



## John E. Joy Tigers Roar into Heart Month with Cardio Fitness Week

During the week of February 5th, John E. Joy Elementary students embraced the American Heart Association Cardio Fitness Week in their physical education classes. They got their bodies moving and fostered a commitment to cardiovascular well-being.

Cardio challenges included wall climbing, basketball, hula hoop, step-up, jump rope, and dancing to videos.

"We are excited to participate in this year's Kids Heart Challenge. Our John Joy students' generosity and hard work have almost reached our goal in the first week. We hope this is the first of many years working with the American Heart Association. Go John Joy Tigers", PE Teacher Coordinator for K-6, Renee Bledsoe, and Physical Education Teacher, Sara Scott.



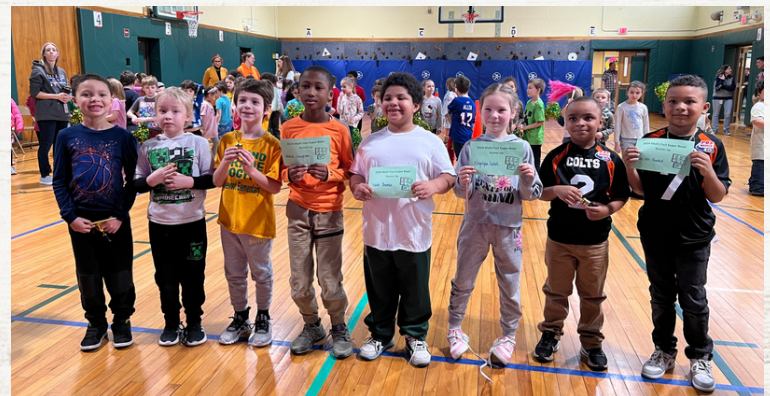


# Gansevoort Math Fact Super Bowl Challenge

Gansevoort Elementary held its annual Math Fact Super Bowl Challenge on February 9, 2024. The crowd was decked out in their team apparel with a Super Bowl theme. They donned pompoms and signs to cheer on the 1st-6th graders. The event encourages students to practice their fact accuracy and speed throughout the month. "Each grade level focused on facts that their students are required to master. There was a class competition where the top performers advanced each week," said Cheryl Corr, 4th grade teacher.

The two final "math fact champs" from each class was announced and competed in the final round.

Fourth through sixth grades completed multiplication, and the younger grades completed addition.



1st and 2nd grade winners



4th through 6th grade winners





# Strough Drama Club - Frozen JR.

Strough Middle School presented Disney's "Frozen JR." on February 1-3 2024. Photos of the cast and crew! Thank you to Amanda Knamm, Musical Director, and Sarah Anderson, Vocal Director.





# RFA Hockey Team Scores Big: Cultivating Character, Leadership, and Community Bonds



*Pictured: RFA Hockey team, Head Coach Jason Nowicki, Assistant Coach, Dave Petrelli, and Principal, Brian LeBaron.*

During January Regents Week, the RFA Hockey team continued its tradition of community engagement by visiting elementary schools to read stories to K-6 students. The team also actively participated in a skating event with Ridge Mills kindergarteners. The players demonstrated dedication to community service throughout the season by supporting the Rome Youth Hockey Association's Learn-to-Skate program and volunteering as referees at the Roy Austin Mite Festival in February.

Recognizing their contributions, RFA Principal, Brian LeBaron awarded certificates to each athlete, emphasizing the values of character and leadership within the school.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys are having a great year finishing the regular season at 16-4 and were state ranked during the season. They started their sectional run on Feb 23. Uzziah Grimes reached the 1,000 point milestone and career scoring leader as a junior.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

They started off slow this year needing to find their identity after losing D-1 player Amya McLeod. They lost their 4 of their first 5 games but they found themselves winning 7 in a row and finishing the season 13-8. They won the TVL Colonial title. They lost a heartbreaker to B-Ville in sectionals 43-42. A young team with only 2 seniors so they will be a force next year.

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The defending Section 3 champs lost a lot of seniors last year but didn't lose a beat this year. Under the leadership of Liz Hanba, Kassity Cruz, Mary Barrett and Thylia Keoviengsamay guiding the new players and led to the an 18-2 record Co-TVL Champs and in the sectional finals. They had a 10 game win streak and won 30 sets in a row at one point. With only 3 seniors, they will continue to make noise in section 3.

## BOYS VOLLEYBALL

In only their second year as a program, they continue to get better every week. They started the year 2-6 and at this time they are now 8-9. Led by Max Hildenbran kills and Elijah Pomales assists, this team will be one team others will not want to see in sectionals.

## RFA WINTER SPORTS 2023-2024

### INDOOR TRACK

These teams had a very productive year and as always, this will get them ready for the outdoor season where RFA is always successful. RFA is sending 2 girls to the states, Malaysia Thomas and Imani Pugh. Malaysia was Section 3 champion for the weight throw.

### BOYS SWIMMING

They finished 8-5 and their only losses came to the two teams in section 3 (NH & Coop). This is a very young team with only 3 Seniors so good things ahead for rfa swim. Will D'agata broke the school dive record and qualified for States again.

### BOYS WRESTLING

The numbers grew from 6 to almost 20 this year under first year Head Coach Ty Knamm. They couldn't compete with most programs being a young team but they will be a force in the next few years as they continue to grow. They have 20 returning next year. Look out for them.

### ALPINE SKIING

RFA finished second in the sectional competition and had 4 members qualify for the States coming up at Whiteface Mtn. next week. Sierra and Bella Wood qualified for the girls and Austin Howard and Jake Vaccaro for the boys.

Not bad for a second year program.

## COMBINED WINTER RECORD

# 112-44

## BOYS BOWLING

This team finished 9-3 on the season and 3rd place in the TVL. The highlight of their season was the 8-3 upset win over Sec 3 champ New Hartford. Brandon Crisan, Jordan Hluska and Jon Langone all hit over 700 during the year.

## GIRLS BOWLING

Another magical year as they finished 14-0 (85-2 since 2017) and won the Section 3 title for large schools. Sarah Street qualified for the state tournament and first team TVL all-Star. Mylie Weygant, Sophia Iglesias-Tosti, Olivia Hluska also were first team All-Star. Street finished with 203 avg. and a 265 high 10. Weygant also had a 265 and Tosti had High30 with a 729.

## BOYS ICE HOCKEY

RFA hockey is back and playing for a Section 3 title for the first time in 10 years. They are now 18-4 and state ranked. They play West Genesee Monday, Feb 26th. Great offense led by Sharrino, Lokker, Marchione and tough defense led by Van Wie and goalie Donte Sparace.

## GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

A combined team of Clinton and RFA players, this team finished 7-4-1 before losing to Section 3 champs Skaneateles in the semis. RFA players are Sydney Mendiola, Alexa Thompson, and Kelsey Fuller. This team had only 2 seniors so good luck next year.



# Rome Student Art Show

The Rome Student Art Show's opening reception was held at the Rome Art and Community Center on February 9. The exhibition featured 96 works of art from kindergarten to 12th grade and is on display throughout February.



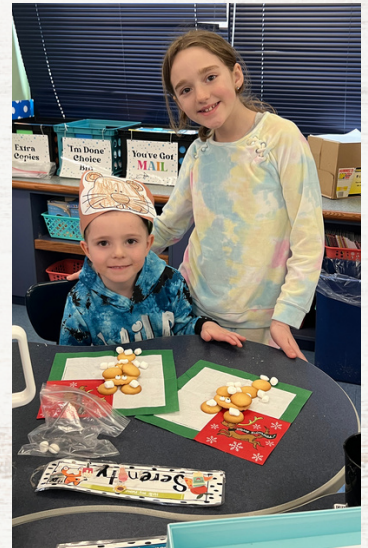


# Bellamy Kindergarten's Groundhog Day Fun: Collaboration with 5th Graders



In Mary Muttillo's Kindergarten classroom at **Bellamy Elementary**, students have been preparing for their Groundhog Day classroom celebration on February 2. Muttillo explained, "We initiated our groundhog studies by exploring basic facts about groundhogs, including their dietary needs and habitats." The students also created a prediction chart and learned that predictions are educated guesses people make about different things. They use the prediction chart to discuss numbers in math, including concepts like greater than and less than. Fifteen students predicted Punxsutawney Phil would see his shadow, while seven did not. However, the groundhog didn't see his shadow, indicating an early spring.

Wearing their Groundhog Day crowns, the students enjoyed a snack and visited Cassandra Ohlbaum-Horst's 5th-grade classroom for a collaborative activity, making a groundhog out of cookies and marshmallows.





# RFA Top Ten 2024 Announced



*Left to right front row: Salutatorian, Alicia Tourtelot, Mary Hapanowicz, Alexis Wilcox, Alyssa D'Aiuto, and Evie Denton.*

*Left to right top row: Alexander Rizzo Valedictorian, Ellis Pomaes III, Carson Campbell, Kennedy Bowen, and Samuel Hilderbran.*

The Rome Free Academy Top Ten Class of 2024 was announced on February 9th. The Valedictorian is Alexander Rizzo and the Salutatorian is Alicia Tourtelot. Rizzo, 17, is the son of Lucy Burke and Jim Rizzo of Rome. Tourtelot, 17, is the daughter of Tonia Tourtelot of Rome.



Finishing out the top ten in alphabetical order are Kennedy Bowen, Carson Campbell, Alyssa D'Aiuto, Evie Denton, Mary Hapanowicz, Samuel Hilderbran, Ellis Pomaes III, and Alexis Wilcox.

*Congratulations to these students on their outstanding achievement!*



Black Knights JV Winterguard 2024



Black Knights Varsity Winterguard 2024

Let's pack the RFA main gym and support our Black Knights Winterguard!

## COPPER CITY CLASSIC WINTERGUARD SHOW

MARCH 16, 2024 ▸ 4:00 PM ▸ RFA MAIN GYM

## 2024-25 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**Monday, March 4 through Friday, March 8**

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

ALL kindergarten registrations will take place at your child's home school, except for evening registration:

**Evening Registration: Wednesday, March 6**

3:00-6:00 p.m. - District Office, 409 Bell Road, Rome, NY

