

# Halloween Fun Night at N. A. Walbran

## By Teghan Schneider & Jacob Charles



On October 30th, N.A. Walbran Elementary hosted the annual Halloween Fun Night. This year, the school decided to try something different because of the increasing number of students. What was planned was that we were going to play games, do arts and crafts, and listen to music, all on the track; then later, trick or treat inside the school. But due to the poor weather outside, the activities on the track were cancelled but trick or treat street wasn't.

During trick or treat street, there was a variety of high schoolers helping out and handing out candy. The lines were extremely long because of the increasing number of students at the school this year. This year's theme at N. A. Walbran is, "This is going to be a sweet year," therefore the faculty and staff were dressed up as M&M's. Mr. Meiss, our principal, was a box of M&M's. Outside most of the classrooms, there were arts and crafts made by the students. There was a vast variety of costumes ranging from homemade to inflatable. Some of the costumes included: hotdogs, tacos, pickles, dinos, and even a Cookie Monster. We would like to thank all the teachers who stayed late that night. We would also like to thank everybody who donated to the candy drive to help us prepare for that very fun night.



# Fire Safety: First Grade

By Ava Wittman & John Dunham



The first graders learned about fire safety last month. Here are some things they did that helped them learn about fire safety. The first graders went through a tunnel to experience knowing how to crawl when there is smoke in a house. They also learned how to crawl through a window in case there is no other way to escape, and put a piece of clothing or towel under the door so no smoke goes through. The first graders learned how to call 911 in case of an emergency.





# Fire Safety: Second Grade

## By Kiley Dousharm & Elise Knight



### SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

MAKE SURE YOUR SMOKE ALARMS PERFORM AS INTENDED  
– WHEN YOU NEED THEM THE MOST

- **TEST** smoke alarms monthly
- Change the **BATTERIES** every year
- Beware of **CHIRPING** smoke alarms – it's time to replace the batteries
- Replace older smoke alarms – **REPLACE** alarms that are more than 10 years old
- Know the **SOUND** of the smoke alarm and what to do if the alarm goes off



REMEMBER, ONLY WORKING SMOKE  
ALARMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!

During the month of October, the second graders celebrated fire safety by watching an educational puppet show!

The second grade learned about "stop, drop, and roll", along with things like fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors, while also having fun and interacting with the puppets. They also now know what to do in case of a fire emergency. Second graders also learned to dial 911 if a fire starts.

They also practiced fire drills and what to do if a fire happened in the school. They learned things like what to do when a fire starts in a house, like planning a family meeting spot, and to not play with matches.

The puppet show, in conclusion, was a fun learning experience for fire safety, and the second graders enjoyed it very much!

# Veterans' Day Assembly

By Kiley Dousharm and Elise Knight



For the Veterans Day assembly, all the grade levels went to the cafeteria. The veterans gathered in the gym, where their family members, or a student council member, met them there to walk them down to the cafeteria.



Next Mr. Meiss gave a speech, and then a veteran, Mr. Slatton, who served 20 years in the Armed Forces, gave a speech on the Armed Forces, and about teamwork.





When that was done, Mr. Cuthbertson had two sixth graders, Sal and Chloe, set the white table. The white table is a display that honors the prisoners of war, and those missing in action. Each item represents a sacrifice for the soldiers. It includes a small table, a white tablecloth, an empty chair, a single red rose with a red ribbon on the vase, a slice of lemon, salt on the lemon, a glass turned downwards, a lighted candle, and a bible.





After they finished that, every grade level sang a song for each branch, like the Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, and Air Force.

After sixth grade finished their song, the chorus sang "The Star Spangled Banner". The veterans then introduced themselves, and answered questions from each grade level about the military. To end the assembly, the 5th and 6th chorus sang "God Bless the USA," ending the assembly.



# Utica Comets Coloring Contest

## By Jack Sydoriw

On November 5, 2025, Ms. Ricci's 1st grade class colored pictures of Naughtie, the Utica Comets hockey team's mascot, in art class. Ms. Ricci's class had a lot of fun coloring Naughtie and were very excited to see if they would win. Ms. Ricci's class worked very hard and were very precise on their coloring because whoever wins this contest will win a prize.

Students in schools throughout our area submit their coloring to the Utica Comets and a few winners are selected. Last year's winner from another local school won a pizza party with Naughtie for her entire class. In the past, the winners have been able to ride on the hot rod zamboni at a Comets game and have their artwork displayed on a wall at the Adirondack Bank Center! Thanks to the Utica Comets hockey team because they organized this for many schools in our area.



# October Mentoring By Isaac Baker



The October mentor program was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. At the mentor program, everyone got snacks and then painted pumpkins. Everyone was having fun. There are about 50 students in first through sixth grade. There were lots of different pumpkins designed by students, and all were creative and cool!





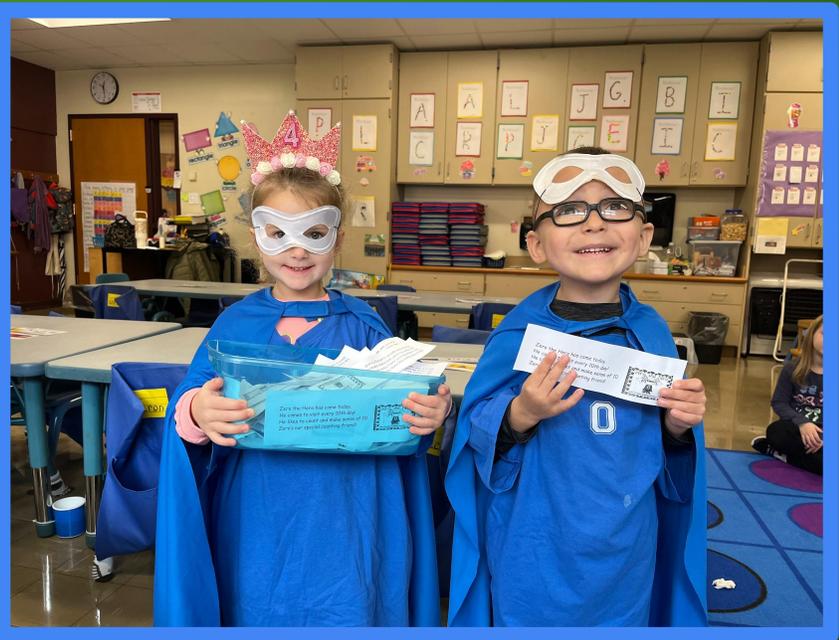
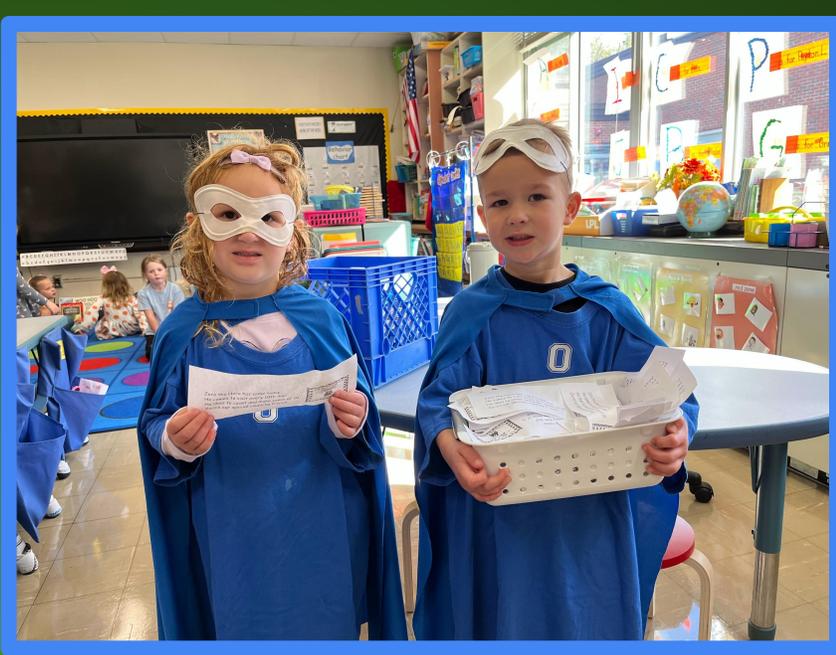
There were festive pumpkins, scary pumpkins, and cool pumpkins. There were pumpkins with no eyes, pumpkins with eight eyes, and everything in between! Students used lots of different colors, like green, red, black, yellow, blue, purple, and pink and also mixtures of colors. Students also used fun things like pipe cleaners, google eyes, and poof balls to decorate. There were teachers and staff members who also stayed to help. Everyone agreed it was a great time!



# ZERO THE HERO BY ELISE KNIGHT

Every tenth day of school, Pre-K students from Mrs. DeFabio's class go from classroom to classroom, giving out slips that state the day, in honor of Zero the Hero. This is also helping these little superheroes do math, such as counting by 10s. They do this while wearing masks and capes.

Zero the Hero is the story of a young child, Zero, who is sad because they do not have dots on their number cards. Zero grabs the hand of one to make the number ten! This all leads up to the legend of Zero the Hero.



# Football Intramurals By Teghan Schneider



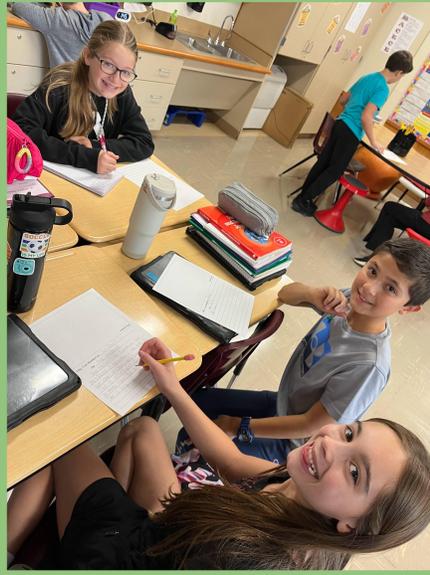
In the month of October, the fifth and sixth grade girls and boys had football intramurals. Ultimate football is different from regular football. To play, teams of four or five start in the middle. Then, the team with the ball passes it around until it is dropped, then it's a turnover. To make a point, a teammate must throw the ball to someone in the endzone, then another team gets a chance to try to make a touchdown. If nobody makes it in one minute, then it's the next team's turn to try to score.

The girls played ultimate football for the first half, and then in the second half, the girls played the same game, but just with a gator ball instead. First, the boys played catch, then they played ultimate football. Lastly, it was everyone playing at once, but 6th grade versus 5th grade. Football intramurals were a blast for everyone!

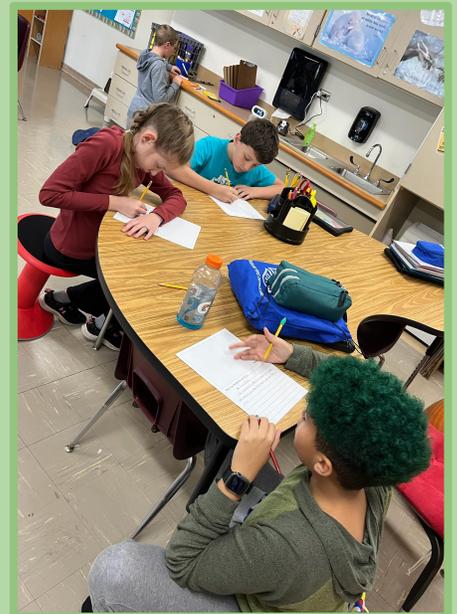


# Teacher/Staff Appreciation Cards for Thanksgiving

By Olivia Tuttle



To show thankfulness for the teachers, the 6th grade students made the entire faculty and staff a thankful card. A different student made a different card for a certain faculty member. They also had some help from 4th and 5th grade students to help finish them on Nov 20, 2025, in time for the teachers to see in the faculty room on Nov 21, 2025. The students had to make 47 cards for the entire faculty and staff. There have been these thankful cards in the past, so most of the staff knows what they are and look forward to them each year.



# Grade 2 Field Trip to DiNitto Farms



In October, second graders got to go to DiNitto Farms to meet their calf. Their calf's name is Sandie and her breed is a Jersey. Her birthday is September 12th, 2025, and she weighed 50 pounds when she was born. The kids got to see where Sandie lives currently and where she will move to as she grows up!

Second graders got to watch cows being milked and where the cows food gets placed. They also learned how a big truck puts food in front of the cows in the barn. The kids got the opportunity to make whipped cream for their hot chocolate (did I mention that they had some REALLY YUMMY HOT CHOCOLATE??)! Every month the second grade will get an update on how Sandie is growing, what she's eating, where she's living, and what's going on at the farm!

The program for the second grade is a terrific way to teach young children about what cows eat and where their food comes from.



## November Skyhawk of the Month: Mr. Enos

By Mason Powers

The Skyhawk of the month for November 2025 is Mr. Enos, a physical education teacher. His favorite activity is to play different kinds of tag games with the students. He was inspired to become a PE teacher because he grew up enjoying and playing all kinds of games as a kid. Working with students in PE was one way he could continue to play those games with the students and pass down the enjoyment he felt as a kid back then. His favorite memory from N.A. Walbran happens every fall when the students come back excited for the new year. If he could go anywhere in the world for a field trip with his students, he would take them to the Olympic Village, either Winter or Summer, so the students can see kinds of people and games going on. A secret talent that students don't know about Mr. Enos is that he is good at fixing things. He likes to exercise and walk his dog in his free time. He has two black labs as pets. Mr. Enos and his wife own a nine year old black lab and his son owns a three year old black lab as well.



*Notice the fun twist on candy to create the message to let Mr. Meiss know how great the students think he is!*

*The three second grade classes thanked Mr. Meiss for being a great leader at our school for Principal Appreciation Day! They made him a giant card, expressing their gratitude and appreciation for his service to our students. Thanks for all you do, Mr. Meiss! We are lucky to have you at N. A. Walbran,*

## Upcoming Important

**DATES**

- Dec. 16: Elementary Winter Concert (6:30 pm)
- Dec. 18: Winter Concert (Snow date)
- Dec. 20-Jan. 4: Holiday Recess

# N.A. Walbran Building Newsletter: Meet the

Team



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, Jacob Charles, Kiley Dousharm, John Dunham, Elise Knight, Mason Powers, Teghan Schneider, Jack Sydorow, Olivia Tuttle, Ava Wittman