

# Valentine's Day

Third Edition

Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## PANTHER PRESS

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### Staff Spotlight: Mr. Thomas

Benjamin Thomas, also called Mr. Thomas, is a beloved member of the custodial team here at Watkins. He has been working at Watkins and cleaning up our messes for fifteen years! That's a long time! He says that he likes his job as a custodian, and he likes it here at Watkins. Mr. Thomas has been honored to be one of our custodial staff. Let's try to keep it that way by being mindful of where we put our trash and by flushing the toilets after we use them. Thank you, Mr. Thomas!

### More Sports!

#### GOTR

Watkins also has a Girls on the Run team this Spring!



Ms. Kraemer, Ms. Dosunmu, Ms. Christine, Ms. Laura, and Ms. Sullivan all run Girls on the Run. Get it? They "Run" Girls on the "Run"! Anyway!

Girls on the Run is for girls from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, and allows girls to make friends and run with girls of different ages. Also, it ends with a 5K race that has girls from different schools in D.C. Registration opened Monday. The season starts March 4<sup>th</sup>. Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school.

Ms. Kraemer thinks girls can change their minds about what they can do. Ms. Sullivan says girls will learn how to be kind to themselves and each other, while also learning how to run a 5K. Wow!



### Sports Section: Cheerleading

Watkins has a new cheerleading team!

Mallorie in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is on the cheerleading team. She thinks the team is fun, hard, and requires teamwork. She feels that if you work hard enough, you can be where you need to be on the team. She likes cheerleading because it is interesting and not as common of a sport.

The cheer team will cheer on the boys' basketball team for the first time at their next home game.

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### Even More Sports! Boys' Basketball



The boys' basketball season started this week! We sat down with Watkins' basketball coach, Mr. Hill to ask him why he does what he does.

Mr. Hill said that he loves training young athletes. “I always said if I had a coach that put 100% effort into me when I was young, I would have benefited from it, so I wanted to be that for kids.”

We also asked Mr. Hill what he loves most about the game. “I love to win but most of all I love to see kids grow and become better people and players.”

The boys’ basketball season started Monday, with an opening home game against Savoy Elementary. The final score was 30-8 Watkins! The team went on to score 23-15 against Turner at their first away game Wednesday. We can’t wait to keep cheering on our boys’ basketball team!



Staff photographer: Kamryn McIntyre

## Questions for Admin



Have you heard that the playground is getting remodeled?

Well, the Panther Press asked Principal Berkowitz and found out that it's not getting remodeled until the summer of 2025 or 2026! The swing is not getting fixed with that renovation.



## About Our School

For this month’s About Our School section, we wanted to know: What is on the 5th floor???

Everyone knows what's on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors, but no one knows what's on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. You might be thinking it's the most amazing thing ever, but it turns out it's just construction equipment: we found cardboard and things to fix windows. Also, there are 2 rooms on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor: the room to fix elevators and the room to get to the roof of Watkins. Now you know!

Do you have something YOU want to know about our school? Contact a member of the Panther Press staff. We’d love to hear from you!

## Oops Section:

*Everybody makes mistakes!*

1. In last edition’s article about clubs at Watkins, we missed the Equalizers Club, the Comic Club, and the Math Club. Sorry!
2. The girls’ basketball game we reported on in our last edition was forfeited.

## Student Opinions



This month, we asked 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to share their opinions about Watkins. Here’s what they said:

What is your favorite thing about 5<sup>th</sup> grade?

- Amir: It’s fun and funny.

How do you feel about Watkins?

- Daniel: I love it! Everything 1000/10 percent!

Do you feel respected at Watkins?

- Harmony: Yes, a million percent!

## Letters to the Editor (NEW!)

*Want to write a letter to the Panther Press staff? Deliver it to room 315. We’d love to read it!*

Dear Panther Press Staff,

I have very much enjoyed reading our Watkins School Newspaper!

While in middle school and high school I worked on the staff of my school newspaper, so I understand the challenge and responsibility of putting out an entertaining paper regularly for everyone to read. Bravo! You are doing an awesome job!

On the subject of math, I have one addition to make to your recent list of Watkins Clubs. Watkins currently has not 1, not 2, but three different Math Clubs.

Ms. Josephs and Ms. Mackie host a club for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders on Tuesday morning from 8:10 – 8:40. I host two math clubs for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 – 8:40, and for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders (and a few 2<sup>nd</sup> graders) on Friday mornings from 8:05 to 8:40.

Would you consider printing an addition or correction in an upcoming issue? I would be most grateful.

I wish you every success with your endeavor!

Love,  
Ms. Goedeke

*Thank you, Ms. Goedeke. We loved getting your letter! Also, we have printed a correction.*  
-Panther Press Staff

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## Panther Press Staff



**Co-Editors:** Elinor Cissna, Scarlett Maese, Kamryn McIntyre

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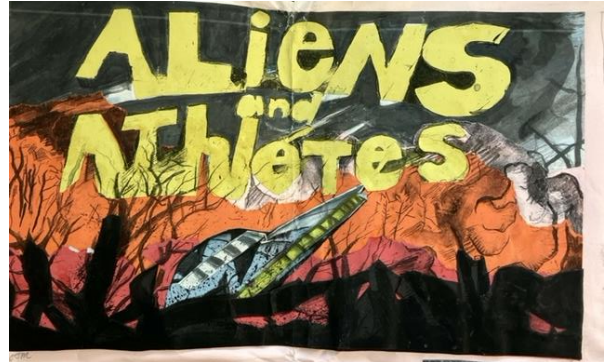
**Photographer:** Kamryn McIntyre

**Games/Puzzles:** Iara Huttinger, Ramsay Thomas

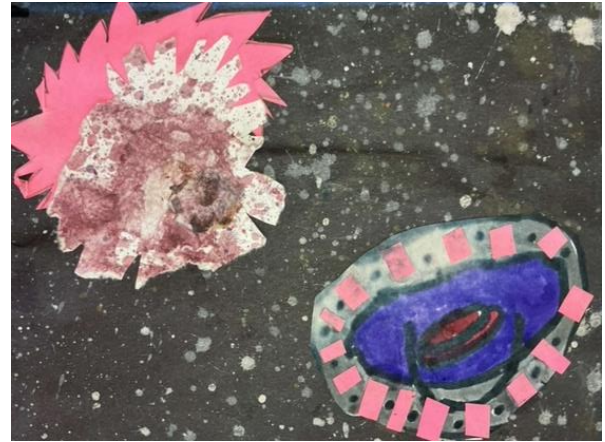
**Staff Advisor:** Ms. Sullivan

## Comics Section (NEW!)

Thank you to Mr. Harris and Watkins' very own Comic Club, including Ilina, Phoebe, Dameon, Malcom, Bennett, Zoey, Xavier, Evan, Josiah, Nora, Josie, Mecca, Mateo, Ellison, Chloe, Kayin, Raniyah, and Van!



*Beyond the galactic rim...*



Stay tuned for the next installment!

# Games and Puzzles!

Answers will appear in the next edition.

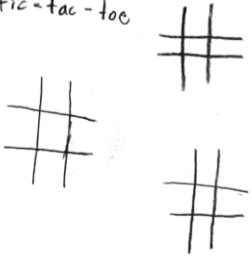
## Word search

M l g n i d a e l r e e h c k e k e z i n k  
 k s z m w i z a f i g g a j x o n w e  
 w h k a p r h g a s f o x i o k s  
 p n e w s p a p e r j x z c s u o  
 h a e j l m n o p o l g w k c e

1. cheerleading
2. newspaper
3. awesome

## Partner game's!

tic-tac-toe



Hang man



## Figure out the Message!

how to play! 😊

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r
s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	

1. Each number has a letter. Let's say that I want to spell fun!

2. There is a letter under the number → find the message!

7 15  
 23 1 20 11 9 14 14  
 16 1 14 20 8 5 18 14

Answers to last edition's puzzles:

**Across**

1. DUE school name.
2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ at this school.
3. When it isint raining its \_\_\_\_\_

**Down**

1. We are \_\_\_\_\_
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ are
- hardest in school.

its

I	Z	P	C	Q	N	U	M	W	S	D	F	M	W
B	A	S	K	E	T	B	A	L	L	T	O	A	A
M	L	G	A	W	L	R	P	R	I	D	E	T	O
K	E	P	A	N	T	H	E	R	O	R	S	H	O
J	K	J	R	N	L	Z	S	V	I	K	T	A	W

withins  
 Panther  
 Math

basketball  
 Pride

Thank you for playing!