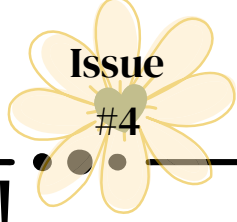




Big Blue News

March, 2025



MARCHING INTO SPRING: BLOSSOMS, BOOKS, AND TEST PREP!

CAP Survival Guide: Stay Cool and Don't Crash Out!

AVA ELLIS
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- It's important to stay calm during testing. If you get too stressed, it's possible you will waste your time overthinking. If you're worried that you'll start to get anxious during testing, remember to prepare thoroughly, practice relaxation techniques, maintain a positive mindset, and remain aware that testing often causes stress. Some great relaxation methods are deep breathing and the 5-4-3-2-1 technique (5 things you see, 4 you hear, 3 you feel, 2 you smell, and 1 you taste).

Upcoming Events

- EVENTS**
 Beta Meeting - March 27th
 Book Fair - April 1st-3rd
 Book Fair Family Shopping Mar 31 3:30-6
 TCAP - April 22nd-May 1st
 Teacher Appreciation Day - May 5th-7th
 7th Grade Field Trip (Circus World) - May 8th
 Field Day - May 20th
 Band Concert - May 13th
 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!! - May 21st
- Vending**
 March 28th
 April 25th
- Schools OUT!!**
 Good Friday: April 18
- Upcoming Days to Celebrate!**
 Eid al-Fitr - March 30th
 April Fool's Day - April 1st
 Good Friday - April 18th
 Easter - April 20th
 Earth Day - April 22nd
- MORE DATES TO COME AS THE END OF THE YEAR APPROACHES!!!



Ms Desch's Class prepping for TCAP

Why We Test: Unlocking the Power of TCAP

Sophia Manning, Hensley Baker
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- We test because the state needs to measure the knowledge we have gained from the school year. Testing also determines whether we are able to advance to the next grade level. Additionally, these tests help teachers understand what areas students are excelling in and where they may need more support. Schools use the results to improve their teaching methods and ensure that students are meeting educational standards. Testing can also prepare students for future exams by helping them practice important skills like time management and critical thinking. While tests can be stressful, they play an important role in tracking academic growth and success.

Test Like a Pro: Top Tips & Tricks for TCAP Success!

SCARLETT SPARKS WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

- Get enough sleep the night before
- Clear your mind before the test starts(don't frantically study)
- Read through the test
- Take mini breaks during the test
- If you're finished, go back and review your answers
- Read all instructions carefully
- Read the entire question
- Study a few nights before, don't stay up late the night before, studying
- Stay hydrated
- Eat a good breakfast

Many people get stressed around TCAP and it makes it harder for them to focus. There are many different tips and tricks to prepare

yourself and ensure you do well during testing. One tip is to stay hydrated because if you are dehydrated, you can get headaches, making it harder to focus. Another tip is to have a good breakfast. If you don't eat a nutritious breakfast with enough protein, you may feel shaky, which also makes it harder to focus. The last tip is to read all the instructions carefully and read the entire question before answering. If you answer without doing those things, you might get the question wrong.



Ms Handley's class prepping for the big day



Seoul-mates in Love: Celebrating Korean Valentine's Day

Ashton Salamoni
 WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-



In Korea, Valentine's Day is celebrated differently from how we celebrate Valentine's Day. Instead of only one day of Valentine's Day, they have three different days when they celebrate. First, they have Valentine's Day on February 14th, where the women give the men gifts. Next, they have White Day on March 14, when the men reciprocate the gifts they were given by the woman. Lastly, they have Black Day on April 14, for the people who didn't receive any gifts on Valentine's Day or White Day.

WHMS CPA



WHMS Performing at the competition, Led by Ms. Hoefler

Book of the Month

by HENSLEY BAKER

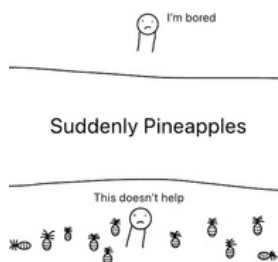


The Hunger Games

Genre: Dystopian

Located in the ruins of late North America, the nation of Panem centers around the Capitol, which is surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel, and controls the districts by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of 12-18 to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a bloody fight to the death on live TV. Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she volunteers to replace her sister as Tribute in the Games. But Katniss has been near death before- and survival, for her, is natural. Without really meaning to, she becomes a competitor. But if she is to win, choices will have to be made, regarding survival against humanity and life against love.

NEW BOOK-SUNRISE ON THE REAPING-MARCH 18TH

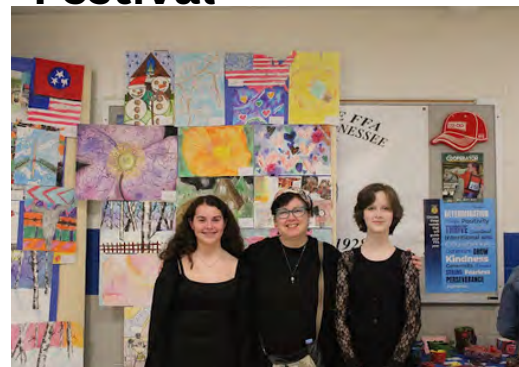


Words to Live By

By Ember Harms

Friendship in middle school is... well, it's definitely something. Most people aren't sure who they want to be, which means they can be unsure of how to be themselves. The important thing to know when it comes to middle school, especially in friendships, is that in the grand scheme of things, one bad friend doesn't matter. Don't ever feel that you need to stay with someone if they're treating you poorly—especially if your "friends" are making you feel worse about yourself, not better. Just walk away. Your mental health matters. Don't worry about having a bunch of friends. It's much better to have a few close friends than a lot of acquaintances. One of the most important things to remember is that friendships can come and go, and there's nothing wrong with that. We're teenagers— all of us are still figuring things out.

A Celebration of Creativity: Highlights from the Fine Arts Festival



Ms. Smith with students at WHHS Fine arts festival

AVA ELLIS WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

The Fine Arts Festival, held on March 1st at White House High School, was an incredible experience. Artwork was showcased from Millersville Elementary, HB Williams Elementary, White House Intermediate, White House Middle, and White House High.

But it wasn't just about visual art—band students performed solos and duets in the cafeteria, while choirs from various schools sang in the auditorium, and choir students performed solos in the chorus room. Younger children enjoyed arts and crafts, and food trucks were available for those who got hungry. Attendees had the opportunity to view artwork from AP Art students and students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Mrs. Smith, an art teacher, shared that the festival's purpose is "to celebrate the arts in White House." Her favorite pieces included clay sculptures, birch tree paintings, and floral artwork. Inspired by her love for art, she became a teacher to share that passion with others. Even Dr. Langford attended the festival, making the event even more special!



Mad About March



8th Graders Explore Future Careers at Vol State

COLTYN NOYES-- WHITE HOUSE MThe 8th graders visited Vol State Community College on February 28th for a career exploration field trip. They were divided into groups by wristband color—Blue, Orange, Purple, Green, Red, and Black—based on their career interests.

At the start of the school year, students took a career path test and were assigned to a career cluster. During the trip, they visited various tables representing different jobs within their chosen fields, gaining insight into potential future careers.

Mad for March: Let the Madness Begin!



Michael Young-- WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)March Madness is a NCAA tournament for college basketball teams to go head to head in different conferences. As of March 16th 5:00 the brackets have been announced.

In the South is 1 Auburn vs 16 Alabama St, 6 Ole Miss vs 11 North Carolina,8 Louisville vs 9 Creighton, 5 Michigan vs 12 UC San Diego, 4 Texas A&M vs 13 Yale, 3 Iowa State vs 14 Lipscomb, 7 Marquette vs 10 New Mexico, 2 Michigan St vs 15 Bryant. In the West we have 1 Florida vs 16 Norfolk St, 8 UConn vs 9 Oklahoma, 5 Memphis vs 12 Colorado St, 4 Maryland vs 13 Grand Canyon, 6 Missouri vs 11 Drake, 3 Texas Tech vs 14 UNC Wilmington, 7 Kansas vs 10 Arkansas, 2 St John's vs 15 Omaha. The East has 1 Duke vs 16 Mount St Marys, 8 Mississippi St vs 9 Baylor, 5 Oregon vs 12 Liberty, 4 Arizona vs 13 Akron, 6 BYU vs 11 VCU, 3 Wisconsin vs 14 Montana, 7 Saint Mary's vs 10 Vanderbilt, 2 Alabama vs 15 Robert Morris. The Last conference is the Midwest including 1 Houston vs 16 SIUE, 6 Illinois vs 11 Xavier, 8 Gonzaga vs 9 Georgia, 5 Clemson vs 12 McNeese, 4 Purdue vs 13 High Point, 3 Kentucky vs 14 Troy, 7 UCLA vs 10 Utah State, and last game is 2 Tennessee vs 15 Wofford. 4 of Tennessee's best colleges have made the March Madness Tournament including the Volunteers, the Tigers, the Commodores and the Bison.



Celebrating Woman's History!

COLTYN NOYES-- WHITE HOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL (Big Blue News) Did you know that approximately 50% of the world is female? March is Women's History month, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8. The theme is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations." Women's History month started out as a local celebration, "Women's History Week" in Santa Rosa, California in 1978. Women's history month recognizes and highlights women's role in society, which have been historically unrecognized in the past. Some historically significant women include Amelia Earhart, Susan B. Anthony, Jane Austen, Marie Curie, Sally Ride, Ada Lovelace, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. You can celebrate this month by learning about women's contributions, supporting women-owned businesses, volunteering, and appreciating the women in your life!

Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism.

It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.

PASTA FRIES

by ember harms

- 2 cups penne pasta
- Salt (for boiling and seasoning)
- A few tablespoons of oil (for frying)
- Grated cheese (for garnish)
- Cook the penne in salted boiling water until al dente. Drain and pat dry thoroughly.
- Heat a few tablespoons of oil in a skillet over medium-high heat.
- Add the penne and cook, tossing occasionally, until golden brown (about 5 minutes).
- Transfer the fried penne to a paper towel-lined plate to drain excess oil.
- Sprinkle with salt and grated cheese. Serve immediately and enjoy!

A Winter Story cont... A SCALY SURPRISE

ISABEL WILLIAMSON WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-Once I heard the low growl, I immediately perked up. It seems I had found the owner of this little rose...

A giant, flaming red dragon with a scar on its snout stood right behind me, its ruby wings batting in the wind. Its dark purple eyes glared holes into me, looking to devour me alive.

My eyes widened until they were seen under my leaf-covered face. My immediate thought was to run, but I knew I couldn't. But I would try anyway.

I bolted away as soon as the dragon glanced down at the flower. It paws at it with a sharp, blood red claw. After seeing that it was dead, it suddenly roared out, a mix of anger and grief for its beloved flower. It chased after me, the ground banged with each step it took.

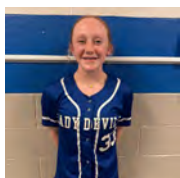
I continue to run, going towards the forest, maybe I could try and blend in with the trees, or maybe find my family once more.

As my mind raced, I suddenly ran into a clearing, and found...

TO BE CONTINUED...

“What happens to an illegally parked frog? They get toad away.”

Student Spotlight



Our student spotlight for this issue is Aubrey Hamelton. She said being student spotlight “feels good”

she plays “softball, basketball, soccer, and does chorus.” Her favorite subject in school is “Math” her favorite part of WHMS is “ Probably the connection with friends, sports, and all the teachers are kind.”

Mood Tunes: How Music Shapes Your Vibe

Gabe Stewart

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- Let’s say you have the worst day of your life. What is your go-to song? For me, I have a whole playlist for bad times, but there are many different people with different tastes in music.



Chappell Roan is a fan favorite for White House Middle School

Some people might listen to rap music, some to pop songs, and others to rock music. I interviewed some of my friends— one of them said they like classic rock, while someone else said alternative rock. As you can see, there are many different tastes in music. Only you can choose what music you listen to—I can’t control anything.

Movie of the Month

by HENSLEY BAKER



IF

IF is a sentimental comedy about a girl that can see everyone’s imaginary friends. Her father is in the hospital and her mother is dead, so she lives with her grandmother. With many tear-jerking scenes, this movie is definitely for middle-schoolers and older. This movie also had many heartfelt and real-world themes. Starring Ryan Reynolds and Cailey Fleming.



Teacher Spotlight



Our teacher spotlight for this issue is Mr. Kelley is an 8th grade History teacher. He felt “flattered” and said being the teacher spotlight “ Lets him know that he is getting through to the students.” His favorite part of teaching is “his passion for the true stories in history”, and his favorite thing to teach is the “Lincoln assassination.”



“ What’s the difference between an outlaw and an in-law? Outlaws are wanted. ”

School Survey: Pick Your Favorite Pet



IZZY SMITH

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- As the final votes were tallied, dogs took a commanding lead with 59 votes, securing their spot as the clear favorite. Cats followed in second place with 22 votes, proving they still had a strong and loyal following. Meanwhile, bunnies and birds ended in a tie for last place with just 4 votes each, trailing far behind the top contenders.