



# Newsletter

## Walpole Attendance Area

MARCH 2025  
ISSUE NO. SIX

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WALPOLE SCHOOLS

### Important Dates

#### *Parent Teacher Conferences 3/20-3/21*

- March 20 - Early Release
- March 21 - No School
- March 28 - Early Release

### JUSTIN CASSARINO

#### *A Message from our Principal*

The Walpole Schools were participating in the Kids Heart Challenge. This is a challenge where students learn about their hearts and raise money for the American Heart Association. To get our students involved, we did a few activities to get them interested in the cause. Mrs. B-T, our physical education teacher, had the students participate in activities and then discussed the heart and the reasons why it was pumping the way it was. Our Walpole Elementary School students participated in advisory activities that focused on the heart and then followed it up with a discussion. Students were able to participate in a CPR class, dance class, yoga, kickboxing, coloring, muay thai and then finish with a trail mix snack.

We also tried to motivate students by giving the school that raised the most money a reward. That reward was to have Mr. Cassarino work for an entire day on top of the winning school's roof in a costume. This was definitely a motivator for our students because they ended up raising \$4,587.49! The Walpole Primary School raised \$1,730.89, the North Walpole school raised \$1,748.78 and the Walpole Elementary School raised \$1,107.82. That means that I will be on the North Walpole School's roof when the weather warms up!

Our middle school basketball teams had a great season. The boys finished in fourth place and the girls went undefeated and won the championship! Both teams participated in the KHC tournament in Charlestown. The girls ended up winning the championship for that as well. It was a very successful season where students improved their skills, worked as a team and represented our school/district in a positive way. We are very proud of them.

Our NHDl students have been working hard and are getting closer to the Prep Rally, where they get to showcase what they have learned for their dance in front of all of the schools. This happens at Keene State College and is always filled with excitement. They are all very excited to show everyone all of their hard work and dedication to this program.

Our 5th and 8th graders just completed their iReady assessments and did a great job. All of our students, including LEAP and IEP students, took the assessment. All of our students have made significant progress/growth. With us starting a new curriculum and program this year, we are very impressed with where our students are. Here are the percentages for where our students placed during the winter assessment:

Winter 2024		Winter 2025	
8th		8th	
Reading: Tier 1 - 57% Tier 2 - 20% Tier 3 - 23%		Reading: Tier 1 - 71% Tier 2 - 13% Tier 3 - 17%	
Math: Tier 1 - 41% Tier 2 - 33% Tier 3 - 26%		Math: Tier 1 - 57% Tier 2 - 22% Tier 3 - 22%	
5th		5th	
Reading: Tier 1 - 57% Tier 2 - 20% Tier 3 - 23%		Reading: Tier 1 - 57% Tier 2 - 40% Tier 3 - 3%	
Math: Tier 1 - 50% Tier 2 - 36% Tier 3 - 14%		Math: <b>**Did not assess</b>	

### Contact Us

www.sau60.org

North Walpole 603-445-5450  
Walpole Primary 603-756-4241  
Walpole Elementary 603-756-4728

## Pre-K

*Mrs. Martel*

February was a great month in Pre-K! We learned about one of our favorite topics - dinosaurs! Everyone loved playing with and learning all about the dinosaurs. We especially liked the story bot's dinosaur videos. We enjoyed learning how to play Dinosaur Escape and working together to get the dinosaurs to safety before the volcano erupts! We celebrated the 100th day of school. We enjoyed the Jack Hartman 100-day video with the "old people". Pre-K enjoyed learning how to be super friends and had a wonderful Super Friends Celebration. We really enjoyed catching each other being super friends and getting to wear the super friend cape!

## Kindergarten

*Mrs. Bisson and Mrs. DiTullio*

This February kindergarteners packed in many activities for our short month. We celebrated our 100th day of school with many fun activities including a Hershey Kiss scavenger hunt focusing on numbers 0-100. In reading, we have been reviewing all of our letters and sounds. We have also begun learning our kindergarten digraphs. In math, we are finishing up talking about teen numbers and starting a new chapter on solid versus flat shapes. Mrs. DiTullio's class celebrated Valentine's Day with a special pancake brunch and valentine exchange! We also had our second parent pop-in during math to show parents all of the amazing math skills we have learned so far this school year. Mrs. Bisson's class welcomed their new student teacher, Ms. Martineau, and had a special classroom party/ valentine exchange.

## First Grade

*Mrs. Loverde and Mrs. Perron*

First graders continue to be busy! In math, we are working on one more and one less, ten more and ten less than a number (numbers before and after) within 100 as well as reviewing addition and subtraction strategies. Practicing writing numbers to 120 is also part of our monthly jam! In reading, we continue to work on our fluency as well as comprehension, and vowel teams have made an appearance as well. In Foundations, we are learning words with five sounds as well as the -s suffix with those words. We had a blast celebrating our 100th day of school by having a 100 Hershey Kiss scavenger hunt with partners, writing about what we would be doing when we were 100, and playing math games to 100! Exchanging Valentines was also a highlight of our month. Woo wee!



# Walpole Primary School

## Word of the Month

*Mrs. Etzweiler, WAA Reading Specialist*



Each month during the 2024-2025 school year, we will focus on a particular vocabulary word at WPS. Each of these words will be a character trait and will be tied into books, activities, movies, and other sources of entertainment or information that your child is familiar with. At school we will use the word during morning announcements and will look at how the word relates to what we are learning in our literacy lessons. We will have guest readers who will read books related to the Word of the Month and students will be encouraged to use the word or think about times when they saw people demonstrating the word.

**Persistence** means to keep going even if something is hard or if you don't really want to do it. It can also mean to keep going even if other people think it is not a good idea.

We see **persistence** when a student is learning a new academic skill or when someone is learning a new sport. For some people, certain skills come easily, but for many people we must practice **persistence** while we learn something new.

At home talk with each other about a time when you have had to practice **persistence** to get better at something or complete a difficult task. Are you learning how to do something right now that requires **persistence**?

## Second Grade

*Mrs. Aube and Mrs. Broadley*

Second graders have had a busy and productive month! They are exploring fractions in math and participating in daily number talks to explain how they add or subtract multi digits mentally. In reading, students are exploring the American West and the hardships faced by many people with this move. They are also learning how to distinguish between facts and opinions. Students loved passing out valentine's to their classmates and celebrating this day with a festive party.

## Third Grade

*Mrs. Kinson and Mrs. Leclair*

Third grade students are examining texts by different authors related to the same topic. They are learning about the wonder and danger of traveling to the moon. They are also using context clues to discover the meaning of unknown words. In writing, students are working on the opinion writing process. This learning will help them share their thoughts and feelings about a topic with evidence from research sources to support their opinion. In math, we are working on challenging math concepts. It is important that students practice their math facts on a daily basis so they can complete more challenging math problems. Students are learning to read math problems carefully so they can identify what the problem is asking and successfully calculate a solution. Students are enjoying outdoor play on our playground, and we hope they are having just as much fun playing outside at home since physical exercise is such an important part of our well-being.

## Fourth Grade

*Mrs. Dustin and Mrs. Snow*

We hope that everyone had a restful vacation! Fourth grade has been working on our fraction skills. Our next unit will be building on fractions and relating them to decimals. During Wit and Wisdom, students have been reading Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen. We are identifying parts of the plot and how the setting affects the main character's feelings and actions. We are also continuing to build up our writing skills with creating a narrative piece about surviving alone in the extreme environment of a mountain. We love sharing everything that we have been learning, so please ask us about it at home!





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## Mrs. Ronning

*Fifth and Sixth Grade Reading / Fifth Grade Social Studies*

A reminder that March can be cold and then warm up. Please encourage your child to dress in layers and continue to send snow gear until we have bare ground.

**Fifth Grade Reading:** We continue our work in Wit and Wisdom. We have been focusing on the mood of the story and looking for literary evidence to support our conjectures. Students took their iReady Mid Year test. Seventy-five percent of the students have met their iReady goal for the year already! We are so very proud of them. Please continue to encourage completion of iReady time.

**Fifth Grade Writing:** Students are working on verbs in grammar studies. Now that we have reviewed the cursive alphabet we will work on capital letters and begin to copy poems and short sentences in cursive. In writing composition we are working citations (direct quotes) in our written expression. Students will be writing a five paragraph essay with an introduction and conclusion very soon.

**Hooper:** Mrs. Dalbeck has taught us a lot about hibernators, bears, possums, weasels and other animals in winter. We went tracking and have completed some hands-on crafts. This program is a great community/school partnership! Thank you, Mrs. Dalbeck!

**Social Studies:** We have learned about the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Great Lakes, and the Panama Canal in geography. Students have been completing mini projects about explorers in history. Most recently we have learned to use more technology by taking short quizzes on our explorers through the Google Classroom platform. Our class just got brand new maps! This is very exciting because we have not had new ones for 25 years! We also are working hard to learn postal codes for US states.

## Mrs. Sherrod

*Fifth and Sixth Grade Math / Fifth Grade Science*

**Fifth Grade Science:** We are almost finished looking at life cycles of stars, and phases of the moon. We will get back to working on the gravitational force of Earth acting on an object near Earth's surface and how it pulls that object toward the planet's center. We will also look at seasons and the patterns found within day and night.

**Fifth Grade Math:** Students are working on Chapter 4 "Wrapping up multiplication and Division with multi-digit numbers" Students are looking at multiplying multi-digit numbers using the standard algorithm as well as strategies using place value. This should be an extension of students' earlier work from grade Four. Students will also look at the relationship between multiplication and division.

**Sixth Grade Math:** Students are working on Chapter 4 – Dividing Fractions. This unit develops students' understanding of division of fractions by fractions. Students will explore the meaning of division and the relationship between quantities in division situations. Throughout the unit students will be asked to interpret, create equations and diagrams to make sense of the relationship between the known and unknown quantities. Students will be able to apply their understanding of dividing fractions to apply the algorithm to calculate quotients.



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## Mr. Gagnon

*Sixth - Eighth Grade Writing*

**Sixth Grade Writing:** Students have been engaged in an argument writing unit. Students learned how to form their own CREC statements (Claim, Reason, Evidence, Connection/Conclusion) on a variety of topics including self-driving cars, space exploration, and animal intelligence. Students will be researching and crafting an argumentative essay/letter called “Bugs in the Salad Bar.” Following the completion of this unit, after February break, students will be completing a research project.

**Seventh Grade Writing:** Students recently completed an argument writing unit which culminated with them writing a letter in support of or against an imaginary ban on energy drinks for kids under the age of 16. The focus of the letter was to have good reasons and strong evidence to back up their claim, as well as a counterclaim and rebuttal to the other side. Students read Anton Chekhov’s “The Bet” and watched “The Silence.” They then completed a writing assignment, with class discussion, to compare and contrast the two texts. After break, students will learn about monsters in Greek Mythology and craft a book about them and an argument as to why they would be best able to survive in our modern world or win in a battle.

**Eighth Grade Writing:** Students recently wrote their own historical fiction narrative stories. Students recently began a project in which they will have to create the storyboard and a pitch for their own Netflix show. Following their presentation/pitch, after February break, students will participate in a cause and effect unit about historical unrest.





## Physical Education

*Mrs. Baird-Torney*

February was Heart Health Month, a great reminder to take care of our hearts! In PE class, we've been learning how moving our bodies helps keep our hearts strong. Regular exercise, like running, dancing, or even walking, makes our hearts pump more efficiently and our bodies healthy!

K-1st: We had a great heart health month in PE! During PE we did many new games and activities to get our hearts pumping faster! This included a fun running and striking game called spaghetti and meatballs! WPS students have just started working with scooters, and moving in different ways on them.

2nd-4th: At NWS this month we've been learning about cardiovascular activities, and why that's important for our bodies! During our warm-up activities we played many games to get our hearts pumping faster, then would check-in with our bodies to see if we got our heart rates up!

5th-8th: This year we were lucky enough to get outside and cross country ski and snowshoe for PE classes! Both cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are excellent lifelong fitness activities! We are currently working in our Pickleball unit but are hoping we may get out to enjoy the snow once more before the spring.

On Valentine's Day we had some heart healthy stations and one of those stations was learning Hands-Only CPR from the Walpole Fire Department! Another Huge Thank you to all the Firefighters who came out to educate the 20+ Walpole Middle School students who wanted to learn life-saving skills!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who Participated in the KIDS HEART CHALLENGE! We had a lot of families and kids excited about learning more about our hearts and excited about how to take care of them! This year at WALPOLE we raised over 4,500.00 for the American Heart Association! Great work everyone!

(See Heart Health Month photos on page 6.)

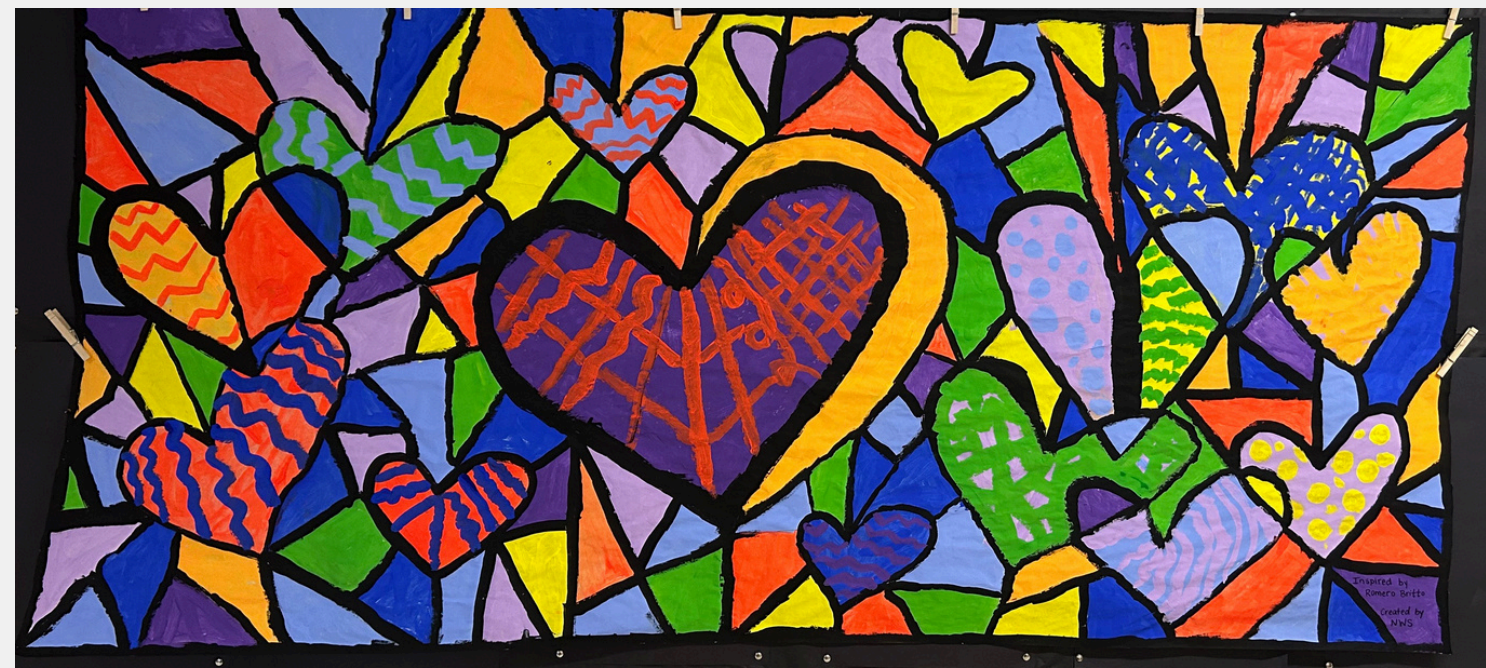
## The ARTicle

*Mrs. Fleet*

Kindergarteners have been learning about color mixing. We used markers and coffee filters to make "tie dye" art after reading a book called "Never Let A Unicorn Scribble". First graders have been learning about how things that are close, look big and things that are far, look small. They are making mixed media winter tree paintings. On Valentine's Day, they got to choose from two different "heart art" stations.

North Walpole School students worked together to create a heart mural inspired by the artist Romero Britto. Each student in class had the opportunity to add to the mural. It came out amazing! They were very excited to paint on such large paper and to make something all together. See photo below!

Fifth graders have made giant positive and negative space collages inspired by Japanese Notans. They had to choose one light color and one dark color to then cut out different shapes. They used reflective symmetry to finish their designs. Sixth graders are creating different one point perspective drawings. They started with visual notes to learn a few different methods before choosing their favorite to create a finished project of their own. They have gotten really creative with this project and have shown a lot of perseverance. Seventh graders are drawing realistic animals with colored pencils. This is HARD! They chose a photo of an animal and are now practicing drawing and coloring what they see. They are trying to focus on progress over perfection. Eighth graders have finished their linoleum block printmaking project inspired by Pop Art. They got to design, carve, and print their own stamps. Next they are going to be drawing optical illusions. There are two illusions for them to choose from. One is a converging line illusion and the other is a cube illusion.



## Mrs. Cassarino

*WPS / NWS School Counselor*

Springtime is upon us! One of my favorite things about March is welcoming our Pages for Pizza challenge. I hope you and your families are able to enjoy the extra daylight, and are able to slow down and spend some quality time reading together. Any and all reading activities count towards completing the challenge - reading books, listening to audiobooks, and graphic novels are all acceptable forms of participation.

SEL classes are resuming with me, as MCVP finished their lessons in February. We will be working on our college/career unit next and finishing the year with our safety unit. Classes will wrap up for the year the week before April break.

Our Outdoor Education Committee is ready to take applications for summer camp tuition assistance – I encourage all families to apply! To qualify for assistance, the camp must be an outdoor camp, preferably with a focus on nature, environment, etc. There are no income requirements to qualify. Applications are due by April 1st.

## Mrs. Treat

*WES School Counselor*

I don't know about you all but I am really excited for this winter to be over! ;) The dogs and I are really looking forward to some spring weather. Well, Eloise and I... Beatrice loves the snow!

8th Graders have now wrapped up choosing their classes for their Freshman year at Fall Mountain Regional High School! We should be receiving their schedules for next year around the end of May/beginning of June. That is always an exciting day when I get to pass those out! The next date for 8th graders to remember is Transition Night at FMRHS on May 22 at 6:30pm. This is a great opportunity for 8th graders and their families to see the building again, talk to teachers, coaches and club advisors and get a feel for what high school will be like. I hope everyone gets a chance to attend.

SEL classes are going great! 5th Grade has transitioned to their Safety Unity and have learned about personal safety and are now working on the Digital Citizenship program created by Common Sense Media. These are great lessons put out for free by the program that teaches students how to be safe online and how to be good and kind citizens to others while online. Grades 6, 7 & 8 will be starting their Digital Citizenship programs after February vacation.

NH SAS testing will start in May and more information will be coming soon!

The end of March will be a busy time for me. I will be attending the New England League of Middle Schools Conference in Springfield, MA where I will be presenting two workshops... the first on Therapy Dogs in Schools and right after that I will be presenting about our Advisory program at WES that we initially created from ideas we got while attending NELMS a few years ago. Beatrice will be attending with me and she is always a big hit at the conference! I will also be a chaperone on the 8th Grade DC trip with a number of our 8th grade students. I am very excited about this time with our 8th graders and getting to see the wonderful sites in DC. I am a museum nerd and really love exploring and learning about history... I have not visited DC since I was 15 years old so I will be just as excited as the 8th graders!

Stay warm out there!



## Upcoming Events

- 3/11 - Voting Day
- 3/12 - PreK/Kindergarten Registration Night, 5:30-6:30
- 3/17 - Reorganization Kickoff Meeting, 5:30pm, FMRHS Library
- 3/24 - Trimester 2 Report Cards Home, Grades PreK-4
- 3/24 - Candy Bar BINGO, 6pm
- 3/25 - Animal Show, 6pm
- 3/27 - Fire vs WAA Staff Basketball Game, 6:30pm
- 3/28 - Early Release: PreK Not in Session
- 3/28 - Glow Dance, 6-7:30pm
- 4/02 - Walpole Site-Base Meeting, 6pm
- 4/21 - 4/25 - Spring Break: No School
- 5/07 - Grade 1 Step Up Day, 10-11:30am
- 5/09 - Early Release: PreK Not in Session
- 5/13 - WPS Spring Concert, 6pm
- 5/14 - NWS Spring Concert, 6pm
- 5/15 - WES Spring Concert, 6pm followed by Project Showcase, 6:30pm
- 5/23 - Early Release Day: PreK Not in Session
- 5/26 - Memorial Day: No School

## Walpole Town Library

You Can Help Improve the Library!

The Walpole Town Library is seeking feedback from the community we serve, to help inform our services, programs, and long-range planning. Please follow the link below to take the library's brief survey. Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts! <https://forms.gle/GrZM7Tz5ME2AKVmJA>

