

VIKING PRESS



Whitehall High School Newsletter

Volume IV Issue VI

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March is a rather quiet month. Snow storms begin to subside, and the temperature is slowly creeping up the thermometer. At school however, March is a very busy month. Students prepare for ACT and MME testing while teachers get ready for parent-teacher conferences. Many cannot wait for spring to come, and March is the month that leads everyone closer to it.

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“It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.”

~Aristotle Onassis



Highlights

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Talent Show

By: Ashleigh Wilks

Students all throughout Whitehall School District took on the competition to win first place. The district-wide talent show took place Saturday, March 15. This year's talent show was the longest one yet, with a large audience. There were 17 performances in act one, followed by 17 performances in act two. The talent show included performances ranging from dancing, gymnastics, singing, yo-yoing, and playing the piano. The show was put on by the National Honor Society, in the high school auditorium. In order to graduate as an NHS member, seniors are required to complete a project. The talent show was put on by NHS members Cassandra McAllister, Miranda Jacobs, Brayden Berson, and Hannah Jurcich. Juniors Kallan Sawyer and Rebekah Beeghly helped so they were trained to do a senior project next year for National Honor Society. Beeghly said, "It was fun [the talent show] to get to see all the acts and meet all the kids but hard to decide who made it and who did not. We had judges in the crowd who decided on the winner, so we did not have to make that decision." The winner of the district—wide talent show was junior Kat Lathrop, hula hoop dancer. Judges chose Lathrop as the winner because her act was something new and original, and the crowd really loved her act.

One of the crowd's favorite acts was Tyler Quillen's tap dance during act two. She danced to the song *Puttin' on the Ritz* by Taco. Quillen was also in act two with Riley Andrew. Andrew sang the song *Straight Up* by Paula Abdul and Quillen played guitar. Riley said, "I loved being in the talent show this year; it was just as fun this year as it was last year.

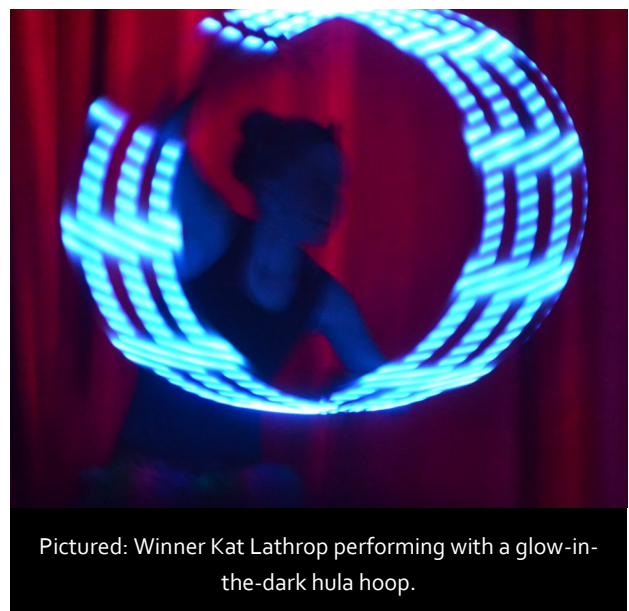
Although it was a little long, it was still really good time." Quillen was excited to have the opportunity to be in the show twice with her love of tap dancing and playing guitar. The talent show was a big success this year with an overflow of people that attended.



Pictured: Amber Kelley performing with the Whitehall Varsity Competitive Cheerleading Team.



Pictured: Rebekah Beeghly singing an original song.



Pictured: Winner Kat Lathrop performing with a glow-in-the-dark hula hoop.



“Art in the Moment”

By: Sam Sawyer

A picture is worth a thousand words; three Whitehall High School students recently discovered this while competing in a local art competition. With a student body of over 600 students, Whitehall is fortunate to have artistic students. With over a decade of experience, Christine Mallory, the high school art teacher, has watched talented students enter Whitehall's doors. Mallory enjoys putting her students' talents out into the public for others to enjoy, encouraging students to participate in things such as the West Michigan Student Show Case, activities at the Nuveen center, and attending Art Prize.

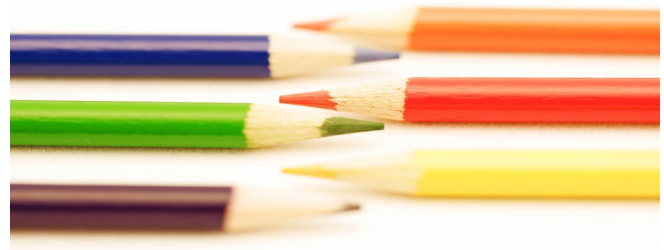
She recently heard of a new art competition for local high school students called, “Art in the Moment.” This competition was at Reeths-Puffer High School, and consisted of select students coming together from seven of the local school districts to compete in a friendly, but fun art competition. This competition consisted of each school creating some art form with items they had to choose from a large table. Items included old instruments, wires and cords, and other odd pieces that were picked from a junk yard. Each school was allowed to choose seven items from the table and were given two mystery items they had to incorporate into their piece. They had five hours to complete their work, using only the materials they picked from the table, as well as saws, glue guns, and any other building materials that were requested. At the end, each of the art pieces were judged, and the winning school left with a trophy.

Mallory chose seniors Samantha Huebler and Taylor Boyd, as well as sophomore Sylvan Benton to participate in the competition. She felt that each of the girls had an unique artistic ability that together would create an amazing team. The girls created a portrait of a girl with acrylic paint. The eyes were made from Mason jar lids, and the lips were sealed with a lock and

key to represent all of the secrets the picture held. The nose was a small piece the girls sawed off of a box and used strands of black tape from a VHS tape for her hair. They painted the girl on a 4x4 plywood board and used mod podge to paste old newspaper clippings to the background of the portrait. They added the quote, “A secret is like a picture. The more it tells the less you know,” to complete it. The piece was eye catching and presented a good lesson.

This competition was created by an art teacher from Reeths-Puffer who participated in a similar activity for adults over the summer. He enjoyed it so much that he thought it would be a great artistic opportunity for local students. It was thought to be a fun way to get students involved and allow each school to express its creativity in different ways.

With only five hours and just the items they had picked out to work with, the three girls did an amazing job according to those who observed the piece. They brought recognition to Whitehall's art program, as well as the school. Although they did not end up winning the competition, the girls agreed that it was a great opportunity that allowed them to have fun and express themselves through something they are passionate about. Boyd said, “I really enjoyed working with Sam and Sylvan. It was cool to see the different ideas everyone had, and to be a part of something so unique.” Mallory, as well as others at Whitehall High School, were very proud of the girls and hope that it will be something students can continue to do in the years to come. Huebler said, “Hopefully someday Whitehall will be able to bring a trophy home for this.” Unfortunately there was not a plausible place to display all of the pieces for the public. The girls' work however, will be displayed in the Whitehall High School art room for anyone who is interested in viewing. Overall, it was a day full of fun and creativity, as well as a sight to see that is hoped to be continued for future students.



Funds for Fun

By: Leah Thompson

This year Whitehall High School put on a fundraiser during the last two weeks in March. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors competed against each other during the fundraiser. The money raised went to each class account for future purchases such as prom or class flowers. Rather than have each class have their own individual fundraiser, it was decided by the class advisors to be a school-wide event. They wanted to do a class contest, in hope of raising sales. Students who participated, sold more than five items, and were a part of the winning class received a pizza luncheon paid for by the two losing classes. The school partnered with Century Resources to sell items. Century Resources is an organization that provides products for schools, sports teams, and other groups to help them earn money. They give groups all of the needed supplies for fundraising, as well as information on prizes they can earn.

Students were given a packet of information at an assembly on Friday, March 21. Inside the packet, they received two brochures which displayed the items to be

sold. Various assortments of pizza, soft pretzels, and breads were in one brochure, while cookies, cheesecakes, and lava cakes were available for purchase in the other. In addition to earning money for their class, students also earned prizes. There were different levels with different prizes. Some of the prizes included a five-pound bag of gummy bears, a skin-it card, blue-tooth headphones, and an Under Armour duffel bag. Most students were excited to receive the bag of gummy bears, which was earned if they sold 15 items.

Overall the fundraiser was a success. A total of about 7,000 dollars was raised by all of the classes. Some of this money will go toward Century Resources for their expenses, and the rest will go to each class. Around 450 products were sold by the classes. The class that sold the most products was the freshmen class with 270 items. Twenty-five freshmen enjoyed the pizza luncheon provided by the sophomore and junior classes. "This isn't an annual fundraiser. Just one that we have had great success with in the past," said Mrs. Ingram Medendorp. Medendorp is one of the senior class advisors who helped organize the fundraiser. It was a great way for students to help earn money for their class and become involved in a fundraiser.

National Honor Society Induction

Every year, selected students are asked to join one of the most prestigious clubs at Whitehall, National Honor Society. The induction for 2014 was introduced by middle school history teacher, Mr. Troy Love. Officers Megan Stout, Janelle Uganski, Ryker Morningstar, and Jordan Hite delivered speeches on the four NHS pillars; leadership, character, scholarship, and service. The candidates for this year's induction were Kyle Baustert, Rebekah Beeghly, Ryan Bluhm, Ciara Broadhead, Chase Christenson, Ashley Dore, Matthew Gilbert, Jake Gillhespy, Alyssa Grover, Caitlyn Hain, Jessica Harris, Joseph Kruszynski, Emily MacArthur, Cheston Manns, Nichole Mcfarland, Jason McWhinnie, Connor Miller, Hannah Moulds, Alexa Murdoch, Tyler Quillen, Kallan Sawyer, Daniel Sharpe, Kaitlin Skoglund, Hannah Tarske, and Ian Zweigle. Each inductee was required to memorize a quote and say it aloud before receiving their candle and certificate. One of the two advisors, Mr. Warren Zweigle, thought, "The NHS induction is truly a celebration of Whitehall's finest students. These students proved themselves to be the best of the best in our school and I'm excited to see what the future holds for them." Overall, the night was a huge success for both inductees and participating members. The new members may now continue their process of giving their time to the community in the form of service.

- *Writer: Sam Huebler*

A “Non-Violent Protest to Winter”

Friday, March 14, 2014 was the day the students and staff protested against the horrible winter weather that West Michigan has been facing. This tradition was started a few years ago by Mr. Bryan Mahan. His motivation was to simply lighten the mood and have fun during the dreary month of March. “It is just a fun way to get students to smile at the end of a long winter,” said Mahan. Not all participated, but those who did really got into it. There were students wearing hula hoops, scuba gear, and swim trunks. Overall, the day was quite a success in that it uplifted many spirits at Whitehall. As Michiganders patiently wait for those warm sunny days, Whitehall takes action by protesting the chilly weather.

- *Writer: Sam Huebler*



Badminton Tournament

This year, in attempt to raise money for the senior scholarships, P.E. teacher, Laurie Hoffman, hosted a Badminton Tournament. Any community member was able to partake in the event. The tournament was during school lunches the week of March 17 and also the week of March 24. It cost \$1 in order to play on a team, and \$0.25 to enter and watch the tournament. Many teachers and staff members participated in this leisure event and competed against student teams. Between both lunches, there were 41 total teams. The teams play two games to 15 and a tie breaker to five, since the tournament is double-elimination. The top three teams split half of the prize money collected, while the other half went toward the Whitehall Education Association Scholarship fund. During lunches, there were four different courts open for teams to play. The funds were low this year, so Mrs. Laurie Hoffman decided to coordinate this event in order to strengthen the account. Students thoroughly enjoyed playing and suggest that they open the gym during lunches continually in order for them to play more in the future.

- *Writer: Sam Huebler*



Pictured: Mrs. DeRose playing with a student on her team.

Snowy Sports Season

By: Kelsey McGuire

Winter has overstayed its welcome this year at Whitehall High School. Spring sports began, but there was too much snow for teams to practice like they would most years. How does a team compete when they have not had a chance to practice on a real field? Teams and coaches worked hard to make up for their lack of outdoor practice.

Baseball and softball spent most of their time in the gym and all-purpose room in the high school. The teams split the time between baseball and softball which usually gave each a three-hour slot. Softball spent some of their extra inside time in the classroom discussing jerseys and food schedules for away games later in the season. Dave Goodrich, varsity softball coach, included many "situation" practices to show different situations that could happen in a game. The amount of games played may be cut down tremendously this year according to Goodrich.

Generally the softball team plays 30 to 35 games, but Goodrich predicted only being able to play 18 to 22 games because of the snow. He also predicted they may lose up to six games before spring break, and might not be able to even get outside to practice until after spring break. In that case, the teams may cancel some of their non-conference games to make up for the conference games they missed. Because districts for softball are hosted at Whitehall this year, the team worked even harder to make up for the lack of time they were able to spend outside. Megan Stout, senior softball player, said, "The snow had definitely presented challenges, but the team this year is capable of overcoming any obstacles while continuing to strive for success."

Warren Zweigle, varsity baseball coach, agreed his team probably will not be on the field until after spring break. Even though they have not had the outdoor practice, the baseball team still plans to play games over spring break in southern Michigan where there is not as much snow. Junior, Cheston Manns, said, "The team has canceled six games, and is still practicing indoors." Both teams are usually inside for their first two or three weeks, but this year it is more than likely going to be four to five.

Track and field has also had its practices inside the high school for the most part. With the gym and all-purpose room being occupied the majority of time, track practiced in hallways and the weight room. Kirk Mikkelson, the boys' track and field coach, incorporated core strength building, circuit training, and plyometric training into practices. Usually the track and field teams are at the track after having a week of inside practice, but this year the distance runners are the only ones that ran outside with the snow. Mikkelson hopes to practice on the track as soon as it is clear of snow. Varsity soccer had the same problems as the other teams with the snow. The team practiced in the Shoreline Elementary School gym. Dan Nichols, the girls' varsity soccer coach, said, "Normally we would be outside on our practice fields getting a better feel for the game, but for now we will be in the gym until the snow melts." The team canceled one game, and others were pushed back, but they hope to include them in their season by rescheduling them. Because other schools in this area had as much snow as Whitehall, soccer is expected to have an even playing ground. When the team was finally able to go outside senior, Allison Potter, said, "We are enjoying the opportunity to practice outside for a change."

Greg Boughton, boys' golf coach, said, "We're making the best out of what we can," when it came to holding tryouts with the snow still covering the ground. The 36 boys who tried out practiced in the Ealy Elementary School gym so they could work on their technique from 6:00 - 9:00 each night. Usually tryouts would be everyone playing the same course with the lowest scores staying on the team. Because the team is unable to get on a golf course, Bill Borgman, a pro golfer, helped analyze the players' skill level to determine who should be included on this year's team. In the gym, the boys hit fake rubbery golf balls off of carpet squares that were three feet-by-three feet. They also pitched or chipped the balls into round washtubs, or putted on the gym floor. Kyle Baustert, junior, said, "Playing in the gym is fun, but it does not meet all the needs for the golf team." The first jamboree was scheduled for April 15, but Boughton was not certain that the team would even get onto a golf course until that time depending on how quickly the snow melted.

Girls' tennis also had difficulties with their season because of the snow. Most years the team would be

outside on the courts, but this year tennis practiced in the community service building's gym. Ashley Dore said, "I feel like the snow is effecting how we play as a team." Greg Mcmanus, the girls' tennis coach, had two canceled matches already in the season. The team was able to have one match, and a few practices on actual tennis courts at Norton Pines, an athletic club in Norton Shores. Girls' tennis hoped for the snow to melt, so it could practice outside.

The spring sports season this year was disturbed by

the large amount of snow on the ground. Games had been canceled and rescheduled, and most teams did not plan on getting outside until after spring break. Teams and coaches are working hard to make a great season even with all the difficulty of not being able to practice outside. Because of all the changes in schedules for all of the spring sports, people can find the new spring sports schedule by going to High School Athletics and clicking on Schedules/Camps.

West Michigan Student Showcase 2014

Every year, students from all over West Michigan represent their school in different categories at the Frauenthal Theater in Muskegon. This year, the students who represented Whitehall were all seniors: Matt Rohen and Jenna Pesch for Athletics, Hannah Jurcich for Performing Arts, Luke Westrate for Academics, and Samantha Huebler for Visual Arts. Their special night was hosted March 19, at 7:00 p.m. In preparation, the students traveled to Muskegon earlier in the day to participate in a technical rehearsal. This rehearsal lasted two hours and helped the students understand their tasks for the show. The curtains were drawn at 7:00 sharp and the show kicked off with a few performances from students representing other schools. These performances were scattered intermittently throughout the show. The order was as follows: Athletic honorees, Academic honorees, Literary Arts honorees, and finally Visual Arts honorees. The speaker, Tom Harryman, joined the host, Britta Cleveland, in announcing the students as they entered the stage. The show lasted through the night and ended with a performance. Because of all of the talented students in West Michigan, another night hosted the continuum of Showcase. After both

nights, the winners were announced for the categories in which awards were given. Whitehall students did not receive an award, but the students were still very proud of their accomplishments of being selected to represent their school.

- *Writer: Sam Huebler*



Pictured: Hannah Jurcich performing her dance on stage.



Pictured: Jenna Pesch shaking hands after her recognition on stage.

Rookie Robotics Team Lands First Place

After many years of absence, a robotics team has once again entered the Whitehall atmosphere. The newly founded White Lake Robotics Team #4956 won first place at the West Michigan District FRC Competition at Grand Valley State University. In addition to this, they also received the Rookie All-Star Award. The team brought back two trophies, a large championship banner, and gold medals to Whitehall. The medals were presented to the students at an assembly on the morning of March 24. that all high school students watched. Students who watched were intrigued with the amount of skill the team possessed in order to create something mechanical.

Others became interested in joining the team next year. One of the members, Ryan Springer, said, "Before I joined this robotics team, I talked to very few people outside of my immediate family. I have what's known as Selective Mutism. Since I joined robotics, I have had no problems talking." The Robotics Team coach, Jen Jura, a math and science teacher at the annex, is extremely proud and pleased with the amount of time and work put into the competition. Because they placed first at the GVSU competition, they will head to the Michigan FRC State Championship at Eastern Michigan University on April 10, 11, and 12 of 2014.

- Writer: Sam Huebler



Pictured: Lachlan Moore presenting their robot at the assembly.



Members pictured left to right: Top row— Mr. Dennis Shaffer, Mrs. Jen Jura, Tapanga Settler, Drew DeWeerd, Nathan Smith, Noah Edwards, Jordan Buchan, Kyle Johnson, Mr. Jeff Cook, and Caleb Mauer. Bottom row— Mrs. Cathy Cook, Ryan Springer, Kordel Roy, Daron Gagnon, Nia Wade, Lachlan Moore, Kaitlin Shaffer, and Amber Keller.

Whitehall is Making History

These students are the people who represent Whitehall without being noticed; those who go the extra mile in their extra-curricular activities. They have been national champions and state qualifiers. These students make up the Whitehall National History Day Team. National History Day is an organization that started nearly 40 years ago due to the lack of support that the nation had for studying history. NHD encourages students to do extensive research using primary and secondary resources on a topic of their choice that relates to an annual theme. This year's theme was "Rights and Responsibilities in History." Students present their knowledge either as a paper, performance, exhibit, documentary, or website. Each category is judged separately, and every category except papers can be entered individually or as part of a group of up to five people. Participants are interviewed and judged on the quality of their research, how well they analyze the information they gather and show impact over time, how well the topic relates to the theme, and the quality of the entry itself.

The advisor for Whitehall's NHD, Mrs. Jan Klco, became involved in NHD in 1986 when she was the director of the Troy Museum & Historical Village in suburban Detroit. She was asked to be a judge for the competition that year and that's how she got hooked. Klco said, "I was so impressed with the program that I continued judging, eventually became a district coordinator, and served as state coordinator for a few years as well. In 2005, when my younger daughter, Alayna, was in 5th grade, I talked to Mrs. Gallhugh about offering NHD as a Social Studies supplement. She agreed, and the Whitehall National History Day Team began with four fifth grade students. I've been coaching ever since."

Whitehall NHD students typically have at least 40 sources (which are documented in an annotated bibliography) as they enter the district competition. In the Senior Division, there were six different entries from Whitehall that qualified for the state contest. Matt Gilbert, a junior, wrote a paper titled, "Apartheid: White Dominance in Black South Africa." This is Gilbert's second year, and he hopes to return to nationals again this year. Freshman Lucas Champoux created a website surrounding the topic, "Roman Society: Establishing the Rights of the Common Citizen." A group performance from junior Randi Mikkelson and freshman Taylor Mikkelson qualified as well. This was called, "Afghan Women's Rights: One Step Forward and Two Steps Back." For one of the individual exhibits, sophomore Mackenzie Brandel did "Liberating Nazi Camps: Taking Responsibility for Restoring Lost Rights." Brandel is a five-year veteran and a two-time national qualifier. Sophomore Kaylee Picard did, "Broken Treaty, Trampled Rights: Signaling the Collapse of the Sioux Nations." Picard is in her second year of this organization, and traveled to nationals last year for her event. A senior from Montague High School, Mariah Olsson did, "Exploiting a Culture, Exploding the Land: Nuclear Testing in the Marshall Islands." On Saturday, March 15, this team competed at the district competition at Grand Valley State University. There were 21 students altogether, eight at the high school level. States will be April 26, at Saline Middle School this year. Klco is excited for these students and hopes that they will again return to NHD Nationals in Maryland in June 2014.

- *Writer: Sam Huebler*



Pictured: Kaylee Picard's exhibit for the National History Day District Competition on "Broken Treaty, Trampled Rights: Signaling the Collapse of the Sioux Nations."

Business Professionals Take the Stage

Grand Rapids hosted the annual Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference the weekend of March 20. From Whitehall, over 20 members traveled to compete in their events at the Amway Grand Hotel Plaza and Davenport University. Students participated in an opening session, chapter meetings, a state talent show, a formal dinner and a dance. The competition was Friday and Saturday and then students had to rise early to accept their awards on Sunday. The Small Business Management Team; Cassandra McAllister, Keaton Smith, Riley Andrew, and Brayden Berson, took fifth place. The Presentation Management Team; Tell Sutton, Morgen Myers, Janelle Uganski, and Luke Westrate, took sixth. Also, Megan Stout, Miranda Jacobs, and Samantha Huebler took eighth place for their event of Global Marketing. Whitehall had two National Qualifiers, Savannah Parmley for Medical Office Procedures (second place) and Sarah Gautraud for Interview Skills (third place). Other Whitehall state competitors included: Logan Flowers, Nichole Sloan, Daisy Genson, Allison Donahue, Faith Wilbur, Robert Jacobs, Spencer McCormick, Kallan Sawyer, Victoria Learman, Elle Bachelder, Lauren Lopez, Tiffany Young, Julia Nguyen, Maya Hector, and Adrian Roy. The advisors, Mrs. Linda Welsh and Mrs. Alyssa Churchley, helped the students in succeeding this year at the State Leadership Conference.

-Writer: Sam Huebler



Pictured (left to right): Megan Stout, Cassie McAllister, Allison Donahue, and Logan Flowers.

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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