance for all grades. The idea behind this informal dance was for the girls to ask the guys, for a change. The couples were to dress up as matching characters or wear matching t-shirts. For the first year of putting this on, the Class of 2014 said it went great. Those who were able to attend the dance had a riot, and hopefully the underclassmen will have the ambition to do it again in future years. The funds raised by this night were donated to the Class of 2015 in support of this spring's prom costs. Senior Class President Hannah Jurcich said, "The Sadie Hawkins was something completely different and new. Even though the attendance was small, it was a really fun night! I hope it becomes bigger in years to come."



Dodge Ball Tournament

A new fundraising record was set by the Class of 2014 with their annual dodge ball tournament. The tournament was Friday, November 8, and lasted the entire night. This year, the tournament had over 30 teams ranging from middle school students all the way to a police officer squad. Whitehall had staff members participate in the tournament like high school Principal Mr. Dale McKenzie and Superintendent Mr. Jerry McDowell.

The winning team was a group of male high school students named "Bush and Friends." The money was raised for the Class of 2014's graduation funds. That night they raised over \$2,000 with spectator ticket sales, team fees, and concessions. The Class of 2014 would like to give a shout out to Mrs. Kathy Sutton and Mrs. Ingram Medendorp for pulling it all together. They would also like to thank all of the parent volunteers they needed in order to

make that night the huge success.

Writer: Sam Huebler



Pictured: Champions "Bush and Friends"

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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