

N.A. Walbran Newsletter

September–October 2025



Message from the Principal



Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

We are off to a wonderful start to begin the 2025-26 school year here at N.A. Walbran Elementary School. This year our school theme is “It will be a sweet year!” so students, faculty and staff are having fun with the dessert style themes posted throughout the school.

On Friday, September 26th, we took a schoolwide field trip to the Jr. Sr. High School to participate in the annual Fall Athletic Pep Rally. Our elementary students were able to cheer on the high school teams and participate in some fun games. We presented our September Student Skyhawk of the Month Award to fourth grader Joelle Bewick. She was nominated by Mr. Enos (Physical Education) and Mrs. Clark (Cafeteria) for her hard work, positive attitude, and leadership skills. Congratulations, Joelle!!

During the week of October 6th–9th, our elementary students will be participating in Fire Prevention Week activities. We value our partnership with the Oriskany Volunteer Fire Department as well as other area agencies that make this opportunity possible for our students. A special thank you to Ms. Debbie Waskiewicz (2nd Grade Teacher) as she plays a key role in the planning and execution of these valuable activities and experiences.

We are looking forward to some special events coming up in the near future:

- PTA Halloween Event- Thursday, October 30th
- Veterans Day Assembly - Monday, November 10th

Sincerely,

Mr. Tom Meiss
Elementary School Principal

First Day of School

By Elise Knight and Giovanni Zegarellil



On the fourth day of September, 2025, students in grades Pre-K through 6th grade celebrated their first day of school at N. A. Walbran Elementary School! The pupils arrived either by one of our buses, walked to school, or were dropped off by an adult.

Everyone was excited to be back in the school with friends and new teachers! All the students started the day by greeting the teachers after arriving. All the students enjoyed the decorations on the first day of school.

As they entered the building, they were happy to be back and learning together as a school community. As kids walked to their classrooms and hung up their backpacks, they met their new teachers for the school year.

We believe that 2025-2026 will be a fantastic school year!



Back to School Night

by Brennan Wiand and Chloe Buehner

Back to school night fell on September 10, 2025, and it was TERRIFIC!!! There were tons of students and their families. All the teachers were waiting to see the children and their families. In some classrooms, there were activities to do! There were snacks at the front as well as activities to sign up for, like karate, Girl Scouts, and others.

When the students got to their classrooms with their families, they got the chance to show them where they sat, how their classroom looked, and the procedures they follow each day. The teachers then talked to the families and the students talked to their friends! The families were told about how everything goes during the school day, including their schedule, homework, and more. Some students met the new teachers and got to visit previous teachers, too. In all, the students and their families enjoyed this year's Back to School Night!



A Note from Nurse Britt

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME WITH ILLNESS

It can be hard to know when to send children to school if they tell you that they do not feel well. Usually, the best place for them is in school, but there are some times when keeping them home to rest or calling for an appointment with your health care provider is recommended.

Please keep your child home and/or contact your child's doctor for:

- Fever greater than 100.4°
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Severe sore throat along with fever and feeling ill for more than 48 hours, or after exposure to Strep throat infection
- Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts
- Large amounts of mucous (liquid) from their nose, with facial pain or headache
- Severe ear pain or fluid coming from the ear
- Severe headache, especially with fever

If your child has a fever, it is not a good idea to give them medicine like Tylenol or Advil and send them to school because as soon as the medicine wears off, the fever may return and you will be called to come and pick up your child.

Please keep children home for 24 hours after the fever ends or they have completed 24 hours of medication if prescribed by your healthcare provider.

If you find your child is frequently asking to stay home from school, if they are falling behind or appear anxious about school, or if there does not appear to be any physical symptoms, contact your school nurse and your health care provider to discuss your concerns.

Remind children to throw away used tissues, cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, keep their hands away from their face, and to wash hands often with soap and warm water will help keep everyone healthier.

Please call us with any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,
Brittani Gauthier, RN
Oriskany Central School District
NA Walbran Elementary School Nurse
Phone 315-768-2148
Fax 315-768-2137



Meet the New Faculty



Miss Koenig, by Teghan Schneider

Miss Koenig is a second grade teacher here in Oriskany. This is her first year in elementary, but she worked at UCP as a special education teacher for Pre-K. At Whitesboro, she was a substitute teacher, and she interned for two years in London, England.

Miss Koenig decided to become a teacher because she loves kids. If she could ever have a different job, she would be a geologist or an historian. Miss Koenig loves to travel and has traveled to over fifteen countries! She loves to read history books. Her favorite song is "Indigo," by Sam Barber and the Buffalo Bills, her favorite team.



Ms. Bell, by Ava Wittman

Ms. Bell is the new third grade teacher. She has worked as a first grade teacher at Gilbertsville Mount-Upton for two years. If she could pick any other job, she would be a dancer. She wanted to become a teacher because she loves working with kids. Her favorite hobbies outside of school are reading and dancing. Her favorite sports team is the Utica Comets hockey team. She wants everybody to know that she is happy to be working at Oriskany.

Meet the New Faculty



Mr. Davis, by Caidan Schneider

Mr. Davis, our new elementary music teacher, has been a substitute teacher at Westmoreland, but this is his first year being a full time teacher other than working five years at another school. Mr. Davis loves teaching and helping kids learn new things.

Some things Mr. Davis likes to do outside of school are going to the gym, being a percussionist, being with friends and working at church. Mr. Davis's favorite sports team for football is the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Buffalo Bills. His favorite song right now is "I'll Tell You Someday," by Plini.

Ms. Brosemer, by Asteria Gotham

Ms. Brosemer is the new art teacher at our school! She has taught at other places though. She started her teaching career in Saranac Lake, NY, where she taught high school art. She then also taught middle school art in Baltimore, MD for four years before coming to our school! This is also her 7th year teaching art. If she had the choice to, she would be a wedding planner or a florist! She became a teacher because her art teacher inspired her to pursue teaching art as well. Some of her interests/hobbies are: hiking, skiing, painting, and walking her dogs, whose names are Mickie and Moodie. Her favorite sports teams are the Buffalo Bills and the Baltimore Orioles! Also, her favorite band is the Lumineers.

She does have one thing that she would like to let the NA Walbran Community know: "I am looking forward to having a great school year!"

Meet the New Faculty



Mr. Reid, by Jack Sydoriw

Mr. Reid has taught at two other schools, New Hartford and Rome, for three years total. He has been a teacher for three years. If he could have any other job in the world, it would be a meteorologist. Mr. Reid became a teacher because he loves the idea of making a difference.

Some of Mr. Reid's favorite hobbies outside of school are going to the gym, going somewhere with his girlfriend, or playing with his dog. Mr. Reid's favorite singer is Post Malone, but his all time favorite song is "Fast Car," by Tracy Chapman. Mr. Reid loves sports and his favorite team for basketball is the New York Knicks, and his favorite baseball team is the New York Yankees. It's tied with which team he likes more. He would like everyone in the NA Walbran community to know that although he loves sports, he is a nerd at heart, and he loves video games like Pokemon.



Mrs. Pratt, by Olivia Tuttle

Mrs. Pratt is the new School Social Worker at Oriskany Elementary school! She has taught preschool for 4 years in Syracuse, and she has worked as a career exploration specialist in Oneida-Herkimer Madison BOCES. She chose to become a social worker because she loves teaching children, advocating and helping people with mental health.

Outside of being a social worker, Mrs. Pratt likes to watch the Philadelphia Eagles, cooking, singing, and being with her friends and family. She also likes Justin Bieber, Ariana Grande, and Beyonce. One last thing she wants you to know is she has loved her time at Oriskany and can't wait to build more relationships within the community!

Fall Pep Rally



There was one game that a few students in every grade level from the elementary school got to play, and the high school class officers helped the younger kids play the game. It was a version of Heads or Tails with a coin featuring the Skyhawk logo!

The Pep Rally was fun for everyone from Pre-K to 12th grade and every grade level wore different colors. We all were still representing the Oriskany Spirit even though we were in different colors!



Fall Pep Rally



There were games that everyone on the high school varsity teams got to participate in, using materials like balloons and cups, to move across the gym floor.

A game that the elementary students enjoyed watching was a game where high schoolers had to move left and right catching a pool noodle. If the noodle hit the floor before you caught it, you were out!



Fall Pep Rally



By Chloe
Buehner
and Kiley
Dousharm



Varsity cheerleaders were jumping around clapping after the fun games! They threw out bundles of candy for the elementary students to catch!



Fall Pep Rally



After the elementary students left, the high schoolers got to choose a staff member to challenge in the cup game! It was a game of listening and speed- hands on your head, knees, feet, shoulders. . then listen for the word **CUP** to see who can grab it first!



In Ships and Sailors, students had to quickly follow directions to match up in groups of 2, 3, 4 or 5, and anyone left out was eliminated.



Everyone knows how to play Rock-Paper-Scissors, but only one winner could be crowned in the high school for this competition!



Soccer Intramurals



By Isaac Baker, Caidan Schneider, and Olivia Tuttle

At the soccer intramurals, there were 32 kids in all, 16 girls and 16 boys. Mrs. Brown held the girls' intramurals on September 30, 2025, and Mr. Enos held the boys' intramurals on October 1, 2025. The boys and girls played endline soccer. Endline soccer is where there are two teams.



There are half of them in goal and half of them playing offense. Then they played the same thing, but then there were four people on the sidelines, then one person as goalie, and three offensive players.



September Student of the Month: Joelle Bewick



Joelle Bewick was chosen as September's Student of the Month. Her teacher is Mrs. Servadio in 4th grade.

Joelle's favorite subject is math and her favorite special is physical education. She was nominated by her P.E. teacher Mr. Enos, who said, "I nominated Joelle Bewick for several reasons. Joelle is a leader in the gym. She is respectful, she is responsible and she is safe. She is also one of the hardest workers I have in 4th grade. She also gets along with all the other students and is willing to work with anyone in the gym."

Joelle is happy to be the Student of the Month and said that she feels good about being selected. Some of Joelle's favorites are:

- Animal: dog
- Season: winter
- Color: purple

By Chloe Buehner

September Skyhawk of the Month:

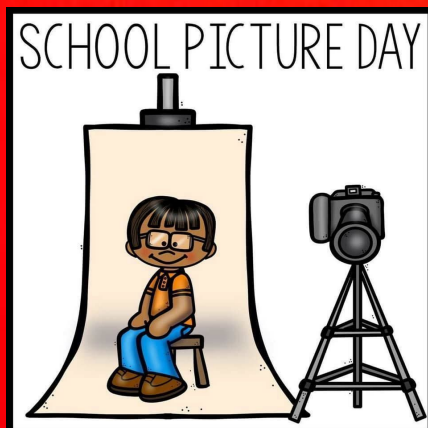


Mrs. Salvatore is the Skyhawk of the Month for September. She is a teacher's assistant. Mrs. Salvatore's favorite activity to do with students is watching them do different activities during the school day, like specials. What inspired Mrs. Salvatore to work with students is that she likes working with children and helping them learn and grow. Mrs. Salvatore's favorite memory at N.A Walbran is going with the sixth graders to Niagara Falls each year. If Mrs. Salvatore could take her students anywhere in the world on a field trip, it would be to Disneyland or Disney World. Mrs. Salvatore likes spending her free time watching her own kids play sports. Mrs. Salvatore has two dogs: a chocolate lab and a black lab, named Zuma and Maverick; seventeen chickens and three Nigerian dwarf goats named Lula, Minnie, and Hershey.

By Isaac Baker

Important Dates

By Elise Knight



- Oct. 20-24: National School Bus Safety Week
- Oct. 29-30: Elementary School Picture Day
- Oct. 30: Halloween Event (evening)
- Oct. 31: Halloween
- Nov. 7: Marking Period I ends
- Nov. 10: Veterans Day Assembly
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day (no school)
- Nov. 14: Parent Teacher Conference Day (11:30 dismissal)
- Nov. 20: Parent Teacher Conference Day (11:30 dismissal)
- Nov. 21: Parent Teacher Conference Day (11:30 dismissal)
- Nov. 26-28: Thanksgiving Recess (no school)



N.A. Walbran Building Newsletter: Meet the



For the 2025-2026 school year, sixth grade students will be helping Ms. Zarnoch-Riley, the Digital Literacy/Writing teacher, to publish the building newsletter!

Special thanks to this edition's newsletter staff: Isaac Baker, Chloe Buehner, Kiley Dousharm, Asteria Gotham, Elise Knight, Caidan Schneider, Teghan Schneider, Jack Sydoriw, Olivia Tuttle, Brennan Wiand, Ava Wittman, Giovanni Zegarelli