

THE VIKING VOICE

April 2023

Welcome to The Viking Voice!

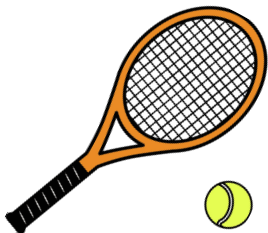
This student-driven newspaper will be published monthly, and will feature all sorts of fun spotlights on students, sports, and staff. If you have any ideas for stories, please reach out to 2024937mc@students.whitehallschools.net!

About the Whitehall Tennis Team

By Emma VanDam & Beatrice Lewis

The tennis team is back again! This year we will be playing games all over! Tennis is a very inclusive sport, no matter if you are in 6th or 8th grade. You can even try it over the summer, too. It's also a fun way to make new friends and try something new.

Tennis was first invented in the 12th century and was originally called "the game of palm." The player often suffered from red hands. Later on, they would play with black leather gloves that got very hot. This would make it very hard for them to play the game, and so now we play with rackets.



Fun Word of the Month

By Mathilda Morneau

Welcome to the word of the month section! This is where, every month, our team will find a word that we think is cool or interesting. If you have any suggestions for the word, leave it in the suggestions box, or email it to 2024937mc :)

April Word of the Month:

Sonder (noun)- the feeling you get when you realize that everyone around you is living a life that is as detailed and complex as yours.

She experienced **sonder** while walking to work one morning and watching people go by.

Quote of the Month

By Delaney Konecny

"Set peace of mind as your highest goal, and organize your life around it."

- Brian Tracy

Joke Time!

Find the answer on the last page!

Question: When's the best time to give your Slinky a good scrub?

The Poem of the Month

By Mathilda Morneau

Fire and Ice

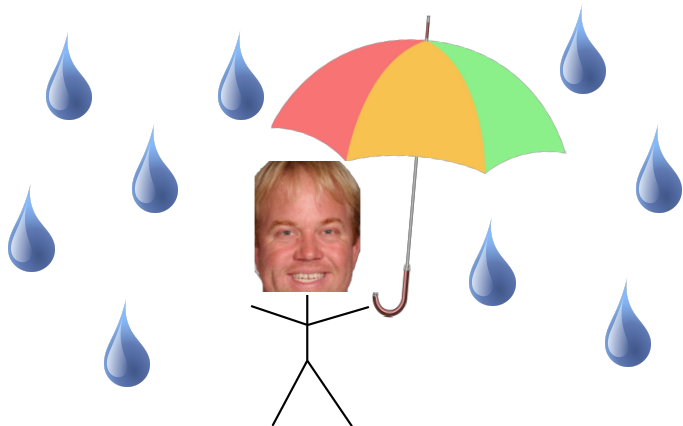
Robert Frost

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.

But if I had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To know that for destruction ice

Is also great
And would suffice.



Teacher and Staff Birthdays...

This month the staff birthdays were...

Mrs. Reid - April 1st
Mrs. Dahms- April 4th
Mrs. Moore- April 13
Mrs. Miller- April 16
Mrs. Taranko- April 17
Chef Jon- April 18
Mr. Aardema- April 18
Mrs. Sholty- April 19
Mr. Huizenga- April 20
Ms. McWilliams- April 24

Happy
Birthday!

Puzzle of the Month

By Riley Shafer

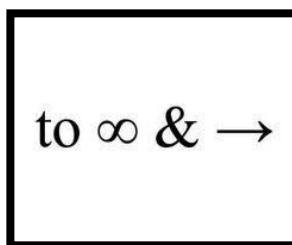
These rebus puzzles are a representation of phrases and ordinary things. Try your best to solve these puzzles!

The first person per grade to email the answers to 2028849rs will get a candy bar of their choice!

(Example: This picture means “balanced diet.”):



Puzzles:



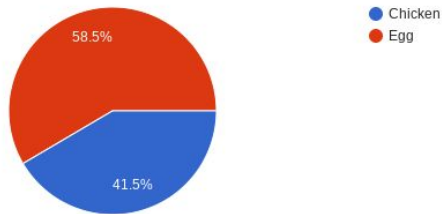
Poll of the Month

By Riley Shafer

I would like to thank all the students who participated in this poll! Out of all the grades, we have gotten 184 responses! My personal opinion is that the egg came first, pineapple definitely does not belong on pizza, and I keep my ketchup in a side cup. Here are the stats!

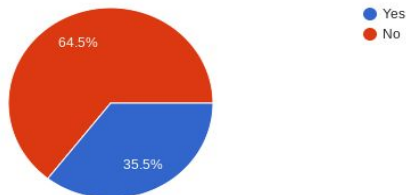
Which came first. The chicken or the egg?

183 responses



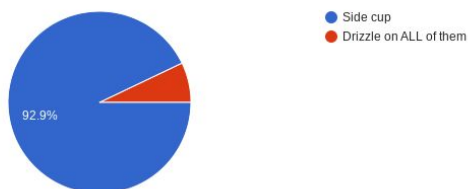
Does pineapple belong on pizza?

183 responses



How do you put ketchup on your fries?

183 responses



Surprise Interview with Mrs. Burns

By Macy Sikkenga

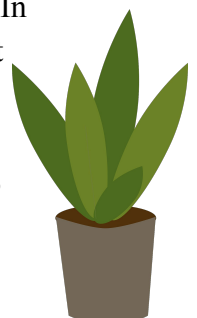
Each month I will be picking a random staff member. Basically, I choose a staff member that not everyone may know, and I sit down with them to ask a few questions.

This month we chose..... Mrs. Burns! Mrs. Burns is the school's psychologist and the Co-Supervisor of Special Education. We decided to interview Mrs. Burns because not a lot of people know her or who she is, so we hope you learn more about her. What inspired her was she had always liked kids and she studied psychology as an undergrad at the University of Michigan. She always thought psychology, mental health, and different disorders were interesting. She knew she wanted to work with kids but she didn't want to become a teacher. For this job you need a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in school psychology. Currently, she is still in school for her masters administration. Mrs. Burns grew up in Caseville, Michigan. Mrs. Burns attended Caseville Public Schools, which is a K-12 building. She just got married about a year ago and she has no children. Mrs. Burns sees about 10-15 kids a day.

Get Your Fill of Plants with the Fun Plant Club

By Mathilda Morneau

Plant club is a student club run by Mrs. Tate. They meet once a month on the third Thursday. In the past they worked on a Mars Farm. This lets people learn about the influence climate has on plant growth by being able to experiment with the conditions. At the last meeting they had they started a project with mango seeds to make mango trees. Last winter they harvested seeds from jalapenos and sweet peppers to then plant. You might be wondering what the point of this is....? Their mission is to let people learn about plants and help with green spaces around the school. If you're interested they would love to have you!



Good News of the Month

By Ethan Sylvester And Riley Shafer

On April 8th it was National Draw a Bird Day. Today we will be recognizing the winners of the bird drawing contest of each grade. Congratulate these winners when you see them!

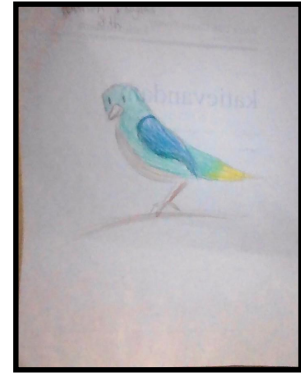
6th Grade: Scout Freiheit!



7th Grade: Kianna Day!



8th Grade: Hannah Douglas!



Congrats to all the winners and everyone who participated in this contest. Your pictures were all amazing!

Whitehall's First Annual Dog Show

By Isaac Davis

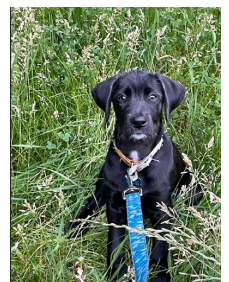
This is Whitehall's first annual dog show. We have some of the cutest dogs from the staff. I hope you enjoy them!

This years first contender is Mr. Boyds Dog, Hazel. Hazel is a certified therapy dog and she is a three year Old English Cream Golden Retriever. She loves coming to school and hanging out with students! She can sit, high five, lay down, roll over, catch, and be the best girl.

The second contender is Mrs. Shepherd's Dog, Russel. He is a Bernese Mountain Dog. Russel does absolutely no tricks, besides loving on people continuously. He is only 1 year old which puts him in 8th grade like the rest of his friends.

The final contender is Mr. Raabs dog, Doogan. He is half Labrador, half Labradoodle. Don't let that awesome beard trick you! He is a one year old, very energetic puppy. He loves to dance, eat sticks, and snuggle.

Overall, these dogs are all deserving of this title, but one dog just came ahead in all categories. Drumroll please ... and the winner is, **Hazel!** She is very cute and knows tons of tricks. All of these dogs are great! Thank you to everyone for participating and giving their opinion. Congrats to Mr. Boyd and Hazel! Thank you for reading.





“Students in the Spotlight”

Each month, “Students in the Spotlight” will feature a 6th, 7th, and 8th grader that exemplifies a true Viking in the eyes of teachers and staff at the middle school. These students are handpicked for their unique and outstanding behaviors in the classroom, and beyond. Please take the time to congratulate these students, and learn more about them in their spotlight:

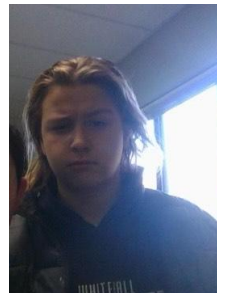
6th Grade: Greyson Konency By Aria Tindall

This is the 6th-grade student in the spotlight, Greyson Konecney. He is humorous, intelligent, kind, and persuasive. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer, basketball, and hanging out with his friends. He said that he looks up to his mom because she pushes him to be a better version of himself. He said that his favorite animal is a cat, but at home, his only pets are his two guinea pigs - Cuddles, and Snickers. He said that his biggest goal is to be a professional soccer player when he grows up. If he had one superpower, he would want to be able to fly. Ok last fact, he says that pineapple does belong on pizza. And that's our 6th-grade student in the spotlight Greyson Konency.



7th Grade: Cooper Kujawski By Aria Tindall

Cooper is very humble and doesn't always talk about himself. So my fellow teammates and I had to dig deeper to find the true Cooper, and this is what we found: Cooper is athletic and creative. He enjoys playing basketball and says that this sport has taught him a lot about teamwork. He told us in an interview that he looks up to his mom, and by his definition, she sounds like such a loving and caring person. But like all people, Cooper isn't perfect, and he strives to be a better version of himself all the time. He says that one goal he has is to go to the University of Michigan after he graduates from high school. He said that he doesn't have his life planned out yet, and I think that is what some people forget, we all still have time to figure out what we're meant to do. He was nominated by Mrs. Tate because she said that he's always doing what he needs to do. He has so much integrity and she wanted to give him his spotlight because he hasn't gotten it yet and certainly wouldn't ask for attention.



8th Grade: Ashlyn Brookens By Aria Tindall

Ashlyn Brookens is our 8th-grade student in the spotlight. She loves school and she especially enjoys her English, history, and science classes. She has such a positive spirit and is so much fun to talk to. Outside of school, she enjoys taking part in track, school musicals, and rock climbing. She loves to be her true self every single day. She says that she respects her friend Annie Thielman because she is so positive and always has something nice to say. Ashlyn told us that she also believes that pineapple does belong on pizza. And that's the 8th-grade student in the spotlight, Ashlyn Brookens.



The Dangers of Waste

By Annabelle George

Did you know that there are over 2.6 trillion pounds of waste on earth? To add on to this, only about 32% of the world recycles! You might be wondering: How can I help? Well, this article should give you some ideas. But, back to the matter at hand. One way you can help is by making sure to separate your trash from cardboard, paper, and any plastic with a 1, or a 2 on the bottom, then make sure it gets in a recycling bin. You can also spread the word about the need for recycling. Scientists say that if we don't start recycling more by 2050, we'll have produced about 26 billion metric tons of plastic waste! That is equal to 5,2000,000,000 (five billion, two hundred million) elephants! That would be hard to contain.



FAQ's:

How much plastic is actually recycled? - Sad as it is, only about 5% of all plastic is actually recycled.

Other ways to help - use less single-use products, like plastic bags, water bottles, plates, plastic utensils.

What happens to garbage in a landfill? - Once your garbage speeds away in the neighborhood garbage truck, do you ever really think about what happens to it after that? Well, it basically just gets buried and waits to decompose. Landfills are generally open for about 25-30 years, and after they close, they usually have to be monitored for about 30 more years.

Are there any landfills near us? - Yes, there is in fact a retired landfill right here in Whitehall, and is right behind McDonald's. The landfill is currently leaking hazardous chemicals known as PFAs.

What are PFAs? - Man-made chemicals that have been used in nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing, some cosmetics, some firefighting foams, and products that resist oil, water, and grease.

How long does garbage take to break down? - It depends on what garbage you're talking about. Plastics can take about 1,000,000 (a million) years to decompose. Fabric can take over 200 years to break down. Plastic bags take about 1,000 (a thousand) years to decompose.



Earth is in need of our help. With its lush, green forests, deep, blue oceans, vast prairies, cold, plunging waterfalls, and all seeing cliffs. Well, in summary, **please come sign my petition to help save our wonderful planet we call home. To sign my petition, to get recycling for the school, find me at lunch, or at my locker #318.** I want to get at least 200 signatures. I'd be happy to meet you!



Woman of the Month: Margaret Floy Washburn

By Avery Siemen and Delaney Konecny

The month of April represents Stress Awareness. There are many things that can cause stress, some of the main causes of stress include lots of pressure, big changes, becoming worried, and responsibilities you can find overwhelming. There are many more that could be named, but Margaret Floy Washburn was a very impactful woman that became the first woman therapist.

Margaret was born on July 25th, 1871 in New York City, but she grew up in Harlem, New York. During her career, she studied animal behavior and the basic psychological process of sensation and perception. Margaret was the first woman to get her doctoral degree in American psychology in 1894. Margaret had a theory that all thought and stress could be traced back to bodily movement. Margaret never got married or had children. This was because she served as a professor for 36 years and only really interacted with women. She was also very absorbed with her research.

Margaret Floy Washburn did many great things in her life but there were still many struggles. When she was in school, Harvard refused to give her a grant for her degree because she was a woman. When she was around 60 years old, she suffered from a stroke and died at the age of 68 from long-term illness. Margaret Floy Washburn had a big impact on society and helped change how people view women.



**The Margaret.
The Myth.
The Legend.**

Staff Member of the Month- Ms. Morin (aka “Ms. Betty White”)

The staff member of the month for April is Ms. Morin! Ms. Morin was voted with a whopping **77% majority vote!** Wow! It’s obvious that Whitehall Middle School loves Ms. Morin, but let’s hear what you all have to say:

“I chose Ms. Morin because she is the best lunch lady ever!”

“All the students adore her, we always have a fun time interacting with her.”

“She is always super nice and always makes us feel welcome!”

“She’s my favorite person on the staff, everyone loves her and she is super duper kind and nice!”



Huge congratulations for Ms. Morin! Make sure to shower her with all sorts of kind words this month!

Comic Strip- Aby Pezet & Ethan Sylvester



After moving here from Canada a few years back, I finally know everyone here,



I'm Rex Ramirez, a kid, in New Jersey, who so happened to be cursed with Middle-School

Read All About Dance Club!



Check Out Delainey Shepherd's Experience with Dance Club!



“Dance club is a very fun extracurricular activity. It is such a fun group, and it is nice to hang out with friends. Isabelle Musk is doing a great thing, this is just one of her services for MAO (Miss America Organization). She is competing in Miss Michigan Outstanding Teen! She makes dance club such a fun and inclusive environment for everyone. We have been working on technique, choreography, and improv. I am very excited for the end showcase and becoming better friends with the girls!”

“Leaping Into Wholeness: The Benefit of Movement”

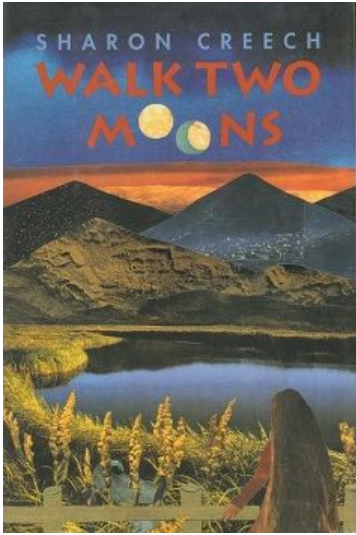


After-School Dance Program

As a candidate for Miss Michigan's Outstanding Teen, Isabelle Musk, a junior at Whitehall High School, has organized a six-week after-school dance program for Whitehall's middle school and elementary. "D.A.N.C.E. for Yourself & Somebody Else". Throughout this six-week program, students meet once a week after school where they explore basic dance training, take part in dance activities, learn weekly inspirational lessons, participate in bracelet making, and prepare for an end-of-session performance. All funds will be going towards final scholarships given out to selected students following the end-of-session performance. With this experience, Isabelle states, "In doing so I hope to provide a safe and welcoming space for these kiddos to have fun and embrace who they truly are as they become insightful and well-rounded individuals."



Whitehall District Schools



Book Shoutout

By Emily Luna

Each month we randomly pick a teacher or staff member to find their favorite book! Here is our April pick from Mrs. Reid...

For this month, it is the book "Walk Two Moons." The plot of this awesome book is about a 13-year-old girl who is dealing with the loss of her mother, moving, and having to make new friends. So, she starts a journey with her grandparents to retrace her mom's cross-country route when she leaves. The author of this fantastic book is Sharon Creech, and was published in 1996. And this is one of Mrs. Reid's favorite books! That's all for the book of the month ... see you next month!

Summer Countdown: 38 Days!

Barbie Movie Countdown: 80 Days!

Danny DeVito's 79th Birthday Countdown: 199 Days!

Christmas Countdown: 237 Days!

Other Upcoming Announcements/Events:

Junior Golf Academy:

If you are interested in playing golf this summer, stop by the office to pick up a flier.

6/1 Golf Meeting: Any 8th grader interested in HS golf or any middle school student interested in summer golf will meet during advisory on Thursday, June 1.

Thank you for reading the April edition of The Viking Voice!



If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or just want to get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to someone on our team, or email me at 2024937mc :) :)

Happy April!



Answer to the joke on the first page:

During spring cleaning!