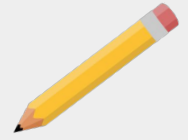


NA Walbran Newsletter

February 2023

Message from the Principal

Dear N.A. Walbran Families,



As I write this newsletter, it is definitely bitter-sweet. Please know that my last day as Interim Principal at NA Walbran is next Wednesday, February 28. Mrs. Murcurio returns to us on Wednesday, March 1, and we certainly wish her well as she transitions back! I plan to stay on with her, to ensure a smooth transition, through Friday, March 3.

Unfortunately, it was necessary for us to cancel our annual "Winter Fun Day" due to such mild weather and no snow. We hope to reschedule sometime in March, weather pending. Spirit Week was held the week before February break; it was great to see such school unity among our students and staff; thank you for your support (and preparations) at home with having your child(ren) participate each day! Moreover, our 4th-6th graders continued to engage in Career Exploration activities with our School and Business Alliance (SABA) liaison from OHM BOCES during the month of February. These activities provide our students opportunities to think about their future interests and career options.

March is reserved for Pick a Reading Partner (PARP). We all know the importance of reading to our children and having them read to us. Please be on the lookout for information coming home about how you can be an active participant in this year's PARP program. To kick off PARP, we have a visiting author joining us on March 3 at our PARP/P2 assembly. Search on Google for "Kathleen Blasi" to see a preview of the special treat that your children will be in for.

Also in March, we will be holding our Pre-K/K Parent Orientation for all parents (and students) of incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten students for the 2023-24 school year. The date for this event is March 20th, from 6-7PM. More information will be coming out on this.

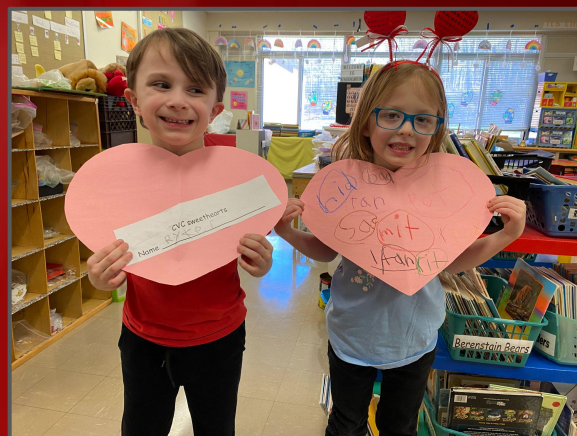
Finally, I'd like to take a moment to give you a "sneak peek" as to what's around the corner. Just after April break, our 3rd-6th grade students will be participating in our NYS Assessments in both Math and ELA. This year, these assessments will remain paper-based students. Next year, our 5th graders will shift to computer-based for their ELA, Math, and Science tests. Remaining grades will follow suit in the years thereafter. **Parents, please mark your calendars: NYS ELA Assessment -April 19th and 20th; NYS Math Assessment: May 2nd and 3rd.** Please know, you can best support your children by ensuring that they get a good night's sleep, a nutritious breakfast, and simply encourage them to do their absolute best!

Thank you for providing me with an absolutely wonderful experience as your child(ren)'s Interim Principal. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children, you as parents, and of course, our wonderful faculty and staff at N.A. Walbran....this school is a gem!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gray

Mrs. DeFabio's Kindergarten Class



Kindergarten students enjoyed making crafts, exchanging Valentines, and enjoying the day!

Mrs. Caruso's 1st Grade



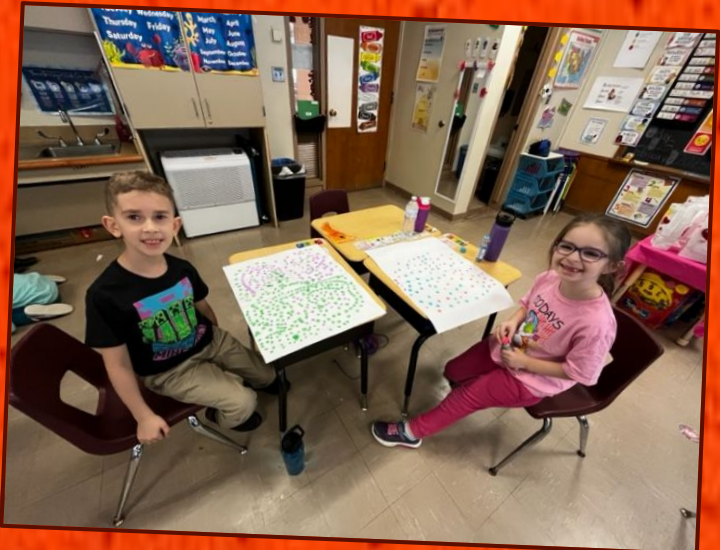
Dr. Caruso made a special visit to Mrs. Caruso's class. February is National Children's Dental Health month. They discussed the importance of good oral health and taught the students the proper way to brush their teeth.



Thank you, Dr. Caruso!

2nd Grade with Ms. Island

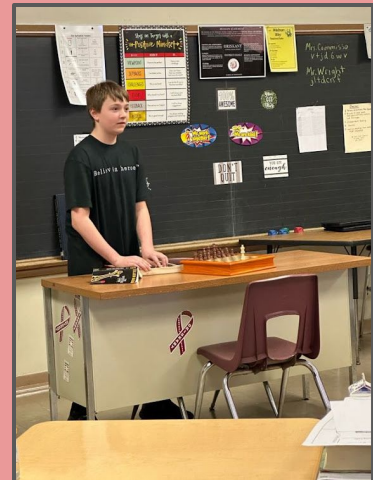
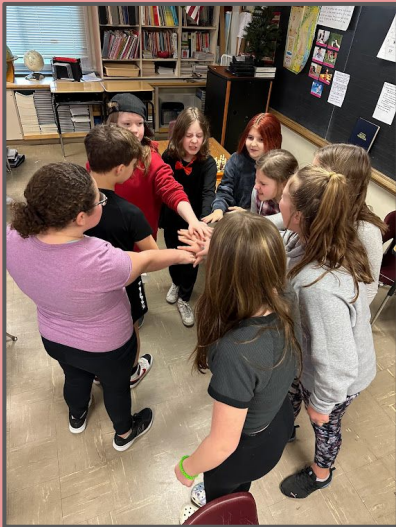
Our class created posters that included fill in the blanks of things they learned in 100 days, If I had \$ 100 dollars, and what they think they will look like in 100 years. The students also enjoyed creating a painting with a 100 paint dots.



6th Grade ELA

This month, our sixth grade ELA teachers, Mr. Wright and Mrs. Lomanto, had our grade perform a play titled "Morning Traffic". The play was in our 6th grade English textbooks. The students were able to break up into two groups, each having a group leader or "director". Each person was able to choose their part, with the group leader's help. The performances were held in Mr. Wright's room. The students made props and planned a set for the drama. Each group was amazing! My peers and I were thrilled to perform for our classmates. Every performance was funfelt and the play itself was heartwarming. I would recommend that every 6th grade class in the future perform this skit. Personally this performance helped build my confidence and self esteem when getting up in front of others. This assignment was perfect!

– Ceci Piersma, 6th grader



What's happening in Mandarin Chinese Class?

In recognition of the Chinese New Year, the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Distance Learning Chinese program recently held an in person celebration of Chinese culture for area students on February 3 at the state-of-the-art theater at Clinton school district.

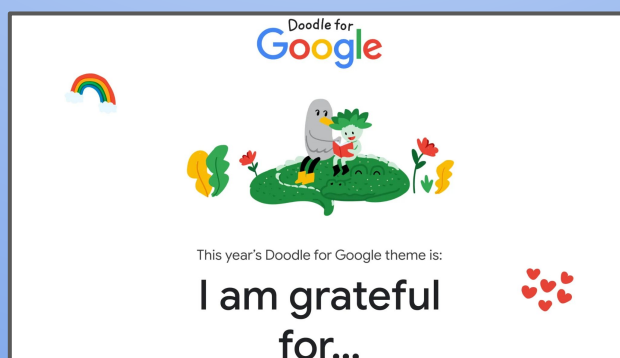


Students and teacher facilitators from the Clinton, Holland Patent, New Hartford, Oriskany, Waterville and Whitesboro school districts, as well as Adirondack and Proctor High Schools attended the event.



Art Special

Doodle 4 Google is a competition open to K-12 students of U.S. schools to create their own Google doodle. This year, students were challenged to use their imaginations to create a Google Doodle based on what you are grateful for such as people, places, things... Entries needed to include a title and an artist statement. Best of luck to the seventeen Walbran students who entered the contest.



Spirit Week

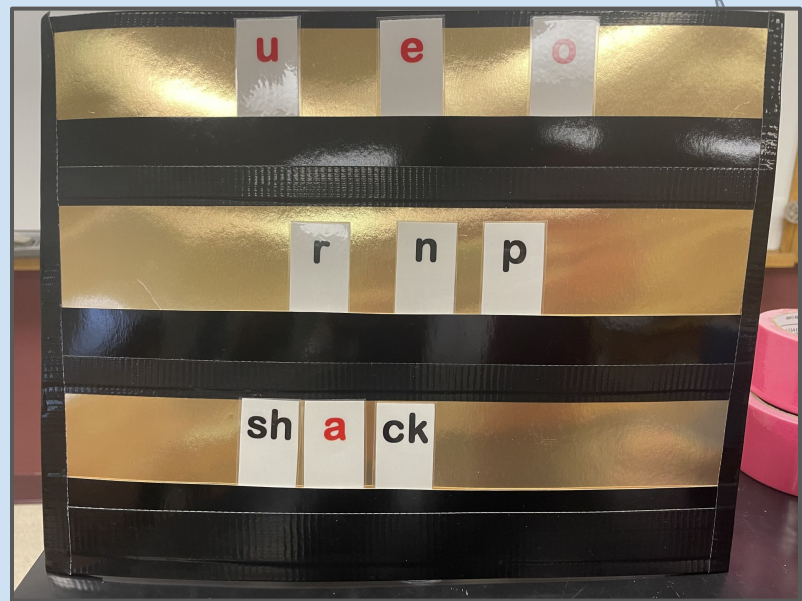
February 13-February 17



Thank You, PTA

A Special Thanks to Our PTA

We would like to thank the PTA for sponsoring a "Make-and-Take" opportunity for our staff this month. Claudette Cronauer and Sara Mullin led an early morning session of crafting and instructional strategies related to soundboard chaining. Teachers who attended made one soundboard and left with materials to create five more for a small group set. Thank you PTA for making this possible! Your generosity is sure to benefit our students in the classroom.



Outside Recess February 16 and 17



The weather may not have cooperated for a winter fun day of sledding, but it was perfect for two days of outside fun on the track and basketball court.



Winter Fun Day will be rescheduled,
weather permitting!



Reminders:

March 12: Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 16: ES Release, 1:00 pm

March 17: Superintendent's Conference Day
No School

March 20: First Day of Spring

March 20: PreK/Kindergarten Registration
6:00-7:00 Elementary School

COMING SOON!!!!



Oriskany Central School District

Pre-K/Kindergarten Registration

March 20th

6:00pm to 7:00pm

Location: N.A. Walbran Elementary School

Children must reside in the Oriskany school district and be 4 or 5 years of age by December 1, 2023.

Registration packets are available at N.A. Walbran Elementary or Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School, or can be printed from the district website, www.oriskanycsd.org.

Parents of current pre-k students do not need to attend registration.

Please be sure to bring the following:

Proof of Identity (Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, etc.)

Proof of Residency (Mortgage Statement, Utility Bill, Tax Documents, etc.)

Immunization Record

Current Physical

Questions? Contact Ms. Vaughn: 315-768-2065 or tvaughn@oriskanycsd.org.

