October 2026 Building Newsletter



LEFT: For Bus Safety Week, Assemblywoman Buttenschon presented Mr. Meiss with a Legislative Resolution, recognizing Oriskany Central School's participation in Operation Safe Stop!

BELOW: Mrs. Kane, retired art teacher, represented the Oriskany Retired Teachers, who donated funds for indoor recess activities for our students! Stay tuned for more involvement with our retired teachers.



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September Student of the Month: Lexi Humphrey

By Maddalena Pettinelli

The student of the month for September was Lexi Humphrey. She is in fourth grade and her homeroom teacher is Ms. Island. When she was nominated, she was caught off-guard but was very happy and surprised. Ms. Island said that she is the perfect fit because she is always ready to learn and comes in with a bright smile on her face, ready for the day, and she always does the right thing.

Here are some of her favorites. Her favorite subject is math and her favorite special is music. She loves dogs, especially Huskies, and her favorite season is fall because of the pretty colors the leaves make. Her favorite color is butter yellow. In her free time, she likes to draw. Her favorite sport is cheerleading and her favorite team is the Westmoreland Bulldogs. Congratulations to Lexi for being nominated as the September student of the month!

October Skyhawk of the Month: Mrs. McLaughlin

By Mya Oehler

Mrs. McLaughlin is the October Skyhawk of the Month! She is the school's psychologist. Her favorite activity to do with her students is to identify students' learning needs, strengths, and areas of difficulty. One reason that inspired her to work with students is she wanted to make a meaningful impact in their lives. Her favorite book is Jane Eyre and her favorite author is Charlotte Bronte. Here are some things she likes to do in her free time: gardening, cooking, and spending time with her family. She has two cats, Chip and Nacho. If you see Mrs. McLaughlin in the hallway, make sure to congratulate her on winning Skyhawk of the month!

October Student of the Month: Miguel Chum Ixlaj

By Ava Zinicola



One of October's Students of the Month is Miguel Chum Ixlaj. Miguel is in Ms. Bell's class and he is in third grade. Miguel said that when he went up to receive the student of the month award, he felt really happy and excited. Miguel's favorite subject in school is math and his favorite special is music. Miguel's favorite animal is a monkey and his favorite color is red. Miguel said that his favorite season is summer, because he gets to hangout with his friends and they get to play. Miguel's favorite hobby to do in his free time is to color and to play soccer. Miguel is a positive and kind person. Congratulations to Miguel for being one of the October students of the month!

October Student of the Month: Maggie Giangolini

By Autumn Volz

This month, one of the Students of the Month was Maggie Giangolini. Maggie is a third grade student in Ms. Bell's class. She was awarded by Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Healey, and Ms. Bell. She was awarded for integrity, and being kind to everyone. Maggie said that she felt happy when her name was called for student of the month.

Maggie's favorite subject is math and her favorite special is art. Her favorite animal is a capybara, and her favorite color is purple. Her favorite season is fall, because it's not just sunny, but it's sometimes rainy too.

Congratulations Maggie! Keep working hard and being the kind person you are!



Boys' Intramurals

By Maddalena Pettinelli & Vincent Chrystie

The boys soccer intramurals took place on Tuesday, September 29th. Fifth and sixth grade boys had the chance to play on one of two teams, either the blue or red team. There were fourteen total students and seven on each team. The blue team won 8-6.

The object of the game for the offense was to score goals. The object of the game for the defence was to prevent the offense from scoring. The boys had a fun time competing and trying to win.



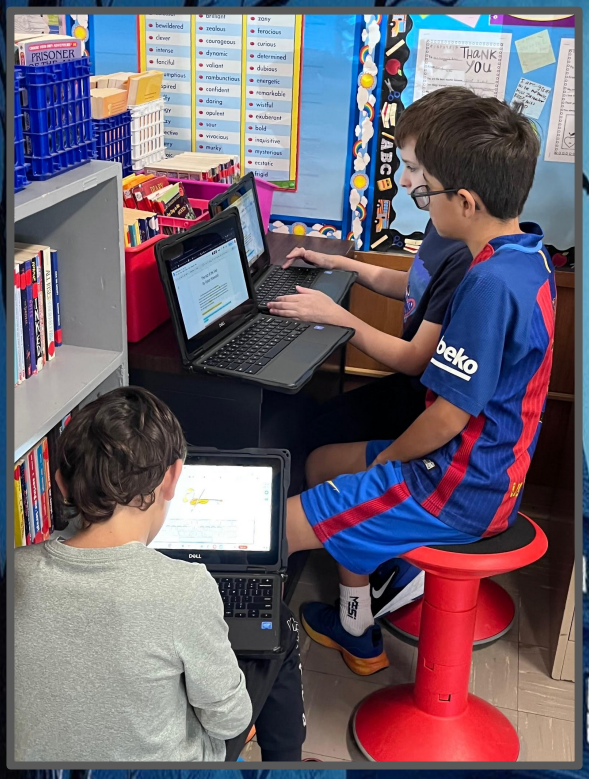
Girls' Intramurals

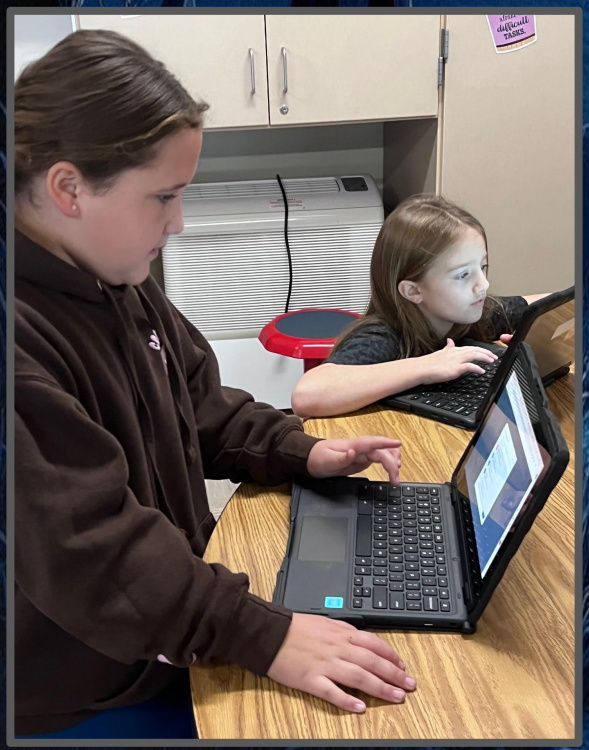
By Ava Zinicola

On October 8, 2026, fifth and sixth grade girls had soccer intramurals. The girls stayed after school and played soccer in different groups for three minutes at a time. They got water breaks every fifteen minutes in between rounds. They got to pick their own group to play with each time. At the end of the intramurals, they got to take a picture for the newsletter. The girls enjoyed themselves and had a great time.

Camp Scare Writing Contest

By Autumn Volz & Gabby Carrier



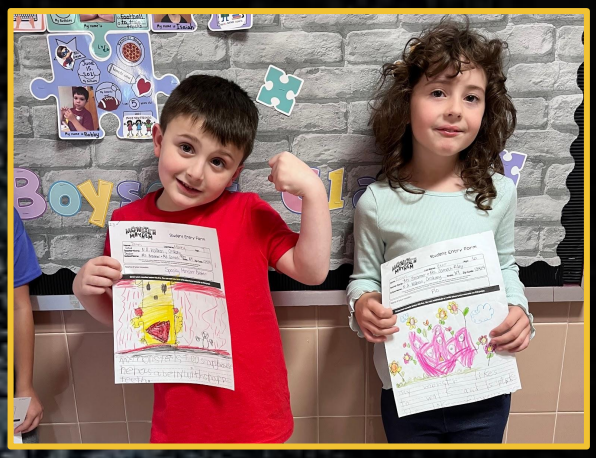


This September and October, fourth graders entered the Camp Scare Writing Contest, by the Young Writers Institute. They had five ELA WIN blocks to complete the task with Ms. Zarnoch-Riley, but could also work on their own time. On day one, they watched PowerPoint slides to learn about the contest and get creative ideas. Then on day two they began to model a spooky beginning and scene together to explore creative writing techniques. Next, they used some of the ideas from day one, and began to write their story into a Google Doc.

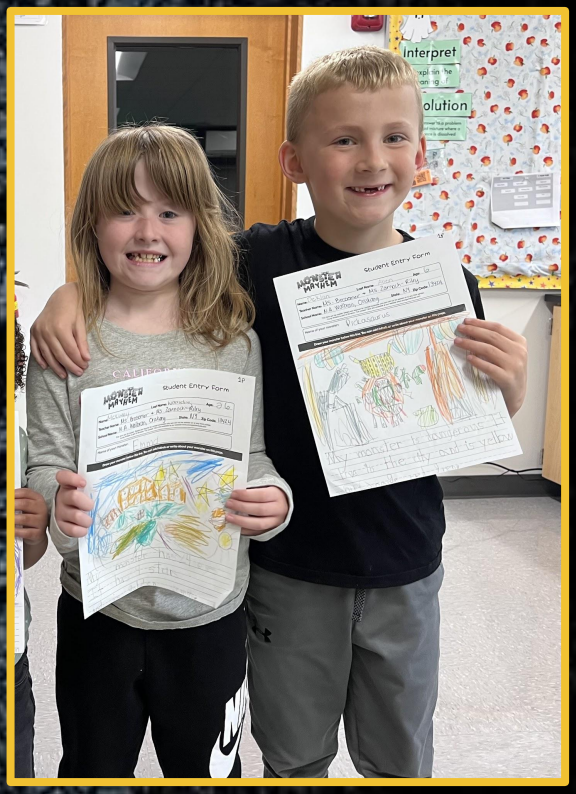
Students learned how to use the "word count" tool so they could make sure they don't surpass the word count of 100 words, which is the maximum number of words for a mini saga. Students began writing on their own, and using their own scenarios previously discussed as a group. They could use the story starters they brainstormed as a group or their own ideas in their story. They revised, edited, finished writing and checked with Ms. Zarnoch-Riley. Students also learned how to share Google Docs with someone as a commenter, not an editor. Students who returned signed permission slips will have their entries submitted into the contest by Friday, October 30, 2026. Good luck to all of the contestants!

Monster Mayhem Illustration and Writing Contest

By Nora Gleason & Mya Oehler



This year there are first grade students participating in a Monster Mayhem writing contest, sponsored by the Young Writers Institute. Students learned about features and textures as they created their monster designs in art class with Ms. Brosemer. Their monsters had different details and colors that gave them a unique personality. The teachers had examples of monsters of their own on the board to show how to use strong and descriptive words to describe their monster's personality. On days one and two, students went with Ms. Brosmer to learn about features and textures. On days three and four, they went with Ms. Zarnoch-Riley to their writing workshop to learn about the writing part of the contest. They got a lined sheet of writing paper for a rough draft to describe their monsters. They used the rough draft paper to figure out and plan out how they will describe their monster for the final draft of the illustration and writing contest.







District-Wide Pep Rally

By Maddalena Pettinelli

The fall pep rally was at the Oriskany Junior Senior High School on October 8, 2026. There were a series of games for students, starting with the elementary school participating in one big game together.

At the fall 2026 pep rally, the first thing they did was announce the fall high school sports teams. They then introduced a game called Color Wars and went over the rules. This game was to determine which grade's banner was the best. Elementary students had to cheer for the one that they liked the most and the juniors won. The banner for the juniors had Lighting McQueen on it and had the spelling of juniors with a little "kachow" at the end.

The next game that they introduced was Ships and Sailors. They went over the rules and tried to be the last one standing. This game was for the seventh and eighth graders. They broke off into groups of 2-3-4-5 and had to follow a certain activity or pose. If you weren't in a group, you would get eliminated. It was a very intense game and the players had fun scrambling around to determine who would win.















The next game played was for freshmen and sophomores. The object of the game was to slide the mat from one end of the gym to the other but only using their stomachs. Students dove across the floor in a relay style before having their next teammate give it a try.

The next game was for the elementary students in grades PreK through sixth grade. Only a handful of students were chosen out of each grade. It was a relay game. All of the grades had a fun time competing. First, the PreK and kindergarteners had to sort through candy then the first graders had to stack cups. The second graders had cups on their hands and had to pick up the ping pong ball and put it in the cup. The third and fourth graders had to run, kick, or throw a balloon to get it to the other side then high five a senior and run back. Then the fifth and sixth graders had to wrap a teacher in toilet paper to see who won.

The last game played was for the seniors who earned their way into the game by not talking to anyone who didn't have a pin for that day. What they had to do was stack the boxes on top of each other to get the highest tower. It got harder and harder as the towers got higher. Then the grades left one by one. It was very nice how the elementary and the high school could get together.

ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL
SKYHAWKS
ANCHORED IN HISTORY
READY FOR BATTLE







PreK Fire Prevention: Visit from a Fire Fighter

By Ava Zinicola

Pre-K classes got a visit from volunteer firefighters from the Oriskany Fire Department on October 13, 2026. In Ms. Gadbow and Mrs. DeFabio's classrooms, Firefighters Burkhart and Rieben talked about how to stay safe in a fire. They talked about what things would be okay to touch in your home versus things you can't touch that can be hot. The firefighters also taught them about smoke detectors, how to stop, drop, and roll, and to stay low and crawl out of a fire. The students practiced crawling and got to see the firefighters in full gear so that they wouldn't be afraid. They were also given firefighter helmets that they could wear.

Kindergarten Fire Prevention: Fire Department Visit

By Autumn Volz





This October, Mrs.Kraeger and Ms. Closinski's classes went to the Oriskany firehouse to learn all about fire prevention. When they arrived, the firefighters were all dressed up in their uniforms so the students wouldn't be afraid if an emergency happened outside of school. The kindergarteners went to the firehouse, learned how to be safe, how and when to call 911, and even got to spray the fire hose! The kindergarteners had a great time and at the end they got to play some fun games that replicated a real fire, and they learned about firefighter tools.

Grade 1 Fire Prevention: Safety Stations

By Nora Gleason



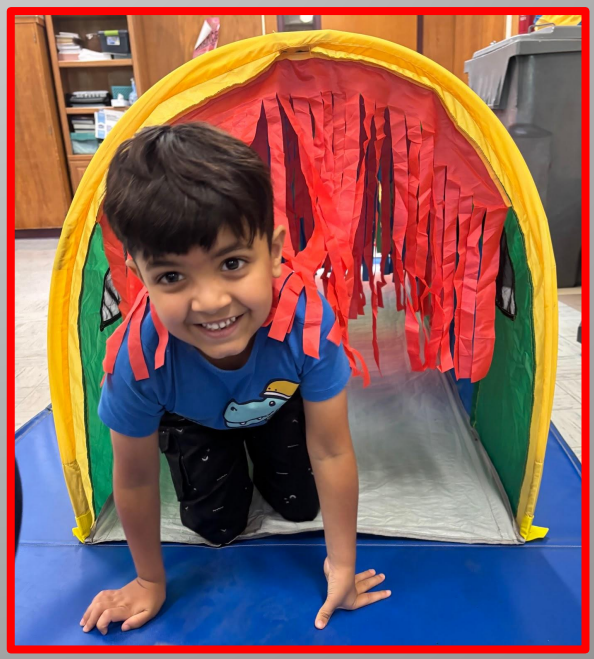


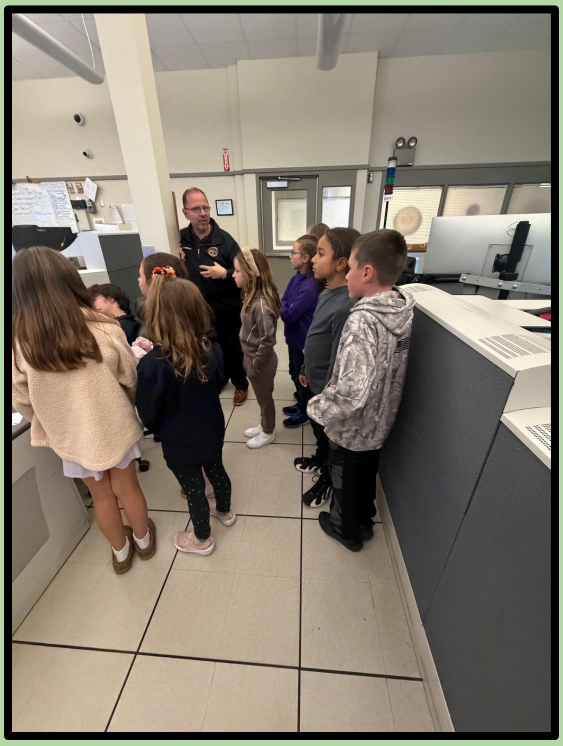
First grade had a fire safety presentation where they were taught about fire safety if there ever was a fire. They practiced how to exit out of a window carefully and cautiously. Then they learned how to crawl under smoke safely and they talked about where they would meet outside of their homes during a fire. Last but not least, they learned how to call 911 in case of an emergency. To do this, they went through obstacles and did coloring sheets to understand what could happen during a fire. Oriskany Central School District would like to thank the Oriskany Fire Department for coming to our school and teaching the students about fire safety.







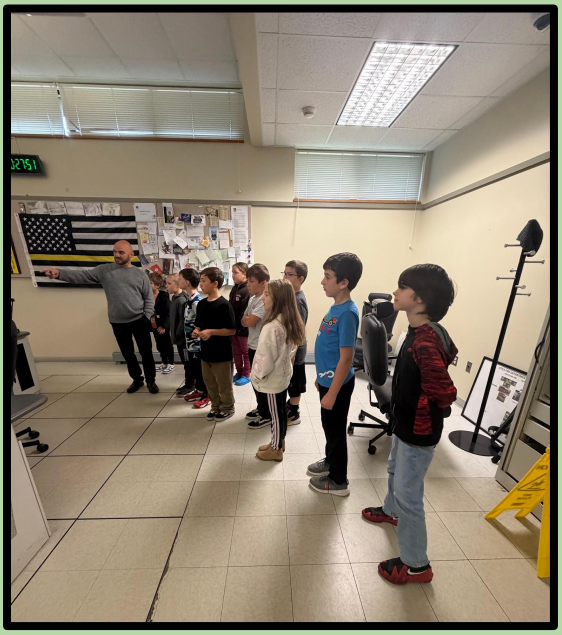




Grade 4 Fire Prevention: 911 Center

By Vinny Chrystie

The fourth graders went to the 911 center for fire prevention week. When they were there, they learned important and interesting things. One thing they learned was that it is important to know your home address for emergencies. Another thing that they did was go into the room where they take emergency phone calls. They learned how the 911 center gathers all their information to make sure they dispatch the right emergency service which is important because emergency services are needed. The fourth graders learned a lot about important information about the 911 center.







Grades 5 & 6 Fire Prevention: Safety Stations

By Mya Oehler









Fifth and sixth graders participated in a fire prevention education day. There were four stations they could listen to and learn new things about. At one station, they watched videos about lithium ion batteries and how to stay safe when using them.

Another station taught them how to stay safe when making campfires. They learned to stay away from burning leaves because it creates smoke as it burns, batteries because they will make the fire explode and make the fire too big to handle, and try to avoid putting any furniture into a fire because it's not natural wood.

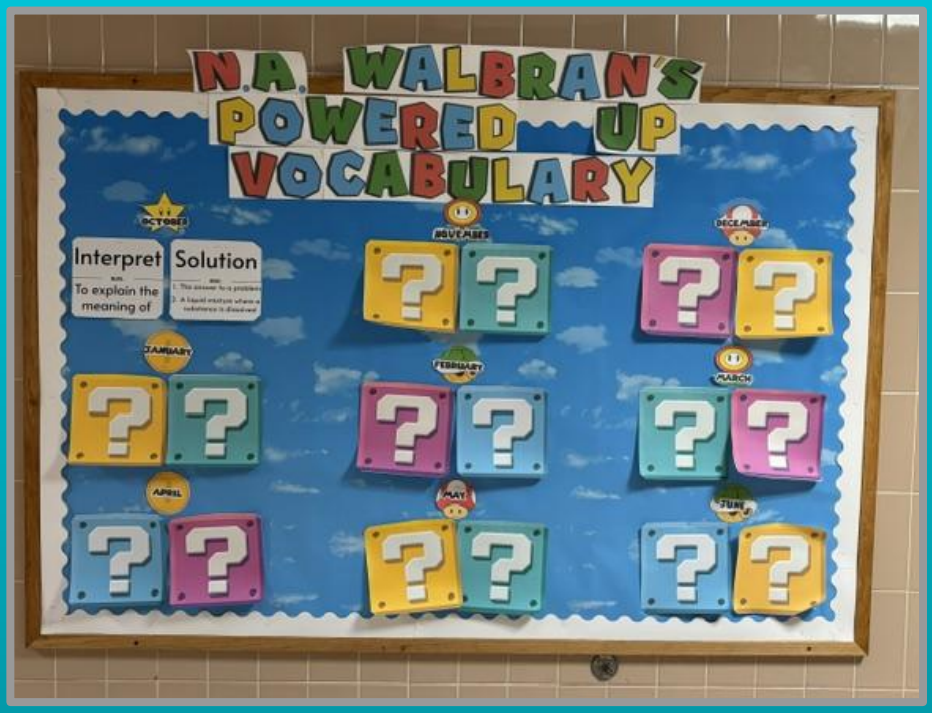
At the next station, they got to watch firefighters take doors and the roof off a car. The firefighters need to know how to do this in case somebody is stuck in the car during a fire.

At the last station, they learned about smoke alarms and all the new technology created for smoke alarms. They learned that some new smoke alarms can connect to Google and talk to you when there is a fire. There is also a new smoke alarm that tells you where the fire is.

They learned a lot of new things about fire safety and how to stay safe when using lithium ion batteries. Always remember to stay safe in dangerous situations.

Academic Vocabulary
By Nora Gleason

Oriskany Elementary School is learning new academic vocabulary. They are words that are posted on a gaming-themed bulletin board outside of the cafeteria. There is one math and one ELA word per month. October's academic vocabulary words are ***solution*** and ***interpret***. Solution means the answer to a problem or a liquid mixture where a substance is dissolved. Interpret means to explain the meaning of. Each classroom in the building has those words in common spaces in the classroom with each word's definition. This is going to expand knowledge throughout the school building.



Positive Patrol
By Vanessa Alden



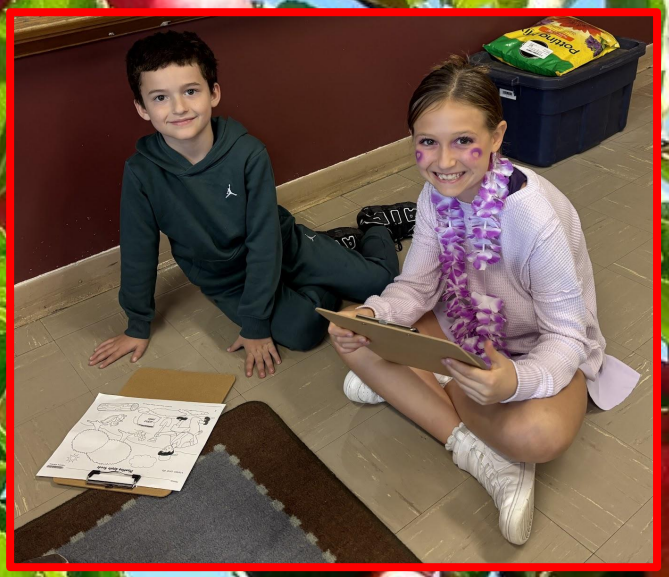
This year, the Compass Team came up with a program called "Positive Patrol". They made up this program to help the students learn about student ownership by greeting students and faculty in the morning. They also wear a lanyard around their necks, just like the faculty. The kids help in the morning with their faculty partner, which helps the Compass Team. The fourth and fifth graders have an opportunity to be a part of Positive Patrol in the morning at school. Fifty-one students filled out a resume in order to participate in the program. Each student gets to have a two week rotation from October 1st through Christmas break. They get to wear lanyards and they also get paired with a staff member to greet students as they enter the building.

Grades 1 & 4 Celebrate Apple Day

By Nora Gleason & Gabby Carrier



First graders and fourth graders had an apple day in school. The first graders had to listen to their fourth grade "teacher" and tell them what to do on their apple coloring page. After they finished their craft, they celebrated by eating apple nachos. When they finished everything up, they read a story together about apples. The fourth graders helped the first graders pick their toppings and make their nachos. The first grade teachers are Mrs. Phelps and Mrs. Gray, and the fourth grade teachers are Ms. Rieben and Ms. Island.









Kindergarten & Grade 6 Partners

By Vinny Chrystie & Gabby Carrier

During October, the kindergartens made a project with their sixth grade buddies. Mrs. Kraeger and Ms. Closinski printed a really good firefighter coloring book and firetruck project. The sixth graders helped the kindergartens make the firetruck. There were about three kindergartens working with two sixth graders. After they finished the firetruck project, they colored a coloring book about firefighter gear and kindergarteners learned and read about that gear. They did a really good job at coloring and repeating the words. The fire trucks were a really good project to work on together to finish their day.











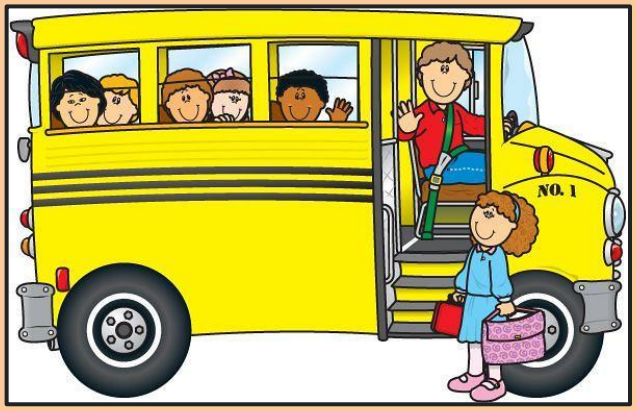
Upcoming Events
By Vanessa Alden





Marking Period 1 Ends: Nov. 6
Veterans' Day Assembly: Nov. 10
Veterans' Day (no school): Nov. 11
Elementary Parent Teacher Conference Days & 11:30am dismissal: Nov. 13, 19 & 20 *no lunch served*
Go Home Early Drill (15 Minute Early Dismissal): Nov. 24
Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 25-27







N. A. Walbran Building Newsletter:

Meet the Team



Back row: Maddalena Pettinelli, Mya Oehler, Vanessa Alden, Nora Gleason

Front row: Vinny Chrystie, Ava Zinicola. Gabby Carrier, Autumn Volz