

# NA Walbran Newsletter

December 2022

## *Message from the Principal*

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! Thank you for your contributions to each of our grade levels' chosen charity for the month of December. Your generous response was apparent and made a difference in the lives of many! The children learned valuable lessons of generosity, gratitude, and responsibility toward their community through your example. With your support, we taught our children that even small contributions add up to make a big difference.

Our school-wide December Assembly was held on Thursday, 12/22. This assembly focused on Kindness and Self-control (the Positivity Project, P2, character traits of December). Officer Jeff recognized those students who received a positive referral for demonstrating those traits. Also, five homerooms were recognized by our Special Area teachers (Art, Music, PE, Technology, and Library) for demonstrating the particular month's character trait(s). Each selected homeroom will hang the awarded banner on their classroom door for the entire month. A huge thanks to our NA Walbran Student Council who made these beautiful P2 banners. Other components of the assembly included: a "mini" concert from our HS band/chorus, grade level share-out of their selected charity, a holiday sing-along, and a visit from Santa Claus!

As January comes to a close, we reach the half-way point of the school year, bringing us to the 3rd quarter (January 30). Thank you for your continued support at home so that our students understand the importance of learning and taking responsibility for their assigned work. We look forward to all of the possibilities in 2023. On behalf of the entire NA Walbran faculty and staff, I wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

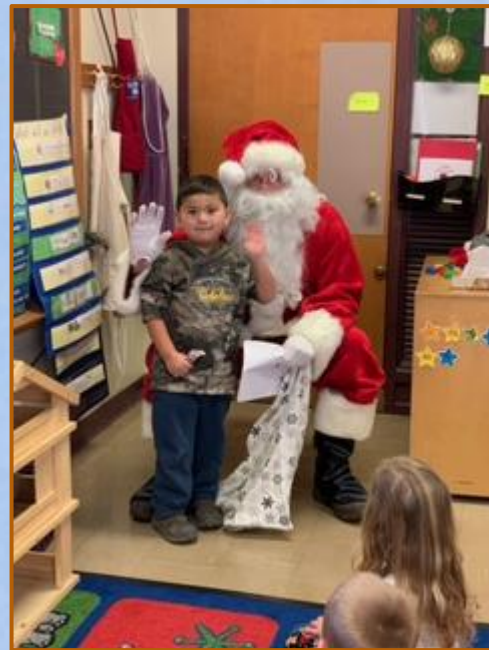
Sincerely,  
Maureen Gray



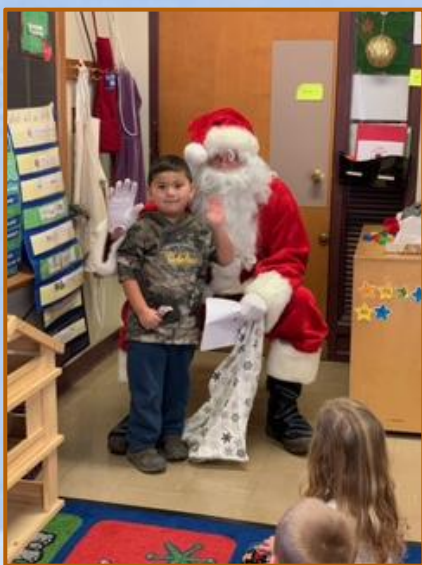
# What's been happening in Prek?



Parents in Mrs. Graziadei's class were invited to come and build gingerbread houses with the students.

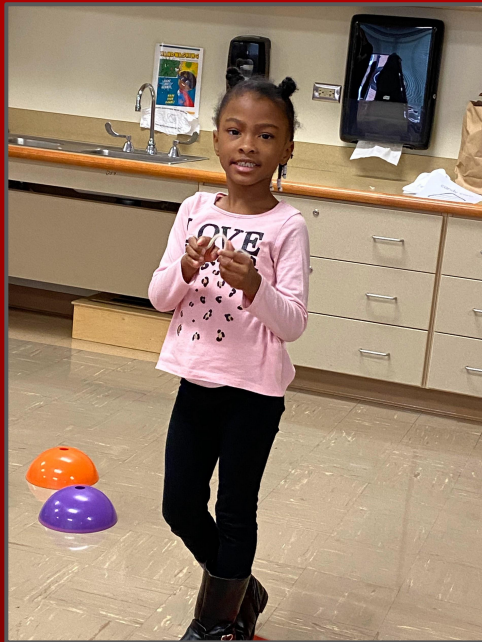
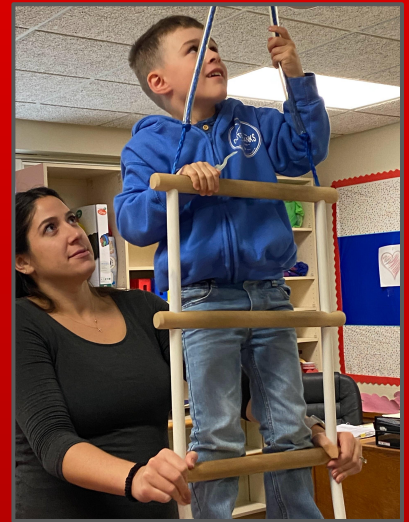


Santa Claus made a surprise visit to both Prek classrooms!

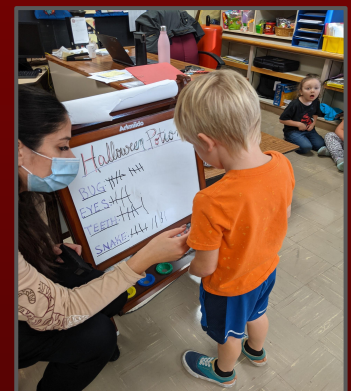


# Kindergarten Time with OT/PT and Speech

Oriskany's Occupational Therapist (Francesca Jensen), Physical Therapist Assistant (Michele Schuster), and Speech Language Pathologist (Kelley Lanahan) work with all of the students in grades pre-K through 2nd on a weekly basis for preventative therapy services through the District's Response to Intervention (RtI) plan.



Classroom teachers accompany their students to the therapy groups to learn new strategies and techniques to use with their students throughout the school day. These services help to identify students who may need extra support in each of the three developmental areas.



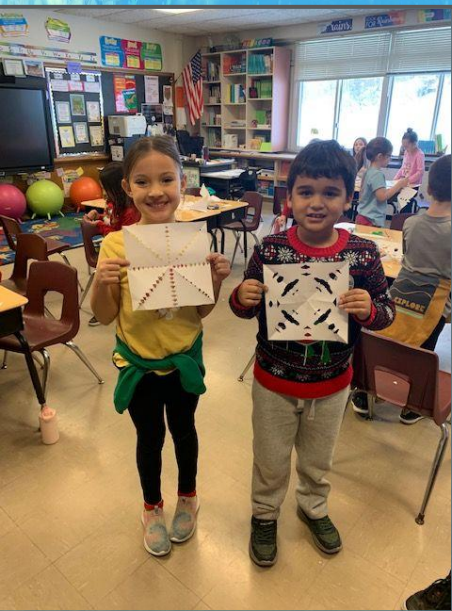
The students love participating in these activities each week!



# Ms. Island's 2nd Grade



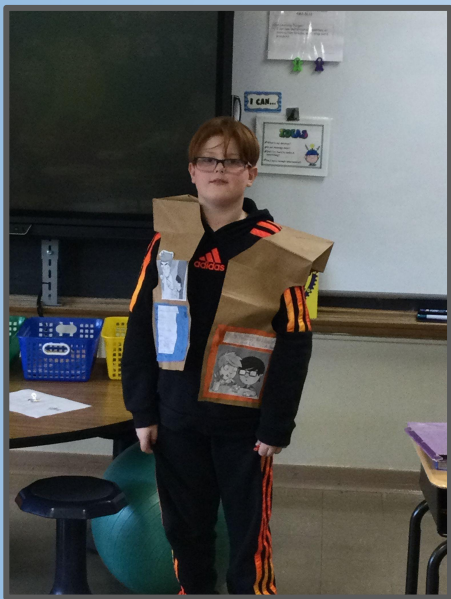
Students read Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and learned that every snowflake is different and unique—just like people. The students enjoyed creating a handcrafted snowflake ornament and comparing and contrasting their designs.



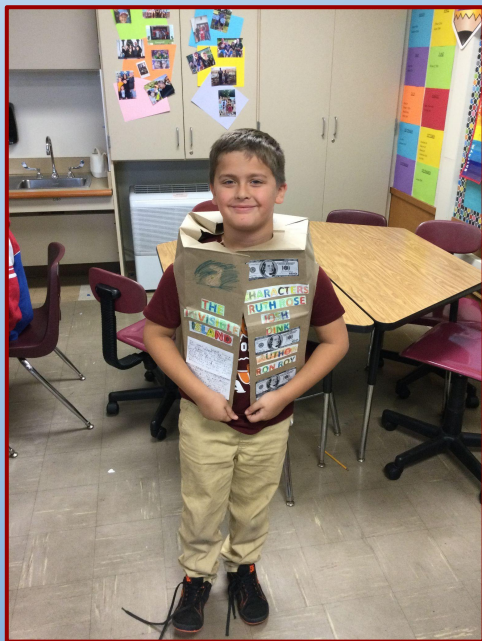
The students can't wait to hang their one-of-a-kind snowflakes at home.

# What's been happening in Mrs. Irwin's Class?

## 4th Grade Book Reports



Each student read a chapter book of their choice and created a book report vest. They included a summary of the book, characters, author and illustrator. They also included why they would recommend reading the book to their classmates. Students shared their book vests with their class.



# 4th Grade In-School Performance, "The Keeper's Voice" By the Rev Theater Group



The performance came to the gymnasium and students enjoyed learning more about the Iroquois Confederacy! Students were able to participate in the performance and walk through a model longhouse.



The setting was 1862 and the play allowed students to use their knowledge of the original Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy and act as fourth grade ambassadors to help Matilda (the main character) argue for equality for all people. She allowed students to voice their knowledge to educate an eager young reporter and a pedantic professor about the importance of the Haudenosaunee traditions, and their values in building a better America in the future to come.



A great performance to support our fourth grade learning standards!



# Art Special with Mrs. Kane



Kindergartners applied their print making and pattern skills to make homemade wrapping paper. It will be used to wrap a surprise creation to take home.



Third graders watched a video clip of the Aurora Borealis, then used pastels to recreate their beauty.



# NA Walbran's Spirit of Giving

## Grade Level Holiday Donations

<b>Pre-K</b>	Food drive for local family
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Spring Farm Cares
<b>First Grade</b>	Stuff The Bus
<b>Second Grade</b>	The Pajama Project
<b>Third Grade</b>	Sleep in Heavenly Peace
<b>Fourth Grade</b>	Steven-Swan Humane Society
<b>Fifth Grade</b>	Utica Zoo
<b>Sixth Grade</b>	Thea Bowman House



1st Grade

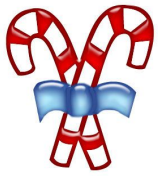


Kindergarten

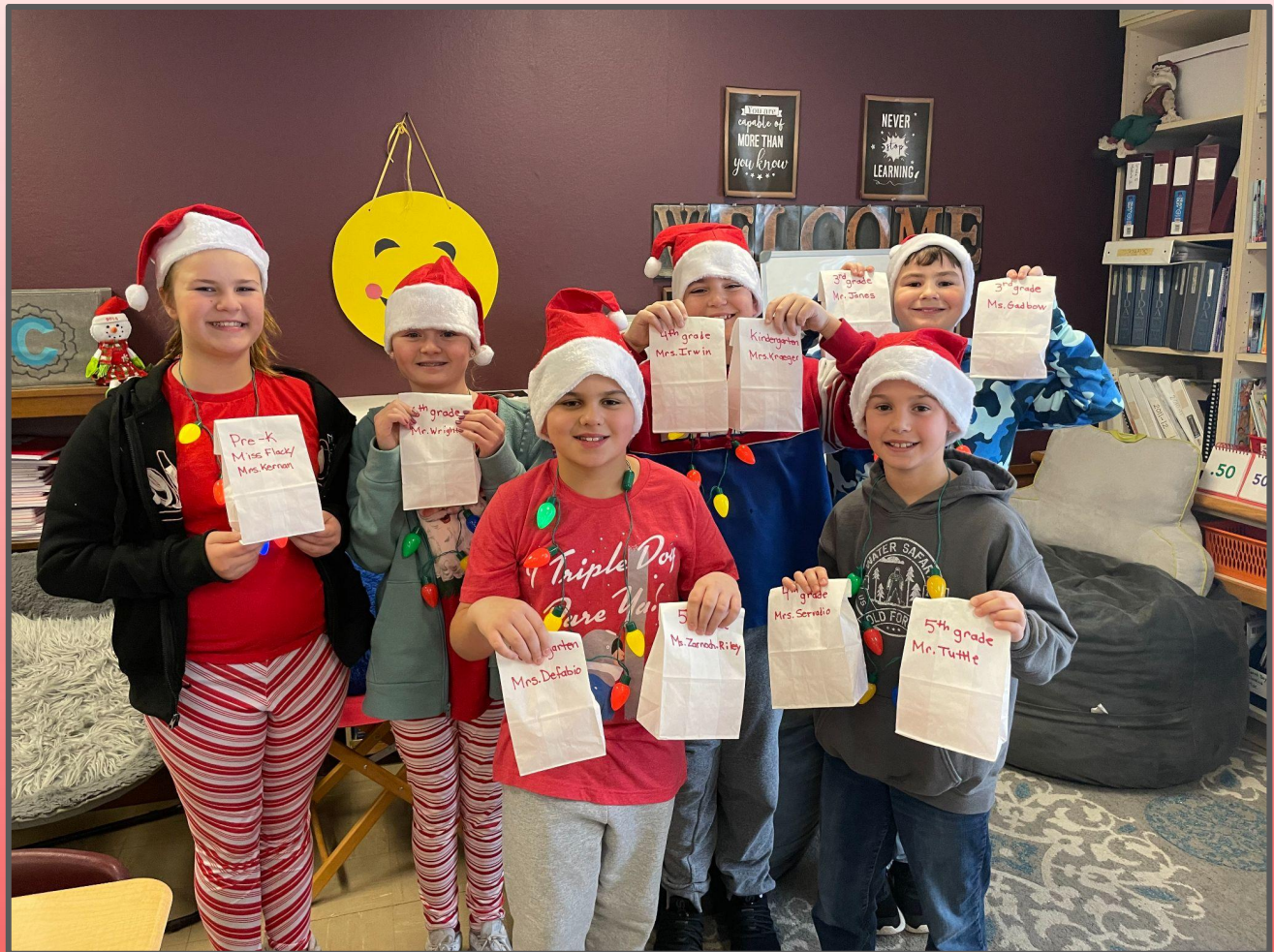
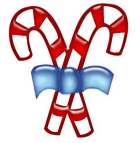


6th Grade





# Student Council



The Elementary Student Council representatives spread some holiday cheer this season by visiting each classroom and giving candy canes to the teacher to pass out to the students.



# Spirit Week



**Monday:** Candy Cane Lane  
**Tuesday:** Toasty Tuesday  
(Christmas socks and hats)  
**Wednesday:** Holiday Cheer  
**Thursday:** Long Winter's Nap



# Other Activities that Happened This Month



Social Emotional Learning kicked off with a lesson on belonging and building a positive school community. This puzzle serves as a reminder that although we are different, we all fit together in N.A. Walbran.

The 5th and 6th grade boys had an opportunity to participate in a basketball intramural this month.



Kindergartners through 6th graders drew their favorite things on a puzzle piece.



# Holiday Assembly



- Performances by the the high school band and chorus
- Sharing of grade level donations
- Recognition of this month's positive referrals for kindness and self control by Officer Blovat
- Special Area teachers awarding Positivity Project Banners
- Sing Along



Recipients of Positive Referrals for kindness and self control



# What is the P2 Project?



We are excited to be implementing the "Positivity Project (P2)" at NA Walbran this year. The mission of the Positivity Project is *"To empower America's youth to build positive relationships and become their best selves."* This is accomplished through recognizing 24 character strengths that can be found within ourselves.

We started the project off with the students taking the VIA Survey, available to anyone through the VIA website, to identify their top character strengths. The staff also took the survey. Each of them have their top character trait displayed. Additionally, we have daily announcements that discuss the attributes of that month's trait, as well as what we can do that day to demonstrate that trait.

We have also incorporated a school-wide "Positive Referral" system. This is an opportunity for any faculty in the school to acknowledge a student who has demonstrated one of the featured traits for the month. These students will be awarded a certificate from our SRO officer, Jeff, at each assembly. This month, our Positive Referrals will kick-off at our Holiday Assembly. Along with Positive Referrals, each of our special area teachers will be awarding a class a P2 banner. These banners will be displayed on the selected classroom doors showing that as a whole class they have best demonstrated that month's character trait(s).

Always remember, *"Other people matter,"*

Stacey Caruso  
Positivity Project Coordinator





**Merry Christmas!**

**Happy New Year!!**

**School Resumes Tues, January 3**