



BIG BLUE NEWS

November 2025



DREAMS, DINNERS, AND DAILY LIFE: NOVEMBER



NEWS



Sweet Traditions: Favorite Thanksgiving Desserts

Ally Tackett

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Thanksgiving, right?

Maybe you love it, or maybe you're not a big fan, but everyone can agree that the desserts are one of the best parts! I interviewed a few people to find out what Thanksgiving desserts they enjoy with their families.

One sixth-grade student, Madelyn, says her family eats pecan pie, apple pie, and pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream. I also interviewed Coach Hunt, who said his family makes a Butterfinger cake with crushed Butterfinger pieces on top and mixed inside.



As for me, my family's favorite desserts are fudge pie and strawberry pretzel salad. I hope you had fun learning about the favorite Thanksgiving desserts of sixth-grade students and teachers. Have a great day!



Upcoming Events

EVENTS

- Club Day- December 4th
- FCA Whole Group - Every Wednesday & Friday at 7:40
- Newspaper Club - Wednesdays until 4:30
- Robotics Club - every Thursday until 4:00
- Book Club - Wednesday Morning, Friday
- Club Day - November 6

Special Events

- Band Concert- December 12th
- Choir Concert- December 16th

VENDING

December 18th

SCHOOLS OUT

- Thanksgiving Break- November 24th-28th
- Christmas Break- December 22nd- January 7th

COMUNITY EVENT

- WHITE HOUSE LIBRARY
- Teen cooking class (Mac & Cheese)-November 18th 4:30-5:30
- TAG (Teen Advisory Group)-November 20th
- Teen coding-November 24th

YOU PICK!!



Tanner Alestra

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

The Winner of the drink category is...

Apple Cider

The Winner of the dessert category is... Pumpkin Pie

The Winner of the side category is... Sweet Potatoes

The Winner of the main course category is... Ham

How Our Teachers Celebrate

Thanksgiving

Ellie Purvis

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-



6th Grade Teachers

Mrs.Thurman: She makes homemade rice krispy treats.

Mrs.Gardener: She eats Thanksgiving dinner with her family.

7th Grade Teachers

Mrs.Hearn: She and her family visit her mom and go shopping after dinner.

Mrs.Carter: She eats Thanksgiving dinner the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day, then she and her husband visit Pigeon Forge for five days.

8th Grade Teachers

Ms.Handley: Her dad comes to visit and he deep fries their turkey, makes pumpkin pie, and they have their Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day! Then they give names out for Secret Santa to guarantee the presents come before Christmas.

Mr.Kelley: He eats Thanksgiving with his family.



What do you call a belt made of watches?

A waist of time!

Happy Thoughts

BY LEIA NEWHOUSE

SOMETIMES THANKSGIVING ISN'T A HAPPY TIME FOR EVERYONE. SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES OR THE FAMILY AROUND TO MAKE THE DAY FEEL SPECIAL. IF THAT'S YOU, HERE ARE SOME SIMPLE WAYS TO BRIGHTEN YOUR THANKSGIVING:

- HAVE A FRIENDSGIVING.
- MAKE THANKSGIVING CRAFTS.
- STAY IN, COOK SOMETHING YOU ENJOY, AND WATCH A MOVIE.
- WRITE A LIST OF THINGS YOU'RE THANKFUL FOR.
- KEEP YOURSELF BUSY WITH CRAFTS, FRIENDS, OR ANYTHING THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY—AND REMEMBER, YOU MATTER.

Books, Community, and Mrs. Bauer



Sadie Cobb

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Have you ever wondered how or why our librarian, Mrs. Bauer, does the book fair? Well, Mrs. Bauer does the book fair to reach out to the community and let them see how awesome our school is. She also does this for a fundraiser to benefit the library, and get new books for the library and classrooms. Her favorite part of the book fair is watching kids enjoy the books they get. Meeting new parents and seeing familiar faces is another aspect she looks forward to. One of the best selling sections at the book fair are the graphic novels. It was difficult for Mrs. Bauer to think of something she disliked about the book fair, but her least favorite part of the book fair is getting everything set up. After 12 years of hosting the book fair she has the set-up down to a science. I hope you enjoyed the book fair, Mrs. Bauer and the PTO worked super hard on it.

The Chilling Legend of the Bell Witch

Alina Bissel

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Did you know one of America's most famous paranormal events happened in Tennessee? The Bell Witch haunting occurred near Clarksville, where the Bell Witch Cave and Bell Family Farm still stand. The story began in 1817 when the Bell family heard strange sounds, and John Bell shot at a shadowy dog that vanished. Activity grew with invisible touches, bruises, terrified animals, and children pulled from their beds. After John Bell's death, the haunting reportedly ended, but the legend remains.

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Mini Loaves

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 ¼ tsp baking powder
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
¼ cup brown sugar
¾ cup granulated sugar (use 2/3 cup 1 cup if you prefer a sweeter loaf)

1 can pumpkin purée
1 tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp ground nutmeg
¼ tsp ground cloves
1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
½ cup vegetable oil
¼ cup milk
1 cup chocolate chips or mini chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and pumpkin pie spice.

Beat eggs with vanilla, sugars, pumpkin, oil, and milk.

Fold dry ingredients into wet ingredients until just combined.

Stir in chocolate chips.

Pour into 12 mini loaf pans or one loaf pan.

Bake: mini loaves 23–25 min; whole loaf 55–60 min, until toothpick comes out clean.

Cool before serving.

Charlie Brown!!

Cheyenne Neal

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

“A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” is a short film about friendship, gratitude, and what the holiday really means. The story begins when Peppermint Patty calls Charlie Brown to say she’s coming over for Thanksgiving—forgetting he already plans to go to his grandmother’s house. Stressed, Charlie decides to host a quick dinner anyway. With help from his friends, he puts together a simple menu of toast, jelly beans, pretzels, and popcorn. Peppermint Patty complains, but after talking it out, she realizes Charlie tried his best and that she invited herself. She apologizes, and the group learns a lesson about kindness and appreciation. In the end, everyone heads to Charlie’s grandmother’s house to enjoy a real Thanksgiving meal together.

PUZZLE OF THE MONTH

By Elaine Hankins



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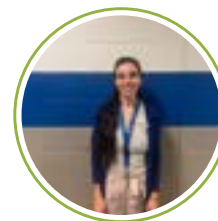
Say What?????

Ava Ellis

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Do you ever wonder where the phrases you use in daily life come from? There’s tons of surprising examples. Like “playing devil’s advocate,” which comes from Pope Leo X, when he created the Promoter of Faith. The job was to argue against an idea by bringing up everything bad about the topic - a task that led to the unofficial name of “advocatus diaboli”, or Devil’s advocate. Also, “break the ice” comes from the practice of using small ships to break ice in the harbor to create a path for larger ships, while “spill the beans” is a little more literal, thought to have come from an Ancient Greek voting system where votes were made by spilling beans into a jar. “Saved by the bell” comes from boxing, where the ring of the bell signaling the end of the round could save a boxer from being knocked out. A common theory about “break a leg” is that saying good luck is considered bad luck, so performers say the opposite.

Teacher Spotlight



Olivia McCook

Mrs. Pusonja is a first-time 8th grade science teacher. She has always loved science, even as a kid, so she knew that when she became a teacher one day, that was the subject

she wanted to teach. Before coming to WHMS, Mrs. P had the chance to work in a lab for several years, which made her love science even more.

When she arrived at White House Middle School, she felt very welcomed. She says that the students and teachers were all helpful and supportive. Since she had never been a teacher before, they helped her learn the technology and guided her through everything she needed to know.

One lesson she wants to teach all of her students is to, “leave a place better than you find it wherever you go.”

Thank you, Mrs. Pusonja, for everything you have done! We are so glad to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your time at WHMS



Headlines!!

More Than a Game: WHMS Girls Basketball



2025 WHMS Girl's Basketball Team



Ally Tackett-
WHITE HOUSE(Big Blue News)

Ok, we have the boys basketball team, but what about the girls? They work just as hard as the boys, and do just as well as the boys do too. I have interviewed Cate, a 6th grade student who's also a basketball player on the girls basketball team. I asked her some questions about the teams and these are her answers. The Basketball Team practices everyday from 5:00 to 6:30, however they also practice from 3:30 to 5:00, because each week it switches. Cate also said "it's a very good team and that on the team you have to push yourself and try your best."

Listen or you're going to be lost and you aren't going to accomplish anything. She also said to never be the last person or the one who doesn't know what to do, however you also have to help your teammates be better too. She also wanted me to include how you can get on the team. She said you don't have to be really good at everything, you just have to have potential and know how to hustle and listen to what the coaches are saying and actually understand what you're doing. Not just for yourself but also for the team. I hope you liked learning about the team. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns all you have to do is talk to Cate.

Teamwork Through Technology: The Robotics Club Story

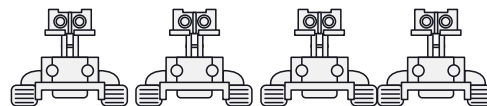
Christian McCauley
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

The robotics club is a fun way to explore, and express your creativity with robots.

Last month, the robotic team competed in a competition. Mr. Lamberth, as the robotics director, said that he was very excited to see how much growth roles filled perfectly within the team; he stated that everyone played a big part in the success of the team. His biggest



concern going into the robotics competition was the rules, regulations, and changes to the robots after seeing the requirements. He said that there is no star in the robotics team; everyone fits perfectly in their specific roles. He said, "he couldn't have asked for a better team."



Movie of the Month

by HENSLEY BAKER



Movie of the Month
Twilight
Genre: Fantasy

High school student Bella Swan has always been different. When her family moves from sunny Arizona to the rainy state of Washington, she doesn't expect that-or life-to change. Then she meets the mysterious and handsome teen Edward Cullen, whose eyes seem to stare directly into soul. Edward is actually a 104-year-old vampire whose family does not drink blood, and Bella, far from being frightened, enters into a dangerous romance with her immortal soulmate.

Beat Test Anxiety with These Easy Techniques

Cole Morgan
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Many people get nervous about testing, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed when you aren't sure if you're ready. Just know that worrying often makes people freeze up and get questions wrong. If you stay calm and follow these techniques, you'll improve your chances of success.

First, remember to do your homework whenever you can. It's important to understand the basics before the test. Instead of watching TV or playing video games, take five minutes to answer a few practice questions.

Another helpful strategy is "slash the trash." This means ruling out wrong answers so you can narrow down the choices that make the most sense. I've used this strategy for years, and I'm a straight-A student. It's simple, efficient, and it works.

Also, if a question is too hard, you can skip it and come back later.

Just follow these techniques, stay calm, and remember to take deep breaths. You've got this!

What's the Most Loved App at WHMS?



Elaina Hendricks

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Whether or not you have a phone, we all have apps we love. Even if you're destined to open these applications on your school iPad. I wanted to take a look into the mind of everyone at our school, so I had you all take a vote on what your favorite apps are. Please keep in mind that this was a majority rules vote, and your opinion may be different. I also couldn't fit all the apps I wanted to in this poll, so this list was just of more common apps. Roblox won by 13%, I can see why it won though. Roblox is an extremely versatile app. It has a place for pretty much everyone all in one game that takes up around 2 gigabytes of storage on mobile. Roblox gets an average of 18 to 32 million plays in a single day globally, so it's loved by the general public. Thanks to everyone who took the time to vote!

Student Spotlight

Norah Garrett

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-



Have you ever wondered how some students manage to do it all? Eighth grader Analise Bradley is one of those people! She is super sweet, plays basketball and soccer, and keeps up great grades in all her classes. Her kindness really stands out.

Whether she is helping a teammate or a classmate, Analise is a friend to all. Analise had an incredible soccer season on the White House Middle School soccer team, playing as their varsity goalie, earning All County award at the end of the season. Analise is a great example of what it means to be a dedicated student and teammate. We can't wait to see what she accomplishes next!

PART 3

Whispers of Power and the Forgotten

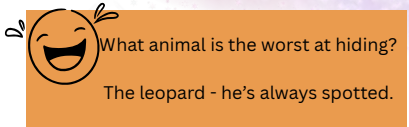
Past

EVIE SCHEEL AND ELISE WALLER
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)

My eyes widened as the first person stepped onto the stage. A wisp of magic floated above the girl, then twisted into the outline of a body. Invisibility, my mind whispered. "Katelyn Galdur, invisibility!" Professor Ravenwood said. The girl glowed for a second, then disappeared. When she reappeared, the hall started clapping. On and on it went, each person getting their gifts, the few humans timidly watching, clapping and trying to hide in the crowd. "Aisling Saoirse!" I jumped up and started walking towards the stage, my hands trembling. Professor Ravenwood paused, glancing at his list. My ability was unknown. He raised his hands and I felt a sliding motion, as though everything was flipping upside down. Everything turned dark. I glanced around, looking at my cousins, both of them sleeping just like everyone else.

Why was everyone sleeping? "Hello?" I said, my voice shaking. Definitely from the cold temperature, and NOT anything else. "You can't hide forever, you know...they'll find out! Then they'll turn on you, just like they did to me!", a voice whispered, sending a chill down my spine. I shivered as the room began to grow even colder, frost spreading over the walls. "They'll all hate you for what you can do, but you can use that. Make them fear you," The voice hissed. A dark shape lunged at me, roaring like the wind. Suddenly the lights went back on. I looked up to see everything was back. Everyone was awake, and there were no dark shapes. Everyone clapped like nothing had happened, and I could see my cousins beaming at me.

I glanced over at the back of the room only to see a shadow looming near the wall. The shadow grinned, sharp ivory teeth gleaming at me. Okay, so I lied. Not everything was back to normal.



Bizarre Bits of British History




Ash King

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

1. Henry VIII (British king) had six wives, Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anna/Anne of Cleves, Katherine Howard, and Katherine Parr.
2. Henry VII had three kids, Mary (Catherine of Aragon's daughter), Elizabeth (Anne's daughter), and Edward (Jane's son).
3. Catholicism was one of the main religions before Henry created the Church of England for Anne Boleyn.
4. Shoes were ridiculous.
5. Eels had been used as currency.

Book of the Month

by HENSLEY BAKER



City of Bones

Genre: Fantasy, Paranormal

When Clary Fray goes to the Pandemonium Club in New York City, she doesn't expect to witness a murder—especially one committed by three teens covered in strange markings. This is Clary's first encounter with the Shadowhunters, warriors devoted to eliminating demons and keeping werewolves and vampires in line. It's also her first meeting with the golden-haired Jace. Within twenty-four hours, Clary is pulled into Jace's world. Her mother disappears, and Clary is attacked by a demon. But why would demons target an ordinary mundane like Clary? And how did she suddenly gain the Sight? The Shadowhunters want answers...