



N.A. Walbran Elementary

March 2022 Newsletter



*The Walbran Way: * Be Respectful * Be Responsible * Be Safe * Be You*

From the Principal:

Dear N.A. Walbran Families:

As the month of March comes to a close, we have much to celebrate. Our students and staff, as always, have brought many opportunities for learning, excitement, and exploration to our school community.

Our big focus for the month of March was our Pick a Reading Partner initiative. Through this, students read as much as they possibly could to build up their love of reading. To sweeten the deal, our PARP team and several local businesses provided prizes for activities and contests throughout the month. We hosted author Robin Brickman who created an extraordinary mural with all the students, our PARP Read In, where students in grades K-6 cuddled up with a good book and some snacks after school, and our finale with presentations from a scuba diver and the Oriskany Technical Team Emergency Rescue Swimmers (OTTERS). I was so impressed with how engaged and respectful our students were during these events and am proud of the work they did during the month. It is evident that even at this young age they have acquired a love of literature.

Other notable events from the month include: our Student Council initiated Spirit Day for St. Patrick's Day and our Staff Development Day in which we began our journey to learn more about the science of reading with the support of The Reading League organization. Lastly, we'd like to congratulate our art teacher, Mrs. Kane, as she recently published an article in the New York State Art Teacher Association Newsletter showcasing our student art work and the importance of student art displays within the school environment. Congratulations!

Upcoming events in April include our final PARP event which is our Principal's Challenge. Mr. Ranieri, the Junior-Senior HS Principal and former elementary Principal here at Walbran, and I will go head to head in a jousting match (inflatable, jousting! phew!). It will be fun! April will also have Spring Break, NYS Math Assessments, and hopefully some warmer weather!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. Catherine Mucurio
N.A. Walbran Principal

Disney Fun in 1st Grade



As a class reward, students experienced Disney Day in Ms. Hall's 1st grade class. They did virtual Disney rides and parades. They even made a special Mickey shaped treat.



PARP 2022: A Sea of Books



The PARP kick off was on Friday, March 4 with illustrator Robin Brickman. She helped the students create sea creatures for the school mural.



Events during PARP included:

- Teacher door decorating
- Bookmark contest
- Read In
- Theme Days
- DEAR time
- March Madness of Books
- Guess the teacher contest (complete with ocean them Snapchat filters)
- Finale (see pictures)



Read a shirt: Theme Day

One of the goals of PARP was to have the students read for 800 minutes during the three week program. The goal was reached in two WEEKS!! Therefore, on April 5, Mrs. Mucurio will participate in a jousting competition with the high school principal, Mr. Ranieri.

PARP Read In, March 16

About 100 students in grades K-6th participated in the PARP Read In from 3:30-5:00. It was a great turn out!



PARP Finale: Friday, March 25

Mr. Patrick Morse, a certified SCUBA instructor and the OTTERS (Oriskany Technical Team Emergency Rescue Swimmers) from the Oriskany Fire Department made a visit to N. A. Walbran.



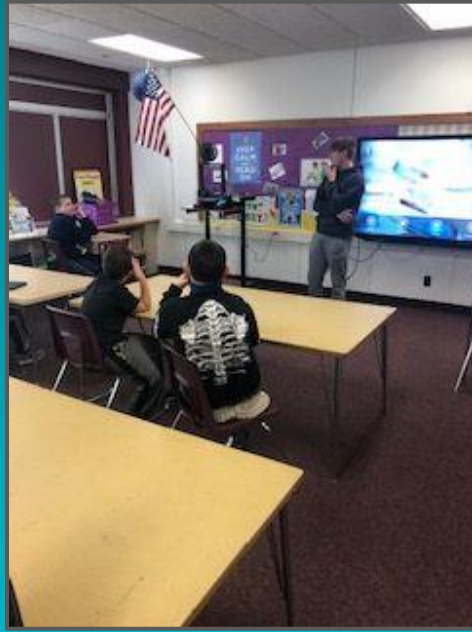
The students learned about the equipment needed and used in water rescues.



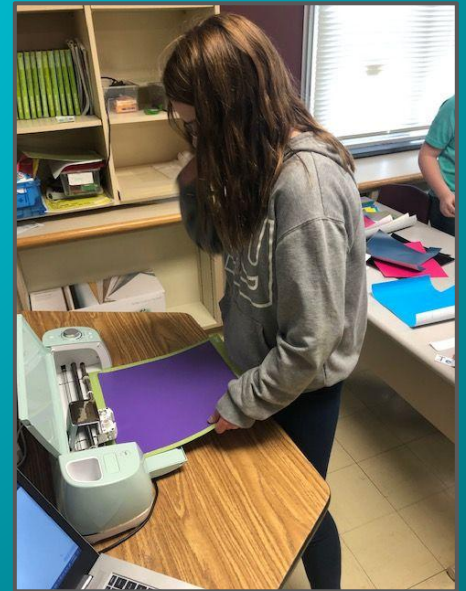
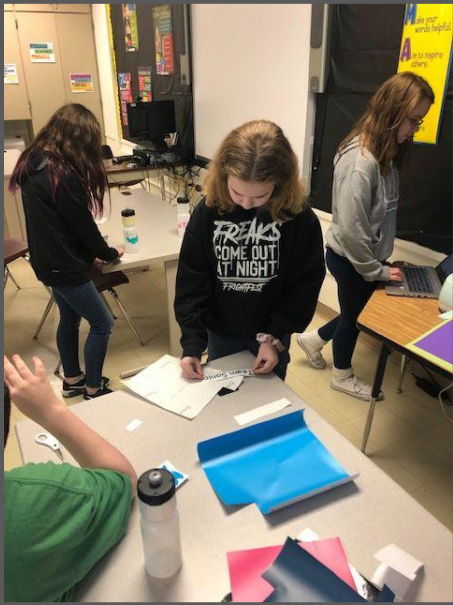
Mr. Morse talked to the students about the equipment needed for scuba diving, things he has seen including ship wrecks and animals, and his diving experiences near sharks.



Technology Fun During Recess



Trevor Tamburino, a 2021 OCSD graduate and Clarkson freshman, talked to interested students in 3rd, 4th, and 6th grade about 3D printing while doing a demonstration with the 3D printer. Students came to the library during their recess. Thank you, Trevor.



6th grade students have been having fun with Mrs. Daskiewich during their recess time designing their own water bottles using the Cricut Explore Air 2.



Art Special with Mrs. Kane



Students created a new building wide display in art class. It was inspired by our "Ride the Wave" theme, Robin Brickman's visit, and her use of paper.



By using paper in a different way, traditional origami consists of folding a single sheet of square paper (often with a colored side) into a sculpture without cutting, gluing, taping, or even marking it. We made a few exceptions.

Students created origami sea creatures. Origami is the art of paper-folding. Its name comes from the Japanese words ori ("folding") and kami ("paper").

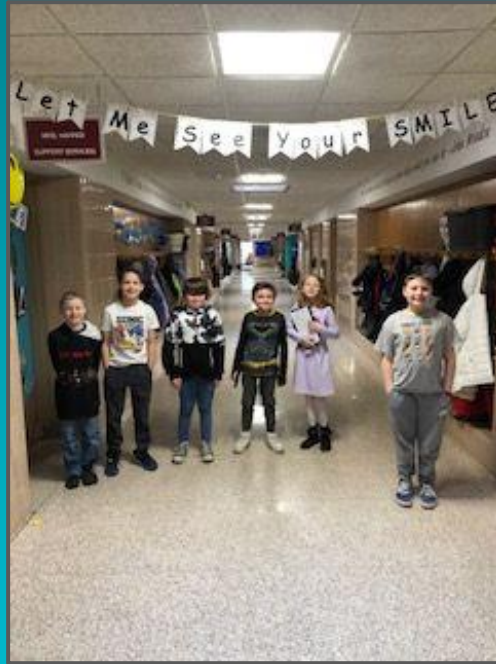


Origami helps develop hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and mental concentration. Students rose to the challenge with great results.



On March 2, Mrs. Kraeger and Ms. Rieben decorated the halls with banners and balloons to encourage the students to flash their smiles.

ALL SMILES



UpComing Dates and Events

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|--------------------|---|
| April 1-April 30: | 6th Grade Plant Sale; (<i>see any 6th grader for details</i>) |
| April 11-April 18: | Spring Break |
| April 17: | Easter |
| April 26-28: | Grades 3-8 NYS Math Test |

