

Checktowaga-Sloan



Union Free School District

Budget Issue 2023

Superintendent's Message

It is with sincere gratitude that you take a few moments to read this comprehensive District Newsletter which features the proposed 2023-2024 Budget. There is important information included for your review as you prepare to cast your vote on May 16, 2023 when our annual Budget Vote takes place at John F. Kennedy High School.

It is important for me to begin by sharing that last summer, our Leadership Team made the strongest commitment possible to brainstorm, plan and be ready for implementation of what we referred to as a **District Positivity Push**. This intense planning resulted in what we believe has been one of the most successful, positive, rewarding, and extraordinary years to date. Each school developed specific building plans that focused on engaging students in school-wide activities, increasing overall school spirit, building relationships, and creating school environments of pride, respect, safety, and trust.

Through this **Positivity Push**, we have recognized a marked decrease in student discipline in all schools which in turn has encouragingly impacted the culture in each building to be one of support, joy, care, leadership, positivity, enhanced relationships, and excitement. This combined effort to improve the cultures in our schools has been a joint effort with strong dedication from everyone working in our schools along with all of our parents/guardians at home. We have been so proud to observe our school events be so well attended which proves how the positive energy of our students has spread to our parents, family members, and our

community.

While attending our most recent drama production, *Oklahoma, I couldn't* help but notice how many students, parents, grandparents, and community members filled our magnificent auditorium to celebrate and honor all of our performers. In fact, one parent sitting in front of me turned around to share that she didn't even have any children in the production but still came to support the event. We both shared how impressed we were with the acting and singing and what incredible talent our students have in our District. We laughed and smiled all night long!



Along with our District Positivity Push, another area that we focused on enhancing in all schools this year was **Restorative Practices**. We have been partnering with the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition (ECRJC) for the past four years and this year, we were eager to strongly concentrate on what is referred to as **Restorative Circles**. We are incredibly proud that the use of Restorative Circles is taking place in all classrooms and schools in our District beginning as early as in our PreK Classrooms. Please ask your child or grandchild about their experiences participating in these **Circles** and how it

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has positively impacted them in some way.

During our Superintendent Conference Day on March 17th,

I participated in a learning session on Restorative Practices and was overwhelmed with joy in hearing feedback from one of our PreK teachers. She shared how much the children look forward to these Circles and how they let her know if she has forgotten to conduct a Circle for any particular day. That proved to me just how meaningful this time is for our students to engage in **Restorative Circles** which gives them the opportunity to talk, share, listen, and develop positive relationships with their peers, teachers, staff members and administrators. All children and even us as adults can benefit from this important time to get to know one another, to learn from each other, and to create meaningful connections.



continued on next page.



CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

District Office 716-891-6402

We even extended the invitation to our parents/guardians this year to learn about Restorative Practices and to engage in Restorative Circles so that families know how much we value this experience for our students and the reasons why. We would like to thank everyone who participated and hope that you gained valuable knowledge and hands on experience about Restorative Practices specifically the Circles and why that component is such an important part of our day in all schools. We look forward to continuing our great work with the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition as we look for ways to strengthen our partnership and pursue additional work with Restorative Circles in all of our schools PreK-12.

As we think about the *District Positivity Push* that has taken place in our schools this year, one thing that we believe is contributing to the increased excitement is our proposed *Cheektowaga-Sloan District Beautification & Athletic Facility Enhancement Capital Project 2023*. On February 8, 2023, the District made a special announcement about this anticipated project which includes the following enhancements:



JFK Middle/High School

Multipurpose Turf Field-to be used for football, soccer, practices for various sports, physical education classes, and outside events

Multipurpose Field Lighting Installations-to be used for evening events

Installation of a brand new Electronic/ Video Score Board on our Multipurpose Field—this will have video capability for special nighttime events

New Concession Building—this will include Restrooms, Concessions area & Storage—it will have a central location for access during sporting practices/games and District-wide events for all to use and enjoy

Exterior Signage Upgrades—New modern electronic sign installed

Field House

Interior Building Improvements—upgrades will be made to modernize our current Field House to create a fresh, updated appearance

Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

Installation of a brand new Playground—age appropriate equipment for our intermediate level students, grades 3-5

Exterior Signage Upgrades—New modern electronic sign installed

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School

Installation of a brand new Playground—age appropriate for our primary students, grades PreK-2

Exterior Signage Upgrades—New modern electronic sign installed

It is most important to share with our community that we were able to develop a plan to pay for this proposed \$8.5million dollar project in full with money that we have thoughtfully saved so that our community will not have any additional taxes imposed on them. If successfully approved on May 16th, this project will have **no tax impact** on our community members. We invite you to please look at the conceptual images created by District Architects, Young + Wright Architectural, that will be on display in the John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium on



May 16, 2023 during our Budget Vote. **Please note that you can also find these conceptual images within the center portion of this newsletter.** We hope that these conceptual images will provide our community with an idea of the amazing improvements that we hope to bring to all children in our District PreK-12. We are beyond thrilled to bring this proposed project forward to our voters and hope that with your support, we are able to observe this project evolve into reality for all to appreciate and enjoy. As the leader of our tremendous District, it is important for me to express how truly heartwarming it has been to develop a project that we know will bring joy, excitement, and a deep sense of pride to all of our students, families, and our community for many years to come. This is a special time for me and for all of us here in the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District. We all thank you for your support on May 16th!



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We are committed to our taxpayers, as we have been for the last eleven years, in fighting for what we believe in and what we feel our community fairly deserves. We have continued to make reductions when we can and where we are able to without losing quality programming and staffing for our PreK-12 students. We hope that our community continues to recognize that it is through our closely controlled saving actions that we have been able to remain below the tax cap since 2013 with an **average of only a 0.36% increase over the last eleven years**. We are extremely proud of this record and are inspired and optimistic that we can uphold this reputation now and for many years to come. We are once again asking for the partnership and help of our taxpayers on May 16, 2023.

What will be asking for from our taxpayers?

We will be asking for a **0.46% increase** in school taxes which is below the **District's Tax Cap of 2.13%**.

How much will my taxes increase as a result of a 0.46% increase?

As we have done each year, we have taken a sample of homes from within our District to determine the estimated increase in annual taxes on the average home. The average increase for an average home will be approximately **\$11.26**. Please remember that this is the **total increase for the entire year**.

Each year as we attentively develop, prepare and bring forward the proposed budget to our community, it is important for us to express to our taxpayers that we are comprehensive, insightful, and conscientious of the impact that any increase, even if very small, has on our community especially at present, where we are experiencing an extremely elevated inflation rate. We continue to take pride in **our record of a 0.36% increase in taxes over the last eleven years** which we believe cannot be found in any other school districts in Western New York. We have and will continue to make our highest priority be one that safeguards the District's tax levy so that it is as low as possible for our taxpayers.

I encourage you to attend our **Public Hearing on May 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Theodore Roosevelt Cafetorium. I also hope you exercise your right to vote on May 16, 2023 at our District Budget Vote which will take place in the gymnasium at John F. Kennedy High School from 12:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The evening of the Budget Vote, we hope that you will take advantage of our traditional hot dog dinner that you can buy for just **one dollar** (hot dog, chips, drink). We hope that you will then enjoy your meal with your friends and family in our JFK HS Cafeteria. Since last year was such a success, we decided to once again include a unique sundae bar free of charge for all to enjoy! Throughout the evening,



you will find our students engaged in musical performances in the JFK HS Auditorium and their delightful artwork will be on display in the gymnasium. This year, we will also be offering students the opportunity to create artwork at a crafting table and we will also have a drama table and technology display for our community to experience. We are thrilled about this upcoming event and look forward to greeting and intermingling with our students, staff, families and community.

Thank you for your time in reading this thorough newsletter which hopefully captures what we value and consider to be most important as we educate and support all of our students each day. We are beyond proud of our learners this school year, we are truly appreciative of the positive relationships we have made with our parents and community, and we thank you so very much for entrusting us with your children each day. We have the greatest responsibility in the world—to work with your precious children each day and to provide them with the highest quality education possible so that they flourish in our schools and into the future.

With sincere gratitude,

Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools





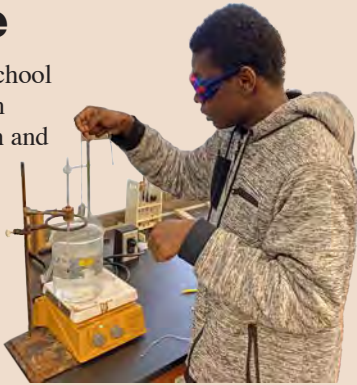
JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 • Robert N. Julian, Jr., Principal

Main Office 716-897-7300

JFK's Academic Update

At JFK High School we take pride in providing a rich and well-rounded education for all students. For example, students once again achieved college credit through a variety of Advanced Placement courses and through our continued partnerships with Niagara University and Erie Community College. In January 2023, we were pleased to introduce mid-term examinations in each of our science courses as well; these rigorous assessments not only provided students with an important preparatory experience, but also yielded valuable data for our teachers as they studied student performance. Furthermore, we continued to offer educational support systems for students including our daily Academic Learning Center (ALC) and both fall and spring remediation classes in core subject areas, physical education, and Spanish. As we look ahead to June, our students and teachers are diligently preparing for year-end assessments including a full schedule of AP Exams, Regents Exams, and local finals. We pride ourselves on our work inside the classroom--well done students and teachers!



JFK HS student completes an experiment in Chemistry class.

Placement courses and through our continued partnerships with Niagara University and Erie Community College. In January 2023, we were pleased to introduce mid-term examinations in each of our science courses as well; these rigorous assessments not only provided students with an important preparatory experience, but also yielded valuable data for our teachers as they studied student performance. Furthermore, we continued to offer educational support systems for students including our daily Academic Learning Center (ALC) and both fall and spring remediation classes in core subject areas, physical education, and Spanish. As we look ahead to June, our students and teachers are diligently preparing for year-end assessments including a full schedule of AP Exams, Regents Exams, and local finals. We pride ourselves on our work inside the classroom--well done students and teachers!



Superintendent Mrs. Galenski and Principal Mr. Julian are proud to present the 2022-2023 Superintendent's Council



Students rehearse our Fall Play: The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickers

Curtain Up with JFK Drama!

The JFK Drama Club & Stage Crew would like to take this time to thank the Cheektowaga-Sloan community for your continued support and patronage of the performing arts!

This year's productions, *The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickers* and *Oklahoma!*, required students to truly work together. Our cooperative model encouraged student leadership, accountability, and teamwork among our actors, stage crew, and costume designers. *Oklahoma!* also featured a new alumni event which welcomed over 30 JFK alumni back to their alma mater.

Beyond the productions, we cleaned and organized the shared spaces including the backstage wings of the auditorium, the prop room storage, and the basement storage. Cast and Crew worked tirelessly to make our spaces clean, open, and usable for the Fall & Spring Drama Clubs as well as all District members who use the auditorium. Post production, we had the opportunity to inventory some of our sound-related holdings such as assistive listening devices and additional body microphones, and worked with our AV Coordinator to plan for purchases that will further update and maintain the beautiful Greenauer Auditorium.



Students work together to create original costumes

We had a very busy, but very rewarding season.

Bravo!





Letter from the Principal

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Families:

At JFK High School we have had a remarkable school year filled with positive school culture, activities and events for students, academic growth, and exciting plans for the future! It is my pleasure and a true honor to report many of these successes to our school community in this year's Budget Newsletter.



JFK High School students enjoy the Welcome Back to School Field Day

Specifically, this year we introduced several community-building events to our students' daily experiences including a Welcome Back to School Field Day; regular guest speakers and assemblies; a return to off-campus and overnight field trips; and the newly introduced Principal's Advisement sessions in the Greenauer Auditorium. Additionally, I had a personal goal of providing families with more frequent, engaging communications which took the form of a popular video series entitled the Principal's 60 Second Updates.

Instructionally, administration and faculty continue to focus on engaging students in the classroom through a variety of activities. Over the last two school years we have prioritized Instructional Look-Fors, which are highly effective teaching and learning practices you would see if you stepped into any of our classrooms. Through student-led discussions, hands-on activities, mindful use of technology, or checks for understanding, our faculty members are committed to helping our learners thrive.

On behalf of our administration and our faculty and staff, I would like to say that we are so proud of our students! It continues to be an honor to support your children each and every day.

Go Bears! 🐾

Mr. Robert N. Julian, Jr., Principal

High Notes from our Music Department!

Our students had an eventful, productive, and wonderful year of performing and growing as musicians!

Students in our JFK High School Band had an amazing opportunity to work with our guest clinician, Grammy Award finalist for "Music Educator of the Year" Phil Aguglia (pictured) as they prepared for the Cheektowaga Band Festival. Mr. Aguglia worked directly with our band students and conducted them in one of their concert selections. The show was a tremendous success!

Looking ahead, the JFK HS Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble are so excited for their upcoming performances including their annual Spring Concert; the Darien Lake Music Festival; An Evening of Song; and our Seniors' final performance of the year, JFK High School's Commencement Ceremony.



Guest Conductor Phil Aguglia working with the JFK Wind Ensemble

Restorative Practices

At JFK High School students are placing emphasis on positive relationships by participating in daily community circles during Advisement. Advisement circles give students an opportunity to widen their perspective, self-reflect, and share their voices and personal stories. The District has also partnered with Compeer to promote positive socialization, and to assist students in creating long-lasting peer-to-peer relationships.

As the year moves forward, students become more involved in creating deeper friendships and long-lasting memories. Notably, academic success has followed with an increase in daily attendance and in the number of students achieving Honor Roll status. Placing emphasis on restoring and building positive relationships and strengthening our school community has proven to be successful this year academically and socially, and we look forward to continuing our work in this area.



JFK High School students participate in a restorative circle during Advisement class



JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 • Robert N. Julian, Jr., Principal

Main Office 716-897-7300

Checking in with the Class of '23!

Thank you to all of our community members who supported our efforts this year!

We held several successful events including the Senior Dinner, the sale of the Senior Class sweatshirt, the Senior Sunrise celebration, and our annual Homecoming hall decorating and parade. Winter brought a new tradition in which all seniors made holiday ornaments that were put on a tree in the front foyer of the school. We also held the annual Snowball Dance in February which was a great success!

We are looking forward to more memorable class-bonding events in the Spring as well. For our Senior Trip we will spend a day and night at Cedar Point Amusement Park in Ohio. Additionally, we are so excited for Class Day where we anticipate an audience of current students and the families of our seniors cheering on our graduates. Last, but certainly not least, is our fifty-ninth annual Commencement Ceremony which will be held on Friday June 23rd. Although our Seniors will be missed, we look forward to wishing them well as they enter the next phase of their lives. Once a Bear, Always a Bear!



Class Color Day, Seniors wear green!



All smiles from the Class of 2023 at this year's Senior Dinner



The Senior Sunrise, a JFK Tradition continues...





JFK Middle School – Working Toward Our District Goals

Goal #1 CULTURE: The District will cultivate a safe, healthy, and supportive culture and learning environment.

During the first week of school, the middle school explicitly taught school-wide expectations and procedures. In small groups, students visited different stations such as the hallways, restroom, school bus, and cafeteria. During the first week of school, students practiced walking on the right side of the hallway two at a time, students practiced appropriate restroom and school bus behavior, and students practiced cafeteria procedures.



All students are enrolled in an advisory period of approximately ten students that is aligned with our District restorative practices. This advisory period is called Kennedy Crew and it's an opportunity for students to form a close bond with a small group of students and one teacher. Each day students engage in different circle prompts that focus on character traits such as resilience, empathy, and cooperation.

The middle school hosted team building events during the first weeks of school. Students participated through their Kennedy Crew advisory groups and rotated between a series of stations. These included silently passing a hula hoop through a line while holding hands, a jolly rancher question and answer, and creating a yarn web. At the conclusion, groups discussed what they learned, strategies they used, and how these activities will enhance their classmate and teacher relationships. It was a wonderful opportunity for students and teachers to collaborate and build trust.



During our annual Homecoming parade, student groups such as bands, chorus, student council and National Junior Honor Society decorated floats and walked in our parade.



The middle school introduced several new initiatives to recognize students who are JFK Ready by exemplifying our monthly character traits. Teachers award students a golden ticket when they observe students who are JFK Ready. This includes “being caring in PE and showing others how to serve the volleyball,” and “using empathy and noticing a student was upset and sitting next to them for support.” Students enter their golden tickets into a monthly raffle where they can win special prizes.

We have a weekly attendance challenge. The Kennedy Crew with the highest average daily attendance for the previous week wins an ice cream during Kennedy Crew. This gives students a delicious reason to come to school each day.

John F. Kennedy middle school has a strong partnership with our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). During the Fall, the PTO delivered donuts to our students during lunch. The PTO also sponsored grade level celebrations throughout the school year. The 6th grade team hosted a holiday granola making party, the 7th grade hosted a pizza party, and the 8th grade team hosted a Fall Buffalo Bills bash where students got to play football, listen to music, enjoy pizza, and hang out with their friends.



We celebrate our positive school culture, by hosting spirit weeks. In the Fall, the middle school student council sponsored a Red Ribbon week that celebrated students pledging to stay drug free. Students dressed up in different themes such a tie dye to “peace out drugs and alcohol!” and neon day to show that “my future is too bright for drugs and alcohol with the week





JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 • Christopher Farrell, Principal

Main Office 716-897-7300

concluding in our Halloween dress up day. The middle school hosted a holiday door decorating contest to bring healthy competition into our Kennedy Crews. Students designed their own holiday door theme and the winning Kennedy Crew received a pizza party! In the Spring, our National Junior Honor Society hosted a peace and empathy week. Students dressed up to show their unity and connection to our school.

Our students also participate in sports such as cheerleading, basketball, and swimming.



Goal #2 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: The District will provide engaging learning experiences for students that promote classroom participation and increase student achievement.

The focus on teaching and learning has given students more opportunities to deepen their thinking. In classrooms across the school, students are working with partners and with small groups to complete different activities. Teachers are asking open ended questions with turn and talks. This allows students to critically think about questions and consult with a partner before giving their “final answer.” There is an increase



the level of cognitive engagement in our classrooms with students being more of the drivers of their learning.

Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classrooms have implemented an inquiry-based approach to teaching life science, earth science, and physical science that is aligned to the new Science standards. The Kesler Science which was purchased for us, helps promote the 5 E’s of Science: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate. This program helped teachers develop their curriculum. Students are conduct activities before learning to build their background knowledge and peak their curiosity. There are more hands-on labs and activities taking place.

Students learn how to cook in Family and Consumer Sciences. This is exciting part of the week that students look forward to. Whether it’s learning a new recipe, delivering a dessert to a favorite teacher, and collaborating with their friends – students practice important life skills. Students host different celebrations in FACS such as the Superbowl and Pi Day!



After each marking period, the middle school hosts an Honors Assembly for our students who earned Honor Roll or High Honor Roll in the Greenauer Auditorium. Families were invited to see their child receive a certificate and a medal. Awards were given to students of the quarter who exemplified our character traits, and students who demonstrate excellence in their subject areas.

JFK Middle School’s band musicians are getting ready for our spring concerts. We have been rehearsing separately by grade, in combined groups, and even after school. We are excited to perform at JFKMS’s Spring Concert on Thursday, May 11 at 7:30pm, as well as the annual District Concert at JFK’s Greenauer Auditorium on Tuesday, May 16 at 6pm.

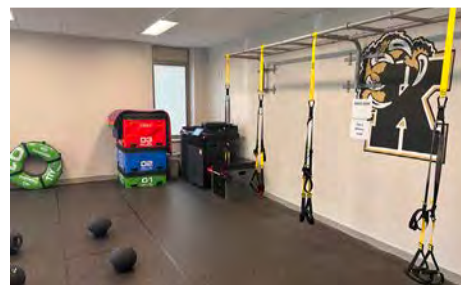


Many of our middle school students participated in the All-County Chorus concert!

Goal #3 DATA AND INSTRUCTION: The District will use multiple data points to make instructional decisions that are tailored to individual student needs.

The middle school teachers meet in grade level teams every day. This time is used to strategize around new ways to engage students, how to partner families and how to keep students focused. There is also a great deal of time spent analyzing data and determine what students need to be successful. In addition to classroom data such as participating, quizzes and tests, teams are analyzing behavior, attendance, and benchmark data to ensure we meeting the needs of all students.

John F Kennedy Middle School installed a state-of-the-art interactive fitness space. This is used during PE classes and allows students to explore health and wellness in a variety of modern and engaging ways. This includes High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), TRX, and more!



BUDGET INFORMATION

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm



District Office 716-891-6402

PROPOSITION #1

Shall the Board of Education of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District be authorized to expend the sum set for the in the proposed 2023-2024 Budget in the amount of \$40,373,761 and to levy the necessary tax?

YES NO

Proposition #1 Tax Rates (estimated)
Tentative Increase Proposition #1

Tax Rate	Cheektowaga	West Seneca
2022-2023 Actual	\$19.01	\$63.35
2023-2024 Estimated	\$19.09	\$63.64
Increase	\$.08	\$.29

Instruction: 49.9%

Instruction of students is the purpose for the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District's existence. This category includes: salaries, material, equipment and services relating to the instructional program of all students within the District attending our public schools and adults who participate in the Adult Education Program.

Teaching - Regular Schools, Inter-fund Transfers Relating To Instruction and Charter School Tuition	\$10,744,613
Students with Disabilities	7,172,776
Curriculum Development and Supervision	485,706
BOCES Services / Occupational Education Instruction	370,000
Summer School / Continuing Education	96,800
In-Service Training	160,000
Supervision, Planning and Evaluation	1,134,260
TOTAL	\$20,164,155

Pupil Support Services: 6.1%

Pupil Support Services are non-classroom positions which aid and support students in everyday activities and after school interests.

Attendance	\$15,425
Guidance Services	268,354
School Library, Audio Visual Services and Computer Assisted Instruction	969,379
Health Services	230,170
Psychological Services	137,608
Social Work Services	311,254
Co-curricular Activities	140,311
Interscholastic Athletics	386,805
Community Census	17,050
TOTAL	\$2,476,356

General Support: 5.6%

Includes all non-instructional salaries for people who keep the District functioning smoothly and direct and communicate the educational philosophy of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District.

Board of Education:

Policy, Strategic Improvement Projects Dues, Policy, Strategic Improvement Projects Dues, Operational Expenses and Legal Notices	\$25,675
District Clerk	7,700
Annual District Meeting	7,050

Central Administration:

Superintendent's Office	288,100
Business Administration	398,351
Legal, Auditing and Purchasing	351,333
Public Information, Newsletters and Brochures	19,280
Central Printing and Mailing	46,000
Central Data Processing	754,175

Special Items:

Insurance	152,800
Association Dues and Assessments	69,635
BOCES Administration Charges	149,781

TOTAL \$2,269,880

Building Maintenance & Operations: 6.4%

Provides for custodial activities necessary to keep the facilities open, clean and safe. Maintaining the District's buildings and grounds in their optimum condition, which protects the value of your property. Also, includes a transfer to capital to provide for a \$100,000 project for improvements to District facilities.

Buildings and Grounds	\$1,606,452
Utilities	608,650
Equipment, Materials and Supplies	255,000
Inter-fund Transfer to Capital Project Fund – Facility Improvement	100,000
TOTAL	\$2,570,102

Student Transportation Services: 7.8%

Include all expenditures for District students bussed to our public school, non-public schools, charter schools and schools for the handicapped students. Transportation includes bussing for field trips, outdoor education, extracurricular activities, inter-scholastic sports and special bussing for handicapped students.

Transportation – Public, Non-Public and Charter Schools	\$2,955,719
BOCES Services	125,165
Fuel, Equipment, Material and Supplies	50,000
TOTAL	\$3,130,884



BUDGET INFORMATION

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Debts & Obligations: **24.2%**

These items consist of fixed fiscal responsibilities of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District. Employee benefits, principal and interest on borrowings by the District are all part of this category.

Employee Benefits:

Employee Retirement	\$563,172
Teacher's Retirement	1,430,220
Social Security	1,261,330
Workers Compensation	260,000
Life Insurance	35,000
Unemployment Insurance	50,000
Hospital and Medical Insurance	3,874,280

Debt Service:

Serial Bond Principal	1,840,000
Serial Bond and Other Interest	448,382

TOTAL \$9,762,384

GRAND TOTAL \$40,373,761

Summary of Other Propositions on the Ballot

Proposition # 2 – allows for a student representative on the Board of Education. The student would be a non-voting member but would provide a summary of activities and important events in each building.

Proposition # 3 – allows the District to proceed with an \$8,500,000 project to improve school facilities throughout the District. The project is funded entirely from a capital reserve and there would be no impact on property taxes within the District.

Proposition # 4 – allows the District to create a new Capital Reserve fund of up to \$10,000,000 funded by budgetary savings. This fund will be used to fund future capital improvements to District facilities. Funds in the reserve fund can only be used when authorized by District voters.

Who is Eligible to Vote?

To be eligible to vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, a person must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years old
- A legal resident of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District for at least thirty (30) days prior to Tuesday, May 16, 2023

A qualified voter who is not otherwise prohibited from voting under provisions of Election Law

Acceptable proof of residency includes a driver's license, non-driver identification card, utility bill or voter registration card. Any questions can be answered by calling the district office at 716-891-6402.

Board of Education Elections

To elect two (2) members to the Board of Education, for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2028, currently held by Claire Ferrucci and Gary Sieczkarek.



Candidates:

Claire Ferrucci
Gary Sieczkarek
James Stachewicz

Please see the candidates' biographies on page 11

Budget Vote Hearing

The School Budget Public Hearing will take place on

Tuesday May 9, 2023 • 7:00 p.m.

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary Cafetorium
2495 William Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14206

School Budget Vote

will take place on

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 • noon until 9:00 p.m.

John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium
305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, New York

Absentee Ballots

In order to receive an absentee ballot, an absentee application must be completed and returned via mail or in person. The application must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the election, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. If the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person, the application may be received by the district clerk the day before the election. Please note that the applications may be acquired by anyone but the ballot can only be given to the actual voter.

To obtain an absentee ballot application, please contact:

Denise Knaebe, District Clerk
Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District
166 Halstead Ave.
Sloan, NY 14212
(716) 891-6402



Meet School Board Candidates:

Claire Ferrucci



I am respectfully asking for your continued support and vote for re-election to the Cheektowaga-Sloan Board of Education. It has been an honor

to have served for over the past 30 years.

I have been a committed Sloan resident my entire married life with my husband Tom. My son, Nunzio, is a proud graduate of John F. Kennedy High School and now resides in Sloan with his wife. Our love for this District and community is the reason we have all made this our long-time home. There is no District better than ours.

I am proud to have held the positions of Trustee, Board President, and I am currently serving as Vice President. It has also been an honor to have served on many committees including most recently on the Interview Committee. Specifically, in the past ten years, it has been a privilege to be a part of the District Capital Improvements which have modernized and made our schools safer. During this time, another great accomplishment has been the passing of our school budgets and building community trust.

I recently spoke with a District taxpayer and told him that I was running for the Board of Education. When he said, "You have always done the right thing for this District, the voters, and especially the children," I was humbled and proud that my time served on the Board had made a positive impact.

Respectfully, I am once again asking for your vote. If re-elected, I will always be a strong advocate for our children who deserve only the very best.

Gary H. Sieczkarek



I have proudly served on the Board of Education of the Cheektowaga Sloan school district for 20 years.

I grew up in the same district, married, and raised my family here. My wife, myself and our 2 daughters graduated from JFK and our 3 grandchildren attended Cheektowaga-Sloan Schools. This school system is very important to me.

I have previously served as President and Vice President of the school board, and previously served as the chairperson of the Building and Grounds Committee. My goal is to wisely spend the taxpayer's money by keeping our buildings safe, secure and up to date. I believe we need to provide a quality education for our children so they have the tools they need to succeed. Taxes are a big challenge for the Board. This process affects me and my family, who all own homes in our district.

As a Board member, I have attended many events put on by our students. The music programs, art shows, sports events, drama club musicals and plays are most enjoyable. I also serve on the Erie County Association of School Boards Legislative Committee.

In our community, I am a member of the William St. Taxpayers Association, and Past President of the Cheektowaga Southside Baseball Association.

I am seeking re-election so I can continue to work toward providing a quality education for our students, and work on upgrading our facilities to be the finest for our students and community. I ask that you give me the opportunity to do so.

James Stachewicz



My name is James (Jim) Stachewicz and I am running for a seat on the Board of Education. Being both a grandfather that is responsible for a grandchild in the school system and retired, I bring the desire to provide the best education possible while remaining fiscally responsible to the community.

I am a district resident of 60+ years, married to Gail 40+ years, I have two daughters, Amy (JFK Graduate, attended UB) and Melissa (JFK Graduate, Juris Doctorate UB Law), and 4 grandchildren, Cain, Rayna, Nikolai, and Benjamin (TR second grader).

My community service contributions include being an active TR PTO member for 4 years, a classroom volunteer, ECC scholarship review committee member, Industry Advisory Council member and student mentor. I have been a guest speaker for Technology Careers for WNY Guidance Counselors, and New York State Engineering Technology Association. I have provided plant tours for teachers, guidance counselors, middle & high school and college students promoting technology careers in industry.

My education includes having an A.A.S. in Mechanical Technology ECC (2014 Distinguished Alumni Award for Success in Career and Community Service) and a Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering State University of New York College at Buffalo.

My professional career involved the design, engineering, manufacturing and sales of special machinery having held the following positions, Design Draftsman, Mechanical Designer, Department Coordinator, Senior Project Engineer, Proposal Manager, and Corporate Sales Manager. With these positions, I was directly responsible for development of Designs, Budgets, and Project Management (contracts, technical and financial).

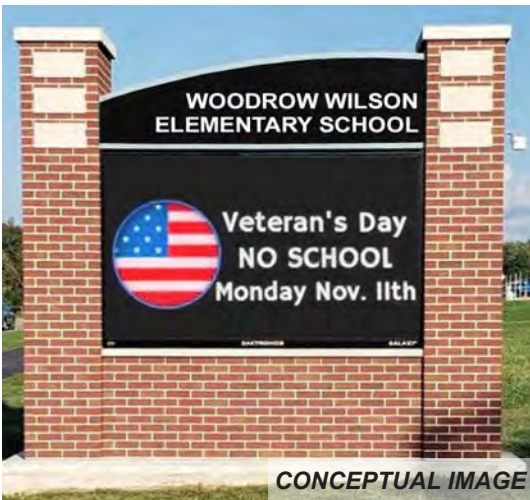
I believe that education is the pathway to success. Please consider electing me to help to contribute to the BOE in leading the way.

CHEEKTOWAGA SLOAN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

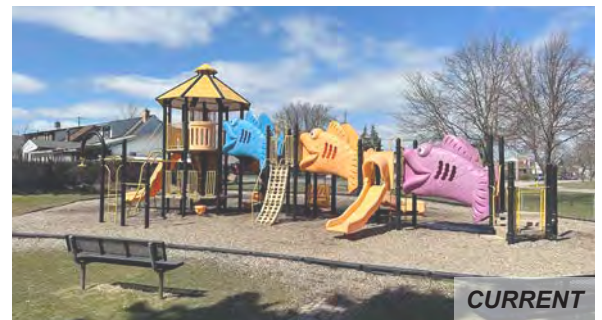
We provide a positive, safe environment that encourages ALL learners to strive for excellence.

BEAUTIFICATION & ATHLETIC FACILITY ENHANCEMENT — CAPITAL PROJECT 2023 \$8.5 M —

WOODROW WILSON & THEODORE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



New exterior signage at all District Buildings.



New age-appropriate playgrounds at Woodrow Wilson & Theodore Roosevelt Elementary Schools.

NO PROJECT TAX IMPACT



CHEEKTOWAGA SLOAN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BEAUTIFICATION & ATHLETIC FACILITY ENHANCEMENT

JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOL & FIELD HOUSE



New Multi-purpose Turf Field w/ score board & lighting, newer existing track & bleachers are to remain.



New Building will be centrally located for access to all sports. This building will also contain bathrooms, storage, and the concession area.

VOTE: MAY 16, 2023
12:00PM - 9:00PM | JFK HIGH SCHOOL GYM



JOHN F. KENNEDY ATHLETICS

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Office 716-891-6429

JFK Athletics - "Progressing with Pride"

A continuous goal of JFK Athletics is to strive for growth and progress and to do so exuding positivity and pride. We seek growth and progress on both a personal level honing one's skill in their sport of choice and on a collective level coming together for a purpose bigger than one's self.

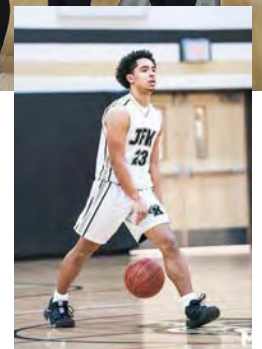
Fall

The fall season saw football, cheer, cross country, girls' soccer, girls' volleyball, and golf all have competitive and successful seasons. Each team came together as the season progressed with the future looking bright for JFK Athletics. Throughout the fall our school spirit was on display culminating in the return of our homecoming pep rally to the high school gym!



Winter

The winter sports season was full of program-wide progress. Our boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams each had their first postseason wins post-COVID and both our boys' and girls' varsity bowling teams had successful seasons as well. The boys' varsity bowling team won their second straight division title and the girls' finished third in their division. The winter season also saw repeated successes from our varsity and modified cheer teams in a number of their winter competitions this year. In the pool, our modified swim team learned swim fundamentals while enjoying themselves in the process, showcasing their efforts and our beautiful pool in hosting a number of swim meets at JFK.



The end of our winter season saw the most exciting program-wide announcement in years with the athletic turf field proposal and athletic facility upgrades in partnership with Young & Wright Architectural.

We are thrilled to have the support of the Board of Education in adopting a modern look as the JFK Bears with a new, clean bear logo and bear paw. Although it is a fresh take on our symbol and image, we are still the Bears and proud of it!

Spring

At the writing of this newsletter, we have just begun the final sports season of the 2022-2023 school year which features Track and Field (varsity, modified); Baseball (varsity, modified); Tennis (varsity); and Softball (varsity, modified). We are also very excited to offer girls' varsity flag football for the first time, joining over twenty other districts in Western New York in partnership with the Buffalo Bills to provide this great opportunity for our female student-athletes.

We would like to thank you for supporting athletics and our student athletes and look forward to continued growth and progress for our athletics program. Go Bears!

WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Elizabeth Zaccarine, Principal



Main Office 716-891-6419

Colorful Creativity and Our Growing Artists

Woodrow Wilson Artists got their own space this year! We recently separated the art and music areas and due to the increased space, we have been able to incorporate more mediums as

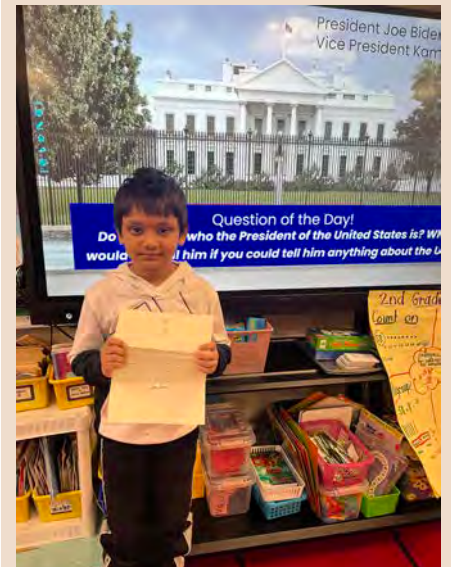
well as gained additional space to show off our great work and host a seat for special artists in our room. Woodrow students even take parades down the hallway when we are really proud of work, such as the recent third graders with their balloon art. We continue to share our class work with the school community as we decorate the hallways with our watercolor techniques, papier mâché, geometric shapes, yarn weaving, and we even used magazine cutouts to make a life-sized Josh Allen cutout.



WW artists jumped on the theme of the Energy Bus and positivity by creating our own special lettering to showcase words of positivity and encouragement. Our art students are adding splashes of color wherever they go in the building. We can't wait to show off our work at the Budget vote, or the next WW event you attend.

Our Library - A Hub for Literacy, Computer Technology, STEM and Research

We do so much more than read and check out books at Woodrow Wilson. We have been building on our computer coding and typing skills, and even continued to learn how to work safely online. We've learned how to help communities through educational games and researched cultures around our community and world to share on Multicultural Night. We've also continued to build on our STEM challenges. A favorite was making a gingerbread house to hold up under "hurricane force winds". The students have had a blast and we have too. And we always make sure to end each class with book check out to make sure we can work on our reading and pick out books we are interested in.



Pictured here is Suhail with his signed letter from President Biden

Future Environmental Leader

Suhail, a student in Mrs. Hershey's 2nd-grade classroom was moved by a conversation at a morning restorative circle about the conditions of our planet. He then took it upon himself to write a letter to the White House and President Biden pleading for environmental change and the protection of animal habitats. President Biden wrote back to Suhail with a signed letter, commending him on his letter, and using his voice. It also discussed how his administration is working hard to protect our planet. Congratulations to Suhail for demonstrating leadership and the 7 habits!

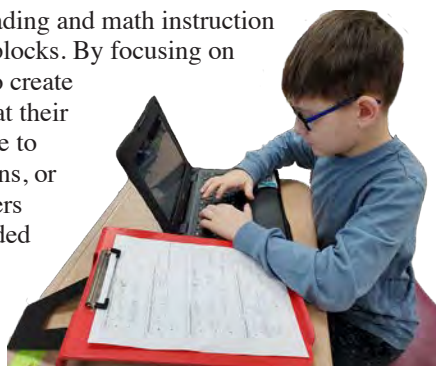




Big Goals, Big Work and Big Results

Putting our Energy into Reading, Writing and Math

Each day our students are receiving targeted reading and math instruction through the use of math skill time and reading blocks. By focusing on what each individual child needs, we are able to create small learning groups for students to be taught at their own level. This means that we may use this time to fill in missing skills, re-teach complicated lessons, or we may use this time to continue to grow learners who are on track by providing them with extended learning opportunities and challenges. We are pleased to say that our mid-year results show that Woodrow Wilson students are growing in reading and math. Way to bring the energy.



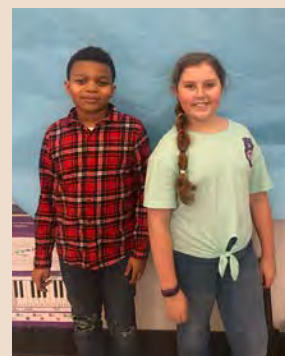
Woodrow Wilson Band Prepares for Spring Concert Season

The musicians of the Woodrow Wilson Band are busy at work preparing for our upcoming spring concerts. This group contains students of mixed experience. Many of our 5th graders are in their second year of study and have earned the title of Advanced Musicians. They are not only preparing their own music, but take on the added responsibility of acting as mentors to our first-year 4th and 5th graders. These new musicians have been in lessons since September, and as they master their skills, they earn their seat in band by performing up to exercise #41, "Eighth Note Jam," in our Essential Elements method book. We look forward to performing at the annual District Concert at JFK's Greenauer Auditorium on Tuesday, May 16 at 6pm, and at Woodrow Wilson's own Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30pm.



The Music Room and the Stage

The Woodrow Wilson Music Room has been making music all year, and the Ukuleles, Drums, Recorders, and Xylophones have all been making sound. Our Choirs are back to work on their spring music after having a wonderful



Holiday performance in December. Thank you to all who supported us, it was the most attended in years. Meanwhile, drama has begun rehearsing on the stage. Excitement is in the air as we prepare for the stage performance of "Joust!" in June. Congratulations to our Red Chorus participants Olivia Ziccardi and Kameron Dixon. They participated in the ECMEA All-County Red Chorus performance on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at Kleinhans Music Hall. Prior to the concert, students rehearsed for many hours with several other students from area schools. Congratulations once again Olivia and Kameron.

WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Elizabeth Zaccarine, Principal



Main Office 716-891-6419

Spreading our Positive Energy Wherever We Go

This year's theme is around energy and we started by reading *The Energy Bus*. The professional growth book and picture book focuses around positive and growth



mindsets, which complements our work in Leader in Me and our Restorative Practices. We are very proud of the work we do in this area. Students recently

earned kindness keychains for meeting our school wide WIG for Acts of Kindness. Students caught doing these great acts of kindness can earn kindness marbles to fill our jar. Many also are recognized and receive Positive Office Referrals. This program is tied to our reading program and book vending machine. The end of our year will involve much sharing and celebrating our students for their academic achievements, their character, and their leadership. This will be done through upcoming events such as our Growth Parade where all students, school-wide, select and celebrate their individual growth while parading through Woodrow Wilson.

Our Leader in Me Program has been driven by our student leaders this year. Lighthouse Leaders represent the different classrooms and grade levels in the building. This year they have spread a message of kindness and inclusion as they created interactive displays throughout our

building promoting things like laughter and most recently "Smile" where students post things that make them smile on the letters. Leaders have also started to support our school by volunteering for events by decorating or by assisting our Parent Teacher Organization. We look forward to other great opportunities for all of us from our student leaders and enjoying their new artwork on the doorways.

Woodrow Wilson introduced Calming Corners in our classrooms this year. This allows students an opportunity to continue to learn and grow inside of their classroom, while taking a moment to support their social and/or emotional needs. These classroom calming corners contain sensory friendly items, timers, and resources for students to work on alternate forms of communication to express their needs. These have been a huge help for many of our students.

Creating a Collaborative Energy

This year Woodrow Wilson has had some incredible events. We had students and



teachers doing "feelings yoga," where they learned to stretch and communicate their emotions. We had dance lessons, and relay races. We danced with our heroes. We learned about 13 different countries and cultures, that represent our District. This happened during our new Multicultural Night, where students and our families led cultural activities inside of Woodrow Wilson. This cultural experience brought us together in a way we've never been. The energy was contagious.



Physical Education

Woodrow Wilson students are staying busy and active in the gym. If you come into the gym today you would see lots of nets set up. Our students are beginning volleyball. Students will play modified and active games once they have fully learned the rules of the games. Resources are provided for students who are still working on their hand-eye coordination. Our goal is to get all students ready so that we can play more active games before moving on to other netted games inside. Soon the weather will warm, the grounds will dry up, and we will take our PE class outside. We will continue to emphasize the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship as we move throughout the coming weeks inside and outside of the gymnasium.



Letter from the Principal

As Spring is finally here, I encourage our Theodore Roosevelt parents and family members to help our TR students finish off the year strong. At home, it is important to provide routines as we do in school. Many families build a daily “quiet time” when the television or screen time is turned off. This quiet time provides students the opportunity for completing schoolwork or for recreational reading. During this quiet time a suitable place, somewhat free of other distractions, should be available.

The routine of daily quiet time provides an opportunity to develop self-discipline, stimulate imagination, and enhance reading skills.

There is no question about it, success at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child’s education. As families establish or re-establish routines for the end of the school year, I wanted to share a few key areas that can make a huge impact: reading daily at home, sleep, and attendance.

Below are 3 reasons why developing a habit of reading daily with your child at home can instill confidence, knowledge, and a love of reading:

- Reading with your child, or alongside your child, models a love of reading for your child.
- Students and children listen better, and longer while developing a wider vocabulary.
- Reading together promotes social and emotional interactions among family members.

Below are the recommended hours of sleep for children by the National Sleep Foundation:

- 3 - 5 years need 11 - 13 hours of sleep
- 5 - 12 years need 10 - 11 hours of sleep

The #1 tip for good sleeping habits in children is to also follow a nightly routine. Try to make bedtime the same time every night. Make bedtime a positive and relaxing experience without TV or screen time. According to many studies, screen time prior to bed can lead to difficulty falling and staying asleep. Save your child’s favorite relaxing, non-stimulating activities until last, and have them occur in the child’s bedroom. The best activity is 20 minutes of reading either to or with your child.

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.
If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6 th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.		
WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.		

Finally, attendance at school is one of the most powerful predictors of academic achievement. Knowing this, having every student attend school daily when they are well enough to do so, is critically important. When a student is frequently absent, tardy, or leaves early from school, they lose valuable instructional time and can fall behind. Please continue to communicate your child’s absences with the school and send in notes to the

main office to ensure the ones that can be deemed excused are accounted for appropriately.

School and home can work together to build skills and knowledge, reinforce values, and develop a strong sense of self-worth for our future leaders following the 7 Habits in both locations. Please enjoy the rest of the highlights and happenings at TR in this newsletter. As always, feel free to reach out to me or your child’s teacher for any assistance to finish the school year on a positive note. I hope you found the above information useful in order to support our efforts in educating all TR students together!

Sincerely,

Jeff Mochrie
Principal



Author Celebration Night at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary

On March 9th, the students at TR ended a week-long spirit week celebrating the stories of Pete the Cat with a fun evening event. Students and their families attended our Author Celebration Night, where we honored the authors Eric Litwin and James Dean, who together created the Pete the Cat series. The goal of the night was to enjoy one of our favorite series while exposing families to what the students are learning in school.

Overall, the night was a success with students enjoying the reading, math, and other Pete the Cat themed stations. Mr. Mochrie ended the evening by providing a few books to lucky winners and reading one of his favorite Pete the Cat books, *Rocking In My School Shoes*, while the students enjoyed a popcorn treat also provided by the PTO.



Pictured are brother and sister Johnathan and Gianna showing off their rocking school shoes.

Kindergarten Camp (K-Camp)

New at TR this school year is the introduction of K-Camp. This where kindergarten students in need of additional support in the foundational skills of reading and math receive it every morning to start their day. Select students join our RTI Reading teachers and our RTI Math teacher to participate in fun, engaging hands-on reading and math stations. The activities the students participate in during K-Camp support their kindergarten learning and future success in first grade.



Pictured here are Kindergarten Camp students working with Mrs. McKenzie, an RTI Reading Teacher.

Indoor Recess Room

With a grant through the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) project, which is facilitated through a partnership with Erie 1 BOCES, Theodore Roosevelt recently opened up a new indoor recess room. It provides the students with a location to stay active and move on cold or rainy days throughout the school year when they aren't able to get outside. With the funds, TR will also have another location opening soon in the bottom of the cafeteria, and it can be used during Fun Lunch with our parent volunteers.



New STEAM Room at Theodore Roosevelt

TR students and staff are excited to try out the new STEAM Room. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. It also helps to promote the lessons of our 7 Habits program including being proactive, and beginning with the end in mind. Classes are able to come down to the room to try experiments, take part in challenges, and participate in free build opportunities. This new space has endless opportunities to be creative, think outside of the box, and work together effectively with peers.



Pictured are kindergarten students enjoying the STEAM Room



Donation Drive for the SPCA



The TR Student Lighthouse Team facilitated a Donation Drive for the SPCA. Students exhibited all 8 Habits as they worked together to vote on a charity, finalize dates, and divide up responsibilities. Students created posters that were displayed throughout the school, fliers that were sent home, and they wrote their own morning announcements encouraging other students to donate. On Wednesday, February 15th, students collected all of the donated items and headed over to the SPCA to deliver boxes and boxes of donations! Students, along with Miss Moloney, Mr. Mochrie, and parents, were greeted with a big smile and shown the entire facility! This was an incredibly successful event that allowed our students to share their enthusiasm and encouraged others to display leadership qualities. One of our TR families even adopted a dog at the end of our tour.



Theodore Roosevelt Teddy Bear Mail Club

Theodore Roosevelt students have the opportunity to write and mail letters to friends, siblings, and teachers within the school. This in-school postal service is operated by the second-grade Teddy Bear Mail Club. The second-grade students use their leadership skills to carry out all of their “postal duties”. They perform the roles of Postmaster, Facers, Sorters, Nixie Clerks and most importantly, Letter Carriers. The Teddy Bear Mailers have been busy this year collecting, processing, and delivering over 450 letters. They know how important it is to synergize - showing how working together gets the job done!

Fire Prevention

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary was excited to bring back Fire Prevention Day and partner with Doyle Fire District No. 1 to educate our students on the importance of fire safety. Contests were designed by grade level on the importance of fire prevention and home escape plans. The contest was judged by members of the fire district with winners at each grade level winning a ride to school on a fire truck. Students were also provided an assembly on fire safety and were able to see the various equipment used by the firefighters.



Pictured are the winners of this year's Fire Prevention Contest, classroom teachers, Mr. Mochrie, and members of the Doyle Fire District #1

Theodore Roosevelt Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-Kindergarten students have been hard at work this school year with a focus on phonemic awareness tasks (rhyming and beginning sounds), phonics (letter identification, letter-sound correspondence), and beginning math skills (one-to-one correspondence, sorting, and number identification). They also complete art projects as an extension of the Pre-K curriculum and their weekly themes. Their daily academic learning centers allow for socialization with peers as well as time for the pre-kindergarten teachers and aides to work in small groups / one-on-one with their students. During academic learning centers, students work to build pre-foundational skills necessary for academic success in kindergarten.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY

2495 William Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14206 • Jeffrey S. Mochrie, Principal



Main Office 716-891-6424



Universal Pre-K Registration

The Cheektowaga-Sloan School District is now accepting applications for Universal Pre-K for the 2023-2024 School Year.

If you are interested in sending your child to our Pre-K program in September, please either email a completed application available on the district website (Central Registration Quick Links Tab) along with all the required documentation to sloanregistration@cheektowagasloan.org, or contact the Central Registrar at 891-6427 for assistance or additional information regarding the registration process.

Eligibility requirements are:

- Your child must be 4 years old on or before December 1st 2023.
- You must reside in the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District.
- You must provide your child's transportation to and from school.

To register any student you will need the following items:

Student Identification: Birth certificate, passport or other documentary evidence of birth date

Parent Identification: Legal parent/guardian photo identification, such as a Driver's License

Proof of Immunizations and Health Appraisal: Records provided by Doctor's office

Three (3) Proofs of Residence: Housing documents, utilities, payroll stub, government records

Guardianship Documents: if applicable, court documentation identifying residential custody

There is no cost for families to participate.

Our program runs 2 1/2 hours per day, 5 days per week, and follows the school district's calendar. We offer both morning and afternoon sessions.

Our quality program utilizes research based, age-appropriate practices which are aligned with NY State's Pre-K Standards. Your child will acquire pre-reading skills, a richer vocabulary, and strong basic math skills. Pre-K children will be exposed to numbers, letters, shapes, and words. They will learn how to share, take turns, cooperate, follow directions, solve problems, and contribute to the classroom community. Theodore Roosevelt's Pre-K students will grow socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually, which will better prepare them for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Registration

**For the 2023-2024 School Year
Now Open!!!**

If you are sending your child to Kindergarten in September, please either email a completed application available on the district website (Central Registration Quick Links Tab) along with all the required documentation to sloanregistration@cheektowagasloan.org, or contact the Central Registrar at 891-6427 for assistance or additional information regarding the registration process.

To register any student, you will need the following items:

- **Student Identification:** Birth certificate, passport or other documentary evidence of birth date
- **Parent Identification:** Legal parent/guardian photo identification, such as a Driver's License
- **Proof of Immunizations and Health Appraisal:** Records provided by Doctor's office
- **Three (3) Proofs of Residence:** Housing documents, utilities, payroll stub, government records
- **Guardianship Documents:** if applicable, court documentation identifying residential custody

Kindergarten students must be five years old on or before December 1, 2023 and a legal resident of the Cheektowaga Sloan School District.

SAVE THE DATES

Kindergarten Screening

Will take place May 1st-5th

**Appointments will be confirmed via a phone call once registration is complete, reviewed and provided to Theodore Roosevelt Elementary.*

Kindergarten Orientation

May 15th

Further information to follow as we approach this date



Update from the Department of Special Education & Student Services:

It is with my deepest gratitude and excitement that I bring to you another update from the Department of Special Education & Student Services. Our support staff have done an exceptional job meeting the needs of our students in creative, collaborative and innovative ways this school year.

Special Education Teachers & Therapists:

A focus of the Special Education Department for the 2022-2023 school year has been on data-driven decision-making, creative programming and collaborative problem solving. The department has taken many steps to ensure that all decisions regarding a student's programming are made on the basis of data, student need and with a creative approach. New procedures continue to be implemented within the department and we have seen success through the application of these procedures.

Specifically, our special education students have made tremendous progress in reading this year. At Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School, our Kindergarten students mastered their reading skills by participating in engaging kinesthetic and tactile activities. Such activities include: Swatting the Letter, Bin Basketball, Park the Car, making letters with Play-Doh, Play-Doh Smash and writing letters in sand, to name just a few. These kinesthetic and tactile activities increased student engagement and allowed our Kindergarten students the ability to master the academic skills taught.

At Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, our special education students were all about achieving, collaborating, and including. They are tenaciously working toward their personal reading and math goals each day through fluency practice and group work. The level of success I see each day makes me ecstatic, not

because of scores but because of the students' compassion towards each other, perseverance, and love of learning. Not only are they progressing academically, they display tremendous character and kindness to each other. Students who began the year on H reading levels are now being instructed on M and N reading levels!

At JFK High School, our special education students have opened a school store. The store is open daily and sells items students may need in class such as pencils, pens, water, etc. The store has become a vital part of our programming at the high school as it allows students to practice real life skills that they will need after graduation.

The 2022-2023 school year has also been an exciting year for the CSUFSD Speech & Language Department! We have continued our partnership with Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center

to offer speech improvement services to students at TR and WW. Through this program, we have been able to support more than 50 students with mild speech and language difficulties. These sessions are being provided in a traditional pull-out session or by using the 5-minute articulation program. By using a fast drill-based approach, these students work towards their goals with minimal time away from the classroom!



SPECIAL EDUCATION

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm



Office 716-891-6429

At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, the district also purchased a resource called the Expanding Expression Tool (EET) for our Speech Therapists. This is a tool that we have been using while working with our students with speech and language delays. It is a tool to help with language and writing development, as well as for oral and written expression. This tool is being used with our elementary, middle, and high school students. Ms. Minervini has been working on instructing her younger students on how to use this tool and they are doing so well! They are showing great gains in their ability to use descriptive language to identify categories, functions, attributes,

composition, location, and part/whole relationships. The students are working to strengthen and utilize their background knowledge to make connections beyond the therapy room. We are excited to see the growth in our students as they progress from year to year utilizing this tool.

Student Support Team:

The social-emotional needs of our students continue to be of high priority to our student support staff. Individual and group counseling sessions continue to happen throughout the school day to ensure the needs of all students are met. Our school social workers and counselors have also been working closely as a department to

develop a systematic approach to ensuring the social emotional needs of students are met on a daily basis with fidelity.

English as New Language Teachers:

With the support of our talented English as New Language teachers, we have seen tremendous growth from our ELL students this year. Specifically, one of our students who moved to the United States in 2018, was just accepted to a four- year college where he will study Business Administration. On March 1st, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School also celebrated our ELL students by hosting a Multicultural Night. Many of our English language learners actively participated in this event by showcasing their culture and/or home language(s).

Nurses:

The health and safety of our students are of the utmost importance to our community, especially our nurses. They have worked diligently this year to ensure that all students' health needs are met and their commitment to this is evident daily. We are very appreciative of the amazing work our nurses do as they are vital members of our school community.

In conclusion, it has been amazing to see all the hard work the Cheektowaga-Sloan Special Education and Student Services department has done this year to meet the needs of all of our students. We also thank our community for their continued support.





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Food Service

The Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD food service department has picked up where we left off last year, offering more homemade cooking with fresh ingredients and less processed food products. We have also introduced a more inclusive, kid-friendly menu at TR, designed to reduce food waste and encourage our youngest students to eat more balanced meals.

We have brought back hot breakfast options to JFK Middle School for the first time since March 2020 and plan on doing so at Woodrow Wilson by spring recess. Students are enjoying new breakfast options such as breakfast sandwiches and burritos, mini berry French toast, yogurt parfaits and pancake bites.

We've also introduced some new lunch items such as pull-apart queso and Italian breads, Japanese cherry blossom chicken, homemade vegetable alphabet soup, baked apples, and Buffalo chicken pizza made right here in the JFK kitchen.

Our department has replaced some outdated equipment in each of our kitchens. Theodore Roosevelt received a new refrigerator,



Woodrow Wilson is receiving a new double-door freezer, a milk cooler and Hershey Ice Cream is bringing in one of their ice cream freezers so we can offer some delicious ice cream delights to students. JFK got a much-needed new meat slicer and a new POS system, for our exciting announcement of re-opening the salad bar to the middle and high school. Soon staff and students at JFK will once again be able to enjoy a healthy salad loaded with a vast array of

veggies, proteins and toppings.

The food service department has loved serving food, treats and a lending hand to the many celebrations our schools have gone back to enjoying, such as doing ice cream sundae socials at the Budget Vote, field day celebrations at TR and WW, the wonderful return of the Family First Dinner at Theodore Roosevelt, and the 8th grade Moving Up Day reception for JFK Middle School. Our food service staff truly enjoys putting smiles on the faces of our students, staff and families as we celebrate together as a proud community.

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