

September 2026 Newsletter

N. A. Walbran Elementary School



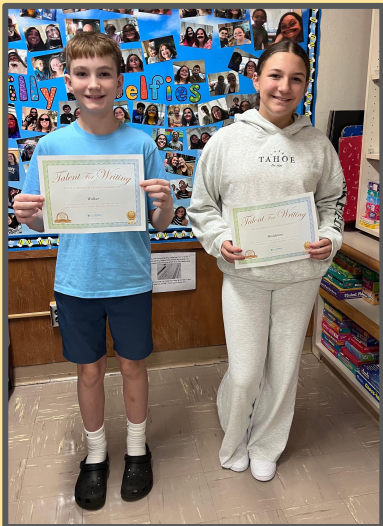
**Welcome back,
Skyhawks!
Have a
fantastic
2026-2027
school year!**



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Young Writers Contest: Ridiculous Writers

By Maddalena Pettinelli & Kaden Wameling



Last year, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders entered the Ridiculous Writers Contest, a nationwide contest sponsored by the Young Writers Institute. Every student was given a task to write a one hundred word mini saga. Students randomly picked two words from a cup- a character and an adjective to describe them. That's what they had to write their story about. They watched a video about what a mini saga was. Then they had to learn how to write a mini saga. Students had to write a list of ideas and make a plot, setting, then write their story. If their story was chosen by the Young Writers Institute, students received a certificate, bookmark, and their story could be published in the Ridiculous Writers book! Our school also gets a copy of the book.

Here at N. A. Walbran Elementary School, we had fifteen students chosen to have their story published. Congratulations to these current 5th graders: Madden Smith, Memphis Johnson, Mila Hazeltine, Adrian Pavelka, Brianna King, and Emeline Christian. Congratulations to the current 6th graders: Kaden Wameling, Walker Looney, John Chase, and Maddalena Pettinelli. Congratulations to the current 7th graders: Chloe Buehner, Elise Knight, Brennan Wiand, Mason Powers, and Kiley Dousharm. The book will be published on November 16, 2026.



Meet Mrs. Boyson!

By Autumn Volz & Maddalena Pettinelli



Mrs. Boyson is a new teacher here at N. A. Walbran Elementary School District. Her role at our school is to be a special education teacher. She was inspired to become a teacher because of all the amazing teachers that she has had. She has been teaching for fourteen years. She has worked at Rome City School District, Madison-Oneida BOCES, and the Kelberman Center. Some of her previous jobs were sign language interpreter, teaching assistant, and a teacher. If she were to choose a different career, it would be an author because she loves to read. She thinks that it would be really neat to write a book for others to enjoy.

She has a husband, three children, and a dog named Milo. She has two sons that have graduated from high school, and a daughter who is in eighth grade. Her favorite sport to watch is football, and her favorite team is the New York Giants. Her favorite color is purple and her favorite holiday is Christmas. Another fun fact is that she played the violin in the school orchestra. Welcome to N.A. Walbran! We hope you have the best time here!

Meet Ms. Fellone!

By Mya Oehler & Maddalena Pettinelli



Ms. Fellone is a new second grade teacher here at N. A. Walbran. She was inspired to become a teacher because of previous teachers who believed in her and showed how much empathy and care can change a student's life. She taught at Milford Central School District, where she also worked as a long term sub for five months and then as a permanent substitute, followed by teaching second grade at Notre Dame Elementary School for a year, and most recently first grade teacher at Deerfield Elementary for a year. She started off as a cashier and bakery worker at Chanatry's Supermarket and also spent three summers working at summer fun at Our Lady of Lourdes with 3-6 year olds.

If she had to choose another job, it would be working with animals and opening her own animal shelter. She has a dog named Winnie, named after Winnie the Pooh, and a guinea pig named Winky, plus she has a twin brother with two children. Her favorite singer is Taylor Swift, her favorite color is pink, and her favorite holiday is Christmas. A fun fact about Ms. Fellone is that she can make a four leaf clover with her tongue. Now that you know a little bit about Ms. Fellone, welcome her to our school.

Meet Ms. Healey!

By Mya Oehler & Braedyn Monroe



Ms. Healey is a new teacher at Oriskany Central School District. She is teaching third grade this year. She was inspired to be a teacher ever since she was a little girl. She loves helping others learn, grow, and build confidence. She wants to make a positive impact in her students' lives and help them believe in themselves. She has experience with substitute teaching and has been subbing for four years. Some of her previous jobs include substitute teaching at Holland Patent School District, teaching fourth grade at Marcy Elementary, and teaching kindergarten.

If Ms. Healey had to choose another job, it would be working as an interior designer because she loves decorating and putting spaces together. She has a golden retriever named Duggie, a Shih Tzu named Sammy, and a cat named Dixie. She has an older brother who works in insurance and her mom is a principal at General William Floyd Elementary. Some fun facts about Ms. Healey is her favorite holiday is the Fourth of July, her favorite color is purple, she loves reading, and her favorite animal is a dog. She loves listening to country music. Her favorite song right now is "Starting Over," by Chris Stapleton. She also coaches field hockey and basketball. Now that you know a little bit about Ms. Healey, welcome her to our district.

Meet Ms. Vienneau!

By Braeden Monroe & Autumn Volz



Ms. Vienneau is a new teacher here at N.A. Walbran elementary school. Her role at our school is to be a Special Education teacher. She was inspired to become a teacher because she wanted to be just like her teachers growing up. She has been teaching for two years. Last year, she was in the Utica City School District, and substituted in various schools around the area. A previous job that she has had before was when she worked at American Eagle.

If she were to choose a different career, she would like to be an interior designer because she has a great eye for seeing what works well together, and what doesn't, and thinks it would be fun in general. She has two cats named Sunny and MooMoo, and she has an older sister who is also a teacher. Her favorite singers are Taylor Swift and Megan Moroney. Her favorite football team is the Green Bay Packers, her favorite holiday is Christmas, and her favorite color is pink. Another fun fact about her is that she got to go to the Lambeau Field last December with her dad to watch the Green Bay Packers win against the Chicago Bears. She also got to go down onto the field. Welcome to Oriskany!

Meet Ms. Davidson!

By Kaelyn Wiand and
Vanessa Alden



Ms. Davidson is one of the new faculty members at N. A. Walbran Elementary School! She specializes in ENL (English as a New Language). As a child, she used to play "school" with her younger brother and she was always the teacher. She said that it was just her personality to become a teacher, and that's what inspired her to become one. This is Ms. Davidson's twelfth year teaching. Before she came to Oriskany, she worked part time at BOCES in Syracuse as an educator, then taught at her Alma Mater, South Lewis. Next, she specialized in ENL at BOCES in New Hartford. This is her fourth year as a Skyhawk.

A couple of her previous jobs include dressing up as a bear at Enchanted Forest, salesperson at Verizon Wireless, a waitress and a bartender. If she had a different career choice, she would be a veterinarian because she loves animals. She has a 3-legged dog named Cooper, and she said her family is from the Dominican Republic. Her favorite sports team is the Buffalo Bills! She loves all animals but dogs are her personal favorite. She prefers a vacation with a beach so that she could walk into the ocean. One fun fact about her is that she almost became a music teacher, but she decided Spanish was easier.

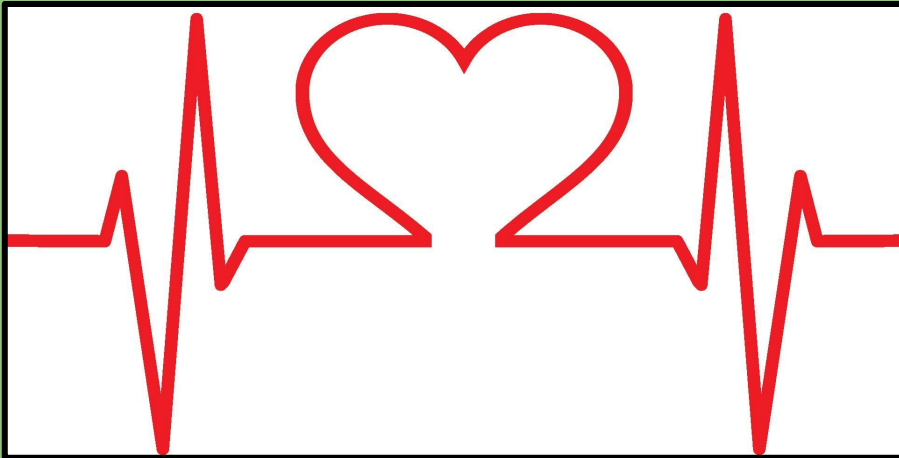
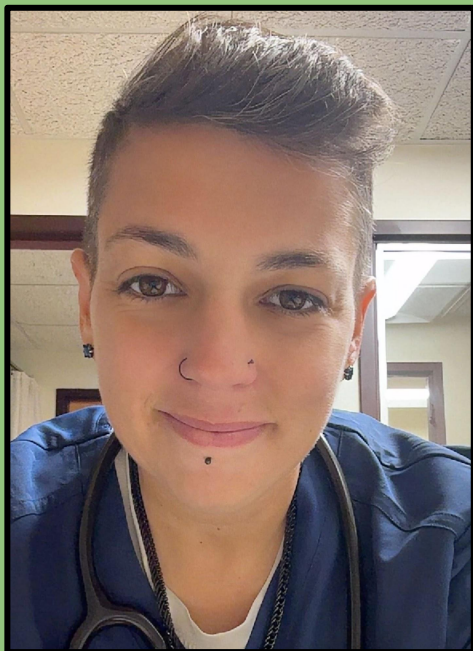
Meet Ms. Richard!

By Kaelyn Wiand &
Kaden Wameling



Miss Richard, a student teacher in second grade, is new here at Oriskany! She decided to become a teacher because both of her parents are teachers, and they inspired her to pursue a career in education. She wants to make a positive impact on children's lives, help them know they're never alone, and always be someone who believes in them. She has been a substitute teacher for three and a half years, and has taught summer school for two years. Some of her previous jobs include teaching math, being a Pre-k teacher's assistant, and babysitter, and a summer camp counselor, as well as coaching girls wrestling, and track and field. If she had to choose a different career she would become a radiologist because she would want to help people in pain, especially when their injury is not visible to the human eye.

Miss Richard's family includes her mom and dad (both former teachers at Holland Patent), and an older brother. Some of Miss Richard's favorites are penguins, Myrtle Beach, Easter, light purple, soccer, and Adele. A fun fact that Miss Richard would like us to know is that she is currently in her master's program, earning her degree in Childhood and Special Education P-12. She earned her undergraduate degree in Business Administration and Business and Management. She also played college soccer for all four years at Utica University.



September Skyhawk of the Month: Nurse Britt

By Lily Capraro & Vanessa Alden

Nurse Britt is the Skyhawk of the Month for September. She is a part of the faculty as a nurse. Some of her favorite activities to do with the students are handing out tooth treasure chests and stickers. Nurse Britt wanted to be in this role so that she could provide a safe space for the students to come when they are not only feeling sick, but also upset or stressed and just need a couple minutes to regroup.

Her favorite memory from working at N.A. Walbran was participating in the inflatable obstacle course last spring. If she could take the students anywhere in the world, she would take them to Disney world. Her favorite author is Frieda McFadden. Some things that she likes to do in her free time are to build with Legos and play softball. She also has a bearded dragon named Thor. Congratulations on being Skyhawk of the Month!

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME WITH ILLNESS

Please keep your child home and/or contact your child's doctor for:

- Fever greater than 100.4°
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Severe sore throat along with fever and feeling ill for more than 48 hours, or after exposure to Strep throat infection
- Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts
- Large amounts of mucous (liquid) from their nose, with facial pain or headache
- Severe ear pain or fluid coming from the ear
- Severe headache, especially with fever

If your child has a fever, it is not a good idea to give them medicine like Tylenol or Advil and send them to school because as soon as the medicine wears off, the fever may return and you will be called to come and pick up your child.

Please keep children home for 24 hours after the fever, vomiting, or diarrhea ends or they have completed 24 hours of medication if prescribed by your healthcare provider.

Please call us with any questions or concerns.

Therapy Dogs Come to N. A. Walbran

By Maddalena Pettinelli & Mya Oehler



Here at N. A. Walbran elementary, we're excited to begin a partnership with Ron Kamp Therapy Dog Education program. Ron has two dogs, Melo and Guinness. The dogs will visit N.A. Walbran Elementary School on the first and third Thursday of every month. We will be offering this program to our first grade, second grade, and the special education classrooms to begin during the months of October through December. Each classroom will receive a twenty minute session every month in Mrs. Davis's classroom with Ron's therapy dog and an Oriskany staff member. Student interaction is completely optional and no student has to socialize with the dogs. The therapy dog education program will start on Thursday, October 1. As the year goes on, there will be more chances for other grade levels to spend time with the therapy dogs.

Curriculum Night: Grades 5 & 6

By Vanessa Alden



This year's Curriculum Night for families of fifth and sixth graders was held on September 9, 2026. Curriculum Night is a chance for parents to meet their child's teachers, learn the expectations for the students, and to know what their children will be learning about in each class. The teachers for the fifth and sixth grades are: Mr. Wright (Social Studies), Mrs. Commisso (Math), Mr. Tuttle (Science), and Mrs. Servadio (English Language Arts).



Upcoming Events, By Autumn Volz



Superintendent's Conference Day (no school): Oct. 9

Columbus Day (no school): Oct. 12

Board of Education Meeting: Oct. 13, 6:00 P.M.

National School Bus Safety Week: Oct. 19-23

Elementary School Picture Days: Oct. 28-29

Trick or Treat Night at School: Oct. 29, 6:00pm

Halloween: Oct. 31



N. A. Walbran Building Newsletter:

Meet the Team

Back row:

Kaelyn Wiand,
Vanessa Alden,
Maddalena
Pettinelli,
Autumn Volz

Front row:

Kaden Wameling,
Mya Oehler,
Lily Capraro,
Braeden Monroe



Sixth grade students are provided the opportunity to participate in writing the N. A. Walbran building newsletter each month. Interested students are tasked with the responsibility of collecting data, researching topics, collaborating with peers, writing and editing their articles. Staff will rotate each month to provide as many students as possible with the opportunity!