

# June 2026 Newsletter

## N. A. Walbran Elementary School

2025-26 was a "sweet year" here at NA Walbran Elementary School. May and June were extremely busy with wonderful learning experiences including field trips, PE Day and 6th grade trip to Niagara Falls! We hope everyone enjoys a safe and relaxing summer! We are excited to continue our work together in September when we kick off the 2026-2027 school year!!

Mr. Meiss

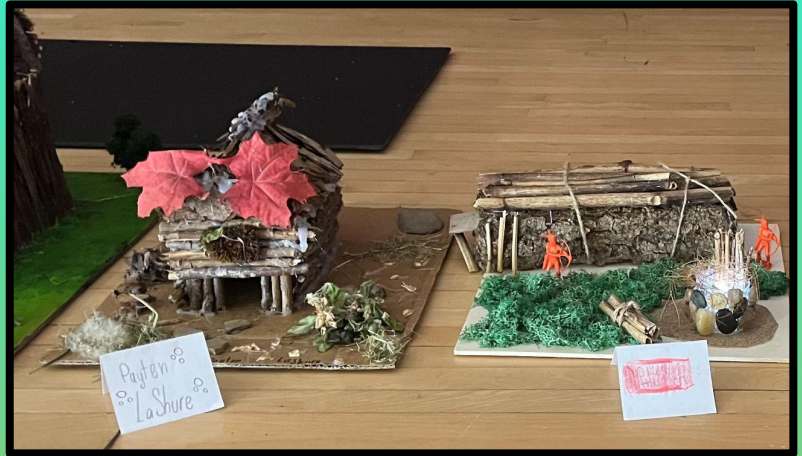
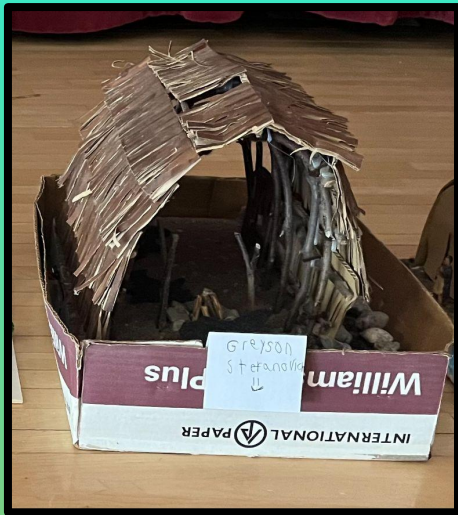


# Grade 4 Longhouse Project

By Nash Johnston and Radley Shaver

Students in both 4th grade classes made a project on Native American longhouses. Students created model homes on the type of house Iroquois would have lived in. The students used materials that they found in their backyards to make the projects look more realistic. Students presented to their class after they had finished their projects. They were displayed in the cafeteria for students and staff to see. Students had a good time making their projects and presenting them to their classmates.



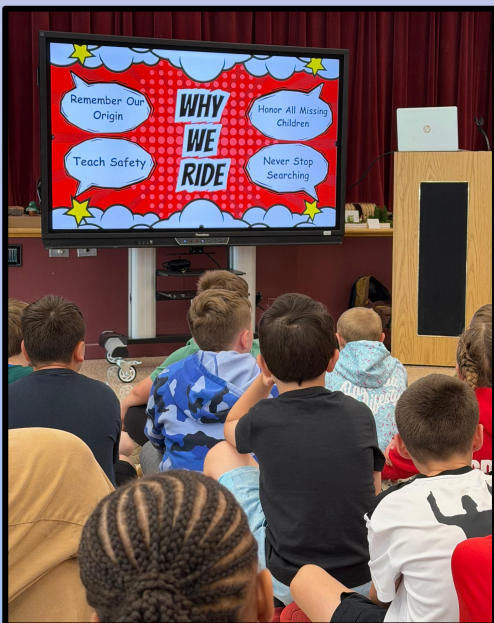


# Ride for Missing Children Assembly

By: Brennan Wiand and Draven Zawaly



On May 28th the fourth through sixth graders got to learn about the Ride for Missing Children. The Pre-k through third graders also got a different assembly about the topic. The Riders ride bikes across the state and spread awareness. The speaker told us how far they have come since the first Ride took place in September, 1995. Some information about the ride is that they are doing this to fund children's safety awareness. They ride to spread awareness about the program. Before, they only had 5 or 6 people riding, but now they have close to 400 people riding. The speaker also told us the bike safety rules: wear a helmet, ride on the right side of the road, and additional rules for children tell a trusted adult where you will be, say no to strangers offering you a ride, and be safe.





## Skyhawk of the Month: Ms. Brosemer By Kiley Dousharm

Congratulations to Ms. Brosmer, our art teacher, for receiving the May Skyhawk of the Month! One of her favorite projects to do with the students is making clay projects, and she "loves to create 3D art with her students." When Ms. Brosmer was younger, she was a camp counselor at a summer camp in the Adirondacks, which inspired her to work with students.

Her favorite memory at N.A. Walbran was when the students designed a Halloween costume for Mr. Meiss. She would love to take her students to the Tate Modern Museum in London. A secret talent of hers is that she can play the piano. She likes mystery books, and in her free time she likes to run, hike, or walk with her dog, a German shorthaired pointer named Mickie. Congratulations, Ms. Brosemer!

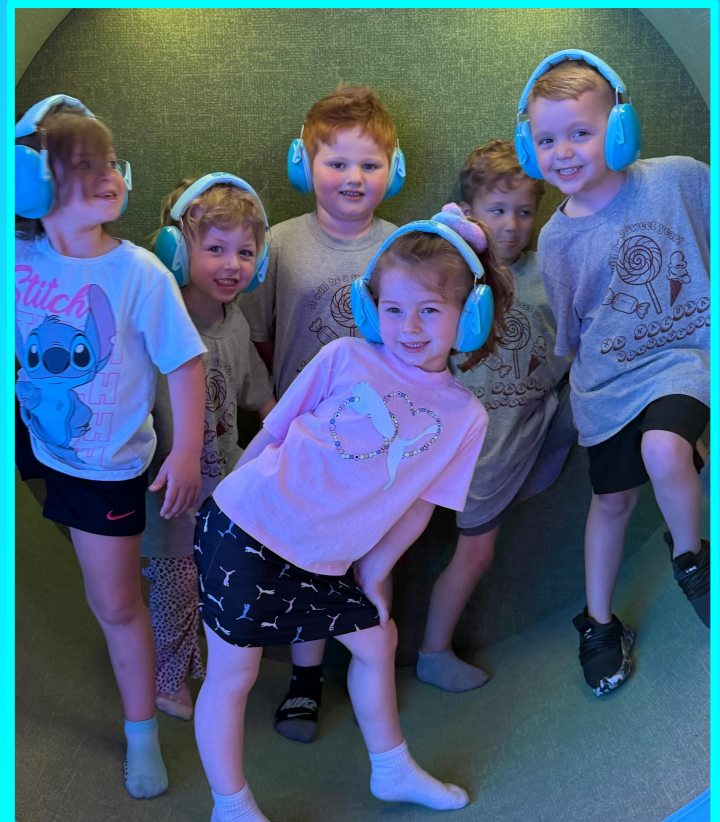


## Happy Retirement, Mrs. Irwin! By Elise Knight

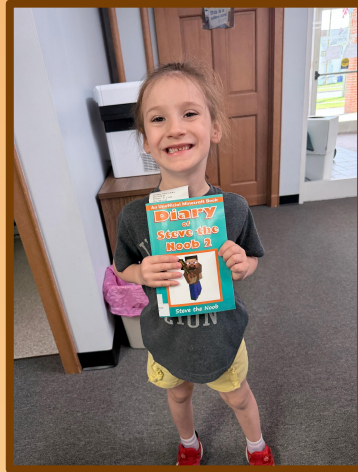
Mrs. Irwin, our Math Specialist, is retiring this school year! She is starting her retirement with a trip to Texas in September, and she wants to see her family members from all over the country! She and her husband are also going to camps, such as Black Creek Lake and Hinckley Lake to hike, hunt, and fish. She also plans to clean and renovate houses to occupy her time. Mrs. Irwin has been with N.A. Walbran Elementary for over 30 years. She loved teaching math and science to our students. Though we will miss her, we are grateful for all she has accomplished in our school. Farewell, Mrs. Irwin!

# Pre-K Field Trip to Children's Museum By Dmitri Boyko & Zachary Jones

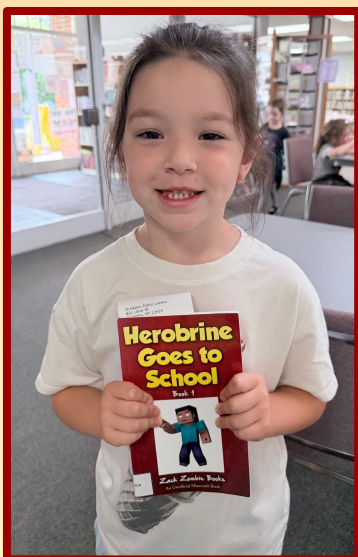
The Pre-K classes went on a field trip to the Children's Museum. They did a lot there and had a great time. Some of the activities were called: Let's Experiment, The Climber, World's Market, Build It Up, Seasons, and The Cove. They did not do all of them, but they did the majority of them. One of the stations for Mrs. DeFabio's class was The Climber. It is where there are lots of fun challenges, like navigating up and down ramps, platforms, and curves. Ms. Gadbow's class did the World Market. At this station, it helped build cultural awareness and celebrated the rich diversity of communities and families in the Mohawk Valley. Another station Ms. Gadbow's students did was The Cove. The Cove has low lighting, soft furniture and calming colors that help the children relax.



# Kindergarten Field Trips: Fort Rickey and Oriskany Library



Kindergarten students took two field trips during June. Students went to the Oriskany Public Library and were able to sign up for library cards as well as learn how to borrow books from the library. They also went to Fort Rickey and learned about the animals there! They had a great time visiting both places!



# First and Second Grade Utica Zoo Field Trip

By Nash Johnston, Radley Shaver,  
Brennan Wiand and Draven Zawaly

The first and second grade students got to go to the Utica Zoo for a field trip. Some of the first grader students said that their favorite activity was watching the otters. Sadly, they weren't able to pet any animals, and they weren't able to see the new salt water exhibit. Some animals that the first graders did see were wolves, otters, lions, chickens, fish, frogs, snakes, turtles, and a bald eagle.

The second graders also went to the Utica Zoo, but their experience was different than the first graders. The second graders said that they got to see the aquarium. They also saw a bunch of different animals such as lions, monkeys, red pandas, goats, turtles, wolves, etc. They got to feed llamas, touch pigs, and the bus ride there was very fun; they got to listen to music as well. And after all that they got to eat lunch. Overall, it was a very fun time for the first and second graders.



# Third Grade Field Trip to the MOST Museum

By Olivia Tuttle

On June 8th, 2026, the third graders went to the MOST museum located in Syracuse. They got on the bus at around 9:15. It took an hour to get there. Once they got there they saw a plethora of things, including a big brain and a heart shaped ball. They ate lunch in the cafeteria, where you could see pollinators and a glass window with butterflies. They also went to a playplace where they had to take off their shoes to play. When they were done, everyone got a free entry pass for their next visit to the MOST. They got back at around 1:45-2:00. They all had fun and wish they could go back!



# Fourth Grade Utica Blue Sox

By Brennan Wiand and Radley Shaver



On June 1st, both fourth grade classes got the opportunity to go to a Utica Blue Sox game at Murnane Field. Utica played the Mohawk Valley Diamond Dawgs. The fourth graders had a lot of fun! They got to see the players hit and field. They also were able to get autographs from several of the players. Utica won! It was a great time for the fourth grade class to see the Utica Blue Sox win!

# Fifth Grade FarmFest Field Trip

By Nash Johnston and Draven Zawaly

On May 29, the 5th graders went on a field trip to DiNitto Farms for the annual Farm Fest. There were a total of 18 different stations available. They saw multiple animals like cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, chickens, and canines. Other stations that they were able to experience were the drone station, a large animal event, a maple station, the milking parlor, farm equipment, and Chobani. At the Chobani station, they got different flavors of little yogurts. At the farm equipment station, they learned about different equipment and tractors. This is what fifth graders did at Farm Fest this year, and they all had a lot of fun.



# 6th grade Niagara Falls Trip

## By Asteria Gotham

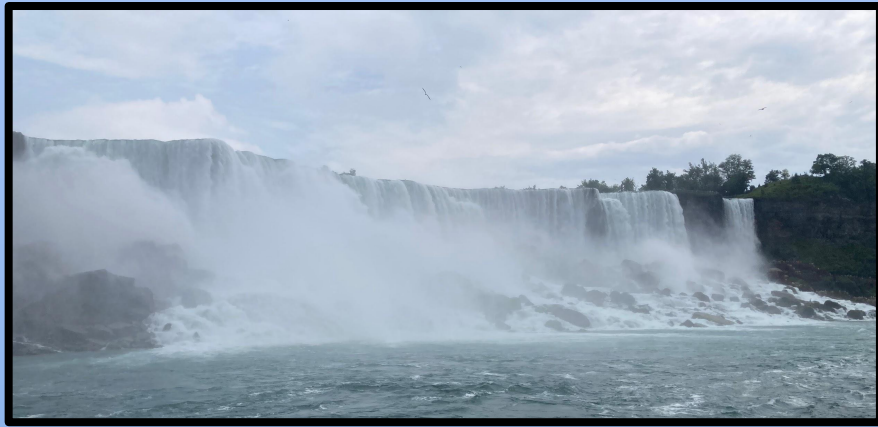


On Thursday, June 11th, the entire 6th grade went on a trip to Niagara Falls! It was a very fun trip and was filled with a bunch of adventures!

First off, we went on a long bus trip that started at 7:00 in the morning. There were many cool sites along the way, like long stretching lakes and fields and many other sites! It took a while, but there was quite a lot to see. We then arrived at the Falls.

Before we went to see the Falls, we ate lunch sitting in the grass. There were some things to see while we were eating, like some seagulls, buildings, and a super old trolley! People ate for a while before we were all called to go to an area where you could see the Falls better.

When we got there, we took a lot of group pictures in front of one of the waterfalls. It was so pretty! The students went around for a little while to see some of the sites in the area. The view was really cool!



After a while, we moved to go to one of the actual sights, Cave of the Winds! We had to wait a little, but when we finally got in, it was fun! We got some ponchos to wear for the trip, though some students took them off when they arrived at one of the most fun parts, the Hurricane Deck. The Hurricane Deck was the highest deck and it was closest to one of the Falls. Due to it being so close, we got soaked! Students could barely even hear themselves over the loud rushing of the water! There were also lots of seagulls, even baby ones! After our fun there, we had to go to another cool attraction, The Maid of the Mist.

The Maid of the Mist was located on a big boat. We got to ride through some of the falls! We got blasted by the mist of the falls, which soaked us again! It was even more pretty than the sights beforehand.

After all of that, we walked to the shopping center near Niagara Falls and then went to the Rainforest Cafe! The Rainforest Cafe had an all you can eat buffet with foods like cheeseburgers, macaroni and cheese, and chicken fingers! Then, they gave us ice cream sandwiches and we boarded the bus.

On the way home, everyone reminisced on how much fun they had at Niagara Falls!



# PE Day

By Brennan Wiand



Grades Pre-k through sixth got to go outside for a few hours and participate in different activities for PE day. Some of the stations involved activities like hitting balls off tees, flag tag, Rubix cube relay, 4 square volleyball, triple dipper and an obstacle course. Every station had a different teacher, who were the leaders, such as Mr. Davis, Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Enos, and Ms. Brosmer. This was very fun for the students to have fun and play during PE day.



# The Ride For Missing Children

By Caidan Schneider & John Dunham



On Friday, June 5, hundreds of riders for the Ride for Missing Children were on their way to our school. While they were on their way, the students were called by grade outside to the bus circle. Then the riders rode around the loop in front of all the students while everyone was cheering them on. Students made signs to encourage the riders to keep going. The riders rode eighty miles throughout a variety of locations in Oneida County.





THE RIDE  
FOR MISSING CHILDREN  
MOHAWK VALLEY



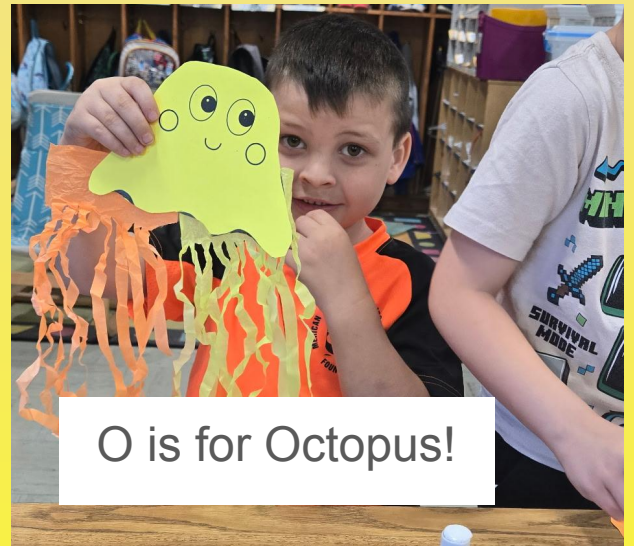
# ABC Countdown

By Chloe Buehner

May 18 through June 26, Kindergarten all the way up to Third grade, did an ABC Countdown! The ABC countdown is to help count down the days to the last day of school, by having letter themed days! For example, what most grades did for letter A, was Animal Day. Another example is letter Z, Zoom Out Day! Some grades went on field trips, and every grade did some days with different themes.



R is for Running!



O is for Octopus!



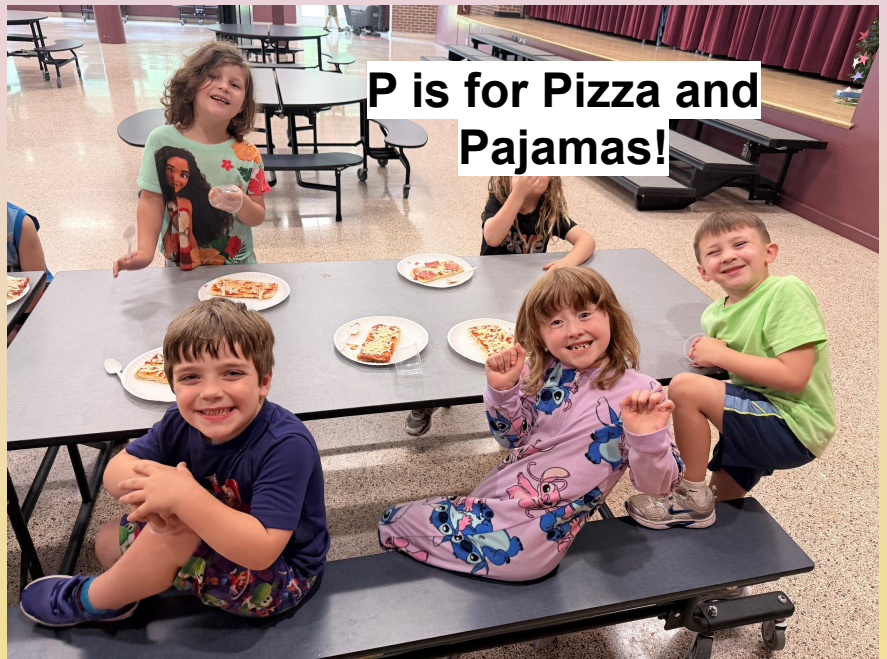
N is for Nature!



H is for Hat!



**I is for Ice Cream!**



**P is for Pizza and Pajamas!**



**M is for Mustache!**



**N is for Nature!**



**G is for Glow!**

# Memorial Day Event

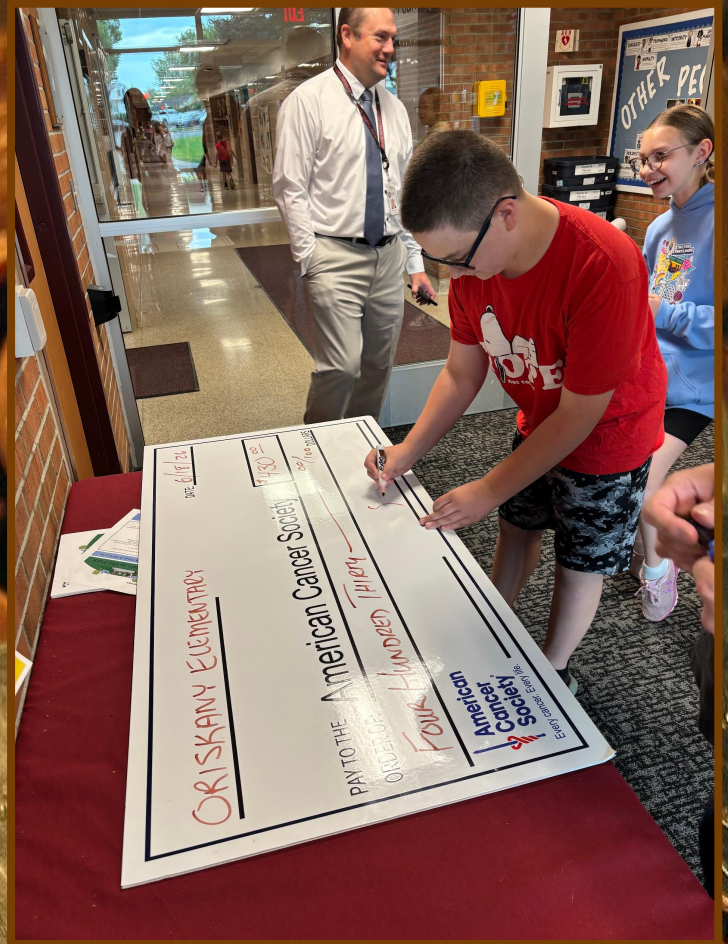
By John Dunham

On May 23, 2026, fifth and sixth grade students, as well as some students from the high school, participated in a Memorial Day event at Trinkaus Park in Oriskany. They started by saying the Pledge of Allegiance in front of the audience. Later that evening, students read the poem *In Flanders Field* in front of the others in attendance. The poem originated back to World War I. Then they read the Gettysburg Address in front of the audience.



# Coins for a Cause

By Caidan Schneider



The Coins For a Cause fundraiser was for raising money and spreading awareness for the Relay for Life, a fundraiser for people in the hospital with cancer. Every grade participated in this fundraiser, which was organized by the Elementary Student Council. The Elementary Student Council and all of the grades together collected four hundred and thirty dollars in donations.

# Sixth Graders Reflect on Experience as Newsletter Editors

**Chloe Buehner:** Being an editor comes with lots of things, like designing slides, writing multiple articles, interviewing people, and collecting information. One of my favorite things is writing different types of articles, along with multiple articles per newsletter! Writing about different types of articles in one newsletter is easy because we have all the information we need, but also hard due to the differences in the article types, which means writing with different formats. In my opinion writing with different types of formats and articles is super fun, but also a little challenging! This experience has been so enjoyable, working with my friends and people I don't usually work with! I would like to thank Ms. Zarnoch-Riley and all the other editors for helping me so much!

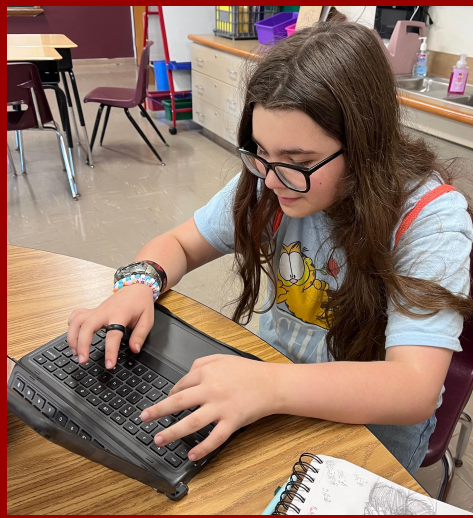


**Kiley Dousharm:** Being an editor means you have to do a lot of things, like writing articles, designing slides, checking others' articles, and more! For me, being an editor is an enjoyable experience, because I get to interview others, and am able to work with my friends. One of my favorite things to do as an editor is to design slides, write articles, and tear up the paper when we're done! Designing slides is one of the things that I always enjoyed doing, and writing articles is fun. Being able to write a variety of articles is always exciting to do. I want to thank Ms. Zarnoch-Riley, the other editors, and all the other writers who I've worked with during the year.



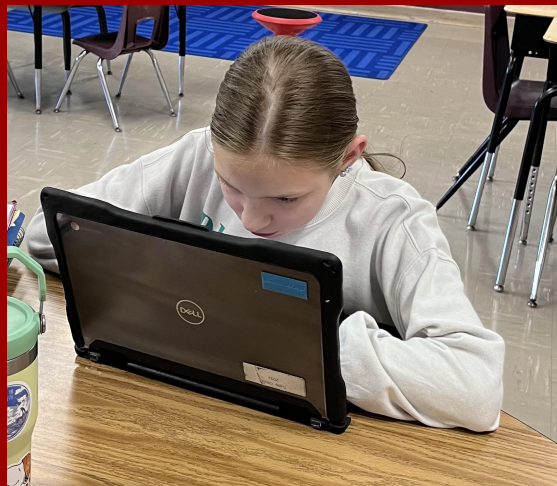
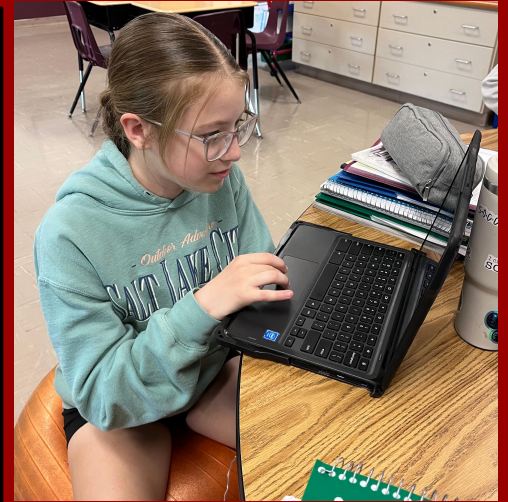
**Elise Knight:** In my few months of being an editor, I have had lots of favorite moments. I started in March. I do have articles I cherish, but I think my favorite was the April Student of the Month, which is when I got to interview a very cute little Pre-K student! Speaking of interviewing, we have a form of pre-set questions to ask the Student of the Month, which includes favorite animals, colors, subjects, etc. We go over in our free time and take a moment to ask them these questions. But my FAVORITE thing about being an editor is that I get to design slides! I get to choose the colors, fonts, and all that jazz! But in all, I thank Ms. Zarnoch-Riley for this wonderful opportunity!





**Asteria Gotham:** In my few months of participating as an editor in newsletter, I had quite a lot of fun! Though I also enjoyed my time as a writer, being an editor was so much more fun for many reasons. Being able to interview and design slides and such was so freeing! I loved being an editor, and my favorite part about it was the satisfaction of finally finishing at the end of the month so that we could tear up the poster paper with all the assignments on it! Being in the newsletter has been an amazing experience, and I would like to thank everyone that's accompanied me on this journey—Ms. Zarnoch-Riley, all of the other editors, and all of the writers. And so, now that newsletter is coming to an end, this is my farewell message.

**Teghan Schneider:** Over the past couple of months I have really enjoyed working as an editor. My favorite part is being able to do many jobs including, editing articles, creating slides, and writing articles. When it comes to writing articles I liked interviewing people for the Skyhawk or Student of the Month. I also liked designing the slides and editing pictures to put into the newsletter. However, the part I most enjoyed was at the end of the month when we got to rip up the list of articles for the month. Thank you to Ms. Zarnoch-Riley for this opportunity. It has been great writing for you. Another thanks to all of the people I've written with and the other editors. It has been fun!



**Olivia Tuttle:** I had a very fun time being an editor of the building newsletter. I became an editor when MZR picked me in December to become an editor. Before that, I was a writer, and a writer only. It was fun working with different people throughout my time in the newsletter. I enjoyed taking notes of crucial information at assemblies because it was something to do besides sitting there. It is fun designing slides because you get to design it however you like. I got to edit people's articles: sometimes it was a lot, and sometimes it was nothing. It is also very fun to get everything done and tear the paper with all the articles we need to write. It feels so good! I would like to thank Ms. Zarnoch-Riley and the other editors for helping me throughout the journey. Now, I have to say goodbye to all of this.

Ms. Zarnoch-Riley would like to thank each of the peer editors for their consistent effort, tireless hours of writes and rewrites, patience with all the tasks at hand, and sense of humor because, let's face it- laughing got us through a LOT this year! And don't forget the markers, chart paper, and sticky notes- so . . .many . . .sticky notes!

# **Congratulations to each class on demonstrating the following character traits for the 2025-2026 school year!**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Trait</b>
<b>PreK</b>	<b>Mrs. DeFabio</b>	<b>Enthusiasm</b>
<b>PreK</b>	<b>Ms. Gadbow</b>	<b>Love</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>Ms. Closinski</b>	<b>Kindness</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>Mrs. Kraeger</b>	<b>Bravery</b>
<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>Mrs. Caruso</b>	<b>Humor</b>
<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>Mrs. Gray</b>	<b>Teamwork</b>
<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>Ms. Ricci</b>	<b>Curiosity</b>
<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>Ms. Island</b>	<b>Love of Learning</b>
<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>Ms. Koenig</b>	<b>Fairness</b>
<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>Ms. Waskiewicz</b>	<b>Appreciation for Beauty and Excellence</b>
<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>Ms. Armstrong</b>	<b>Gratitude</b>
<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>Ms. Bell</b>	<b>Leadership</b>
<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Ms. Rieben</b>	<b>Creativity</b>
<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Mrs. Servadio</b>	<b>Forgiveness</b>
<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Mr. Reid</b>	<b>Resourcefulness</b>
<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Mr. Tuttle</b>	<b>Optimism</b>
<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Mrs. Commisso</b>	<b>Perspective</b>
<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Mr. Wright</b>	<b>Perseverance</b>

# N. A. Walbran Building Newsletter: Meet the Team

## Editors:

Chloe Buehner  
Kiley Dousharm  
Asteria Gotham  
Elise Knight  
Teghan Schneider  
Olivia Tuttle

## Writers:

Dmitri Boyko, John Dunham, Nash Johnston, Zachary Jones, Caiden Schneider, Radley Shaver, Brennan Wiand, Draven Zawaly



Thirty-one sixth graders in total worked on the building newsletter staff team this year spanning from September to June. Thank you to all who helped this school year!