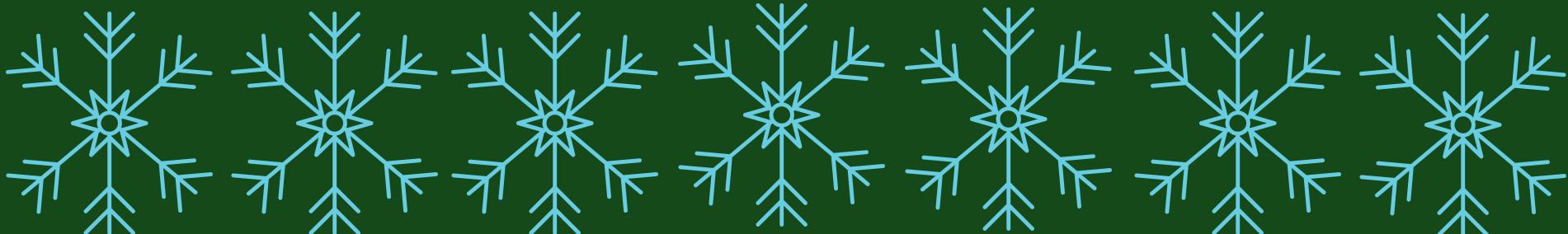


THE SABRES EDGE



IMPORTANT DATES:

Winter Recess 2/16-2/20

Arts Festivals - Instrumental Concert 3/3
- Vocal Concert 3/5

Quarter 3 Interim Reports - 3/16

Spring Musical - Mamma Mia! - 3/16 - 3/18

Quarter 3 Marking Period Ends - 4/17

Spring Recess 4/3 -4/10

Tutoring every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month



SCHALMONT NEWSPAPER



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**"A PERSON WHO NEVER
MADE A MISTAKE NEVER
TRIED ANYTHING NEW."**

-ALBERT EINSTEIN

Holiday Fundraising

For the past few weeks, the 11th and 12th grade Current Affairs class in Schalmont has been working together to raise money for a cause that means a lot to everyone. The goal of the fundraiser was to buy gifts for the children staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Albany, it's a place that supports families whose children are receiving Care at the Albany Medical center. After a few weeks of planning and collecting donations the class was able to raise a few thousand dollars and really make a difference for all of the kids involved. This Thursday December 18th, after school a group of students went shopping to use the money they raised. There was a bunch of lists put together with a certain amount of money that we were all able to use to go buy gifts ranging from the children and even their parents. The list could include toys, books, games, clothing for the children or parent, items to help the parent, etc. For a lot of students including myself, the shopping trip is one of the most meaningful and enjoyable parts of the entire fundraiser because it shows exactly where the money is being put into and how much it is helping others. It's a wonderful reminder that even small efforts can have a big impact when people are willing to work together. The fundraiser brought the class closer as it does every year and it gives the students the chance to give back to the community in a meaningful way. Knowing the gifts go directly to children in need and us being able to drop it off to them personally makes the experience even more rewarding. Us as a current affairs class hope our efforts will make the holidays brighter for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

By: Kaylie Masse

Are you ready for the World Cup 2026?

By: Selena Cassano

Throughout any sporting event in history, the World Cup is known as the most watched in the world. With 5 billion viewers, fans all over the world get to support their country in a fun way. The best way to stream the games is Fox Sports. For the World Cup, this is the number one streaming source. Since the World Cup is located in the United States this year, fans have easy access to every game if they want to watch live. One of the main questions people ask is “How do I prepare for the World Cup? ”, and I am here to tell you how!

To start, getting ready for the World Cup is all about the excitement. Fans love to research the teams and players, making predictions. It makes watching the games way more fun because you actually know what's going on. Another big thing is planning where you're going to watch. Some people like watching at home, but others love going to restaurants where the environment is more fun. The energy is totally different when you're surrounded by fans. Since it is one of the biggest events of the year, you have a good chance of meeting international fans whenever you watch a game.



For a little background information, The World Cup has one of the longest and most iconic histories in all of sports. The very first tournament was held in 1930, which means it has been going on for almost a century. It only happens once every four years, so each tournament feels like a huge moment that the whole world stops to watch. Over time, the event has grown massively, from just 13 teams in the first World Cup to 32 teams today. Since its long history and global impact, the World Cup has become more than just a soccer competition; it's a worldwide celebration that brings different cultures, countries, and fans together. I wouldn't want to miss any of these games, with the first game kick-off at iconic Mexico City

Stadium on Thursday, June 11th, 2026.

Cell Phone Ban

This is a letter written to Representative Paul Tonko from Mr. Gibbs' Government class. I would like to recognize the recent cell phone ban implemented in over 20 states as of 2025. I admire your desire to implement this ban in New York State, as it is extremely beneficial to students. Most kids use their cell phones during school hours due to reasons such as boredom or a desire to be on social media. The important thing that most students don't realize is how damaging the use of cell phones is to their social life, education, etc. Since the ban was implemented in New York State, I have noticed more cheerful smiles throughout the hallways, more conversations taking place during lunch periods, and better focus from students. I am writing to you today in the hope of advocating for the phone ban being implemented in all states.

The issue of the phone ban across every state is important because screen time impacts teenagers' mental health. The phone ban should be implemented in every state, granting every teenager better mental health. According to the National Library of Medicine, a study was done including children between ages 2-17. The study compared screen time to the well-being of these children, and the results help prove my point. An excessive amount of screen time negatively impacts a child's well-being, including mental health and social life. These students with excessive amounts of screen time are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with depression. Before the cell phone ban, students could take their phones out during lectures, in the halls, and at lunch. This is an issue because the phone acts as a "block in attention span." Cell phones bring numerous negative effects, such as distraction, cyber-bullying, and more. All states must implement the cell phone ban to prevent all of these negative effects.

The cell phone ban personally impacts me because I have seen a slight increase in my grades and a bigger desire to show up to school. I feel as if conversations in school are more genuine without a phone in hand. If the cell phone ban were implemented in every state as it is in New York State, other students just like me could have the same opportunities and benefits. Not just as a state, but as a country, students will likely improve their education, social life, and mental health. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope to hear back!

The Power of Play

Why Sports Brings Us Together

By: Vinny Zido

Every year, our community comes together for the big rivalry basketball game or homecoming, packing the stands to watch every team compete and represent the best of Schalmont. Our town has always been competitive and relentless when it comes to sports, and our community never hesitates to support us — from fundraising efforts to cheering on every player who puts on a jersey. Schalmont and Rotterdam pride go hand in hand, giving athletes a sense of belonging and a reason to work as hard as we do.

Sports bring people of different ages, backgrounds, and beliefs together, and that unity is one of the most important foundations of any successful team. It doesn't matter if it's football, soccer, baseball, or softball — any team can become a championship team when it feels like a brotherhood or sisterhood. Talent matters, but nothing compares to a team willing to do anything for each other.

The impact of sports on individuals is huge, and it has shaped me personally. Being part of a team strengthened my confidence and leadership, but more importantly, it gave me brothers for life. I also gained role models in my coaches, who cared about me not just as an athlete but as a person, teaching lessons that go far beyond the field.

Sports are a universal language in our community, bringing people closer than they were before. Every football season, I watch my parents — who normally keep to themselves — come together with other families to support us with relentless effort. Even after tough losses, our community helps us heal and come back stronger.

One of my favorite traditions is our Thursday night team dinners before home games, where parents and coaches cook, talk, and celebrate the journey we're on together. Moments like these show why community matters. When our community shows up, it helps create champions— and the real victory is the connection we build.

Peanut Butter Blossoms

Perfect and easy cookie recipe for any occasion!

Ingredients:

48 Hershey Kisses
1/2 cup of crisco shortening
3/4 cup of peanut butter
1/3 cup of granulated sugar
(additional for topping)
1/3 cup of light brown sugar
1 egg
1 tablespoon of milk
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
1 1/2 cup of all purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon of salt
1/2 teaspoon of baking soda



Directions:

- Heat oven to 375°F.
- Beat crisco and peanut butter in a large sized bowl on medium speed until well combined.
- Add granulated sugar and brown sugar to the mix on medium speed until well combined.
- Add egg, milk, and vanilla extract to the mix on medium speed until well combined. Then, set this bowl aside.
- In a medium mixing bowl, add the flour, salt, and baking soda, and lightly stir with a whisk.
- Add the dry ingredients mixture into the wet ingredients mixture on medium speed until the dough starts to form. You may need to use your hands to get the dough mixed together better.
- Shape dough into 1 to 3 inch balls, or desired shape, roll each ball into granulated sugar.
- Bake until golden brown, about 12 minutes, and then immediately lightly press a Hershey Kiss into the center of the cookie, and transfer cookies to a cooling rack until ready to serve. Enjoy!

By: Angelina Riccio

Why the Buffalo Bills is the Best Football Team

Op/Ed Article By: Brandon Brassard

In the competitive game of professional football, the Bills have become the best team in the league by using every teammate's own talents to help the Bills come out on top. The Bills are not just a team; they have a winning culture that few other NFL franchises can match. The Bills demonstrate that you have to fail to succeed, and discipline is needed to win games and get into the top 3 NFL franchises. In the center of the team is their quarterback, Josh Allen, whose arm strength, athleticism, and leadership set him apart from any other quarterback in the NFL. Multiple times now, Josh Allen has made clutch throws while being under pressure from the opposing team, like in the recent Buffalo Bills game against the Patriots, they had one of the craziest comebacks in the last 5 minutes of the match in the 4th quarter. But his teammates like Keon Coleman also help out the Bills' offense by catching good throws from Josh Allen.

Equally impressive is the Bills' defense, which is known for its toughness and intelligence, where the Bills consistently rank one of the best among other franchises. It is very good when it comes to forcing turnovers and making critical stops of the ball getting into the end zone.

But beyond statistics and wins, the Buffalo Bills represent something greater, which is none other but unity. The team's connection with its fan base, which is famously known as the "Bills Mafia," creates a home-field advantage unlike any other sport. The fans watch the Bills through snowstorms and setback after setback, but still love the Bills.

The team altogether has elite talent, strong coaching, and an unmatched community that supports the Buffalo Bills in whatever struggles they are going through. The Bills aren't just winning games; they are setting the standard for what a great NFL franchise should be. I don't think any other NFL franchise could have the teammates or the fanbase that the Buffalo Bills have, that's why the Bills are the best NFL team in the league.



Wagon Train Restaurant Review

By: Mia Gillberg

The Wagon Train is a small restaurant located in Rotterdam, New York, on 671 Mariaville Road. My family and I arrived at the Wagon Train for dinner and were seated very quickly. The service was excellent. The waitress works quickly and efficiently to provide excellent service. Our food and drinks were brought out to us shortly after ordering them. I ordered pulled pork with French fries and a side of salad. The pulled pork was rich with barbecue flavoring, and the meat just melted into your mouth. The fries were a perfect mix of salty and crunchy, and the salad was mixed with black olives, tomatoes, and cucumbers, topped with a dressing of your choice. My favorite dressing to top the salad with is balsamic dressing, as it adds a bitter flavor that I enjoy. All the servers are diligent and kind, giving the restaurant a warm and welcoming environment for all.



Nurse: How I Figured Out My Career Path

By: Serenity Kirnon

I have always wanted to help people. Caring for others has been something I've loved to do for as long as I can remember. When I started thinking about what I wanted to be when I grew up, nursing was always my first thought. Whether it was being a military nurse, a technician, or a pediatric nurse, I always knew I wanted to do something that involved helping others and making a difference.

I've always liked hospitals. I know that might sound strange, but I love the smell of them, I love the feeling of being there. I like how nurses walk in and seem to know exactly what to do. They care for people, comfort them, and keep everything running smoothly. Nurses inspire me because they do so much and often don't get enough credit. Watching them work always inspires me to want to be like them in a way.

Another reason I want to be a nurse is that I really love babies. I think working with newborns or children would be amazing. I just hate the fact that they are almost helpless, and I've always just wanted to have the power to try and help them no matter what. So I've thought about becoming a pediatric or neonatal nurse. I'm still not completely sure which area I want to go into, but I know it will be something that lets me care for people and make them feel safe and supported. Nurses are there for others during their hardest moments, and they make a real difference through care and compassion. I want to be that person for someone. Becoming a nurse means dedicating myself to helping people heal, feel safe, and know that they're not alone. That's exactly what I see myself doing in my future.