



# N.A. Walbran Newsletter



May 2024

## Message from the Principal

Dear N. A. Walbran Families,

As the warmth of spring fills the air and the school year progresses, it's a joy to witness the growth and accomplishments of our students. In this edition of our newsletter, we're thrilled to highlight significant events that have brought excitement and achievement to our school community.

**PARP (Pick a Reading Partner) Success:** Our PARP program has been an incredible success! Thank you to all the students, parents, and staff who participated wholeheartedly in this celebration of reading. Together, we've embarked on a journey through the pages of countless books, fostering a love for reading that will last a lifetime. Through PARP, we've not only embraced the joy of reading but also strengthened our bonds as a school community.

**Silly Principal's Challenge:** In light of the remarkable success of PARP, I am excited to show off a fun and slightly silly challenge! As promised, if our students collectively reached their reading goal, I would take on a challenge worthy of their accomplishment. I spent each day dressed as something silly! Students were given clues the day before and had to guess what Mrs. Mucurio's costume would be. It was a fun time for all!

**New York State Testing:** As we approach the final days of the New York State Testing period, I want to commend our students for their hard work and dedication to their education. These assessments provide an opportunity for our students to showcase their knowledge and skills. To our students: you've prepared diligently, and we are proud of you. Remember to approach the tests with confidence and a positive mindset, knowing that you are well-prepared and supported by your teachers, families, and our entire school community.

**Next Month:** As we move forward into May, you can expect to see some information coming out regarding our spring band concerts and Career Day for grades 4-6. Our teams are also working hard to plan for numerous festivities taking place in June as well, including PE Day, and PK and 6th Moving Up Ceremonies.

Last but certainly not least, Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6th- 10th! We are so thankful for our amazing team at N.A. Walbran and all that they do for each other and our students everyday. As always, thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our students' success. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our young learners, shaping their futures one page, one challenge, and one test at a time.

Warm regards,

Catherine Mucurio, Principal, N.A. Walbran Elementary



# GAME DAY!!!



Students in Mrs. DeFabio's Pre-Kindergarten class have been enjoying game day! They have had the opportunity to play Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, and most recently Hi Ho Cherry-O! Students are put into small groups and enjoy quality time together, with the guidance of volunteers. While this is a fun time in the classroom, research has shown that playing board games has so much to offer. Board games can actually benefit kids' brains and language development, and can help lengthen a child's attention span. Participating in these games promotes children's patience, resilience, ability to identify colors, count spaces, and develop hand-eye coordination and dexterity in moving cards and pieces around the board. Also, learning to wait your turn and follow the rules are important lessons that serve kids far beyond game day play. These students enjoy these games so much, and are always asking when the next game day is!



# Candy Land

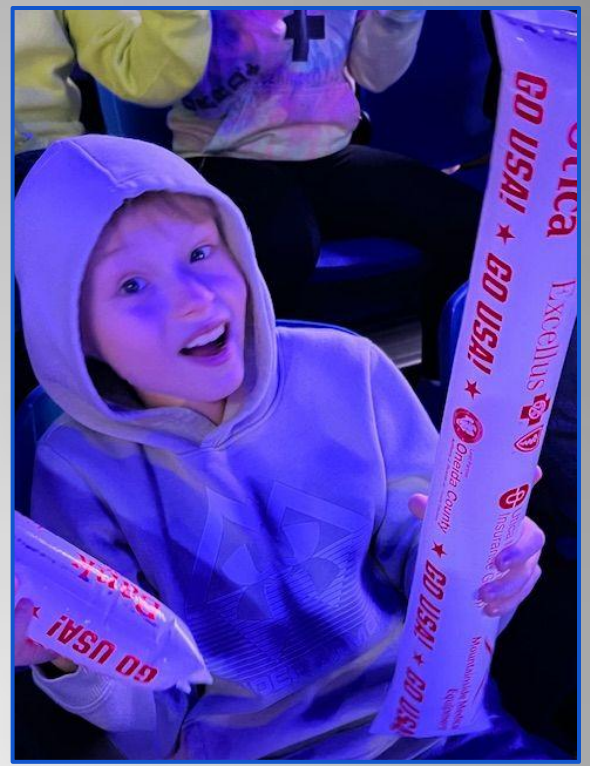
# 6th Grade Social Studies

Mr. Wright's 6th grade Social Studies classes worked on a project called "Adopt a Nation". Their goal was to research a nation that was participating in the 2024 Women's World Championship of hockey. Students presented their research in the form of a poster that contained the country's flag and the information that they found which included the players participating on each team. They also researched the rules of hockey in order to better understand the game itself. The culminating activity was actually going to a game on April 4th at the Adirondack Bank Center in Utica. The class watched China defeat Japan in a shootout. The students really enjoyed this opportunity and greatly benefited from the overall experience.

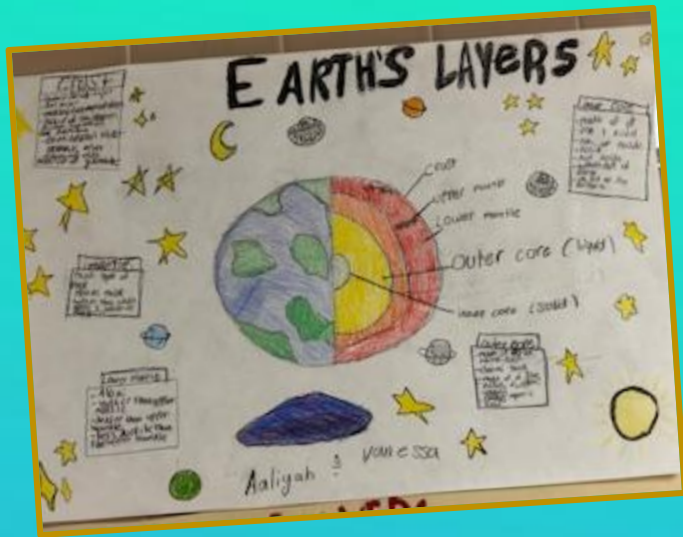


# Hockey Tournament

On April 3rd and 4th, 2nd-6th graders took a field trip to watch the Women's World Championship Hockey tournament. The students enjoyed this special event.



# 6th Grade Science



While learning about plate tectonics in Mrs. Commisso's science class, the 6th grade students created a poster describing the layers of the Earth.

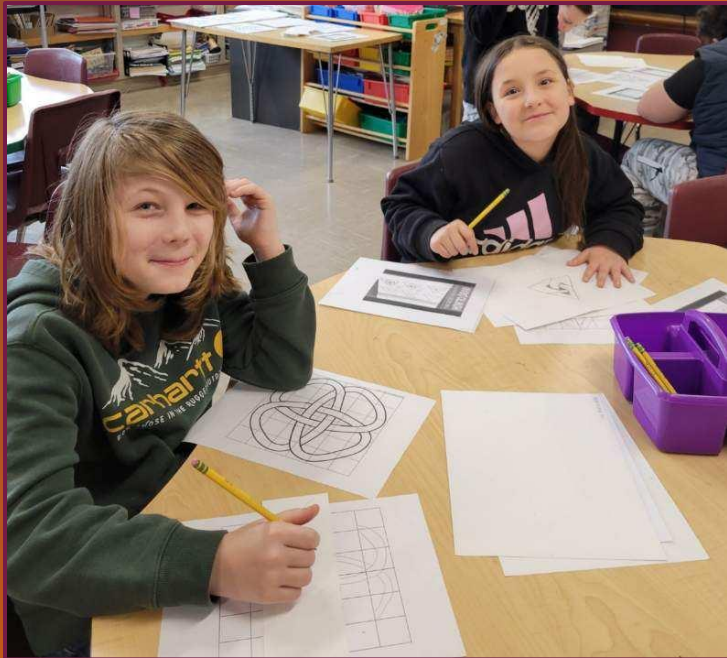


Students were responsible for assessing their own work using a teacher-created rubric, presenting their work to their classmates, offering constructive criticism to their peers, and reflecting on their overall performance.

# Art Special



During inside recess in the art room, young students enjoyed original coloring sheets made by older students.



Sixth grade students learned how to draw Celtic knots, a positive symbol of unity.

Fifth graders created sun catchers using a shamrock or other silhouette.



# PE Classes and Intramurals



Ultimate  
Frisbee:  
Girls  
Intramurals



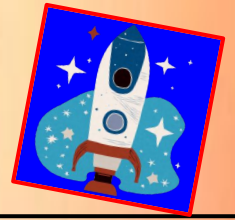
Parachute fun with 2nd  
grade.



3rd-6th graders have been  
learning how to play Kan  
Jam during PE class.



# PARP: Blast Off into Reading



## PARP 2024 was a huge success!

The 3-week reading program began with all the students being able to experience the portable planetarium through BOCES. Students had an opportunity to design bookmarks based on the theme, and some classes got a visit from the local Utica Comettes. The theme days were: read a shirt day, bring in your favorite book, and dress for the theme—boy, were the students creative on this day! DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) was experienced in classrooms, and even in gym/art/and music! Our annual Read In was attended by over 80 students, who enjoyed spending time with friends and books throughout the school. There was a school wide Guess the Staff Member contest, where students watched videos of staff members disguised in an astronaut helmet reading space facts. Students were also given the opportunity to complete an additional reading log to receive a ticket to Enchanted Forest Water Safari! The finale had students with their families complete a scavenger hunt throughout the school, discovering space facts, and enjoying the space displays made by the students. Of course the main goal was to increase reading, and the student body read over 1200 hours throughout the program! This meant that Mrs. Mucurio agreed to a challenge—this year was to dress up in one costume each day for four days—how fun was that to see?!





# PARP Pictures Continued...



## Principal's Challenge:

Four days of wearing a silly costume!

Congratulations students for reading over 1,200 hours!



Mark your calendars:



May 7 - 8: Grade 3 & 4 NYS Math test

May 8: Grade 5 NYS Science test

May 21: Budget Vote: 12:00-8:00 pm  
District Art/Tech Show: 5:00-7:00 pm  
3rd Grade Recorders, 4th Grade Band, and  
5th/6th Grade Band Concert; Jr/Sr. High  
Auditorium, 7:00 pm

May 24-28: No School: Memorial Weekend



This year's Student Council members hard at work during their before school meeting.