



THE VIKING VOICE

September 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!](mailto:2024937mc@students.whitehallschools.net)

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 :)

September Word of the Month:

Pareidolia (noun) [pair-ahy-doh-lee-uh, pair-uh-]- an unreal perception of meaningful patterns or images of familiar things in random or shapeless data.

Ex: Seeing objects in clouds, seeing a face on the moon.

Sentence: They keep seeing human faces on the moon, but it's clearly just the trick of the mind they call pareidolia.

Welcome Back!

By Mathilda Morneau

Hi, and welcome back to Whitehall Middle Schools very own Viking Voice!

Our team consists of some of the members from last year, and plenty of new faces that are excited to be here! We are delighted to be back and are looking forward to all of the great stories that this year will bring! Some of those stories include: polls, poems, interviews, books, and articles about events that are happening around the school. The Viking Voice is always open for compliments, questions, and ideas. If you have any of the previously listed, then drop by our suggestions box in the commons and leave us a note! We are a student-run paper, and we are advised by two highschoolers that we are incredibly thankful for, Kenzie Cregg and McKayla Tyers! Finally, we hope you enjoy this issue and invite you to read the many more in the future!

Sincerely,
The Viking Voice Team



Joke Time!

Why did the scarecrow win a Nobel Prize?

Find the answer on the last page.

Cheer, A New Perspective

By Anna George

Have you ever thought of cheerleaders as rude, empty minded, or shallow? Do you think of them as one stereotype: blond, blue eyed, tall, and perfect? Well this is sort of a common mistake. Everything is not as the movies make it out as. I myself for quite a while thought this, until this year, when I joined cheer and realized that it is really a group of fun, helpful, smart, kind people. The ladies in cheer are like you and me, just with a talent for precision, strength, memory, and willingness to devote several hours a day to this sport, and never give up. And it's not just the one stereotype girl anymore, all different girls of different eye colors, hair colors, skin tones, and sizes are joining.

The first chants that sparked cheerleading began in the 1860's at Ivy League college sporting events! The first "cheer" known in the US was yelled out from a crowd at Princeton university, 1884. It went as follows:

Ray, Ray, Ray!

Tiger, Tiger, Tiger!

Sis, Sis, Sis!

Boom, Boom, Boom

Aaaaah! Princeton, Princeton, Princeton.

To write this article, I interviewed a few people in cheer to get their perspective. Let's see what **Mrs. Briseno** and **Mrs. Gripton**, the fabulous cheer coaches and 6th grade English and Math teachers have to say.

Mrs. Briseno has been teaching for 19 years, only two at WMS. Her favorite cheer that we do is "Big G, Little O". When asked about the revolution of cheer, and how it's sometimes passed over as a fake sport, she said "It can still be a sport, even if there's not a ball."

Mrs. Gripton has been teaching for 30 years. Mrs Gripton's favorite cheer is "Viking Rumble." She had a lot to say on the issues of stereotypes: that "We have very many different girls, all with different talents," and the sport in general. She said "It's really not just a clique anymore, there's lots of coordination and practice involved." Also, I asked her about sideline and she wanted to say that she and Mrs. Briseno "Don't do cuts for sideline, because they want everyone to experience the program."

Whitehall Middle School Boys Soccer Team Beats Montague 3-2

By Brayden Kelley and Greyson
Konecny

The Whitehall boys soccer team beat Montague for their last regular season game. In the first half, your Vikings were down 2-0, then scored 2 goals. In the second half of the game, the Vikings scored one more goal and ended up winning 3-2! The goals were scored by Greyson Konecny, Tommy Leeke, and Isaac O'Boyle. Thank you to our Whitehall coaches Kevin Reid and Mike Holmberg. Whitehall still has one tournament left to play in on 10/14/23 at Shoreline Elementary or Monague's soccer field. Good luck Vikes!



Poem of the Month

By Mathilda Morneau

Nothing Gold Can Stay

By Robert Frost:

“Nature’s first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf’s a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.”

Teacher of the Month

By Taylor Underhill and Helen Penczar Brown

The Teacher who has been cast by many votes from our students as our official teacher for this month is...Mrs. Dodak! She is 41 years old and has three kids and a husband named Josh, aka Mr. Dodak. Her three children are Conrad, Hannah, and Lee. Some things she likes to do with the *little* free time that's given to her are watching shows, specifically crime shows, and taking her kids around to do exciting activities! What a lovely mom and reliable co-worker! From the words of Mr. Christensen, she is described as - "Strong" and from Mr. Webb a - "Good Team Player" as well as "Humble and does a lot for others and work-wise not expecting or wanting anything back. She does hard work in co-teaching and not for notability or fame!"

Mrs. Dodak before WMS!

When Mrs. Dodak was in her former years, she grew up on the other side of Michigan in a town called Flint. She also lived in Minneapolis for 9 years before coming back into the Muskegon area. She went to college at Michigan State for her bachelor's degree, and the University of Saint Thompson in Minnesota.

Favorite Activities:

Of course, it was when she was younger because of the tight schedule she has now, but when she was in school here are a few things she enjoyed in her free time!

- (1) Volleyball!; Dodak once tore up her knee in the process of playing volleyball. But she was avenged in her later years! As soon as she finished college she was a volleyball coach for 12 years!
- (2) Choir and English, she mentioned these weren't her favorites but she still enjoys them from time to time.
- (3) Gym; this happened to be her class she looked forward to every school day
- (4) Basketball and soccer; now who doesn't enjoy some variety of sports? I know I do!

Mrs. Dodak's Job Journey

As well as her jobs, we all know she didn't just become a teacher first! Of course, we have to get you in a little bit of her job life... Her first job was working in a library; now that's sure a start to thinking jobs are *quiet*. She also worked in a pool and spa, so a little secret, she's a "*MASTER POOL ALGAE CLEANER!*" Other than that, there happens to be no secret for her being something like a maid or a McDonald's worker, but wouldn't it be interesting to see Mrs. Dodak being a circus performer? I'd like to see that!

Fun Facts

Get a peek deeper into the life of Mrs. Dodak, She was only a baby, or considered a toddler, when at the age of 3 she was diagnosed with cancer. Guess who beat it?! She did! She also only has a single kidney!

Conclusion

Concluding and wrapping that all up, Mrs. Dodak deserves to be the teacher of the month! Wish her the best month and make sure to think about who deserves to be NEXT! In the Viking Voice newspaper!



Development of WDS and the Community

By Braiden Conklin

One of our amazing Viking Voice journalists, Braiden Conklin, proposed an idea to dive into the history of WDS and to highlight the changes and growth over the years. He decided to reach out to some teachers that have been teaching her for 20+ years, and give them a space to talk about the changes they've observed in their time here. This project is expected to continue through future editions, but please enjoy these interviews with Mr. Boyd, Mrs. Diephouse, and Mr. Hanson for now:

“When I started teaching 41 years ago Ealy was known as Whitehall Elementary School and was a K-5 building. We didn't have telephones or computers in the classrooms. I used a record player for music and movement. In my classroom I wrote on chalkboards and had to use the eraser vacuum to clean the erasers. We also had tile floors so I would put tennis balls on the legs of the chairs to cut down on the noise. Bathrooms were down the hall and not in the classrooms like they are now at Shoreline. Today teaching materials are more readily available.”

Mrs. Diephouse

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41 Years of Teaching

“I believe that the changes we have made have made a positive effect on our school, so I don't think any changes have been bad. I read and hear about troubles that other schools are having, but my focus has always been on finding ways to make sure my students are doing what they can to be successful. It always amazes me to run into High School students, or students that have graduated and are in our community, and they are able to smile and laugh about their time in Whitehall. I think it is natural to gaze at the greener pastures and to want to get out of Whitehall, but the people I run into seem to be positive about our community and their Whitehall experience.”

Mr. Hanson

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36 Years of Teaching

“Many things have changed since the start of teachers working at WDS. Some of the changes have been physically. For example, our building used to have to walk outside to our current cafeteria. The band and choir room used to be a parking lot. When he first started teaching here the middle school was grades 5-8. The greatest change is when 25 years ago teachers started teaming. Having the same teachers with the same students makes the possibilities of integrated learning, connections with your students and student success so much more likely. Teaming has helped thousands of students have positive memories of their middle school years. This is often not the case because of how much we change between 11 and 14 years of age.” Mr. Boyd taught mainly 8th grade math during his time here. His 1st year he taught high school algebra, high school general science, 8th grade science, 5th grade physical education (PE) and 5th grade art. He has also taught 8th grade science and 7th grade math.

Mr. Boyd

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31 Years of Teaching

Mad Libs

By Aria Tindall

How to: Underneath the line there is a word. That word is like a category. Pick a word that is in that category. Ex: Word/Category is place, the player could chose the park.

Breaking News. Today in _____ there was an odd looking
Place
_____. The creature swooped down knocking down shelves of _____.
Animal *food*

Witnesses said the creature had _____ and _____
Color *body part* *adjective*

Paws. There is still an ongoing debate about what should be done with this
animal. Some believe that the creature should be kept at the _____. Others
Place
think that the animal should be released into the wild.

This creature is known for _____ and _____. The creature has
Verb *Verb*
knocked down a _____. The creature seems to be headed
Adjective *noun*
towards _____. The people of this place are very concerned. That don't
Place

know what is to come of there home. Some people are _____, but most are
Emotion
_____. One scientist thinks they have found the answer to our problem. An
Emotion

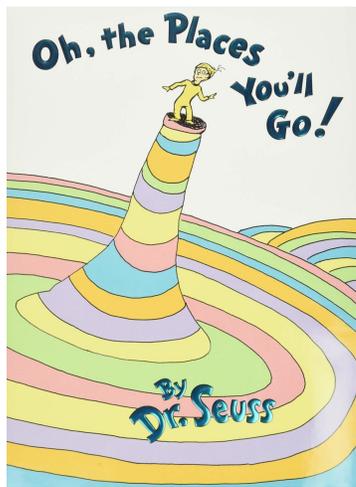
antidote, with rare ingredients. This includes _____, _____,
Number *Color* *Thing or Animal*

a _____ of _____ tears, and _____ handfuls of dragon breath.
Baking Measurement *Monster* *Number*

Once you have all of these ingredients simply put them in a _____ and
Type of container

use a _____ to stir this all together. Let mixed ingredients sit over a _____
Thing *Color*

Fire. This worked! So Everyone all over the world including the odd cat was saved.



Book Shoutout

By Emily Luna

Each month we will be randomly picking a teacher or staff member to find out their favorite book! Here is our September pick from Mr. Meinert...

For this month Mr. Meinert picked the book "Oh the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss! There isn't really a plot to the book, it's just about how throughout one's life things change. The book was published on January 22nd, 1990. The amazing publisher of this amazing book is the amazing Dr. Seuss! That's all for this month's book shoutout, thank you to Mr. Meinert for the recommendation! See you next month!



Other Upcoming Announcements/Events:

- **Fall Break:** No school 10/13-10/17. Enjoy the long fall break!
- **White Lake Girls Basketball:** Registration is now open for any girls interested in basketball that are in grades 3-8. Practices will begin the week of October 23rd. You can find more information on the fliers in the office.
- **Year Books:** If you did not receive your yearbook last year, please go see Mrs. Sholty in the office.
- **Sports Sign Ups for Winter:** Girls Competitive Cheer (Open Until: 10/27), Girls Basketball (12/1), and Coed Wrestling (2/28)

Answer to the joke on page 1:

Because he was outstanding in his field!



Thank you for reading the September 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 :)