



Paw Prints



March 2026

Advisor: Mr. Dalesandro

About this Publication

Your monthly access to all things HARRINGTON! For Students. BY Students.

T-2 W.A.T.C.H. Winners Announced

Thomas E. Harrington faculty and staff are proud to announce the W.A.T.C.H. winners for the second trimester. From all of us at HMS and *PawPrints*, CONGRATULATIONS! In order of appearance, your winners are:

- Angie F., *Work Ethic*
- Ava O., *Citizenship*
- Jacob M., *Scholarship*
- Liliana P., *Leadership*
- Jazlynn B., *Citizenship*
- Shivika G., *Character*
- Devin M., *Character*
- Rahul R., *Scholarship*
- Ella M., *Character*
- Tyler N., *Character*
- Ryan K., *Scholarship*
- Khloe T., *Leadership*
- Mia N., *Citizenship*
- Aarna M., *Scholarship*
- Antwon P., *Work Ethic*
- Hari P., *Leadership*
- Benjamin W., *Scholarship*
- Zaphira N., *Work Ethic*



All W.A.T.C.H. winners for the first trimester will be invited to a celebration in the HMS cafeteria on Wednesday, March 25.

- Adrianna J., *Work Ethic & Scholarship*
- Gianna B., *Work Ethic & Scholarship*
- Grace C., *Leadership*
- Aubrey P., *Work Ethic*
- Ja'ir S., *Work Ethic*
- Maxwell H., *Citizenship*
- Madison B., *Leadership*
- Julianna L., *Citizenship*
- Jason T., *Scholarship*
- Gabriella B., *Work Ethic*
- Raegan L., *Leadership*
- Julie W., *Leadership*
- Noah C., *Citizenship*
- Blake N., *Leadership & Scholarship*
- Netra P., *Scholarship*
- Mayeda A., *Scholarship*
- Payton T., *Citizenship & Scholarship*

What is W.A.T.C.H.?

By *PawPrints* Staff
According to the W.A.T.C.H. Recognition Program charter:

"The Harrington W.A.T.C.H. program is designed to highlight, celebrate, and recognize our students when they consistently 'own' their words, actions, thoughts, character, and habits towards others."

These words, of course, echo "The Essence of Destiny." This motivation framework can be seen in classrooms throughout HMS and is recited every Wednesday - affectionately known as "W.A.T.C.H. Wednesday."

Each trimester, the HMS faculty and staff selects FOUR students from each team. The chosen students are selected because they exemplify one (or more) of the following traits: CITIZENSHIP, WORK ETHIC, LEADERSHIP, and SCHOLARSHIP.

Citizenship

Leadership

Work Ethic

Scholarship



Around the Halls

6-7: Still a Meme or Gone from the Scene?

By Ava O.

Hey Harrington! It's me, Ava Reese O. Earlier this school year, in the October edition of *Paw Prints*, we wrote a bit about the meme "6-7" and whether it was still popular. Now that it's been a year since the origin of the meme, and six months since we wrote an edition about it in *Paw Prints*, I thought you all deserved a follow-up. Let's get to it.

In March of 2025, you might have seen a clip of a kid yelling "six seven!" at a basketball game. This video went viral, sparking thousands of views and gaining people's attention. You may have then heard kids (and adults) walk by saying "six-sevnnnn!" Also, earlier that year, a song gained popularity by Skrilla called "Doot Doot (6 7)." The hand gesture

from the kid in the video may have been inspired by the song and the two numbers. Everyone believes it to be some sort of inside joke between the kid and his friends.

Now, some people say and act like this knowing how the trend started, and others do not. Nevertheless, it's been about a year since the whole thing started. I have one question to ask: do you think 6-7 is still a thing? And here's another one for you and your besties to answer: Why do—or why don't—you say "six-sevnnnn" anymore? Do you think it's because teachers have started saying the meme? Or maybe your parents, or any other adult? Or is it just that people have forgotten about it all?

Whatever it is, 6-7 sure isn't what it used to be.

Should Harrington Have Vending Machines?

By Adam B.

Are you ever walking back from the bathroom sometime before or after your lunch period and could go for a snack or drink? I know I have. Years ago, it is said that Harrington used to have vending machines in the halls, but they were removed after COVID for obvious reasons.

This is why Harrington should have vending machines:

#1: Students would benefit from a light snack or drink that they wouldn't have in their lunch box. Students wouldn't be able to eat these snacks during class, but they could have them during break times or at the end of the period. They could also be consumed during lunch.

#2: The school could gain money for more services, clubs, and other school-related activities. We could get new gym equipment, new amenities like an exercise room and newer technology in the classrooms.

#3: Students would probably feel more comfortable and freer if they had access to drinks and snacks whenever they wanted, and there's really nothing like a sip of soda!



Cover Art Contest

By Lili P.

Want to put your creativity to the test each month? *Paw Prints* is offering a new contest for all the artists looking for a monthly prompt (and a possible shoutout in the school's paper!).

In each month's paper, we'll announce the theme for the next month in these excerpts, along with a handful of other submissions we received (see the bottom of the article for April's prompt).

Q: Will AI-produced images be considered?

A: We are not allowing AI-generated images to count in the cover art contest.

Q: Where do I submit my art?

A: Want a chance at a shoutout for your art? Submit a photo of your piece to jdalesandro@mtlaurelschools.org by April 14. Be sure to list your name and grade (not mandatory, but appreciated).

Q: What counts as "art"?

A: "Art" can be a broad term, because art is inherently extensive. Photography, painting,

sketches, 3D sculptures, and much more all count. If you spent time making it, it counts for the contest.

Q: How is a winner chosen?

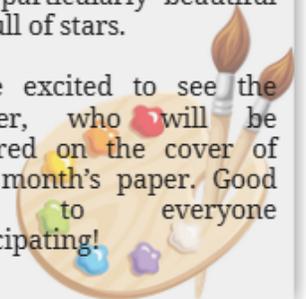
A: We ask a handful of students and teachers to pick their favorite piece. To make sure there is no bias in their decision, the name of the artist is left out. Whoever gets the most votes wins!

Q: Do I have to give my name when submitting my piece?

A: No! If you don't feel comfortable giving your name in your submission email, you don't have to. All you need to submit is your art piece to enter the contest.

For next month's theme, in honor of Earth Day, the theme will be... **Nature!** Paint something as complex as a meadow full of flowers, or take a photo of a particularly beautiful sky full of stars.

We're excited to see the winner, who will be featured on the cover of next month's paper. Good luck to everyone participating!



Around the Halls, Too

What is happening, Harrington? 'Around the Halls' wants to know! Reach out to one of our reporters with events and happenings.

Outdoor Seating at Harrington?

By Lili P.

“A local high schooler is trying to change that for us students at Harrington.”

Out of the many choices Harrington tries to give its students (from clubs to dances to spirit days), one thing is certain: students lack the option to go outside during the school day.

Studies have shown the effects of not being outdoors. For example, staying in small, densely crowded areas—such as a middle school cafeteria—is known to cause mental clutter, meaning an overload of thoughts or worries that can cause anxiety to spike.

Alternatively, being outside has many positive physical and psychological effects on people. More sunlight increases vitamin D, which gives stronger bones, a healthier heart, and an array of other benefits—and that’s only from natural light. Fresh air has also been shown to decrease stress, allowing for a clearer, healthier mindset to flourish.

Most of the other schools in our area not only know this but capitalize on it too. Not including phys-ed, Harrington is the only school most students will attend that doesn’t currently let students go outside during the school day. The

majority of high schools have outdoor benches and tables for students on lunch break, and elementary schools have recess periods. So why does Harrington have to stay indoors?

That’s exactly what a local high schooler is trying to change for students at Harrington. Mitchell C. is a progressive high schooler at Lenape High School who aims to give Harrington students the ability to eat and unwind outdoors. Mitchell maintains a *GoFundMe* site where he explains how he noticed the lack of outdoor seating options for Harrington students and his goal to change it.

“Then during my first meeting with Mr. Besler, I noticed the area behind the koi pond,” Mitchell explained. “This little courtyard was perfect. It was unused but constantly taken care of for no one to enjoy.”

His mission is to raise enough funds to pay for benches and tables for Harrington students to use during their lunch periods—an option he believes will benefit students in the long run.

“I wanted to create this [seating option] as a way for the students to have the ability to eat outside, and help students possibly transition to Lenape.”



Mitchell plans to put the seating option at Harrington. The site currently goes unused.



Reader Rants

By Liliana P. and Echo

Four-leaf clovers, leprechauns, gold, the start of spring, and more holidays—plus awareness to come! Start this March with one of our new book recommendations!

Restart by Gordon Korman

Have you ever wondered what your life would look like from a clean perspective? *Restart* by Gordon Korman asks this very question when Chase Ambrose loses his memory, forcing him to see his previous life with a new lens. Should he continue his life as it was before? Or is this his chance to restart his life?

Pictures of Hollis Woods, by Patricia Reilly Giff

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff tells the lonely story of Hollis Woods, whose life, filled with struggles to find the perfect foster home, is made even more complicated by the echoes of her past. Will she find a new place to call home, or does she need to confront her past to find her future?

Echo's Reviews

(Warning: mentions of eating disorders, suicide, death, and self-induced harm in both reviews)

Wintergirls, by Laurie Halse Anderson

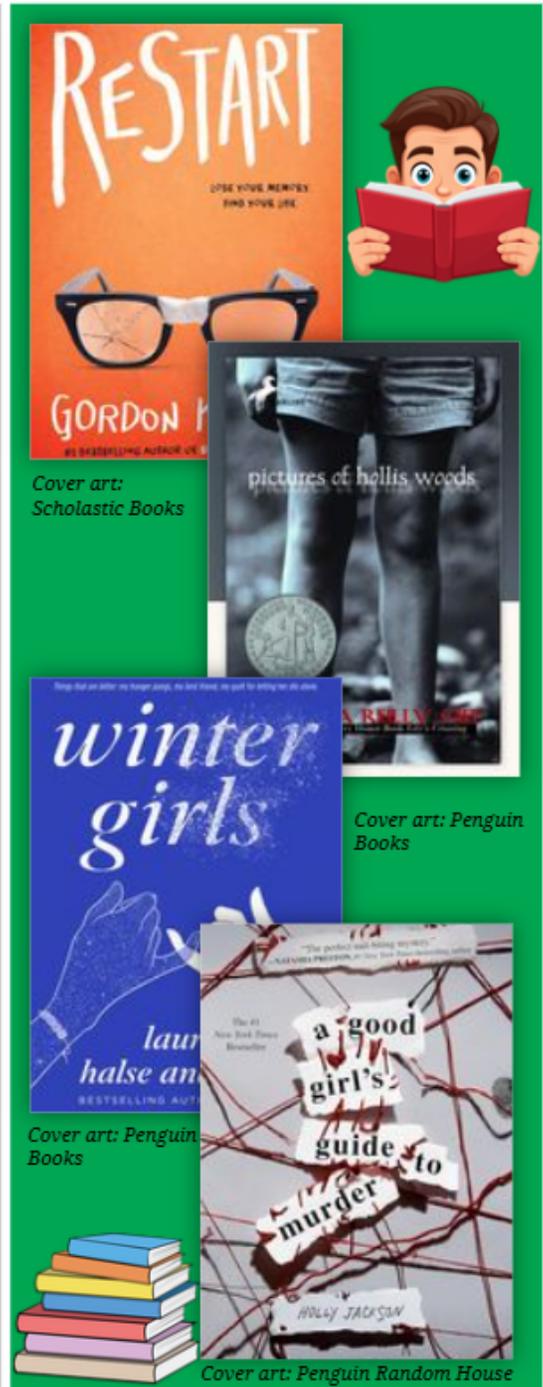
Wintergirls is a novel about two best

friends, Lia and Cassie. They compete to see who can be the thinnest. Gaining eating disorders (ED) ultimately causes Cassie to pass away from the strict rules of the competition. This leaves Lia feeling guilty and even more depressed. Still caught up in the competition, she tries to lose more and more weight while being haunted by Cassie's death. To cope, she harms herself, but she ultimately stops, not wanting to die like her best friend did, leading to a realistic and meaningful ending.

Quick fact: March is actually the awareness month for SH, or self-induced harm.

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder, by Holly Jackson

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder is a book series about a girl named Pippa (Pip) Fitz-Amobi, who researches a cold case for a school project. That case involved a girl, Andie Bell, who was supposedly murdered by Sal Singh, who then committed suicide and confessed to the crime. However, Pip does not believe this, so for her project, she investigates to find evidence that Sal was innocent after all. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* is a series spanning three books, so if you like the first book, try reading the whole series!



SPORTS



This month we take a look at the 2026 Winter Olympics!

2026 Winter Olympics

By Scarlett Z.

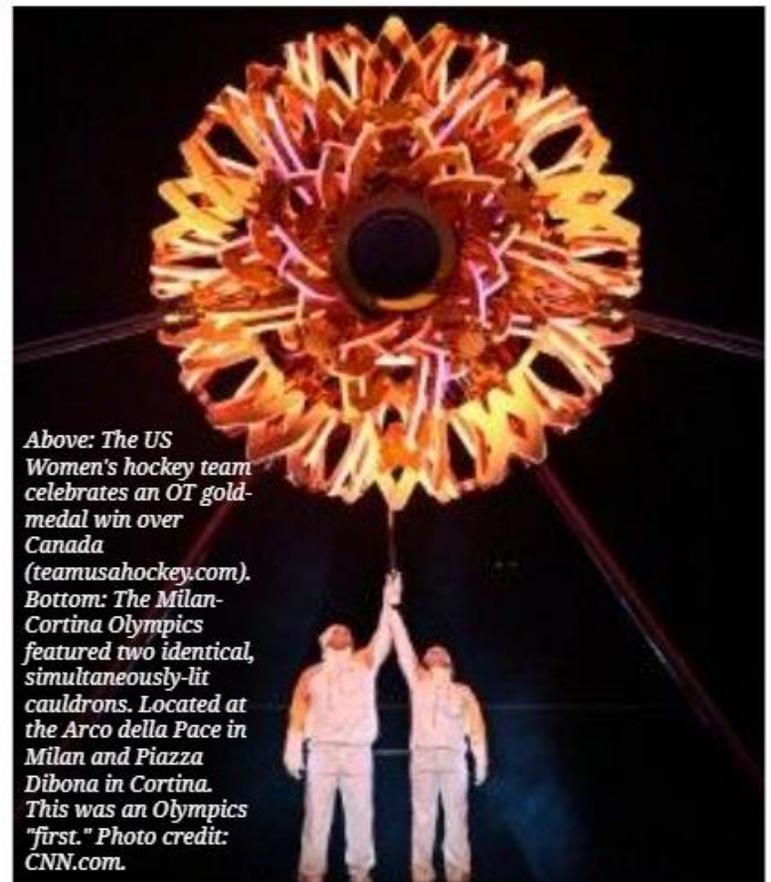
This past month, the 2026 Winter Olympics took place in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. The Olympics are now officially known as Milano Cortina 2026. Some of the events that took place were figure skating, ice hockey, skiing, and much more. Each athlete gave it their all, and a total of twelve gold medals were won by those representing the United States.

During the Olympics, both the U.S. men's ice hockey team and the women's ice hockey team made history. Both hockey games had a score of 2-1, successfully defeating Canada and to celebrate, the men's ice hockey team was recognized at the State of the Union address. As if that wasn't enough, history was made by both teams, as this

was the first Olympics where both U.S. ice hockey teams won gold.

The United States won gold not just in ice hockey, but in many other sports as well. Freestyle skiing and Alpine skiing won a combined total of five gold medals. Speed skating and figure skating brought home a combined total of four gold medals. There was also one gold medal for the U.S. in the sport of bobsleigh.

Overall, many amazing athletes represented our country this year in the 2026 Winter Olympics and history was made by both U.S. ice hockey teams. We are so grateful for their contributions and for them being brave enough to represent the United States.



*Above: The US Women's hockey team celebrates an OT gold-medal win over Canada (teamusahockey.com).
Bottom: The Milan-Cortina Olympics featured two identical, simultaneously-lit cauldrons. Located at the Arco della Pace in Milan and Piazza Dibona in Cortina. This was an Olympics "first." Photo credit: CNN.com.*



Cougar Clarity

**Life Lessons
with Mr. Besler**



Just Because You Can, Doesn't Mean You Should

Living by a motto can give a person such strength every day. I live by a couple of sayings in my life with the idea that I will make good choices by understanding these mottos. At Thomas E. Harrington Middle School, we talk a lot about making good choices, especially in our Advisory period. You have the right to your opinions. You have the right to exercise your voice. You have the ability to say what you think and share how you feel. However, here is something important to remember: *Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.*

In today's world of social media, group chats, and random forms of instant communication, it is easy to say something quickly without thinking about the impact. You might be able to make a sarcastic comment, or laugh at someone's mistake. You also might be able to repeat something you heard about another HMS student. But, *should you?*

Being kind is always the better choice. Words are powerful and can carry significant weight. They can build someone up, or tear someone down. A single comment about someone's appearance, clothes, academic performance, or friendships can stick with them far longer than you may realize. What might feel like a joke to one person can feel deeply hurtful to another. It is why I always say, "Be nice, or be quiet".

learn here at Harrington Middle School is this: You never truly know what someone else is going through. We are very fortunate to attend such a diverse school at HMS, both with ethnicity and socio-economic status (money that a family has). A classmate who seems quiet may be dealing with challenges at home. A student who seems distracted may be worried about something you cannot see. Someone who laughs something off may actually be hurt inside. Just because you have the right to speak does not mean every thought needs to be shared.

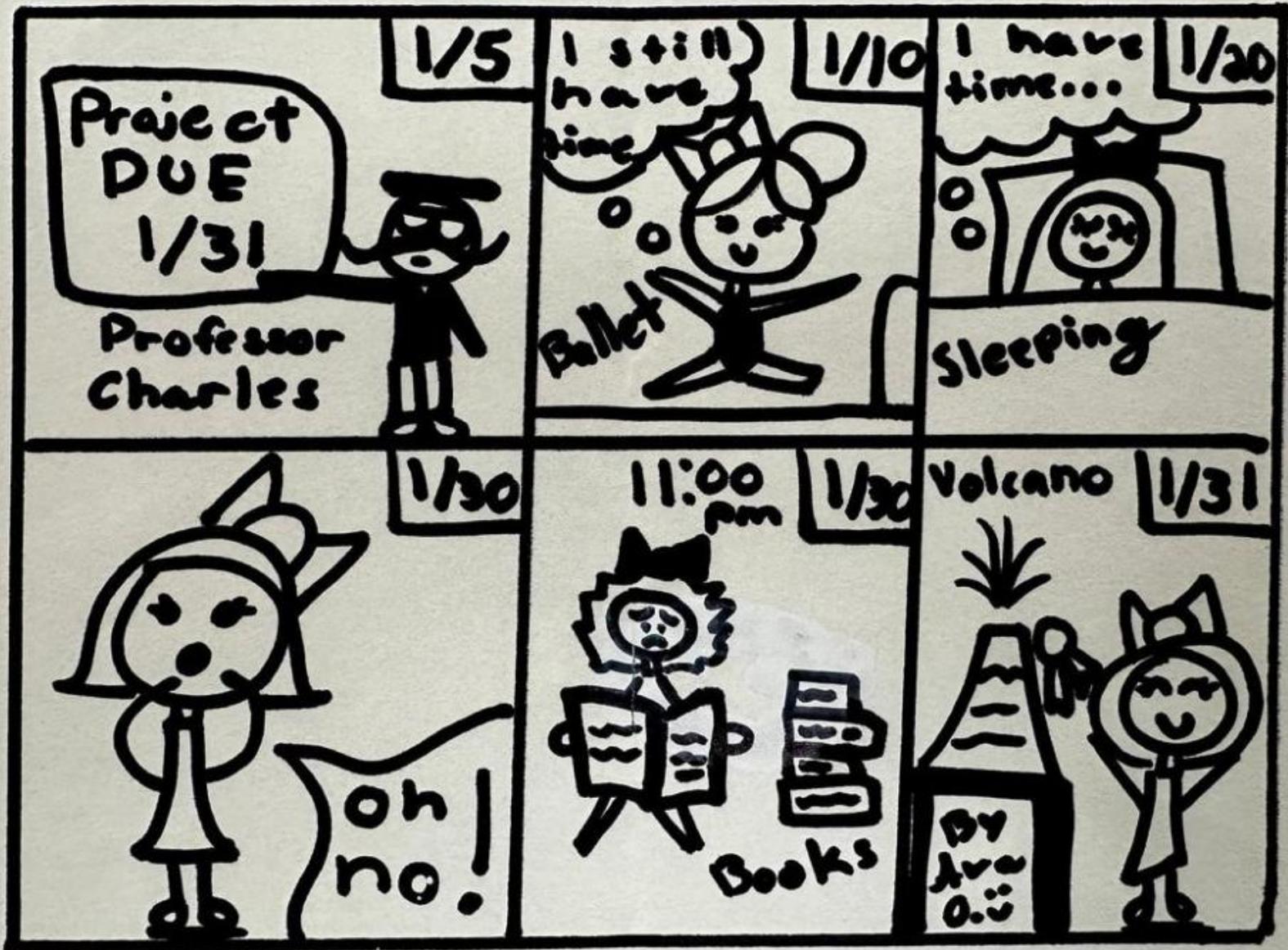
At Harrington, we believe in respect. Respect means thinking before we speak and choosing words that encourage rather than embarrass. It means understanding that our freedom to say something comes with responsibility. Before you speak, ask yourself: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? If the answer is not yes to all three, it might be better left unsaid. People are remembered far longer for how they made others feel than for any clever comeback or funny comment.

You have the power to make Harrington a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected. So the next time you are about to say something and you think, "Well, I can say it..." but please pause and remember:

Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.

**BEFORE YOU SPEAK,
ASK YOURSELF: IS IT
TRUE? IS IT KIND? IS
IT NECESSARY?**

One of the most important lessons you can



Due to an editing error, January's comic was omitted. Please enjoy!