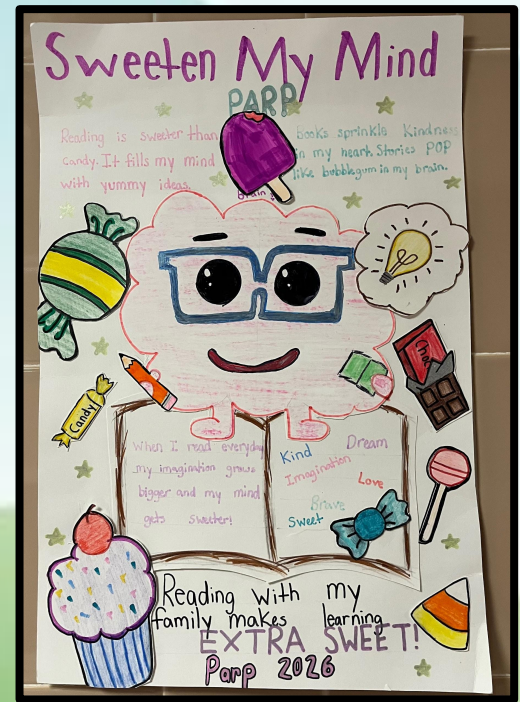


March 2026

N. A. Walbran Elementary School Newsletter

The three week PARP program was a huge success! Every year, the PTA sponsors this amazing program, and the students enjoyed all the activities. The theme was Sweeten Your Mind– Read Every Day, and not only is the intention to read over the three weeks, but hopefully to inspire a love of reading into the future.

To begin, the students enjoyed hot cocoa and chose a book. There was a bookmark contest, and the winner from each grade level had their bookmark printed for their grade and won a \$15 Barnes and Noble gift card (see pg. 18 for the winners). The Guess the Teacher contest (pg. 3) was so much fun! The 4th-6th graders had the chance to match some of the teachers to their favorite sweet treats, and DEAR time was enjoyed three times throughout the program. Three theme days (pg. 2) added to the fun as well.



The Read-In (pg. 4) had about 70 students in grades 1-6 stay after school and enjoy reading with their friends, and they left with a coupon for ice cream at Stewart's.

To wrap it up, our carnival-themed finale will take place on April 1, with our fun filled teacher challenge to follow, since the students surpassed their goal of collectively reading 1,000 hours! Stay tuned for what fun will be had! Don't forget your Water Safari reading log sheet to get your free ticket 'where the fun never stops!' We truly hope the students and their families enjoyed our PARP program, and we're looking forward to next year!

-PARP Coordinators

Mrs. DeFabio & Mrs. Amodio

PARP Theme Wednesdays

By Hunter Koons and Brennan Wiand



Every Wednesday, from March 4 until March 18, there were many different and fun activities for the students and teachers of N.A. Walbran, including spirit days. The spirit days for PARP were Read a Shirt Day, when you can wear a shirt that has words for other people to read; Wear Your Favorite Skittles or M&M color, which lets you wear your favorite color of either candy; and Bring Your Favorite Book to School Day, to share about your book! This was a fun time for the students and teachers and let them do some fun activities while showing their school spirit.



PARP: Guess the Teacher

By Elise Knight and Giovanni Zegarelli

The PARP Guess the Teacher contest was a fun little competition that helped students get excited about PARP, while also learning fun facts about sweet treats. This game took place every Tuesday and Thursday during PARP. One student from grades PreK-2 and 3-6 was chosen randomly if they guessed the teacher correctly. If they did so, they won a prize of some sort. The game was very fun to play for PARP. Students looked at videos of a teacher reading facts about sweet treats, with a filter on their face. The Guess the Teacher contest only happened for 6 days!



PARP Read-In

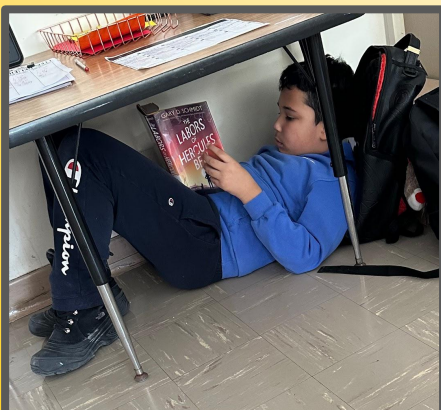
By Elise Knight



PARP After-School Read-In

By Elise Knight

On Wednesday, March 18th, students stayed after school to participate in this year's Read-In. This took place in various locations throughout the elementary school, such as a few homerooms, while the whole event took place from 3:20 to 4:15. The students quietly read books of their choosing and had an optional snack, a free granola bar. This gave them an opportunity to have a noise-free afternoon where they can sit down and read their books with their friends. At around 4:10, students started heading down to the gymnasium and waited for their names to be called over the loudspeaker for their dismissal. This event was a wonderful finish of the 2025-2026's PARP season!



February P2 Assembly

By Olivia Tuttle & Asteria Gotham

Students in grades Pre-K-6th headed to the cafeteria for the February P2 assembly. The first thing they did was announce the certificate winners. The character strengths were forgiveness, love, and humility. Then, they announced the classes that were chosen to get a special banner from the special area teachers to hang up on their door. For PE, Ms. Gadbow's Pre-K class was awarded. For technology, Mrs. Daskiewich chose Mr. Reid's fifth grade class. For music, Mrs. Gray's first grade class was chosen. For art, Ms. Armstrong's 3rd grade class won. And lastly, Ms. Island's 2nd grade class won the award for library.



Next, Mr. Reid, the fifth and sixth grade social studies teacher, announced the winners of the Declaration of Independence essay that students wrote in November. Five out of the six winners were Oriskany students! The winners for fifth grade were Vanessa Alden (second place), and Gabriella Carrier (third place). For sixth grade, the winners were Asteria Gotham (third place), Olivia Tuttle (second place), and Teghan Schneider (first place).

Then, Mrs. DeFabio came up and talked about how PARP (Pick a Reading Partner) would be set up this year. She announced the bookmark winners for each grade level starting with Pre-K.



Next up, the Student of the Month was announced! The student that was chosen for this was Salvatore Smaldon, a fifth grade student. He was nominated by Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Reid.

And lastly, the winner of the Golden Spatula (for best behavior in the cafeteria) was awarded to Ms. Armstrong's third grade class.



Grade 2 Ozobots

By Jacob Charles and Trenton Koons



This month, Ms. Island's second grade class was assisted by Mrs. Blackwell when they learned how to program Ozobots. They had the ability to code the landforms that they were currently learning about into a maze. Many students were thrilled to learn more about this and had a very good experience coding the Ozobots to move and do more innovative actions. Ozobots are small robots that can be programmed to do amazing things, such as move around coded mazes and obstacles. The students had to answer questions about the landforms they had been learning about, such as volcanoes, valleys, and beaches. The students had a blast while coding the Ozobots. The students had so much fun, they look forward to doing this again!





March Skyhawk of the Month: Mrs. Irwin By Teghan Schneider



March Student of the Month: Anastasia Clark By Teghan Schneider

The Skyhawk of The Month for March is Elementary Math Specialist, Mrs. Irwin. Of course, she loves to do math with students and was inspired in elementary school by two of her teachers. They were always very supportive of her and made learning fun for her. This made her want to do the same for other people. Over the years of working at N. A. Walbran, she enjoyed working in a multi-aged group of first and second graders. She taught this with Ms. Horan and they rotated every year with a themed project.

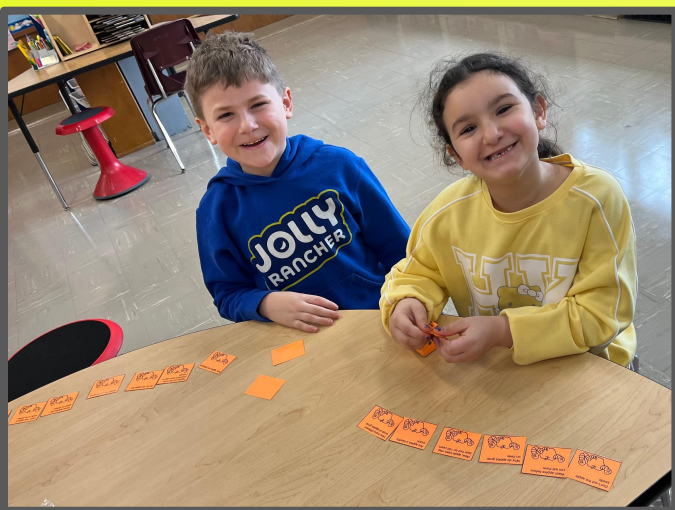
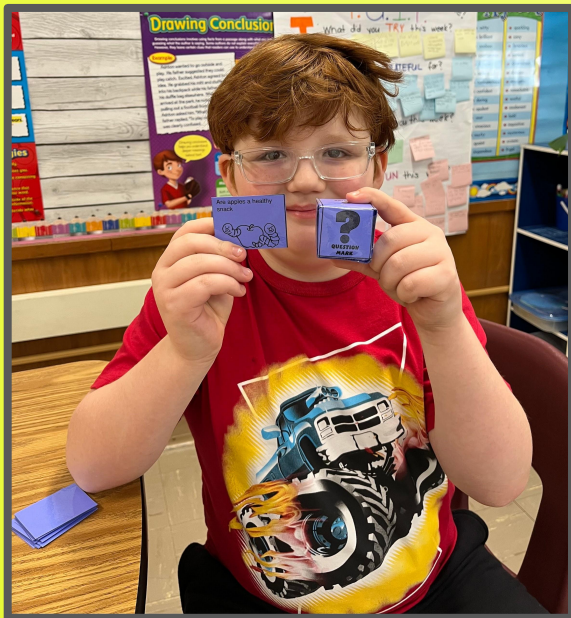
For the month of March, Anastasia Clark from Ms. Closinski's kindergarten class is our Student of the Month. She was selected by Mrs. Kraeger, Ms. Closinski, and Mrs. Salvatore.

Anastasia's favorite subject in school is reading and her favorite books are about cats. As for the special, she likes art. Her favorite animal is any kind of cat and she loves the color red. She likes the winter especially because she can go sledding. Anastasia was excited and happy to be chosen for this role of Student of the Month.

Mrs. Irwin loves to redo and paint the inside of her house and also refinish old furniture. She likes painting step by step paintings as well as ceramics. She likes to read books by the author Kate DiCamillo and her favorite book by her is The Miraculous Journey Of Edward Tulane. Besides painting, she loves to travel and see new places. She likes to explore new places, as well as revisiting old ones. She has a camp up in the Adirondack Mountains, and she and her husband hike, swim, and fish there. At home, she has three Siamese cats, one 18 year old named Willow and two rescues named Remi and Olive, who happen to be sisters. These cats love to play in their garden and cause trouble with the bees and butterflies. Congratulations to Mrs. Irwin for being honored as Skyhawk of the Month!

Grade 2 Ending Punctuation Game

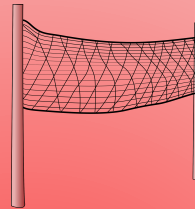
By Sal Cardarelli & Trenton Koons



Two students from each second grade class participated in a fun punctuation game with Ms. Zarnoch-Riley. Each student was paired up with a partner to challenge each other to the game. The game was played in room 26. This game was similar to a card game. They used a die that had three ending punctuation marks to roll: an exclamation mark, a period, and a question mark. The students pulled a card that was face down, like the game Memory, and if it matched the punctuation dice they rolled, they could keep it. If it didn't match, they put the card back face down and their partner took a turn. Whoever had the most cards at the end of the game won the match. They had a blast playing this game to review the skills they've been working on!

After School Intramurals

By Sal Cardarelli & Kiley Dousharm



For the boys' intramurals, it was a frisbee game called Ultimate Frisbee. There were fifth and sixth graders. There were 17 students broken into groups of four. There were two teams of two on one side playing against two teams of two on the other side. To identify the teams, students wore wristbands of yellow, blue, red, or green. First, teams were chosen by Mr. Enos, the PE teacher. The teams were sixth versus fifth graders. Then, it was the students' own choice for the teams. The score was 13 to 3 for fifth versus sixth graders. They had only two minutes to score as many points as they could. Everyone had a fun time and left with a smile on their face.

On March 10th, the girls in grades six and five gathered in the gym for after school intramurals, which were volleyball and badminton. The girls split into groups of three, with six groups in total. There were three courts, with two groups on each court. First, they played volleyball for the first half, then for the last half, they all played badminton. Every grouping played each of the other teams at least once, so that everyone got a turn to play each other. Everyone who went had a good time and enjoyed themselves during intramurals!

March P2 Assembly

By Olivia Tuttle & Chloe Buehner



Banner Winners

On March 19th, NA Walbran had their monthly P2 Assembly. Every grade, starting from Pre-K and ending with 6th grade, went to the cafeteria. First, Mrs. Caruso announced certificate winners for the traits Love of Learning, Perspective, and Humor.

Next, the special area teachers each chose one class to get a banner. Each teacher chose a certain class based on their behavior relating to the traits we focused on this month.

P.E.	Mrs. Caruso (1)
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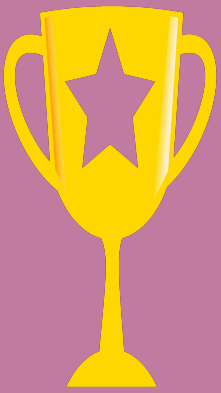
Art	Mr. Reid (5)
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Tech	Mrs. Kraeger's (K)
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Library	Mrs. DeFabio (Pre-k)
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Music	Ms. Armstrong (3)
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Then, students who decided to complete the February Fitness Challenge received a certificate and a bracelet for completing all of the exercises on the calendar.

Towards the middle of the assembly, each class had a representative or two that had the opportunity to tell the audience a joke! Even Mr. Meiss told two jokes!! The audience loved all of the jokes because we don't usually include jokes during an ordinary assembly. They told jokes because humor was one of the traits.





After the jokes, the kindergarten teachers and Mrs. Salvatore presented this month's Student of The Month award to Anastasia Clark! See Anastasia's interview on page 8.

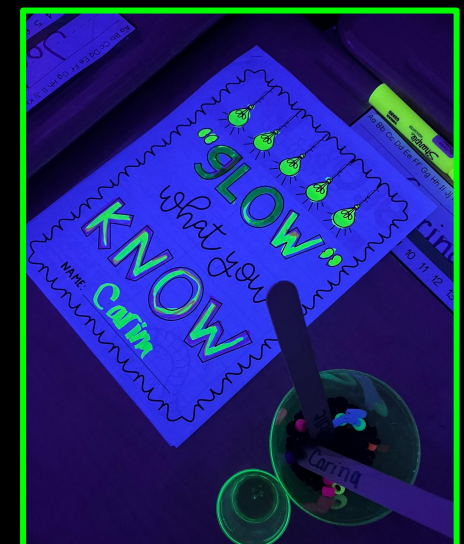
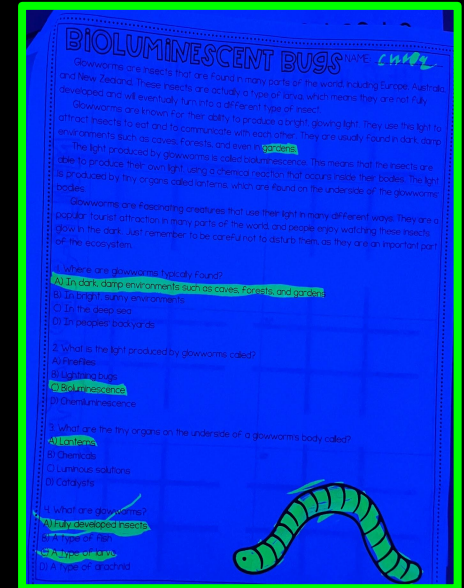
Lastly, Mr. Meiss announced the winner of the Golden Spatula award. This award is normally given to a class who showed the best behavior in the cafeteria. This month, the class that won the Golden Spatula was Ms. Island's 2nd grade class!



Grade 4 Glow Day

By Sal Cardarelli & Trenton Koons

The 4th graders had a thrilling time with the Glow Day event. Glow day was hosted in Mrs. Servadio's 4th grade classroom. During this class event, they used invisible ink pens and neon pastels to make their papers glow! They used pens and pastels while doing activities on their papers such as tic-tac-glow, and multi-step math problems, while watching their papers light up! They also identified shapes and letters. Some quick shoutouts to Mrs. Kraeger and Ms. Closinski for the supplies! Some other staff that were a part of the setting up were Mrs. Caruso, Mrs. Lomonto, Ms. Rieben, Ms. Ricci, and Ms. Brosemer. All the students had a fun time during this event.



Grade Level Buddies: 1 & 4

By Olivia Tuttle



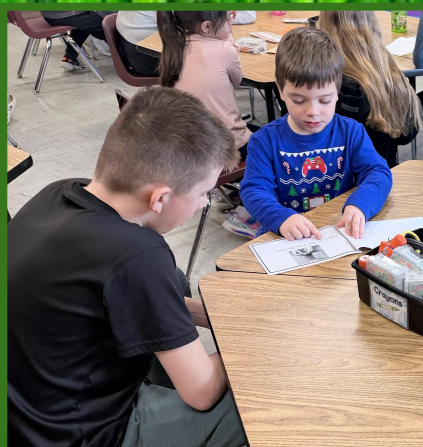
On St. Patrick's Day, the first and fourth graders worked together on a St. Patrick's Day project. The grades met up in the cafeteria. They divided up, and the fourth graders took one or two first graders to work on the project. They needed to write eight positive words that described themselves on coins. The fourth graders helped with spelling errors, and made their own pots of gold. Next, the students had to color, cut, and glue the coins to the pot. This was a fun way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!



Kindergarten & 6th Grade Buddies

By Brennan Wiand

On March 16th, the sixth graders and kindergartners got the chance to work together and make a leprechaun trap to catch a leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day! The activity was very fun. They colored a rainbow, then got to cut the rainbow out and glue it to the bag for the trap. Next, they got to put a tin with a gold coin in it into the bag. Finally, they cut out a ladder and colored it for a leprechaun to climb in and get trapped! It was super fun for all the students to work with each other!



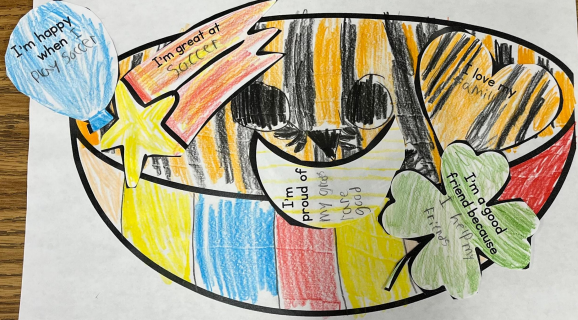
Grade Level Buddies: 2 & 5

By Jacob Charles

LUCKY to be me!



LUCKY to be me!



LUCKY to be me!



LUCKY to be me!



LUCKY to be me!



For the second and fifth grade buddies this month, the students participated in a fun St. Patrick's Day activity. The activity they made was a St. Patrick's Day themed bowl of Lucky Charms out of paper and wrote things that they are good at, proud of, what they love, when they're happy, and why they are a good friend. To make it, they cut out shapes such as a shooting star, a balloon, and a clover. They cut out a bowl and glued the shapes onto the bowl and colored the pieces. The fifth graders had a good time helping and having fun with the second graders.

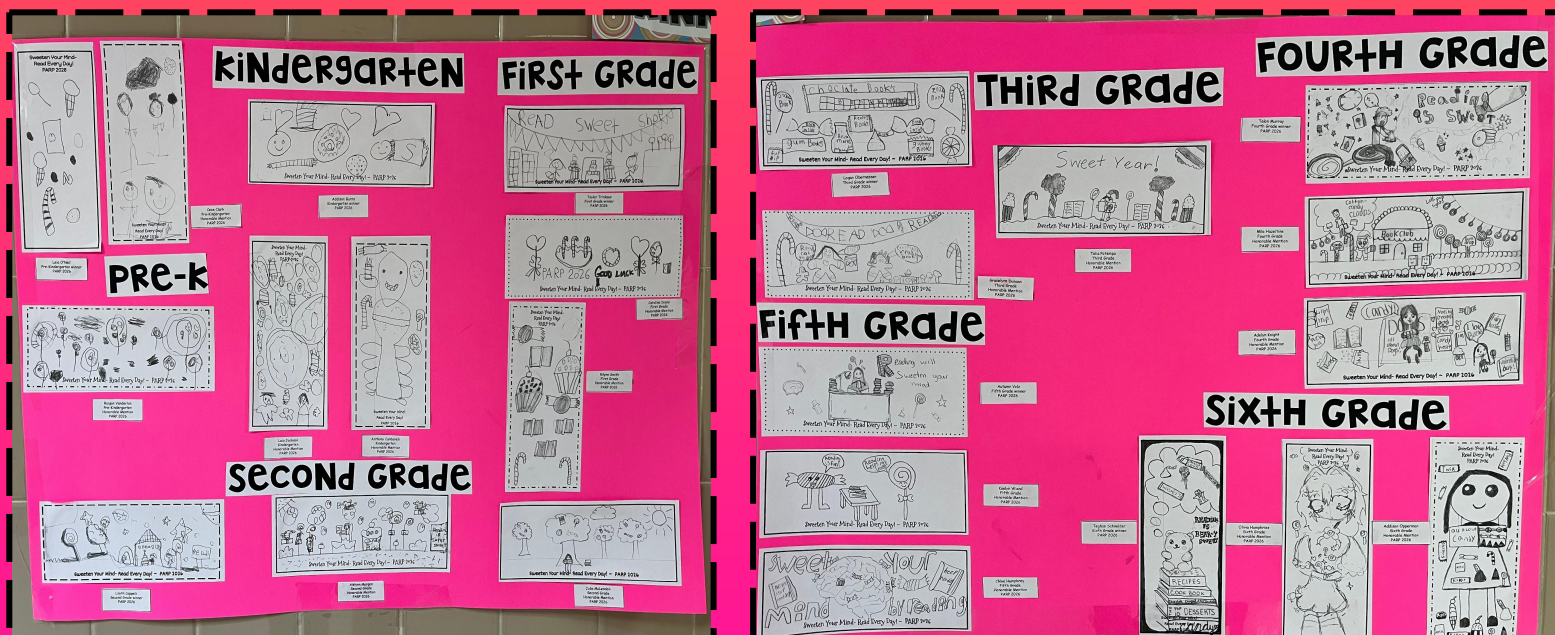
Upcoming Dates

By Teghan Schneider



- 4/3-4/12: Spring Recess (no school)
- 4/15-4/16: Grade 3-6 NYS ELA CBT (computer based testing)
- 4/17: Marking Period 3 Report Cards Distributed
- 4/22-4/23: Grade 3-6 NYS Math CBT
- 4/24-4/25: OCMEA Elementary All-County Music Festival at Westmoreland HS
- 4/27: Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- 4/29: Grade 5 NYS Science CBT

Congratulations to the winners of this year's PARP Bookmark Contest!



PreK: Leia O'Neil, Cece Clark, Raigan Vanderlan
K: Addison Burns, Laia Jackson, Anthony Cardarelli
1: Taylor Trinkaus, Catalina Ixcoy, Rilynn Smith
2: Lilyth Capelli, Aislynn Morgan, Julia McLendon

3: Logan Obernesser, Talia Potempa, Gracelynn Duncan
4: Talon Murray, Mila Hazeltine, Adelyn Knight
5: Autumn Volz, Kaelyn Wiand, Chloe Humphrey
6: Teghan Schneider, Olivia Humphries, Addison Opperman

Winners' names are in bold. Honorable mentions listed after.

N. A. Walbran Building Newsletter:

Meet the Team



Editors:

Chloe Buehner,
Kiley Dousharm,
Asteria Gotham,
Teghan
Schneider,
Olivia Tuttle



Writers: Salvatore Cardarelli,
Jacob Charles, Elise Knight,
Hunter Koons, Trenton Koons,
Brennan Wiand, Giovanni Zegarelli

