



THE VIKING VOICE

May 2023

Welcome to The (Last) Viking Voice!

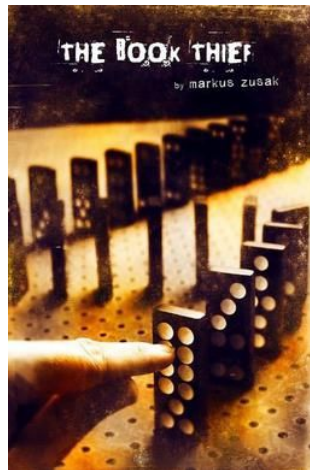
We hope you enjoy our last edition of the student driven *Viking Voice*! We will most certainly be back next year and can't wait to hear all of your ideas!

You can always send them our way at:
2024937mc@students.whitehallschools.net!

Book Shoutout

By Emily Luna

Each month we randomly pick a teacher or staff member to find their favorite book! Here is our May pick from Mr. Hanson....



For this month, it is the book "The Book Thief." The plot of this fabulous book is about a girl during World War II in Nazi Germany. Her parents try to hide a Jewish person that is soon forced to leave because he was drawing attention to them. Their town was bombed, and her best friend and some of her family were killed. The author of this delightful book is the one and only Markus Zusak, and this book was published in 2005. This is one of Mr. Hanson's all time favorite books!

That's all for this month.... And thank you for following along with the book shoutouts... See you next year!

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 :)

May Word of the Month:

Petrichor (noun): The pleasant, earthy smell after rain.

Example: Although I do love the pleasant, dewy **petrichor** of the post-rain afternoon, I still hope the weather stays sunny.

Quote of the Month

By Delaney Konecny

"All great changes are preceded by chaos."

-Deepak Chopra

Joke Time!

Find the answer on the last page!

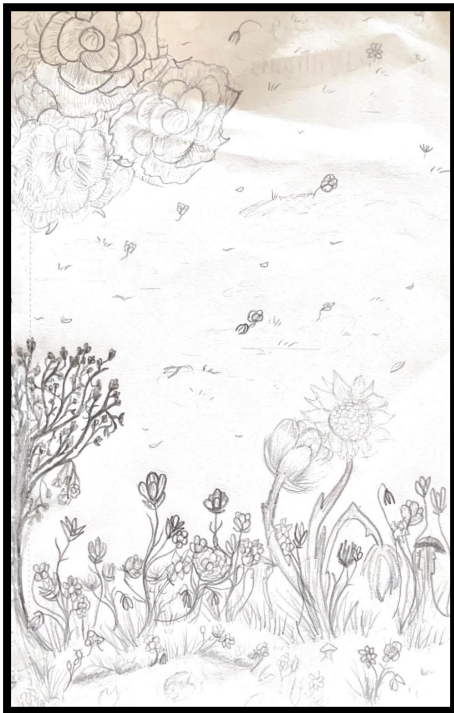
Question: Why do flowers always drive so fast?

Good News of the Month

By Riley Shafer

This month's winner for the flower drawing was **Sierra Goerbig** from 6th grade!

Thanks to everyone who participated in this challenge! :))



Nice job Sierra!

Poem of the Month

By Mathilda Morneau

The Road Not Taken

By Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could To where
it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay In leaves no
step had trodden black.

Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



One more week! Hang in there!

Follow Up Interview with Mrs. Morin- April Staff Member of the Month

Advisors of the news team--Kenzie Cregg and McKayla Tyers--delivered a certificate and bouquet of roses to Mrs. Morin last month to celebrate her being voted the staff member of the month. As previously mentioned, Mrs. Morin won with a 77% majority vote... which is CRAZY! The Viking Voice received over 150 written responses on how kind, welcoming, and fun Mrs. Morin is. We thought that it would be fun to include some fun interview facts about her!

Q: What is your favorite color?

A: "My favorite color is purple!"

Q: Why did you decide to work at Whitehall?

A: "To be around children. I serve with the kids at my church, so I wanted to find somewhere to work with other children."

Q: What grade do you think is your favorite to work with?

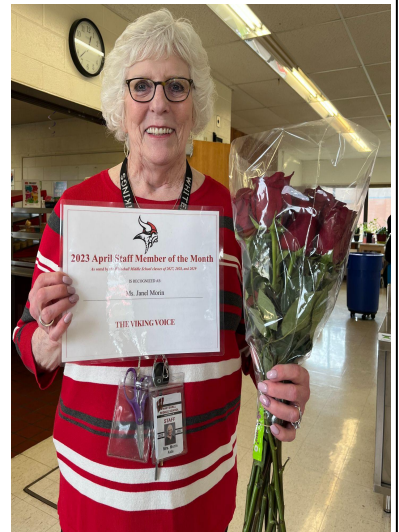
A: "I don't have a favorite grade to work with because each grade is so special and different. I love working with all the kids at school."

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: "My favorite movie of all time is E.T."

Q: What is your favorite part of the job?

A: "My favorite part of the job is all the hugs I get from a lot of the students, from both boys and girls. I really love each and every one of the kids equally."



Encouragement for the Upcoming 7th Graders: Nerves are Normal...

By Jamyla Brown

The transition to a new grade is always difficult, and I hope I can help ease your nerves a bit with some sports and other fun opportunities that upcoming 7th graders can do!

Everybody said 7th grade will be a hard year, and I even thought the same thing going into it. Then, when I got here, it was better than I thought. You'll make new friends, and even have new teachers. Don't forget about the fantastic dances we get at the middle school once in a while. There are also fun games you'll play in your classes. Lots to be excited about!

Now, I know you have been waiting for me to talk about sports, so here it goes: Well if any of you guys like football, next school year when you are a 7th grader you get to play for your school. That's a very fun thing to think about! Then don't forget about cheer. If you were too scared to do it this year, why don't you try when you are older? Then, in the spring, there's track. Track is a sport that I personally am a part of, and I think you could be a part of it if you just try it out! Yeah, I know that people don't like running, and that's okay if it's not for you! I said that I didn't like running too, and look at me now! I have been doing track for two years, and I love it!

Anyways, I hope this article helped you want to try new sports in your 7th-grade year! Nerves are normal! Just try new things.



“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:

This is **Paige Barrett** and she is our sixth-grade Student in the Spotlight. She says that her mom inspires her because she’s always there for her. She says that her mom is a hard worker and that she’s the kindest person she’s ever met. Paige told us that she is good at dancing, as she does competition dance at Releve. She also enjoys ski race games and has even gotten **silver and bronze medals**. Some of her favorite teachers include Mrs. Taranko, Mrs. Tindall, and Mrs. Zollmer. Her favorite subjects are math and science. In her free time, she enjoys practicing her dances, hanging out with her friends, going outside, and doing art. If she could travel to any place in the whole world she would want to go to Hogwarts so she could ride a hippogriff. Paige says that pineapple does belong on pizza. She has had to work to overcome the loss of her grandpa, which was not easy for her. She wants to be able to juggle one day, and her favorite board game is Bob Ross’ Happy Little Trees. She is also able to eat really sour things without making a face. During the short time she was at Ealy, she was able to get rid of the burs so kids aren’t constantly coming inside with them all over their shoes, and we greatly thank her for that. She was nominated by Mr. Zeerip who said, **“Paige is a very hard worker and she is kind to every student all of the time. She has very high integrity and treats everyone with respect.”**

Next up we have **Olivia Harrison**, and she is our seventh-grade Student in the Spotlight. Out of all of our students, she has received the **most votes**. She told us that her step-sister, who’s passed away, has inspired her to be a good person because she was kind and cared for animals. She enjoys writing and loves her first-hour teacher, Mrs. Ertzinger, which explains why her favorite subject is English. In her free time, she loves to read and play volleyball. If she could travel anyplace in the whole wide world, she would want to go to either New York or Los Angeles. In her opinion, pineapple does belong on pizza, just not all the time. She works hard to make new friends because she just moved to Whitehall. She wants people to know that they can’t judge a book or person by its cover, as you may not know or understand what someone else is going through. She had to work through a hard cheerleading season, and no one wants to do things that are mentally and physically hard, which makes this feat so amazing. Just like Paige, Olivia is able to eat sour things without making a face. She wishes that she were flexible, naturally. Her favorite game is Operation. She was nominated by Mrs. Henderson who said, **“I chose Olivia because she has great attendance and awesome behavior. She does her work, turns them in on time, and doesn’t have a thousand and one excuses as to why not! She has been a great addition to Whitehall!!”**

Our last Student in the Spotlight is eighth-grade girl **Anne Theilman**. A no-named teacher describes Anne as, **“talented.”** Anne told us that her friend Lilly inspires her. In her free time, she told us that she enjoys dancing, acting, reading, sleeping, writing, and playing the ukulele and drumset. She loves her teachers Mr. Christensen, Mr. Buntley, and Mr. Ragan. Her favorite subjects are English and science. If she could travel anywhere, she would go to Italy. She says that pineapple does belongs on pizza, but so does BBQ sauce instead of tomato sauce. She thinks that it’s important for all people to know that kindness is key. Anne has had to overcome the challenge of knowing that she is a perfectionist and that we can’t always be perfect. She is also able to sit on her head and she has freakishly flexible fingers. She wishes that she was able to run and her favorite board game is Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza. Anne was nominated by Mr. Ragan who said, **“Anne has been one of the most well-rounded students I have had the pleasure of working with. She has been on Robotics all three years of Middle School, she also dances, does well in class, is sociable, and is ultimately a humble human being who deserves to be recognized.”**



Thank you to all of our 2022-2023 Students in the Spotlight! We recognize and appreciate you!

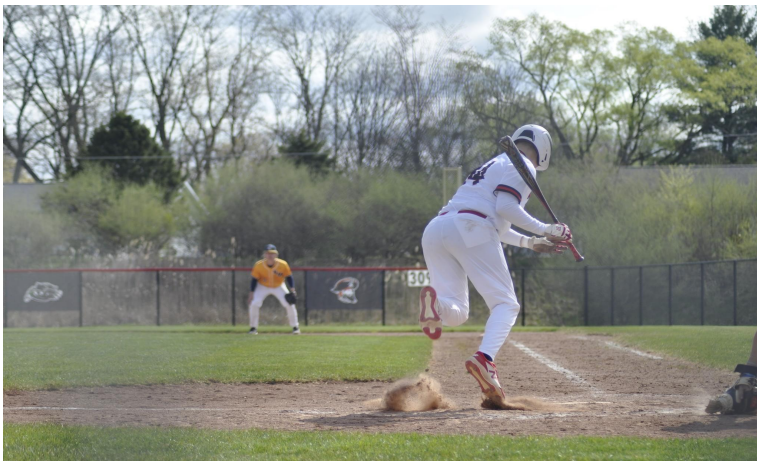


Viking Voice Photography Challenge: Action Shots!

By Aria Tindall

Our entire school was asked to take a picture of an action shot and the following pictures were our favorite. The students below have won our photography challenge!

In the first place, we have **Thomas Waugh**. He says that he is a creative person who really enjoyed this challenge because he loves taking pictures. This picture would not be here today without the help of Thomas' family. His mom would help guide the dogs so they could jump off the small porch, and his brother jumped off the porch so Thomas could figure out where he needed to stand before they got his dogs running. He has two dogs that would both take turns jumping, but the dog in the picture is Emily, who is about 4 years old. He says that his dog is always jumping off the porch, so it would be the perfect shot, and I think we can all agree that it was.



In second place we have **Rachel Szot**. Her picture is so creative. I and my team picked it because we thought it was perfect for this challenge because it perfectly showed someone in action. We loved the dust flying, it was caught at the perfect moment. This picture was truly one of a kind.

In third place was **Madison Sieffert**. She said that when she heard about the challenge she wanted to go and take a picture but then later realized that she had a lot of cool pictures on her camera roll already. When she did take this picture she was inspired by her brother and her picture is truly amazing.



Thanks to all who participated! We loved your action shots!

Woman of the Month: Agnes Arber

By Avery Siemen and Delaney Konecny

This month's theme is botany. Botany is the branch of science concerned with the growth of plants and the patterns of plant growth. Botany is essential because without it, we wouldn't know how to properly protect the environment and plants. Agnes Arber, a famous female botanist, helped us learn about the environment and different plants. She mainly studied the build-up of flowering plants.

Agnes Arber was born in Cambridge, London on February 23, 1879. She went to the University College of London and the University of Cambridge. Agnes had many jobs, translating, botanist, philosopher, and anatomist. She was a botanist from 1879 - 1960. She was married to Edward Alexander Newell Arber, and together they had Muriel Agnes Arber. Sadly Agnes died at the age of 81 years old, in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Agnes Arber gave back to this world by helping us learn about plants and how they grow. Botany is an important part of our lives and the more we learn about these things, the better we will be able to further care for the environment. Agnes Arber paved the way for all of the young females to know that they can do whatever they set their minds to.



Agnes Arber

Teacher(s) of the Month! It's A Tie!

By Beatrice Lewis and Delainey Shepherd

For our teachers of the month we have a tie...**Mr. Christensen and Mr. Webb!** We interviewed both our teachers of the month and collected some information to share with you all...

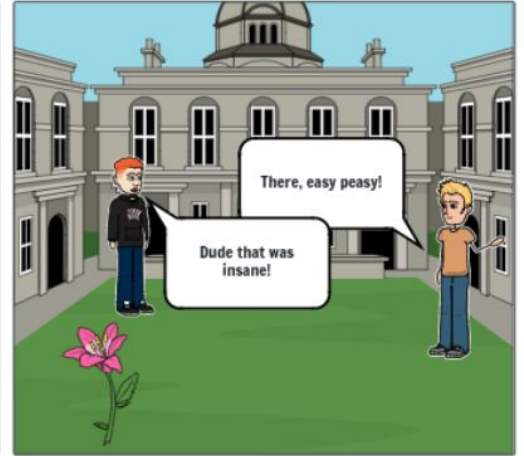
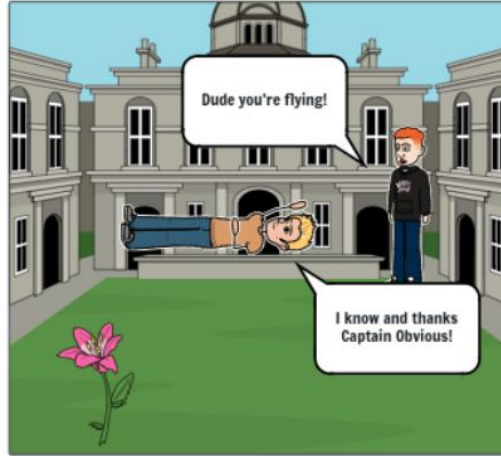
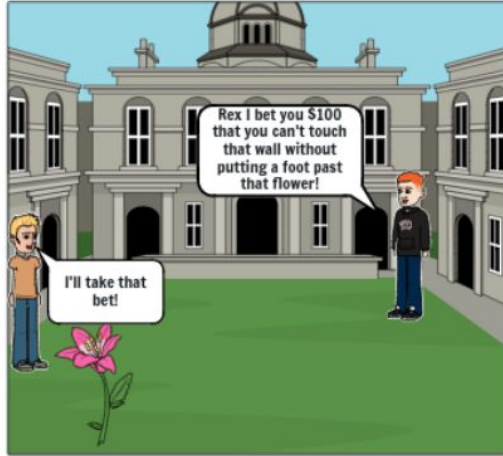
About Mr. Webb: Mr. Webb decided to work at Whitehall because of the "community and the kids." He says he loves to be a part of their journey to high school as well. Mr. Webb worked at Reeths Puffer previously, and likes Whitehall much better! He went to school at Western Michigan University, and his favorite subject growing up was geography. Mr. Webb has three daughters; Adriana, Briella, and Cecilia. He likes to hunt and build things for fun, and he plans to spend his summer doing some construction. Thank you for all you do for us, Mr. Webb!

About Mr. Christensen: Mr. Christensen decided to work at Whitehall because it "feels like home" and he loves it. He chose to work with eighth graders because he likes to be a part of the transitioning time for them going to high school. He's only ever taught at Whitehall, but he was a wrestling coach for Allendale and Reeths Puffer. Mr. Christensen went to Grand Valley State University, and his favorite subject growing up was English even though he "wasn't great at it." He has twin daughters named Vanessa and Avery, and a son (currently a junior at Whitehall) named Ryne. He likes to hunt and spend time with his family, and he is going to spend his summer golfing and spending time with family.

These teachers have truly made an impact on our 8th graders that will soon be moving into highschool, and they should be very much appreciated! If you see either of them in the hallway this week, be sure to give them some kind words and let them know they're loved!

Adventures Of a Flying Middle Schooler!

By Ethan Sylvester and Aby Pezet



Are you passionate about changing our garbage predicament?

Do you like working with other people?

Can you handle responsibility?

Recycling Meeting

Are you interested in re-starting the recycling program at WMS?

If so, please join us for a meeting during Advisory on

Tuesday, June 6th

in Ms. Tate's STEM room.

Please complete the interest survey before June 6th. Access the Google Form at:

bit.ly/WMSRecyclingCrew

Or scan this QR code:



If you said yes to these questions, then you should join our WMS Recycling Team! It will be mostly student-led, with help/supervision from Mrs. Tate. The **first meeting will be Tuesday, June 6th during advisory**. It will really pick up and get started at the beginning of next year. The team will focus on trying to find a new recycling provider for the school, and learning about how to bring down our waste usage. If you are interested, follow the instructions to join, on the flier to the left!

Sincerely,
Annabelle George



Greek Myths

By Annabelle George and Mathilda Morneau

Annabelle and Mathilda wrote their very own Greek myths, and they are great! It takes a lot of talent to write something like this, so please make sure to read with consideration and appreciate their hard work! Here it goes...

There once was a princess named Psyche. She was so beautiful that people thought she was the Goddess of love and beauty--Aphrodite--in human form. She tried to deny it, but nobody would believe her. Her parents thought she would have a lot of suitors (hope-to-be fiancés), but the boys were too scared to ask for her hand in marriage, so they settled for throwing roses. They would line up outside of Psyche's window to hopefully catch a glimpse of her. Eventually, her two other horrible sisters were married off to rich, old men. Her father went to the oracle [never a good idea] to ask what they should do about his daughter's marriage situation. The oracle said that they should dress Psyche as they would dress her for a funeral, and then send her to the top of the tallest rock in the kingdom, where she was to marry a monster. Psyche thought that this marriage meant that she would get disemboweled. She went to the top and since the monster hadn't come yet, she decided to take matters into her own hands. She jumped, but she was caught by the essence of the wind God, Aeolus. He took her to his master's palace, the Greek form of the God Cupid, known as Eros. The deal was that they would get married, but they must meet in the dead of night, because she wasn't allowed to see him. All of a sudden, she learned she was to have a baby. But, she got too curious, and decided that once he went to sleep, she would sneak into his room and light an oil lamp to see what Eros looked like. She then caught a glimpse of him, and saw what he looked like.

It is impossible to know what he looked like when she saw him. His appearance is said to look different to everyone. Picture your perfect guy, and that is how he would look. Did we mention, he also had dove white wings? Then, a piece of burning hot wax fell on his shoulder, and he woke up. He realized what happened, and flew away. As he flew, the palace disintegrated. When Psyche finally caught up with him, she begged him to forgive her. He said that he could never forgive her, and she had ruined everything. Eros explained that his mom (Aphrodite) had found out that people thought Psyche was the goddess herself. Aphrodite had then ordered Eros to track down Psyche and make her fall in love with a monster. But, Eros had fallen in love with her. The palace in the sky, and the identity mystery had been to hide Psyche from Aphrodite's wrath. He flew away. Psyche traveled the road for a long time, looking for him.

Continued on page 9...



Greek Myths Continued

She then went to Aphrodite's palace, and she asked where Eros was. Aphrodite said that she had no idea. So Psyche begged and begged. Aphrodite said that if she could do three simple tasks, she would tell Psyche where he was. Her first task was to put all the grains that had been emptied out into the kitchen back in their bags, all sorted. This was nearly impossible, because the grains would need to be re-sorted using tweezers. They were really small. Then Demeter, the Goddess of the harvest, sent along a tribe of ants to sort everything for her. The ants sorted it for her, and then left. Aphrodite had to admit that Psyche did a great job, but she suspected she got help. For the second task the next morning, Psyche had to get wool from a bunch of sheep that were nearby. Psyche went to collect the wool, but realized the sheep ate any kind of deer or animals that came nearby. So the voice of Eros spoke from a tower and told her to pluck the wool from the brambles where the sheep scratched their backs. She did this in return to Aphrodite. Aphrodite admitted she had done a great job, and told her to rest, for tomorrow was the last challenge. In the morning, Aphrodite told Psyche that she must climb to the top of a cliff and get a special kind of water that connects to the Styx River for Aphrodite to drink. Psyche knew that she could not do this, because touching the water would harm her. So, Hera sent down an eagle which grabbed the pitcher and filled it with the water for her, and Psyche carried the pitcher back to Aphrodite.

Aphrodite admitted she did a good job, but she said she must do one bonus task. Aphrodite sent Psyche to the underworld to borrow beauty cream from Persephone, the Queen of the Underworld, and Hades' wife. Psyche went down the long road to the underworld to get the beauty cream. When she arrived, Psyche explained her problem to Persephone. Persephone felt bad for her, and knew that Aphrodite thought Persephone would try to hurt Psyche. Persephone was mad at Aphrodite for trying to get her to do it for her. So, Persephone filled a bottle with a potion that when opened, would make Aphrodite fall asleep. She sent Psyche on her way. On the way though, Psyche realized how torn up her outfit looked. So, she decided to open the bottle and use some of the beauty cream. Never a good idea when it is meant for a Goddess. She opened it and immediately fell into a deep coma.

Back at Aphrodite's palace, Eros was feeling better, and got a little strength to look for Psyche. He found her on the roadside, still in a coma. He then picked her up and brought her to Mount Olympus, where he told Zeus everything, and how she wasn't being foolish for opening the bottle. Zeus felt bad for her, and decided that the only way to save her was to make her a Goddess. Everyone on Olympus (except Aphrodite) agreed that Psyche was worthy of this. She was transformed into a Goddess, and immediately woke up. She was so happy to be able to spend an eternity with Eros. She had her baby a few months after, and her daughter became the Goddess of joy. She and Eros lived as happily ever after as one can.



The End!
Thank you for reading!

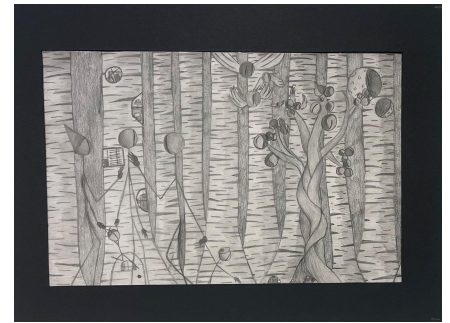
Whitehall Students Get Artwork Featured in the 41st Annual Expressions: Muskegon County Student Art Exhibition

By Emily Luna and Macy Sikkenga

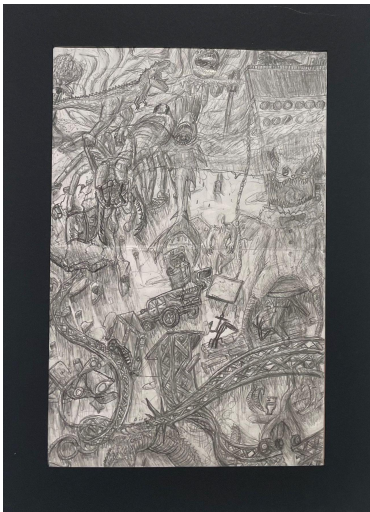
Four of our very own WMS students had the opportunity to display their art in the Muskegon Museum of Art this past April. Each of these students had intricate works drawn in pencil (pictured below) made in Mrs. Spicer's art class this year. Huge congratulations to Nicolette Stepp, Keenan McCullough, Aby Pezet, and Remi Chapman on their hard work! Let's learn a little bit about them from their interviews:



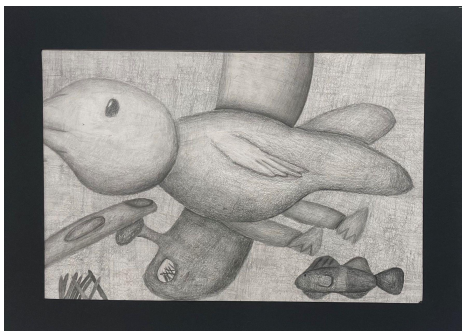
Nicolette: Nicolette has been drawing since she was four years old, learning from her mom and sister. She says that she works better with realistic things, and has spent a decent amount of time practicing this skill. Her advice for new artists is to find your own style, and focus less on what other people are doing. Nice work, Nicolette!



Aby: Aby started drawing when she was really little, and started out just drawing stuff she liked from observation. She says her #1 goal is to "just get better all in all, and hopefully to be respected." Aby says that it was cool to have her art featured in a museum, but that she sees it as just one small step towards the direction she wants to go in. When asked what her advice to new artists would be, Aby said, "My advice is practice, observe, and be yourself. Everyone's art style is different, don't strive to be someone else." Outstanding work, Aby!



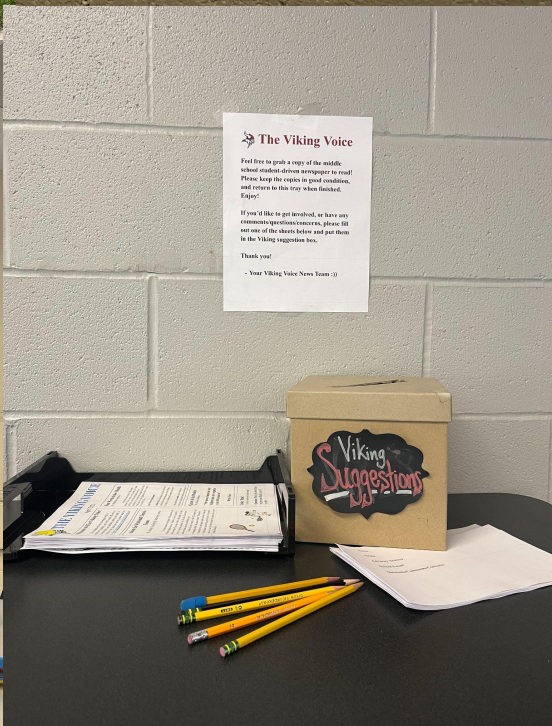
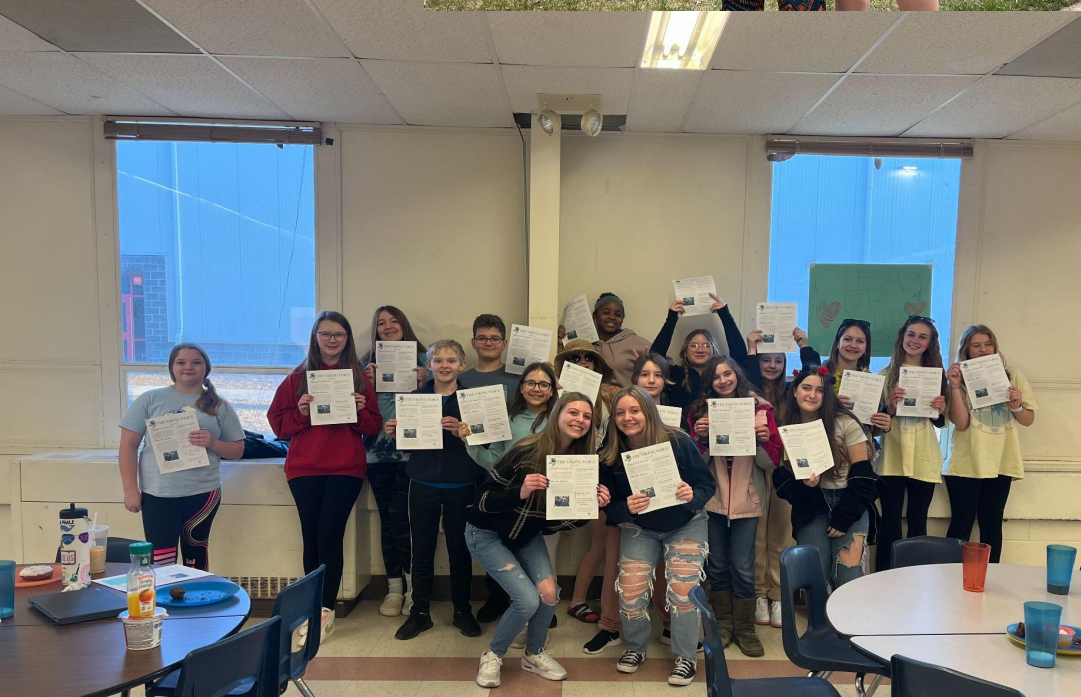
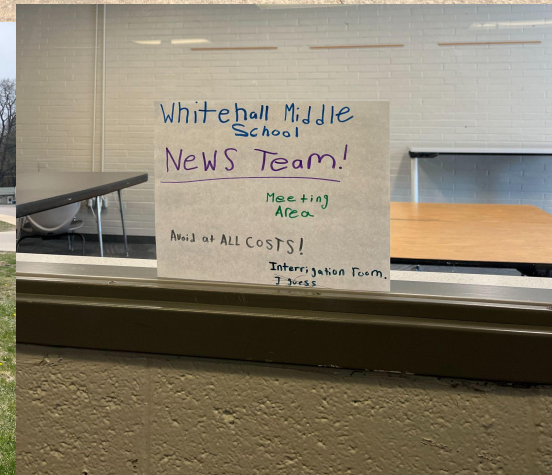
Keenan: Keenan has been drawing since he was eight years old, and is primarily self taught. His goal is just to improve, specifically on the technique of shading. He says that he looks up to all of his past art teachers, and that they have inspired him to work hard on drawing. Keenan says that it was pretty cool to have his art featured in an exhibit, and would love to do it again! Awesome job, Kennan!



Remington: Remi is currently in 8th grade, but has been drawing since 6th grade. A lot of his inspiration comes from his dad and former Ealy art teacher--Mrs. Bennet. He estimates he has spent 50+ hours on developing his talents. If he has to give any advice to new artists, he would say that everything does not have to be perfect! Striving for perfection can be damaging instead of helpful. Great work, Remi!



Viking Voice Bloopers!



Summer Countdown: 8 Days!

Barbie Movie Countdown: 50 Days!

Danny DeVito's 79th Birthday Countdown: 169 Days!

Christmas Countdown: 207 Days!

Answer to the joke on the first page:

Because they put the petal to the metal!

Other Upcoming Announcements/Events:

Career Camp

Career Camp at the Muskegon Tech Center for current 7th and 8th graders is June 12-15. You can sign up now through June 2. Information is in the office, and you have also been emailed the information.

Thank you for reading the May 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 :) :)

Have a great summer! We will miss you!

A Farewell

By Mathilda Morneau

Thank you for reading the May edition of The Viking Voice! We won't have a June edition since we get out of school too early. But, don't worry! The team will be back next year to have more fun and to update you about school happenings!

However, we will have some team members leaving us since they are moving on to high school. We wish them luck and hope they continue to be as great there as they are here!

On a more positive note, the sixth graders next year will be able to join the team and be a part of the newest team! We thank you again for being a supporter and a part of our journey to create a newspaper. So, either see you next year, or goodluck in high school!

Sincerely,

The Viking Voice News Team