

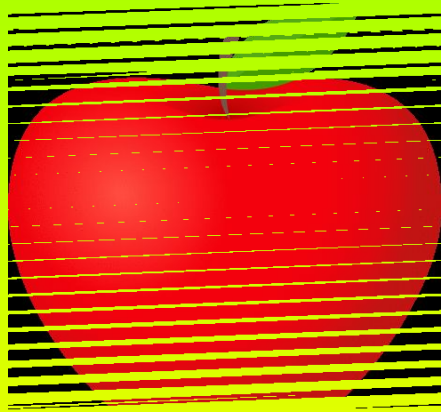
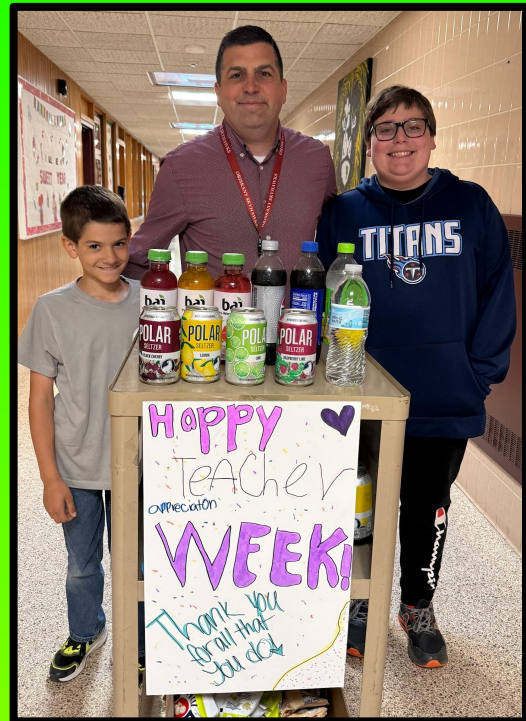
May 2026 Newsletter

N. A. Walbran Elementary School

Teacher Appreciation Week

By: Caleb Powers and Olivia Tuttle

During the week of May 4-8, the elementary school held a Teacher Appreciation Week. We thanked the teachers during the whole week with the help of the PTA and Mr. Meiss. On May 4th, the district office provided refreshments to the school faculty. The next day, the PTA provided breakfast from Panera. On May 6th, Mr. Meiss and students gave teachers refreshments from a refreshment cart. On May 7th, the PTA brought in lunch for the teachers lunch from Capri Pizzeria. On the final day of Teacher Appreciation Week, the students delivered appreciation messages to the teachers. Even after Teacher Appreciation Week, you should always be kind to and grateful for your teachers everyday.



TEACHER OF THE WEEK

Ms. Emily Closinski

MS. CLOSINSKI IS NOT ONLY AN AMAZING TEACHER SHE IS A WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING. LAST OCTOBER, MY SON WAS UNEXPECTEDLY ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL FOR 4 DAYS WHERE HE MISSED SEVERAL DAYS OF SCHOOL. EMILY WENT ABOVE & BEYOND. THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TIME FOR US, TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH SOMETHING WE NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE. EMILY NOT ONLY CHECKED IN ON MY SON, SHE CHECKED IN ON ME AS WELL TO MAKE SURE WE WERE OKAY. SHE HAD THE ENTIRE CLASS MAKE CARDS FOR MY SON & SHE HAND DELIVERED A BASKET OF GOODIES FOR HIM ONCE HE WAS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL. MS. CLOSINSKI IS TRULY A COMPASSIONATE PERSON. MS. CLOSINSKI DESERVES THE RECOGNITION FOR BEING SUCH AN OUTSTANDING PERSON TO HER STUDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES.



NA WALBRAN ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN



WHITNEY REECE



STEEY PONTE NISSAN

April Mentoring Program

By Giovanni Zegarelli

The mentor program that happened on April 30th was exciting for everyone who was there that afternoon. The program ran from 3:30 to 4:15 after school. At that time, everyone got two snacks and a drink. After that, fourth through sixth graders got to play 8 Base, a cross between kickball and baseball. During 8 base, our principal, Mr. Meiss, and Mr. Wright helped the students playing. While fourth and sixth graders were playing 8 Base, first through third graders painted suncatchers. When fourth through sixth graders were done playing in the gym, first through third graders got to play with hula hoops and fourth through sixth graders painted suncatchers while first through third graders were playing in the gym. In all this was a very fun experience for all students in the mentoring program.

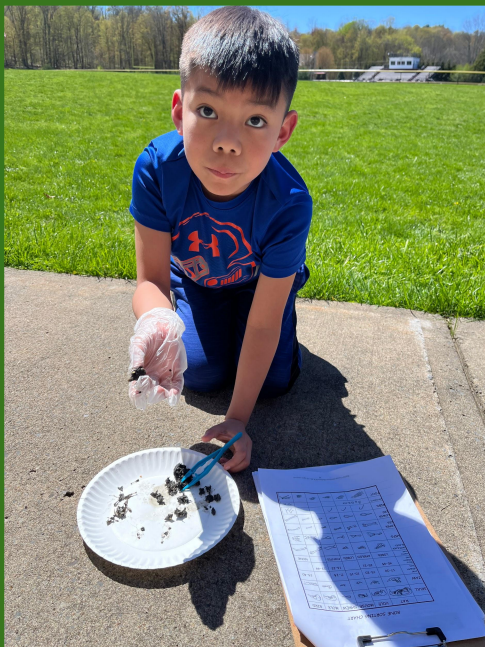


Grade 2 Owl Pellet Dissection

By Zachary Jones & Trenton Koons

On Monday April 27th, Ms. Koenig's second grade class did an owl pellet dissection. They had done this experiment outside near the playground. With this project came a lot of things, such as finding bones of other animals, dissecting the owls pellets, etc. Ms. Koenig said, "Each student had their own owl pellet. They had a selection of tools to use for this project such as tweezers, a magnifying glass, and an identification chart."

We had also asked if the students were looking for anything in particular, and if so what? She replied with, "Students were given a chart with labeled images of common animals that owls consume." They were asked to find different bones of these animals in the pellets, and then use the chart to help them identify what animals that owl had eaten." They were also able to get this project done in about 30 minutes with the help of Ms. Zarnoch-Riley!



Ms. Waskiewicz's Second Graders Raise Pekin Ducklings

By Mason Powers and Kiley Dousharm

During the month of May, Ms. Waskiewicz's second grade class was raising ducklings. Some people that are reading this article will have questions: What was their schedule? How long did they take to hatch? These questions have been answered by Ms. Waskiewicz. The reason they were raising the ducklings is because they were studying The Diversity of Life. It took them 28 days to hatch and they had to turn the eggs three times a day. They candled the eggs five times during their incubation time, which meant putting them over a light so they could see their growth. They had to regulate the temperature to 99.5 degrees until they were ready to hatch. After hatching, the ducklings stayed in the incubator until they were dry and rested before being moved to a brooder box at the same temperature. They also took notes with a journal about an oil gland and how it helped the ducklings in the water.





Fun facts about the ducklings:

- They have an “egg tooth,” which helps them break the egg shell while hatching and it dries up and falls out when they are born.
- After a few days students were able to hold the ducklings.
- The duckling would peep loudly when they needed food or water.
- They let them walk around their classroom when they were working and let them swim in a small pool.
- They voted on names for the ducks: Scrawny (named after their favorite duck story), Nickasourus (biggest one), and Sunshine, Cupcake, and Feathers.
- When they got too big for their classroom, they took them to a farm.
- The class is also receiving photos of the ducklings from the farm to see how the ducklings are doing as they grow into adults.



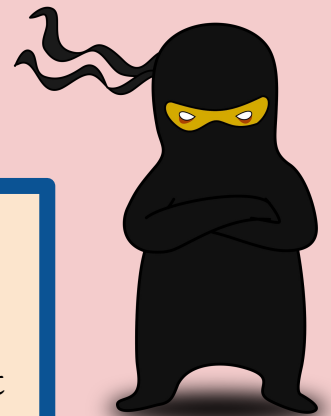
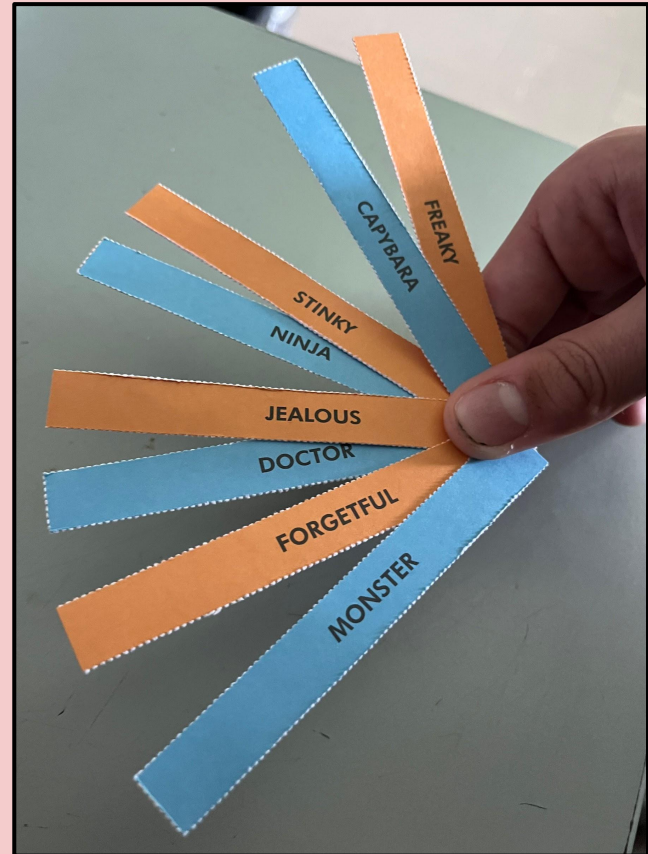


MINI-SAGA WRITING CONTEST

BY BRENNAN WIAND

THERE IS A CHANCE FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 4-6 TO WRITE A MINI SAGA FOR A NATIONAL WRITING CONTEST. YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW WHAT A MINI SAGA IS. IT IS A 100 OR LESS WORD STORY THAT IS SUPPOSED TO NOT BE REAL, BUT FUNNY AND RIDICULOUS. MOST OF THE STUDENTS IN GRADES 4 AND 5 GET A CHANCE TO WRITE A MINI SAGA, AND SO DO THE 6TH GRADERS WHO ARE HELPING WITH THE NEWSLETTER.

EACH STUDENT CHOSE TWO WORDS BLINDLY OUT OF A CUP: AN ADJECTIVE AND A NOUN FOR THEIR PROMPT. AND THERE WERE SOME VERY FUNNY COMBINATIONS FOR EXAMPLE: FREAKY CAPYBARA, STINKY TEACHER, GRUMPY NINJA, AND CLUMSY EXPLORER. NEXT, WE GOT TO WATCH A VIDEO ON HOW THIS CONTEST WORKS. THIS IS A SUPER FUN EXPERIENCE FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE THEIR STORY COULD END UP PUBLISHED IN A REAL CHILDREN'S BOOK!



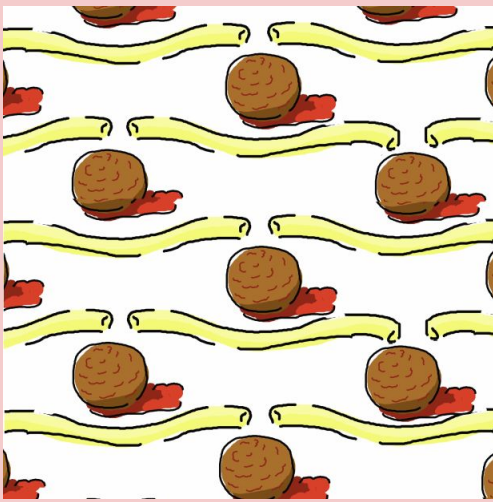
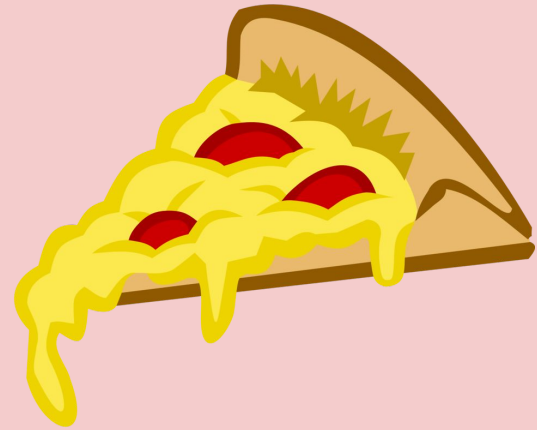
Garry the Grumpy Ninja's Close Call, by Elise Knight (grade

6)

Ninja Garry had woken up on the wrong side of the bed. Going to his job early in the morning, he was in a terrible mood. He did not want to rob a bank. When he arrived, he was slouchy and grumpy. His friends asked, "What's wrong?" Grouchily, he just mumbled. They had to break in through the window, having to be stealthy if they wanted to stay hidden. Oops! Garry had suddenly tripped the alarm! As the police came, they were scrambling, terrified! When they arrived, Ninja Garry had a sudden boost of adrenaline, and fought them off quickly!

The Terrifying Pizza, by Mason Powers (grade 6)

A pizza that became a ghost was terrifying to all the pizzas in the newly rebuilt restaurant called Aviator's Pizza Parlor. After some time, he started to fade away since he had not scared anyone. The last day, he spooked the next pizza he saw in the morning. At the same time, all the pizzas woke up and it stopped and he was back to scaring all day and all night. Then he finally found peace after a long time of scaring the pizza community and then he meets his old friends from the old pizzeria and he's now happy.

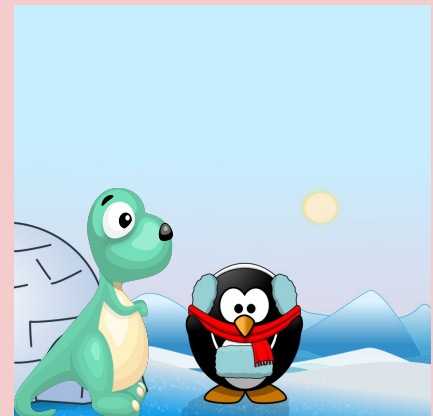


The Freaky Chef, by Chloe Buehner (grade 6)

Chef Ramble was finishing an order, worm spaghetti OBVIOUSLY! when he finished, a celebrity entered! "Sir Strawberry, what would you like today?" he asked. "I would like the FREAKIEST meal you have!" Chef Ramble panicked and ran to make it. "Eyeball Sundae it is..." An hour later Sir Strawberry got a call that he had to be on set immediately. Chef Ramble got mad and let the cockroaches out on the ground! "Eww WHAT ARE THESE?!" said his wife, Carmella. Chef Ramble was escorted out and Carmella took over, she renovated it. Freaky Ramble's Diner, was now Carmella's Shimmy Shack!

Tilby, the Crazy Dinosaur, by Kiley Dousharm (grade 6)

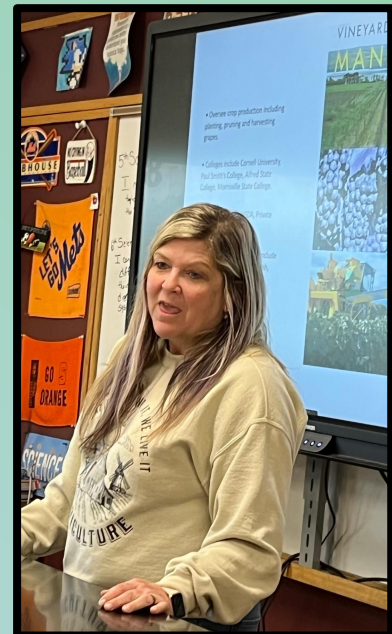
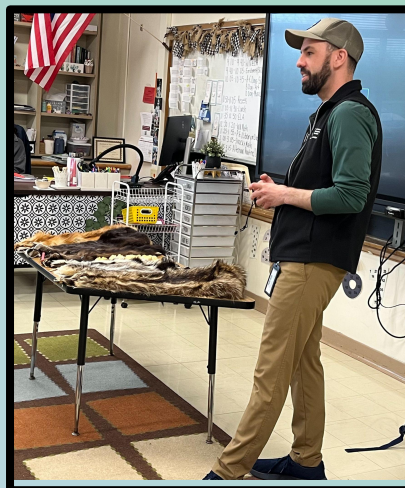
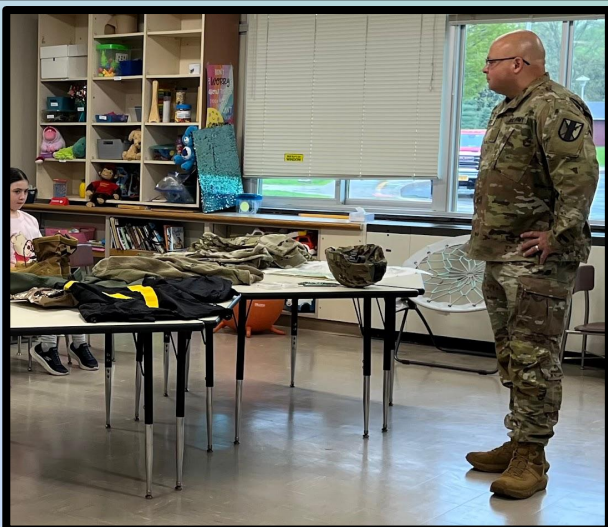
Tilby gazed around, viewing the icy peaks of Antarctica. "Where could he be?" he mumbled. Tilby was searching for his dinosaur cousin, Dino. He'd been on a frustrating journey here, and he could not wait. It was highly exasperating. He got a lot of small clues, which lead him here, to freezing Antarctica. Tilby heard a roar nearby, and saw what looked like.. an igloo? Tilby's a tiny, crazy dinosaur, so it took awhile to walk there. When he finally reached the igloo, he peeked inside. He saw Dino lounging around with penguins! This concludes Tilby's search looking for Dino!



Career Day, Grades 4-6

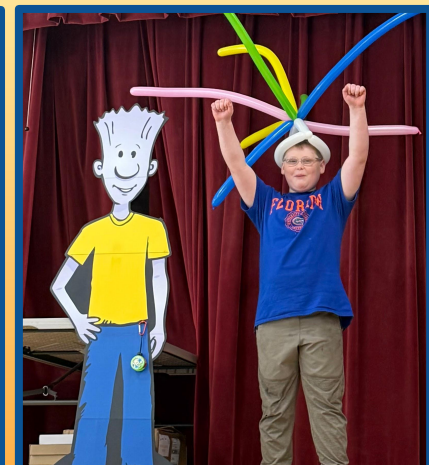
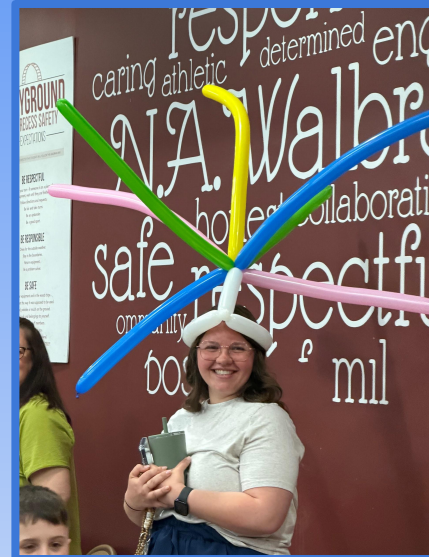
By Elise Knight and Giovanni Zegarelli

Career Day was on Wednesday May 13. On Career Day, all the students from 4th through 6th grade met up in the cafeteria to hear what our principal, Mr. Meiss, had to say. When all the kids got to the cafeteria, he directed different people to different places, depending on their individual schedule. Earlier in the week, students had picked their top three choices for a station, along with an alternative, in case it was too full. There were twelve choices for students to choose from. There was agriculture, electrical automation, forensic psychology, dog grooming, paramedic, Army intelligence, emergency room doctor, landscaping, fire department, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, sheriff's department, and barber shop. Throughout the program, students were at each of the three stations for about 20 minutes. In all, Career Day was a fun program for the students, also providing information about future jobs.



NED Assembly By Brennan Wiand

On May 18, the students and faculty got to attend an assembly where they learned about yo-yos, yo-yo safety, and were told a story where Ned did not want to go to the presentation. The assembly started with the presenter telling the students a story on how Ned did not want to go to school that day because he had a rough morning, then she told us to think about things that we wanted to get better at and put them together. After that, the presenter came off the stage to ask a few students what they said, and one lucky fourth grader even got to go up on the stage and the presenter made him a crown out of balloons! Last, she told us about how to stay safe with the yo-yos before showing us Ned's collection of yo-yos. Then after that she told us what "NED" stood for. N is to never give up; E means encourage others and, D represents do your best!



Congratulations to our Elementary Art Show winners!



Best in Show : Pierce Gu

Honorable Mentions :

PreK: Avery Mikoleski

Kindergarten: Anthony Cardarelli

First Grade: Maisy Bauer

Second Grade: Cole Sojda

Third Grade: Logan Obernesser

Fourth Grade: Savannah Phillips

Fifth Grade: John Chase

Sixth Grade: Dallys Cooney

At this year's budget vote and spring concert, student artwork from the entire district was on display at the high school gymnasium. At the show, voters selected these young budding artists' pieces as the winners of this year's artistic competition! Congratulations to all students

whose artwork

Girls Intramurals

By Isabella Mortise

There were eight girls at intramurals for grades 5 and 6. This was on April 25, 2026. We played Home Run Derby and Ultimate Frisbee. For Home Run Derby, we used a bat and a ball and hit it when it was our turn. After three outs, we would switch sides.



For Ultimate Frisbee, we split into two teams so that each side had four girls per team. After a couple of minutes, we switched teams and all four players on each team played frisbee. Overall, everyone had a great time and enjoyed themselves at intramurals.

Upcoming Events, By Caleb Powers

June 10: Elementary PE Day

June 15: Elementary PE Day (Rain date)

June 18: Pre-K Graduation

June 18: Early Dismissal, 11:30 A.M.

June 19: Juneteenth, no school

June 24: 6th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

June 25: Elementary Early Dismissal, 11:30 A.M.

June 26: Elementary Last Day of School, dismissal, 11:30

June 26: High School Graduation, 7:00 P.M.



N. A. Walbran Building Newsletter:

Meet the Team

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