


Van Rensselaer Elementary School

# VR Tellers




Serving the students of Van Rensselaer Elementary School

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Be polite, work hard, have fun.





Have a wonderful day!



## New Year, New Goals!

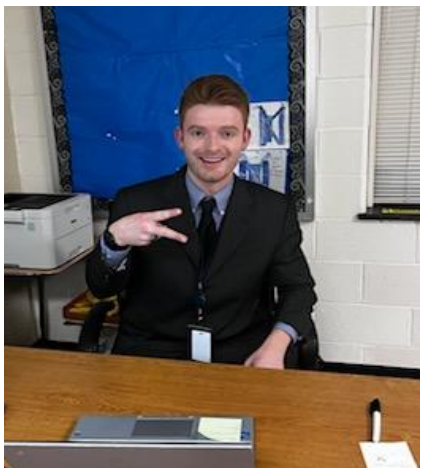
By: Victoria Primeau-Kattes & Denver Williams, Student Reporters

To kick off the new year, we went on a mission to learn about New Year's resolutions around our school. We interviewed students, teachers, and staff to find out what goals they are setting for the year ahead.

Check out some of the New Year's resolutions around the school!



Ms. Cooley (above) has set a goal for herself to read more books!

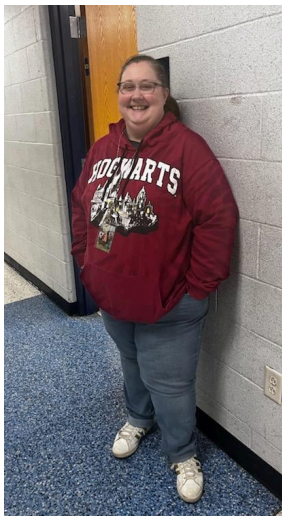


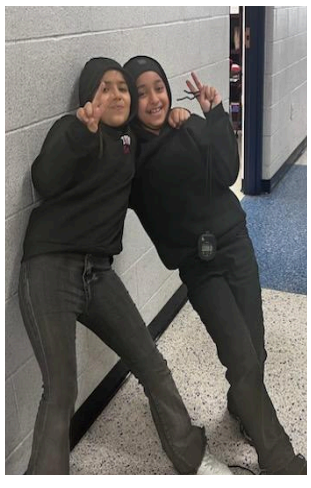
Mr. Gray (above) has made his resolution to get up earlier in the morning!



Ms. Carbone (pictured above) has set a New Year's resolution of eating less processed foods.

Miss B. (right) said she is going to work on being more organized in 2026!





Fifth graders Aslia and Byan (left) made the same resolution... to eat less Chick-fil-A !

# Students Choose a Winner: Meet Our New Mascot!

**By: Hannah Jones, Student reporter**

**Our school recently held a vote to choose a new mascot, and the results are in! After counting all the student votes, Choice 3 was the clear winner.**

**Inspired by the excitement and school pride, Mrs. McNamara decided to purchase our new mascot, Ramsey, using profits from the school store. This special decision was made to help increase school spirit and bring even more fun to school events.**

**We are excited to announce that Ramsey will arrive at the end of January! Students and staff can't wait to welcome him and see him cheering us on at school activities.**

**Thank you to everyone who voted and helped make this happen. Go team!**




**Choice 3 (left) won the vote!**
**We can't wait to meet Ramsey!**












**The ram mascots (left) didn't receive enough votes to make the cut.**



# Recycling Matters at Our School!



By Matthew Williams

After asking students and staff around campus a simple question—should our school be recycling?—the answer was almost unanimous: yes.

Although our school currently does not have recycling bins, many people I spoke with said they want to see a recycling program started. Items like milk cartons, juice boxes, and other recyclable materials are thrown away every day, even though they could be reused instead of ending up in the trash.

Until our school has an official system in place, I encourage students to take small steps by bringing recyclable items home whenever possible. These small actions can make a real difference when we all work together.

I plan to continue looking for ways to help our school begin recycling in the future. With enough support and effort, we can turn these ideas into action and make our school a cleaner, more environmentally friendly place.









# *Penguins Get Two Special Days Each Year!*

*By: Nicholas O'Brien*

*Penguins may be best known for their thick feathers and tuxedo-like appearance, but there is much more to these fascinating birds. In fact, penguins are so unique that they have* ***two days*** *dedicated to them every year.*

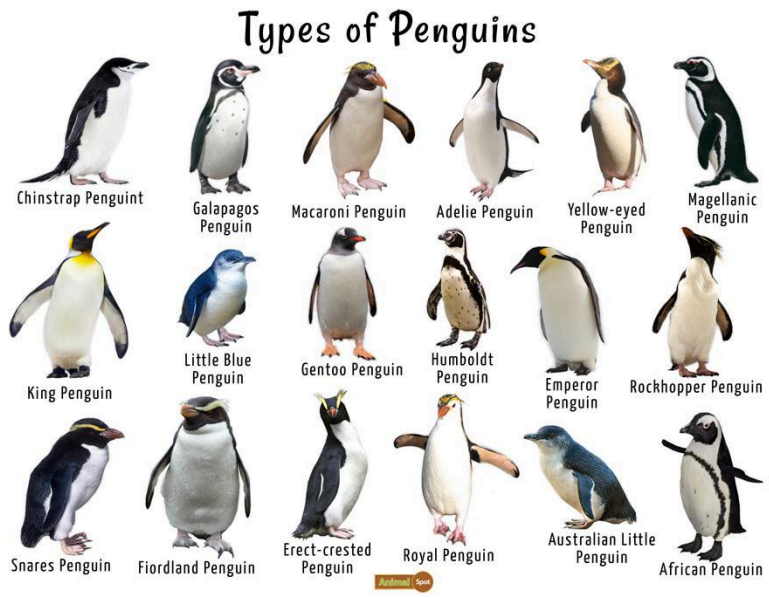
***January 20*** *is celebrated as* ***Penguin Awareness Day****, a time to learn about penguins and the challenges they face in the wild.* ***April 25*** *is known as* ***World Penguin Day****, which highlights penguin conservation and their natural habitats.*

*Penguins are found only in the* ***Southern Hemisphere****, which means—despite what some cartoons show—you will never see penguins and polar bears together in the wild. They are also incredibly well adapted to their environments. Their thick feathers help keep them warm, but so does a layer of fat and their ability to huddle together.*

*There are an estimated 15 to 20 million penguins worldwide, and they come in many sizes, ranging from about 30 centimeters to 1.3 meters tall. The emperor penguin is the largest species, reaching around 120 centimeters (4 feet). Penguins are also one of the most streamlined animals in the world, making them excellent swimmers—even though their closest relatives are birds that can fly.*

*These two penguin-themed days remind us how amazing penguins are and why protecting them is important.*





# New Suggestion Box comes to the cafeteria!

### By Zoe Quelis and Aubrey White

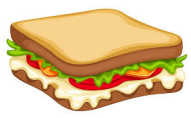









We are excited to share that we have created and placed a suggestion box in the cafeteria! This box is for students to share their ideas for foods they would like to see on our school menu.





If you have a favorite meal, snack, or new food idea, we encourage you to write it down and drop it into the suggestion box. Every idea matters, and your voice can help make our cafeteria even better.





We are very grateful to the cafeteria staff for allowing us to put the suggestion box in the cafeteria. We look forward to collecting and sharing everyone's suggestions to help improve our menu for all students!



# Art Contest Winners Announced!

By: Liam Hazzard, Student Reporter

This month, student artists were asked to draw a penguin on an icy surface in the ocean. Many students entered the art contest, and we loved seeing their creativity! The winners were selected by carefully checking which drawings followed all the contest rules and matched the theme. While many pictures were fun and colorful, only a few showed a penguin on ice in the ocean, just as the rules asked. Congratulations to our winners for following directions and doing a great job! Look out for next month's art contest—and be sure to enter!





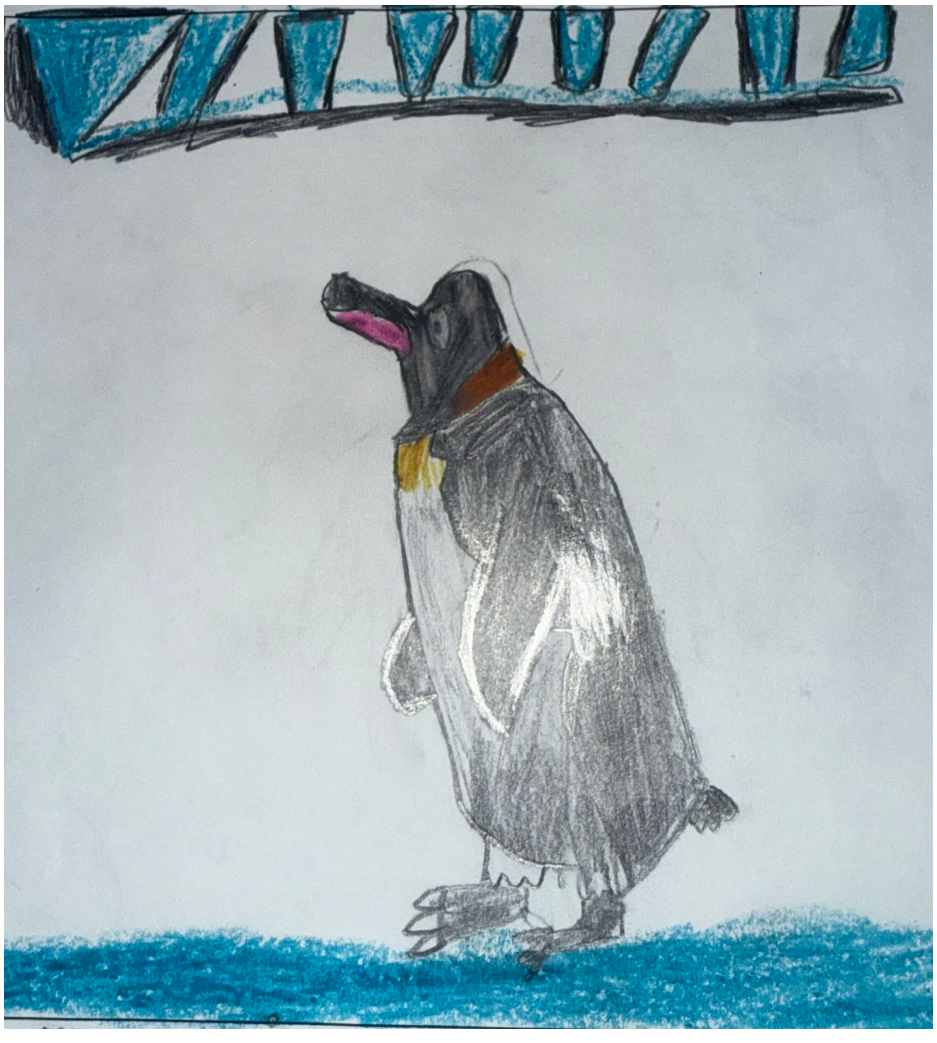

1st place goes to Dylan Perkins in Mrs. Mooney's 5th grade class.






2nd place is awarded to Musa Gelani who is also in Mrs. Mooney's fifth grade class.

# Art Contest Winners Continued...






**Jelmi Rain won the 3rd place prize!**






**Maria Moo won 4th place this month!**



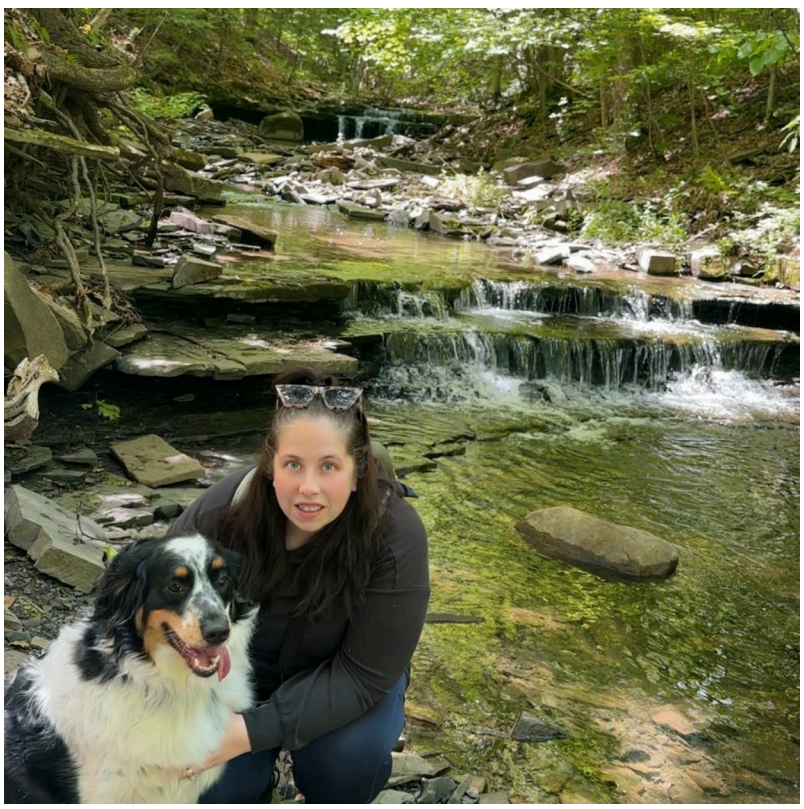





# with **Mrs. Kerr**!

By: Victoria Primeau-Kattes & Denver Williams

We, Victoria and Denver, chose to spotlight Mrs. Kerr because she was our second and third grade teacher. She is one of our favorite teachers ever because she is understanding, funny, and always helpful. Mrs. Kerr has a really great personality and makes learning fun. We are very thankful to have had her as our teacher!



Q: What grade would you NOT like to teach?

A: 6th grade

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Broccoli and Cheese

Q: What's your favorite subject to teach?

A: Reading and Science

Q: Who is your best friend forever?

A: Mrs. Hadden

Q: What is your favorite type of flower?

A: Lily of the Valley

