

N. A. Walbran Building Newsletter: January 2026

Beginning with this January newsletter, I am turning over some of the editing capabilities within the newsletter to a handful of students who have proven they are up for any challenge I set in front of them. It's a lot of responsibility to dedicate your time to working on the newsletter. However, to take on the role of editor means you are not only researching and writing your own articles, but you are assisting your peers with editing and writing their work as well. These students are also helping input articles and photographs, designing backgrounds for slides, as well as creating charts. They are not only learning more about collaborating within Google Suite; they are teaching one another (and me!) new techniques as well!



Left: Olivia & Asteria take notes at a P2 assembly

Above: Kennedy interviews a Student of the Month

To layer the additional responsibilities involved in getting the behind-the-scenes work done to produce a newsletter covering topics for the whole school wide community is, quite honestly, a lot of work for anyone! I thought maybe interest would dwindle as the year went on (Spoiler alert: it has not!). I thought the students would need more guidance than one teacher could provide at a time (another incorrect assumption). I thought collaboration with peers, emailing staff members, working outside the WIN block, and staying late or arriving early for projects would prove to be too much (no, no, no, and not even close).



To put it simply, these sixth grade students are rocking it! They are working on articles during their free time, interacting with teachers they have not met before, and getting to know the younger students in the building– and doing it all with fierce determination and a true dedication to the craft of journalism. Not only have they met my expectations and hopes, they have exceeded them. And I couldn't be more proud of our kids.

-Ms. Zarnoch-Riley



Asteria (left) and John (above) interview students of the month following an assembly

Can You Match the Sweater?



Can you guess which description goes with each holiday sweater? Look at each sweater and read each description. Can you match them up?

Students in second and fourth grade designed festive sweaters, then wrote a descriptive paragraph about the appearance. Can you match the sweaters to each description?

Christmas sweater
My Christmas sweater has green and red stripes. It has red on the top and has a lot of green on the bottom. It has green on its sleeves. It kind of looks like a candy cane. I hope you have fun finding my Christmas sweater.

A

My sweater has red and orange sleeves. I have darkish blue cuffs and a hem. I also have green and white on the sweater. It does not have a pattern.

B

My sweater has purple, blue, and red. It has a Christmas tree in the middle of the sweater. It has stars that are blue.

C

This is a ugly sweater. It is red and green, brown and pink black, yellow and purple. The collar is green and blue pink and orange and dark pink.

D

ugly Sweater
My sweater has most colors such as red and green it has a very foamy winter drink on it which could be very hot sometimes it also could have treats in it like marshmallows and chocolate. It has shiny spots on it in the color yellow. It has a green plant with ornaments on it. The cuffs are green and red, and its neckline is green and the bottom is red. It has lines on it kind of like candy canes but they are green and red instead.
I hope you'll be able to find my sweater!

E

My ugly Christmas sweater is half red half green, and it has cool designs and a Christmas tree in the middle. It is a turtleneck. It is UGLY, but it'll be good for Christmas.

F

My sweater has electric stars on it and a mug. I have blue, red, orange, yellow, brown, purple and green. It is a turtleneck sweater. The cuffs are purple.

G

I have made an apple in the middle of my Christmas sweater. I used red and green to color my sweater. I wrote words at the top that are hard to see.

H

My sweater
My sweater is cute and pretty. I made this sweater really good. My sweater is not a Christmas color, just to let you know. It is a crew neck not a turtle neck. I don't have a pattern but I have stripes. I have purple, green, yellow, blue, pink, and brown. I hope you will find my sweater!

I

UGLY SWEATER
My ugly sweater has a Christmas tree. My Christmas ugly sweater has a tittle neck. It also has snow falling and a yellow star.

J

My sweater has a Christmas tree in the middle of the sweater. The sleeves are blue and red. It looks like a flag. It has a green background and it's ugly. It has a crew neck with four colors: green, red, blue, and brown.

K

My sweater's sleeves are green and red. There is a Christmas tree in the middle. There's a mug on the top and Christmas lights around it. I made a red and green rainbow behind the tree. The cuffs, hem, and neck are all rainbow colors.

L

My sweater has blue, red, purple, yellow and white stripes. The sleeves are red and the cuffs are green. The turtleneck is green and the bottom hem is also green.

M

My ugliest Christmas sweater has candy cane stripes, red and green squares, red, white, green, blue, and yellow sleeves, blue and yellow with red and green triangles, dark blue cuffs, and red and green shoulders. This is my ugliest Christmas sweater with a crew neck.

N

answer key on page 15

December Mentoring Program

By Isaac Baker



The December mentoring program was held on December 12, 2025. There were games in the gym, like the relay race light edition. To play this game, you roll the dice and whatever color you land on, you flip that light/cone on. If you land on the same color, you have to flip the light/cone off.

Also in the cafeteria, you could design an “ugly” sweater, also known as a Christmas sweater. The crafts they used were fake sticky trees, crayons, and other items. There were snacks like goldfish, Gushers, Gatorade, water, Capri Suns, and chips as well as other snacks. That was what the children did at the December mentor program.

Cold Weather Preparedness Tips:

With cold temperatures upon us, please be sure your children are safely ready for the weather!

adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

CHILLY

- 1-2 layers
- long layer
- outer layer to keep out wind, rain
- warm shoes water proof

COLD

- 2-3 layers
- warm hat
- gloves
- outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow
- boots water proof
- 1-2 layers

EXTREME COLD

- 3+ layers 7 insulating
- warm hat
- face mask
- gloves
- outer layer to keep out wind
- boots water proof
- 2+ layers

weather.gov/safety

Hockey Intramurals

By Nash Johnston and Brennan Wiand



The fifth and sixth graders got the opportunity to go to hockey intramurals. It was super fun for them getting to play many different versions of hockey with their friends. They learned a lot of different skills and played many different positions. They played different versions of hockey as well. They drafted teams to play, then they played hockey with a real stick and puck. Mr. Enos and Mrs. Brown even made a custom authentic penalty box. They got to play many positions like goalie, defense, and center. They all had fun getting to play with their friends on different teams and scoring GOALS!



Narrative Snowmen

By Jacob Charles & Zachary Jones

To kick off their narrative writing unit, the second graders made a snowman for a project. They went outside and got to work. They put on their snow gear and started building their snowmen, showing a great display of teamwork and creativity. After they made their snowmen, they wrote a narrative piece about their experience. They even got to use real carrots and sticks to build the snowmen. They also used transition words to write their narrative essay such as first, next and then. They had a great time and making snowmen had made writing the essay much much easier.



Family Game Night

By Teghan Schneider

The community game night was held on Thursday, January 15 at 5:30-7:00. In the gym, there were more athletic games like Can Jam, bowling, ping-pong, Jenga, and cornhole. In the cafeteria, there were snacks and water, along with lots of board games, like Pigs on Trampolines, and Sorry. Lastly, in the library there were more games like Connect Four and Twister.





As for me, I played a round of Sorry in the cafeteria and my dad ended up winning! Next, we went to the gym to play some of the games that were there. It was enjoyable because of the fact that you got to move around from place to place. It was a very successful night with over 125 students, plus their families! Thank you to all the teachers who donated their games and time for this fun night!



January P2 Assembly

By Asteria Gotham and Olivia Tuttle

For the P2 assembly, all of the students headed down to the cafeteria. First, select students were awarded for the Positivity Project. The strengths this month were prudence, perseverance, optimism, and social intelligence.



Secondly, each of the special area teachers chose a select class from the whole school to earn a banner for their classroom door. The teachers choose the classes by their behavior.



PE	Library	Art	Music	Tech
Ms. Armstrong 3rd Grade	Ms. Koenig 2nd Grade	Mrs. Kraeger Kindergarten	Ms. Island 2nd Grade	Mrs. Servadio 4th Grade

Next, students that decided to participate in the December Fitness Challenge earned a special certificate if they did the specific exercise on a day of the calendar for the entire month.

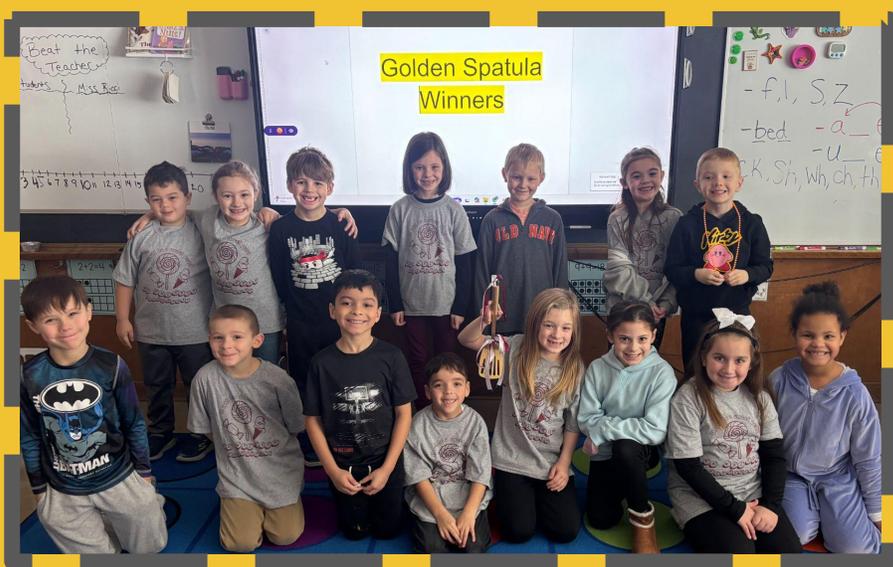


Then Mr. Meiss announced the January Student of the Month. This month, the teachers decided to focus on the 6th grade class. The person who won student of the month was Salvatore Cardarelli. You can find Sal's interview on page 12 of this newsletter!





Lastly, Mr. Meiss announced the official winner of the Golden Spatula. The Golden Spatula is an award that a classroom earns if they show proper behavior inside of the cafeteria. The classroom that received the award was Ms. Ricci's first grade class.





Skyhawk Of the Month

By Elise Knight & Draven Zawaly

The January Skyhawk of The Month is Ms. Rieben. Ms. Rieben is a fourth grade teacher who loves teaching her students something new, she especially likes teaching her students new games that help them learn because it makes her students realize that learning could be fun.

What inspired her to become a teacher was that ever since she was little she knew that she wanted to teach, what really inspired her to become a teacher was all of her teachers she had when she was in school. They made a major impact on her life and she knew she wanted to do the same thing for other kids. If Ms. Rieben could take her students anywhere in the world, she would bring them to Ancient Greece, so they could learn more about their history. Her favorite book is Holes, written by Louis Sachar, and in her freetime she would like to try new coffee shops, or sit on the couch with a good book. She also has a lot of pets, if you include dogsitting!



Student Of the Month

By Brennan Wiand

January's Student of the Month recognition belongs to sixth grader Salvatore Cardarelli. Sal is a great student, but an even better person outside school, according to Mr. Wright, who nominated him. He is always smiling, helpful and positive. Sal's favorite subject is social studies, and music is his favorite special. His favorite animal is any type of panda. Summer is his favorite season so he can play outside. Sal's favorite color is teal. Sal feels so honored and happy for being Student of the Month. Congratulations, Sal!

Soda Tabs Donated to Local Shriners

By Chloe Buehner



At N.A. Walbran, we have a giant container that students are encouraged to fill up with soda can tabs. For a few years now, the Shriners have visited our school for tab collections. The Shriners collect these tabs to recycle and donate the money for medical supplies and the children at Shriners' Hospitals. The officers of the 2025-2026 Elementary Student Council helped put the tabs into bags to be recycled. Lots of people think can tops (like beer tops) can be recycled the same way as the tabs, but they are different! The process of getting the non recyclables out of the mix is actually very interesting! First, they collect everything into one spot, then they use a magnet to find all the non recyclables, next they take out all the non recyclables, finally they recycle what's left to donate to Shriners Children's Hospitals.

Important Dates

By Asteria Gotham

February 2nd: Groundhog Day
February 8th: 6th Grade
Applebee's Fundraiser
February 14th : Valentine's Day
February 16-20th : Mid-Winter
Recess, No School
February 25th : 100th Day of
School *tentative*



GROUNDHOG
DAY
February 2nd



Which Christmas Sweater? Answer Key

By Olivia Tuttle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
I	N	E	F	J	A	D	K	M	H	C	B	G	L

N.A. Walbran Building Newsletter: Meet the

Team

Special thanks
to this
newsletter
edition's staff:

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