



Winter 2024- 2025

## Rubber Ducky Day!

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Every year on January 13th, National Rubber Ducky Day is celebrated. From February 9th - 15th Random Acts of Kindness Week is celebrated.



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Schalmont’s SADD Club decided to combine the two holidays into a fun game at school on February 10th. SADD Club hid a total of 100 rubber ducks throughout the high school and when students found a duck, they had the opportunity to keep the duck or return the duck to Señora Dicocco (SADD Club Advisor) for a cupcake.

SADD Club wrote positive messages on the bottom of every duck in order to promote positivity in a fun and creative way. Rubber Ducky Day was an extreme hit in the high school as students enjoyed being able to search for ducks the entirety of the school day! It was a great way to bring Schalmont High School students together, and bring joy to everyone throughout the school. SADD Club hopes to continue this awesome tradition in years to come and find even more innovative ways to bring positivity to our school.

- Paiton Rider & Abbey Stubbs

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Staff Development Day ..... 3/19
- Therapy Dogs.....4/9
- End of 3rd Marking Period....4/11
- Spring Break.....4/14 - 4/18



# SCHALMONT SABRES

# CARDIAC KIDS OF CLASS A



2 wins. All the Schalmont Boys Soccer Team was able to muster in 2022 was 2 wins. But, just merely 2 years later the Sabres found themselves all the way in a state final. Going into the season there were some question marks in this team as no one knew what to expect. On one hand, there were experienced players such as the captains Corbet Hallberg, Andrew Sprenger, and Aiden Lawrence. On the other hand, the team had first year varsity player Aiden Cleveland in net along with many other first year players and freshmen filling out the rest of the roster. But, any type of expectations placed on the team were met and far surpassed. The Sabres started the season off strong winning their first 3 games, scoring 19 goals and letting in none. Going into their next game, the team found themselves ranked #10 in New York State. This next game was no easy feat, they had a mammoth clash with cross town rivals, Mohonasen.

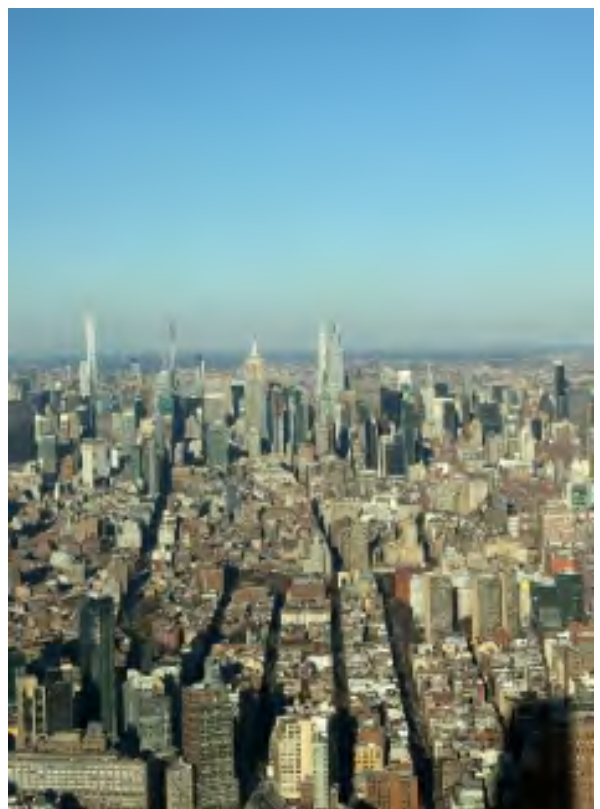
The Sabres ended up losing this game in a tough bout, but they would go on to not lose for the next 2 months all the way until the final possible game of the season. The boys had a very impressive regular season going 17-1 and being rewarded with the #1 seed going into the Class A Sectionals. No one could be prepared for what would happen in the postseason for this team. The Sabres went on an historical run winning 6 straight games with 3 going into overtime to find themselves where no Schalmont Boys Soccer Team had ever been. Past Schalmont teams had won Sectionals and Regionals like this team had, but in the 60 year history, no team ever made the state final. The team's success could be attributed to many reasons but one that sticks out the most was the team's determination and hard work. This team just never knew when they were beat and kept working all the way until the end playing in 6 overtime games and winning all 6. The team bowed out proudly in the State Final losing to Floral Park but it doesn't overshadow how proud this team should be. The Sabres end their season with a final record of 21-2, conceding only 18 goals and scoring 75 with a Sectional, Regional, and State Finalist plaques. - Andrew Sprenger



# New York City

Back in December, the Current Affairs class took their annual New York City trip. Even though I am not a member of Current Affairs, I was able to attend the trip in order to take pictures for the yearbook. The point of this trip is to allow students to see the 9/11 Museum and go to the top of the Freedom Tower. The bus ride wasn't too long, it was only 2 hours with surprisingly no traffic. The first activity we were able to do was shop around the Oculus Mall across from the Freedom tower. After about 2 hours we then were able to visit the 9/11 Museum. Everything within the museum was very interesting, but it was extremely sad to see all of the videos and artifacts that were recovered from that horrible day. The next activity, which was the most fun, was taking an elevator ride to the top of the Freedom Tower. Personally, I had never seen the Statue of Liberty prior to this day so it was awesome to see the statue and the stunning view from the top of the tower. After the Freedom tower we made our way over to the Rockefeller Plaza in Midtown Manhattan to see the famous NYC Christmas tree. Although there was barely any room to move around because of how crowded it was, I was still able to get a perfect view of the tree. I loved how much freedom we had while we were on this trip. Every couple hours the group would have to meet back up, but besides that we had the freedom to go wherever we wanted as long as it was within walking distance.

- Hayden Rowe



# AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. COHEN

Ian: Why did you want to become a teacher?

Ms. Cohen: I've wanted to be a teacher since childhood. My grandfather was a math teacher and my father was a law professor and I respected that. I pretended to be a teacher when I was little because I liked school. I had a teacher in elementary school, Dr. Jackson, who I adored. I wanted to be like her.



Ian: Was there another subject before English?

Ms. Cohen: Originally I thought I wanted to be a veterinarian. But then I found a puppy that was run over by a lawn mower and he had to have his leg amputated. I realized that veterinary science wasn't for me. I love both art and history. I do not see the disciplines divided the way they are presented in school. I chose English because reading and talking about reading and writing and ideas is my favorite way to spend my time.

Ian: With the advancement in AI, what are your thoughts on programs like Chat GPT that can help with spelling, grammar, and even rewriting essays?

Ms. Cohen: I'm always trying to stay current. My immediate response to Chat GPT is that it worries me because AI is not rational. I also think some bad actors are misusing AI. Like the calculator, AI can be a useful tool but I think we do a disservice to humanity if we don't learn the art of writing. Learning to write helps us to become better thinkers.

Ian: What is a major pet peeve that your students do?

Ms. Cohen: I love my students and I realize that kids are kids. However, I don't like it when people (not just kids) do not hold themselves accountable for their mistakes. Also, "grade grubbing" makes me mental. I wish the education system in our country encouraged students to be curious and to love learning instead of testing them so much and prioritizing grades.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. COHEN CONTINUED

Ian: How would you characterize your teaching methods?

Ms. Cohen: Because I teach so many different types of learners in the 12th grade, I try to help everybody see a place for themselves as a reader and a writer. I like it when the students say that reading time is a nice break in their day. I want to help students gain skills like critical thinking, listening, and communicating as these skills will be important in the next part of their journey. I'd like the graduating seniors to want to continue learning. I think the way we spend our days is the way we spend our lives. I think learning is fun. But learning can also be a place of discomfort. It's a balance. I would like the students to feel confident that they can control their narrative and feel empowered as the authors of their own stories. It would also be nice if they leave Schalmont as confident readers. My department (including the library) does a good encouraging the love of reading.

Ian: Why is the Saber's Edge important? Where do you see it going in 5 years?

Ms. Cohen: I used to be a huge newshound. I was addicted to reading, watching and listening to the news and I think it is crucial to be able to voice opinions in a democratic society. I think The Sabre's Edge allows the students to showcase their thoughts and opinions and show the best of themselves. The students' articles teach me about what students think, and the issues they care about, and allow the students to show the community what they are doing with their lives. The Sabre's Edge has shifted from print to an online format with the hope of growing its readership in the community. The Sabre's Edge has grown in student contributions, and it looks nice, but I still hope more people (especially parents and students) will read it. Working with you and Ms. Schulman has made working on the paper FUN! Thank you both for that.

Ian: If you could do anything during summer vacation this year, what would it be?

Ms. Cohen: My dream is to build a greenhouse out of antique doors and windows. I'm going to wait until Mrs. Guzek retires and then I am going to hire her to help me make this dream a reality. She's good at building stuff and she's great at math! I love to garden. I prefer to grow my vegetables from seeds but I don't have the space. I would use my greenhouse as a place to tidy up my gardening life and provide me with a nice atmosphere to read and practice yoga.

## FOR THE LOVE OF READING

Members of the English Honor society recently had the pleasure of visiting Mrs. Madej's kindergarten class. Sharing their love for reading, English Honor Society members each brought over a Christmas book and read to the student they were assigned to. This heartwarming activity gave the kindergartners a chance to listen to a book being read to them, and also allowed them to share their favorite book with their older buddy! As half of the high school students went with their kindergarten buddies to read, the other half went over and made beautiful Christmas trees made out of ice cream cones, frosting, and multiple types of candies. This visit was inspirational in many ways, it allowed the elementary students to be themselves and have an opportunity to connect with the high school students. Members of the English Honor Society set an incredible example and were sought as role models for the younger students. By the end of the visit, smiles filled the classroom, as the children connected with their buddy on many levels. The English Honor Society hopes to continue this ongoing tradition, helping to inspire elementary school students to find their love for reading, and continue throughout their school years, sharing their love for literature as well.

# A RECIPE TO SHARE

## Churros

Step1

In a large saucepan over medium heat, bring butter, 2 tablespoons sugar, and 1 cup water to a boil, then stir in vanilla. Remove from heat and add flour and salt. Stir with a wooden spoon until thickened, about 30 seconds. Let cool 10 minutes.

Step2

Meanwhile, on a rimmed baking sheet or large plate, mix cinnamon and remaining 1 cup sugar.

Step3

Using a handheld mixer on medium speed, add eggs one at a time, beating to blend after each addition. Transfer mixture to a piping bag fitted with a large open star tip.

Step4

Into a large pot fitted with a deep-fry thermometer, pour oil to come halfway up sides. Heat over medium-high heat until thermometer registers 375°. Holding piping bag a few inches above oil, carefully pipe churros into 6"-long ropes. Using kitchen scissors, cut off dough from piping bag.

Step5

Working in batches, fry churros, turning as needed, until golden brown, 4 to 5 minutes; make sure oil registers 375° between batches. Using a slotted spoon or tongs, immediately roll churros in cinnamon sugar, then transfer to a wire rack.

- **Chocolate Dipping Sauce**

Place chocolate chips in a medium heatproof bowl. In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring cream to a simmer. Pour hot cream over chips and let sit 2 minutes. Add cinnamon and salt and whisk until combined and smooth.

### Churros

- **6Tbsp.**(85 g.) unsalted butter
- **2Tbsp.**plus 1 c. granulated sugar, divided
- **1tsp.**pure vanilla extract
- **1cup**(120 g.) all-purpose flour
- **1tsp.**kosher salt
- **1/4cup**ground cinnamon
- **2**large eggs
- Vegetable oil, for frying

### Ingredients

#### Chocolate Dipping Sauce

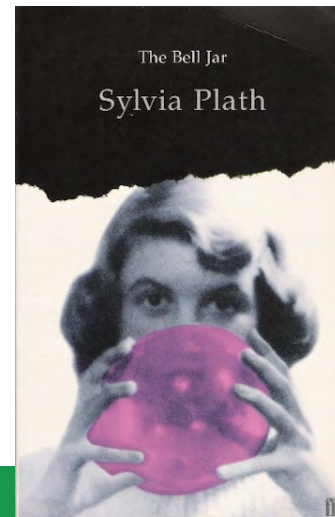
- **3/4cup**dark chocolate chips
- **3/4cup**heavy cream
- **1tsp.**ground cinnamon
- **1/4tsp.**kosher salt



# Book Review

Sylvia Plath illustrates the complexities of life, in “The Bell Jar.” It appears the book is split in three parts; Esther living as a scholarship girl, dealing with disappointment and depression, and trying to get better to enter the “real world” through mental institutions. The beginning of the story seems to be glamorous and Esther seems to be headed towards great opportunities. When she returns home, she faces harsh realities which leads to an attempt to take her life. This leads to the final section, in which Esther deals with being in an asylum and having to attempt to return to her old life.

“The Bell Jar,” written by Sylvia Plath, is inconsistent, yet wouldn’t be the story it is without that particular element . After becoming aware of the circumstances in which this book was published, I came to the conclusion that despite having a vast amount of talent, people can still fall short due to outside factors. In the case of Sylvia Plath, this factor was American publishers rejecting the book, due to a “lack of plot and cohesiveness”. While I agree that the book wasn’t particularly page-turning, isn’t literature about a diverse mind; experiencing different perspectives? The story follows Esther Greenwood, who is also the narrator. Esther is brought closer and farther away from insanity in this book. The reader is introduced to many different characters, such as a reciprocal medical student, a judgmental friend, and innocent companion. These different viewpoints inspire a reader to approach ideologies that may be different than what they may be used to. - Aesha Patel



# Music Time

On January 11th, I attended the Albany Symphony to witness my first-ever orchestra with spoken word composition. I had never thought slam poetry over four orchestral movements could be so emotionally effective; the complex thought in which the ideas of forgiveness and reconciliation could be enunciated were terrific. It doesn't matter what religion you identify yourself with, forgiveness is key in every relationship. Forgiveness can change the tone or dynamic between two people very easily. Weirdly, forgiveness can be interpreted as its own powerful instrument that's emotionally captivating. I hope everyone I know finds it within themselves to forgive me, and in return, I will always try to find the courage to forgive others to make peace, to defy power, and to listen. - Jarret Jaster

# Book Review

*The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Few novels seem to have received the praise that *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky has. While not a household name in the U.S., it has undoubtedly left its mark on many who have read it: just to name a few, Albert Einstein claimed that "*The Brothers Karamazov* is the most wonderful book that I have ever laid my hands on," while Sigmund Freud referred to it as "the most magnificent novel ever written." Remarkable given the reputation it has garnered is the sheer oddness of the book, partly due to its purpose as a setup to a later novel which the author would not live to write. It meanders from between plot points, never quite properly wrapping things up, yet contains such moving characters and scenarios that, as the author's final work, it is often considered his crowning achievement.

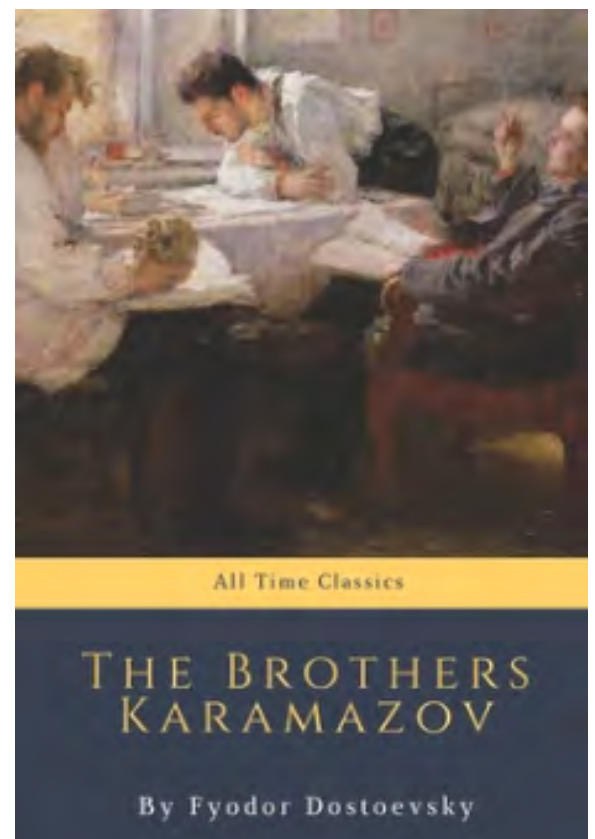
Fyodor Karamazov is perhaps one of the worst fathers you can think of: having no care for his children, he unashamedly lives only for money, sex, alcohol, and making others hate him. His three children, Dmitry, Ivan, and Alexei ("Alyosha"), all develop distinct personalities.

Dmitry harbors deep hatred for his neglectful father and appears on the surface to be the son most like him, often drinking and causing problems, yet still feels a sense of disgust for the man he is becoming, having something of a noble spirit underneath the mess. He is eventually put on trial for the murder of his father, which is a central plot point.

Ivan, a rigorously logical intellectual, is a professed atheist who holds much more complex views in private. In his opinion God is either nonexistent or amoral, meaning it doesn't matter whether you act right or wrong because there ultimately is no real source of morality. He thinks that if this world, in which innocent children suffer regularly, has a creator, then that creator isn't worth being listened to.

The youngest son, Alyosha, is a Christian who aspires to be a monk in the local monastery, where his mentor and role model Father Zosima teaches those around him to love others as themselves, these lessons appearing to be the ones the author himself sought to convey. It is Alyosha's faith which supplies him with the love to help mend his dysfunctional family, as well as helping other suffering and misguided people around him. While Ivan sees belief in God as extremely helpful in human life but ultimately futile to believe in, Alyosha finds in God a sense of purpose not just in spite of suffering, but oftentimes through it.

The story sets Alyosha and Ivan's worldviews against each other, with Dmitry being the soul caught in the middle, and it is this question of morality that makes this book so special: Dostoevsky paints two worlds, one in which you are just as justified in doing evil as you are in doing good, and another in which self-sacrificial love logically paves the path to a joyful, meaningful, and fulfilled life. - Caleb Cunniff

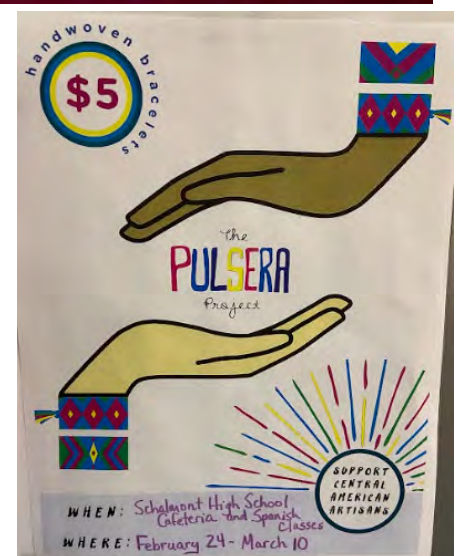




# SPANISH IS FUN!

This Winter has been filled with Spanish fun. On February 25th, the new members of the AATSP Spanish Honor Society were inducted. Congratulations to Gianna Angelozzi, Connor Byrnes, Samantha Gromoll, Christian Groulc, Grace Hill, Mattingly Hindes, Brooke Howlan, Tijay Lamalfa Chase, Aiden Lawrence, Eliza Leszczynski, Derek Natalie, Mark Obelman, Mia Ralston, Angelina Riccio, Paiton Rider, Isable Rumbaugh, Joshua Solis, Abigail Stubbs, and Anthony Villano.

The Spanish Club has brought back the Pulsera Project. The pulsera bracelets are made by people all over the world who have less job opportunities. The Spanish Club sells the bracelets and sends back the profits to the creators. They also attended Flamenco Vivo at Spa Little Theater in Saratoga on March 6th. The Spanish Club members got the opportunity to see beautiful Flamenco choreography. Finally, the Spanish V classes went to the middle school on March 3rd and read story books in Spanish to the 5th graders. The 5th graders were able to learn more Spanish and how stories can be told in different ways.



# A Day in the Life of Skrappie Reardon

Greetings, Sabre Humans,

Happy New Year! It's been awhile since I've had a chance to write. As you can imagine, I'm quite a busy guy.

Some have asked what a typical day looks like in the life of Skrappie Reardon. I can tell you, it's quite a life. I've put together the following timeline to give you an idea of what it's like to be me:

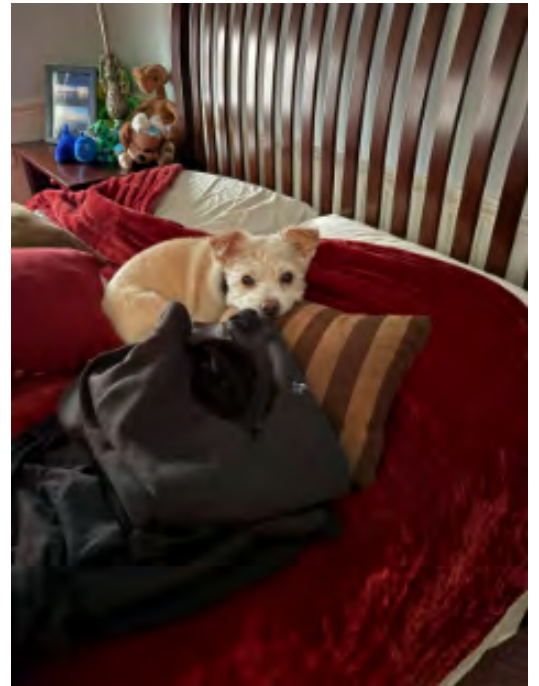
4:45 a.m.- Dad and I wake up for my first morning walk, at which point I go back to sleep for a bit while Dad works on some emails. I've offered to help him but he usually takes me up on my offer later on in the morning.

5:30 a.m.- Once I wake up from my post-walk nap, Dad fixes my breakfast (I love my dog food heated up in the microwave). He reads the paper and does *Wordle* while I eat.

6:00 a.m.- We go for my second walk of the morning. This is when Dad and I talk about the upcoming day. I do a lot of listening to Dad, and serve as his adviser on all things related to Schalmont. On snowy mornings, I always recommend he closes school, but for some reason, he doesn't listen to me as much as I would like!

7:00 a.m.- While Dad and Mom get ready to leave for work, I decide which of my toys I will play with. If you are ever looking to buy me something, I love all toys that make noises, especially squeaker toys!

7:30-3:30 p.m.- This is where my day gets interesting. As I mentioned before, I am in pretty high demand. Since my parents are gone for the whole day and many times, into the evening, they plan many activities for me. Two days a week, each of my grandparents visits and takes me for a walk and will spend some time with me in the house watching me play with my toys. Sometimes we will watch afternoon television together.



# A Day in the Life of Skrappie Continued

For the remaining days of the week, I go to two different play groups, where I get to hang with my buddies from the neighborhood. I can get rambunctious but, I am given a report card after each session, so I try to do the best I can. When I'm not in one of my play groups, my dad sends me to Doggie Day Care near our house. This isn't my favorite day of the week, as I'm inside most of the day watching other dogs get haircuts, but they are very nice to me.

No matter where I am, I simply can't wait for my parents to come home.

4:30-10:00 p.m.- Mom always gets home from work first, and she fixes my dinner (also warmed up in the microwave). She doesn't tell Dad, but she gives me a small bit of ground chicken as a treat (Dad is very strict about my diet as he wants me healthy; mom spoils me). Though Dad gets home late most nights, I can tell he's been at work, as his clothes always have the scent of Schalmont (I can especially tell if he's been at a sporting event with a concession stand!). He takes me for my evening walk, sits on the floor and checks his email while I show off my toy skills and eventually, it's time for bed.

While my weeks are busy, nothing beats the weekend, at which I get my parents all to myself! No clubs, no day care; just my parents, my toys, walks, and me.

If you ever want me to visit, simply let my Dad know, and he will arrange my schedule so that I can come to your school.

Woof for Now,  
Skrappie Reardon

