



PawPrints

April 2025

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 first trimester. From all of us at HMS and *PawPrints*, CONGRATULATIONS! In order of appearance, your winners are:

By: *PawPrints Staff*

- AliviaJaine L. *Citizenship*
- Madisen W. *Work Ethic*
- Jason N. *Leadership*
- Sawyer P. *Scholarship*
- Jananikka S. *Work Ethic*
- Dilnura U. *Citizenship*
- Noah C. *Leadership*
- Savannah B. *Citizenship*
- Nyla A. *Leadership*
- Katie B. *Character*
- Maxwell H. *Citizenship*
- Emily G. *Work Ethic*
- Anish S. *Citizenship*
- Jaylen C. *Citizenship*
- Abigail C. *Work Ethic*
- Jason T. *Leadership*
- Madison M. *Character*



All W.A.T.C.H. winners for the second trimester were invited to a celebration on Tuesday, March 25.

- Aiden R. *Leadership*
- Eleanor H. *Work Ethic*
- Kingsley L. *Scholarship*
- Mi*Yor W. *Work Ethic*
- Avianna A. *Leadership*
- Luke F. *Scholarship*
- Sage D. *Work Ethic*
- Ben N. *Scholarship*
- Kaitlin C. *Work Ethic*
- Zoe L. *Work Ethic/Scholarship*
- Kashmir C. *Character/Leadership*
- Ushang S. *Worth Ethic/Scholarship*
- Saniya S. *Work Ethic/Citizenship*
- Samarth A. *Scholarship/Citizenship*
- Caroline B. *Scholarship/Leadership*

Citizenship

Leadership

Work Ethic

Scholarship



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

By Catherine A.

W.A.T.C.H. is a program that aims to showcase and celebrate Harrington students who go "above and beyond."

The W.A.T.C.H. program has been at Harrington for twelve years. It was started by Mrs. Kathleen Haines, who was the Principal of Harrington Middle School at the time.

Each trimester, HMS faculty and staff select four students from each team. Students are selected because they display one or more of the following traits: *Leadership, Work Ethic, Citizenship, & Scholarship*. Once selected, teachers write a few words about how each student represents the trait(s) for which they were chosen. The students receive recognition during homeroom advisory with a slideshow, followed by a celebration party in the HMS cafeteria.

Congrats to all of the trimester two W.A.T.C.H. winners!

Around the Halls

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

HMS Students Make a Splash at SeaPerch Regional Competition

By: Dhanshika S.

SeaPerch is an underwater robotics competition, where the mission is to build a remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) that can successfully navigate the *Obstacle Course* with the fastest time, and earn the most amount of points for the *Mission Course*. This engaging, exciting program is led by Head Coach Mr. Grundel (7th Grade STEM) and Assistant Coach Ms. Ashman (Spanish). Twenty-four HMS students were chosen to be a part of this amazing program.

Recently, the HMS SeaBots competed in the Regional Competition at Neptune High School on March 29th, 2025. At the regional competition, Teams **Katara** (Aiden, Rishabh, Arkan, Grace, Maria, and Aadya) and **Triton** (Dhanshika, Dhruva, Anuja, Aadhaven, Krushna, and Krivi) competed in the Middle School Division. Teams **Salvatores** (Ben, Aayush, Nischal, Elijah, Arya, and Aarna) and **Athena** (Lydia, Dany, Connor, Hasini, Adhish, and Samarth) competed in the Open Class Division.

The overall score of each team is determined by their Technical Design Report (20%), Obstacle Course (30%), and Mission Course (50%). Team **Triton** from the HMS SeaBots placed first overall in Middle School, and **Katara** placed second overall.

On the other hand, Team **Salvatores** from the HMS SeaBots placed first overall in Open Class, defeating three

middle-school teams and seven high-school teams. Team **Athena** placed third overall. As a result of their placement in the regionals, Teams **Salvatores** and **Triton** will move onto the *International SeaPerch Challenge* (May 31st to June 1st) in College Park, Maryland.

In total, the HMS SeaBots took home nine awards - dominating the competition after a five-year absence from the program. Three of our teams were recognized for their Technical Design Report (TDR), claiming all the pride of winning the whole category. TDR's are the basic journal of the whole process and progress from scratch of the ROV. Team **Triton** placed first, **Katara** placed second, and **Salvatores** placed third.

Final Results:

Technical Design Reports:

- 1st - Triton
- 2nd - Katara
- 3rd - Salvatores

Overall Pool Events:

- 2nd - Salvatores
- 3rd - Triton

Middle School Overall:

- 1st - Triton
- 2nd - Katara

Open Class Overall:

- 1st - Salvatores
- 3rd - Athena

Congratulations to Teams **Salvatores** and **Triton** for moving forward onto the *International SeaPerch Challenge*!



HMS SeaBots took home NINE awards - dominating the competition after a five-year absence from the program.



Around the Halls, Too!



Pumas at the 'Press

By Shawn H.

What EXACTLY is *PawPrints*?

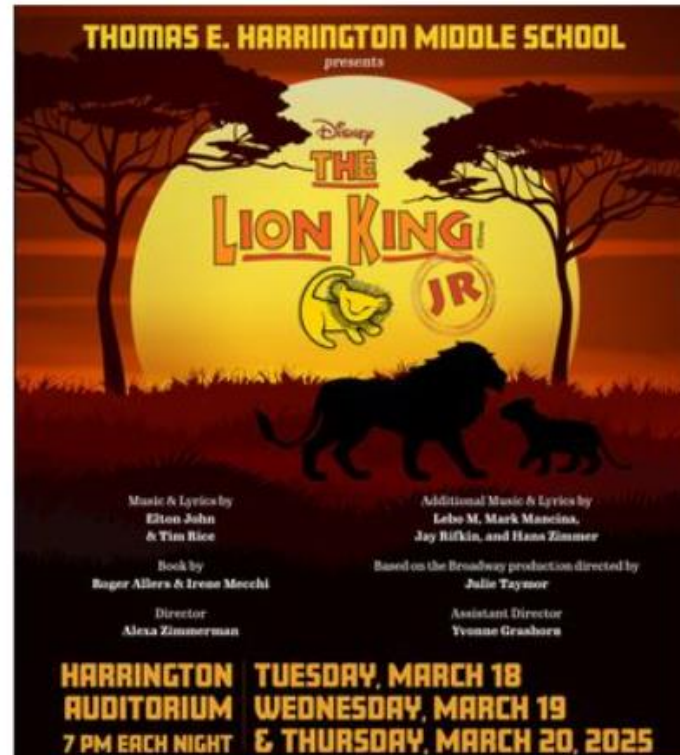
"That's easy; it's what I'm reading right now!" While that is true, *PawPrints* doesn't just appear out of thin air. Its production can take up to two weeks of hard work and dedication. I know what you're thinking. You're probably thinking "Two weeks? How does it take two weeks to put a bunch of words on a page?" And while you're thinking that I might be a little psychic, I'll tell you about how *PawPrints* goes to print.

While *PawPrints* isn't alive like you and me, one thing that it has in common with us is a heart. That heart comes in the form of our reporters. Just like the heart, we pump out articles about the happenings at Harrington, but the latest in technology, sports, entertainment, and a variety of other topics as well. But before you can read our work, there's a few steps to the process.

First, well, you have to join *PawPrints*. This is accomplished using a permission slip and, of course, the official *PawPrints* Google Classroom. Next is the ideation phase. Reporters look for the freshest topics and choose the things that they want to write about.

Speaking of writing, that's the next step. This one step can take a week or more between drafting, editing, fact-checking, and formatting; this way, we can make sure we're bringing you the most up-to-date, unbiased news from around the world. Once the writing for that month's edition is finished, all of our articles are compiled for editing and revision. Once each article has been proofed, Mr. Dalesandro, our advisor, puts all of our articles together using the Book Creator app. This is a very lengthy process, as each article has to be reformatted and placed appropriately. It is in this stage that any pictures can be added.

(continued on next page)



Images (clockwise)

HMS show bill for 'The Lion King Junior'; special showing during tech week; BookMates returns to HMS; 7-C students prepare to greet Cooper's Poynt students for BookMates; 'Circle of Life'

Around the Halls, Too!



'Pumas'

Continued from previous page.

Once this first formatted draft of the paper is finished, it goes to Mr. Besler for final review and approval. From there, all that is left is publishing and printing! Mrs. McKeown uploads a PDF version of the paper to the school website for instant access. Mr. Dalesandro runs copies for the main office and HMS library. And there you have it, a brand-new edition of PawPrints!

You might be thinking, "That's great and all, but what's the point of all this?" Well, I guess it was to show you that all great things take hard work and dedication. The same can be said for all of us! Just as in the creation of a humble school paper, it takes hard work to get to our full potential!

Note: Not all reporters were available for comment at the time of this article.



Natalie B.

My name is Natalie! I am an eighth grader here at HMS, and am involved PawPrints, Battle of the Books, and Theater Club. When I'm not in school, you'll find me reading, painting, or watching the Yankees. I also love listening to music. My favorite artists are Zach Bryan & Olivia Rodrigo!



Catherine A.

My name is Catherine, and I'm a 7th-grader. My favorite subjects in school are math and science. I play volleyball & tennis. I also play the piano. I love to read and travel.



Lela C.

My name is Lela. I'm an 8th grader. I write about Philly Sports in the newspaper.



Yashvi R.

Hi! My name is Yashvi. I like playing the violin, and I also like swimming. I like to call myself funny.



Shawn H.

Hey! I'm just a guy who really likes to write for fun. Hope you enjoy this issue, we really worked hard on it!



Aayush S.

Hello everyone! I'm in 7th grade, & I love playing video games, swimming, and basketball. I'm also in SeaPerch, Student Council, NJHS, & Battle of the Books. I strive for good grades and hope to become fluent in Spanish. I love the Eagles, and my favorite books are the Harry Potter series.



Dhanshika S.

Hey Guys! I'm Dhanshika, an 8th-grader, & I'm in many clubs. They include: WHMS, SeaPerch, Cougar Express, & Stage Crew. My hobbies are swimming, dancing, painting, etc. I enjoy watching TV & spending time with friends & family. My goal this year is to live my life in the moment, not in the past or future.



Nischal V.

Hi! My name is Nischal, and I love to play tennis. My favorite player is Jannick Sinner who recently won the Australian Open. I also like to swim & play basketball. I love to play video games and also participate in NJHS & SeaPerch.

National News

TORPEDO BATS: BASEBALL'S LATEST CONTROVERSY

By Natalie B.

Shouldn't this be in the 'Sports' Section? NOPE!

The 2025 Major League Baseball season is already shaping up to be one of the most riveting and unpredictable seasons. Baseball is evolving before our very eyes as teams are relying on science, a mix of physics and cutting-edge technology, to improve performance and make the sport more exciting than ever to watch. Enter the Torpedo Bat.

Over their first three games against the Milwaukee Brewers, the New York Yankees hit a total of 15 home runs, tying the league record. The Brooklyn Bombers also hit a franchise record in the Saturday game of the series, with a final score of 20-9 (including 9 homeruns). The reason for these stellar statistics? Their bats.

Some of the Yankees top hitters have started using "Torpedo Bats," so-named because of their shape resembling a torpedo. These

bats are customized to the players "sweet spot" to insure a solid swing at the ball every at-bat. They do this by moving the barrel of the bat (the thickest part) to where the hitter is most likely to hit the ball. This ensures that the baseball is contacting the barrel most of the time.

This new-age bat was invented by MIT physicist and Yankees analyst Aaron Leanhardt, who is now a field coordinator for the Marlins. Some of the players who started using this bat are Anthony Volpe, Jazz Chisolm, Cody Bellinger, Paul Goldschmidt, and Austin Wells. All of these players got home runs in the opening series. Another ballplayer who started using the Torpedo Bat was Alec Bohm of the Phillies, who also debuted the new season a massive two-run RBI on opening day.

Currently, these Torpedo Bats *DO* follow Major League Baseball rules and regulations. Will this always be the case? Time will tell on that!



'National' April Celebrations

First week in April: National Public Health Week: A week dedicated to promoting public health awareness.

April: Earth Month: A month-long period focused on environmental awareness and action.

April 18-27: National Dance Week: A week dedicated to celebrating and promoting dance.

April 21-25: National Administrative Professionals Week: A week to recognize administrative professionals.

April 24-26: Gathering of Nations: An annual gathering of Native American communities.

April 27-May 3: National Preservation Week: A week focused on promoting the preservation of cultural resources.



Severe Storms Slam Midwest

By Nischal V.

Across the Midwestern United States, citizens were being hit with severe rainfall and dozens of tornadoes. As of April 8th, 2025, twenty-two people across several states have lost their lives to these devastating storms.

The cause of the severe weather? Well, the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC) says that the storms are caused by the warm air from the Gulf of Mexico (America) and the cold air from places in Canada clashing in the Midwestern United States. The rising air cools down, causing water vapor to condense into thunder clouds. The cold and hot air also cause atmospheric instability, creating tornadoes with varying levels of intensity.

The image on the right shows a map of the severity of the storms across the United States. As we can see, it is at its most severe in states such as Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Arkansas, and Missouri, where most of the deaths have occurred.

As of April 8th, 2025, overflowing rivers have flooded cities such as Frankfort, Kentucky, causing evacuation in some areas. Flashflood warnings have been issued to many places in the Midwest. The storms are predicted to come to a end by April 10-11, 2025.





Philly Sports Update

By Lela C.

**All Scores and Stats
Standings as of April 1st**

Eagles

On March 12th the Eagles traded CJ Gardner Johnson and a 2026 sixth-round pick to the Houston Texans for Kenyon Green and a 2025 fifth-round draft pick. This was very controversial for many fans because CJGJ was a player that fans definitely loved; many were shocked that he was being traded.

There is also much controversy over whether or not the Eagles will be permitted to keep the "Tush-Push" or if it's going to be banned. Eagles fans definitely think it should stay, feeling that there's no reason it should be banned.

Phillies

The Phillies are off to a great start this season starting 3-1. They currently have the fifth-best odds to win the World Series. Fans have great hopes for this season based on their pre-season performance, as well as how well they

have been playing! Fans think we have a shot at a run this year!

Sixers

The Sixers only have two weeks left of the season, as they are officially out of playoff contention. The Sixers have started tanking, which cuts their chances to get an early first-round pick of the 2025 draft to help them next season. There is a chance that Joel Embiid would be out for some of next season because of injuries. Fans have really high hopes for the draft. Many fans also think that Paul George will be traded this offseason since his current season did not go as planned.

Flyers

John Tortorella, Flyers' former head coach, was recently fired on March 27. Brad Shaw has been temporarily promoted to fill in Tortorella's position. Shaw says that the Flyers bench is looking "lighter" since the Tortorella firing. Fans hope this was the right decision for this team since their current record is 31-36-9.

MARCH MADNESS 2025

By Aayush S.

March Madness is a college tournament where all the top 68 Division I teams play a single-elimination tournament. A popular March Madness tradition is to make a bracket in order to map-out/predict which teams will win. This year's National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) March Madness tournament had its exciting moments, but, at the same time, it could be monotonous during some parts.

Seeding Process: To determine which teams will be compete against one-another, all 68 teams are matched based on their number of wins. The top-seeded teams (the teams with the most wins) play the lowest-seeded teams (the teams with the least wins) and the bracket is split into four divisions. The 6 rounds are the First Round, Second Round, Sweet 16, Elite 8 (quarterfinals), Final 4 (semifinals), and the National Championships.

The first March Madness tournament was held in 1939 and Oregon was the first ever winner. Between 1967-1973 UCLA won 7 championships in a row. Currently, UCLA has won the most championships with 11, then Kentucky has 8, and North Carolina and UConn are tied with 6.

Compared to the NBA, the games are played quite differently. The biggest change is instead of four quarters with 12 minutes each, they play two halves with 20 minutes each. Also, March Madness overtime is played in five-minute sessions compared to the twelve-minutes in the NBA. There are also a few rule changes such as: the shot

clock being longer, a shorter 3-point line, etc.

This year, the bracket had been pretty dull, with only a couple of "major" upsets. Some upsets included tenth-seed Arkansas Razorbacks beating the second-seed St. John's Red Storm. Another included the twelfth-seed Colorado State Rams beating the fifth-seed Memphis Tigers.

This year, the teams in the final four were the one-seed Auburn Tigers, the one-seed Duke Blue Devils, the one-seed Houston Cougars, and the one-seed Florida Gators. Houston beat Duke and the Florida beat Auburn. The championship game was between the Florida Gators and the Houston Cougars. The game was both close and intense. In the end, however, the Florida Gators came back from a 12-point deficit and won the game 65-63.

Fun Facts:

- This is the first time since 2008 that four one-seed teams made it to the final four - making it only the second time in history.
- There is only a 1 in 9.2 quintillion chance to fully predict a March Madness bracket correctly.
- Only two 16-seed teams have ever beaten a one-seed team.
- The closest person to fully predict a March Madness bracket is a man in Ohio who correctly predicted 49 out of 67 games.