

Checktowaga-Sloan



Union Free School District

Budget Issue 2022

Superintendent's Message

It is with sincere appreciation that you set aside just a few moments to read this comprehensive District Newsletter which highlights the proposed 2022-2023 Budget. There is pertinent information included for your review as you prepare to cast your vote on May 17, 2022 when our annual Budget Vote takes place at John F. Kennedy High School.

I must begin by sharing what overwhelming joy it has brought to me personally that we were finally able to progress forward out of the pandemic and begin taking the necessary steps toward implementing more normal daily operations in our schools. It is difficult to express the true happiness that has warmed my heart these past few months as observations have been made of students smiling, being able to see their faces, watching students respect one another especially for those who have chosen to continue wearing a mask, and to view the personal interactions that were so absent during the last two years. The daily experiences that we have with one another are so much more powerful when we are in-person, reading each other's expressions, working with our peers in hands on settings, and most importantly, being able to engage in the various activities that create a meaningful, rewarding and productive learning adventure.

A few examples that showcase the important progress that we have made coming out of the pandemic would be the extraordinary musical, *Mary Poppins*, that was performed by our students and staff just a short time ago in March 2022. It was an absolutely breathtaking performance that made me sit in the audience filled with such pride and joy for our District. We have such amazing students and staff who had roles in the musical, who worked behind the

scenes on the stage, or who played in the pit orchestra. The talent was something to be so proud of and it made me realize even more how critically important these in-person experiences are for everyone. It is also important for me to mention that as a guest in the audience on *Opening Night*, it was impressive for me to observe the high level of respect from all the guests who attended the performance. The audience was quiet, appreciative, and provided such praise for our performers. It was also a meaningful evening for me as I was finally able to interact with our parents and guests who were not able to be present in our schools for a period of time during the pandemic. Thank you to all parents and guests who helped with the ticket sales and all of the other events that were taking place in the JFK HS foyer throughout the weekend. It takes a community to educate children and that was evidenced in such a positive way this March.

My *Superintendent Council* has been an integral part of this school year especially with the help from all representatives on the Council in bringing more positivity to our schools especially JFK HS. The remarkable high school students serving on this prestigious Council range from Freshmen to Seniors with the idea being



Inside This Issue

- JFK High School News pgs
- JFK Middle School News
- Theodore Roosevelt News
- Woodrow Wilson News
- Budget Information



that we are able to hear from a diverse group of learners who carry themselves as strong leaders in our school community. This is a forum where ideas are welcomed, concerns and suggestions are encouraged to be shared and together, decisions are made that will positively impact JFK HS. This year alone, we were able to implement an outside dance with another one on the way, we have incorporated more spirit days to encourage JFK pride, we recently held a volleyball tournament that was met with great success, we have worked to encourage more students to participate in sports which proved to be effective given the recent high turnout for track this spring which the students were excited about, and we are in the process of planning for more mentoring to occur at our younger grades with our high school students leading the way as well as various end of the year events that are in the planning stages. I would like to thank the Superintendent Council for their partnership with me, their strong leadership, their positivity, and their dedication to helping me and all of us here bring success, growth, respect, and pride to JFK and to our entire District.

As we work each day here to educate the Whole Child, it is my hope that you recognize the variety of activities and events that our

continued on next page.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski, Superintendent of Schools

District Office 716-891-6402 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

students are able to participate in and which embody the philosophy of Whole Child Education—academic, social and emotional learning, support and success. In addition to what was already mentioned, it is important for me to share the exceptional accomplishments of our JFK Bowling Team. Athletics is another opportunity for students to shine and highlight the great talents that they have outside of the classroom. It is with significant pride that we congratulate and celebrate our JFK Bowling Team for having achieved the title of **Section VI Class D Bowling Champions!** Thank you for representing the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District in such an accomplished, polite, and respectful manner. We are all so proud of our Bowling Team!

I encourage our community to read our District Website to observe the special, engaging, student-centered, and positive learning experiences happening in all of our schools. You will be impressed. As we have begun to move out of the pandemic, you will notice inspiring activities taking place, such as Irish dancers at TR, the 100th Day of School celebration, taping Mrs. Zaccarine to the wall at Woodrow Wilson, Spirt Days at all schools, Modified Cheerleading earning 1st place at JFK MS, Golden Beaker awards in science at JFK MS, Honors Breakfasts at both JFK MS and HS, Restorative Circles, and so much more. We are so proud of our students from PreK-12 who have shown tremendous resiliency throughout these past two years and are now reinvigorated to shine brightly in all that they do!

We are able to accomplish such success in our schools and make tremendous progress through the partnership that we have with everyone here including our parents who have supported us, worked with us, and were more than patient throughout the pandemic when at times, it was very challenging to educate our children. I express my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to our entire Cheektowaga-Sloan Family.

As years pass, it can become easy to lose sight of the great accomplishments that



have been made in our District with regard to capital improvements. With the Budget Vote approaching, this seemed like the perfect time to review some of the major accomplishments that have modernized our schools and made them extraordinary places to teach, learn and perform in. I am providing some examples below; however, our architects, Young & Wright, have graciously provided before and after pictures in this newsletter to highlight the significant work that has been done with our community's support.

- **Safety & Security** is of utmost concern—we are adding additional cameras to ensure the safest environment possible in all schools including outside areas and inside hallways where video coverage is very important
- **Main Hallway at Woodrow Wilson**—is currently undergoing a major renovation to include brand new tiling and painting to modernize the school. This project will continue into the future so that eventually, all the old tile will be replaced essentially providing a facelift for this beautiful school
- **Generator**—a new and more powerful generator will be installed at JFK in order to provide a safety net should we have any power outages in the future. This will ensure that the phones will remain working so that communication is not interrupted and it will also help with internet connectivity. This is a very important safety measure that we are proud to be implementing with the entire cost provided by grant funding.
- **Auditorium**—for those who begin visiting our JFK Auditorium again, please know that this space went through a complete overhaul renovation just a

few years ago that included updated seating, flooring, new curtains, painting and greatly improved sound with the addition of modern acoustical fabric sound panels. This space was old, unsafe, and completely outdated and now it is a 21st Century Auditorium!

- **Our JFK HS Gymnasium**—have new telescopic bleachers, floor resurfacing and walls have been painted for a fresh and modern look
- **The Locker Rooms at JFK HS**—were replaced and are now fresh spaces for our students who can be proud to enter the locker rooms
- **All Corridor Lockers**—were replaced at JFK MS and JFK HS—this has created a beautiful new look for our hallways and highlights our school colors of black and gold
- **Bleachers around the JFK HS Track/Football Field**—these were completely replaced
- **JFK HS Track**—this was completely resurfaced to provide for a sleek new appearance
- **Boiler System at Theodore Roosevelt**—was completely replaced
- **Art, Music & Science Labs/ Rooms**—major renovations were done to these spaces which now reflect high quality areas for teaching and learning
- **Roofs, ceiling tiles, and HVAC Systems**—have been replaced and renovated at all schools to provide for modernization and necessary maintenance of these areas
- **Technology Improvements**—the District has made overwhelming progress in this area with the re-wiring of all classroom cables, the installation of wifi hotspots, we have provided every child with a Chromebook and every teacher with a laptop, and we continue to implement new programming, such as filtering systems, to ensure that technology is safe and secure for everyone

We are proud of the vast improvements that we have made to our schools with your support. We look forward to future projects

continued on next page.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski, Superintendent of Schools



District Office 716-891-6402 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

that will continue to modernize and enhance our schools so that all of us here and our community can be proud to enter our buildings, teach and learn, and perform in such wonderful environments. Again, be sure to look through the before and after photographs contained in this newsletter for an even better representation of the great work that has been accomplished in our District.

It is important for me to share that although we will be receiving an increase in State aid for the 2022-2023, it still is not what we had hoped to receive and is not nearly as much as surrounding districts will be receiving. Advocacy is a much needed process and one that we embrace each year as we develop and plan for the following school year's budget. As a result, we took action to ensure our points were heard at the State level. We met with NYS Assemblymember Monica Wallace's Office on February 3, 2022, and with Senator Kennedy's Office on March 3, 2022 and emphasized that given the increased high needs of our District, that we deserved more aid to adequately fund what is needed to educate and support our students. One point we emphasized was the need to use relevant and updated data in the formula used to determine aid for each school district. The data currently being used is Census data from 2000 which is completely outdated. The demographics of our community have changed which is why we continue to express our concern to the top area political representatives about why these updates to important data need to be made and

how without change, we will continue to receive inadequate funding based on outdated information.

We are committed to our taxpayers, as we have been for the last ten years, in fighting for what we believe in and what we feel our community rightfully 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 disciplined saving actions that we have been able to remain below the tax cap since 2013 with an average of only a 0.44% increase over the last ten years. We are extremely proud of this record and are motivated and determined to uphold this reputation for many years to come. We are once again asking for the support of our taxpayers on May 17, 2022.

What will be asking for from our taxpayers?

We will be asking for a **0.97% increase** in school taxes which is below the **District's Tax Cap of 2.34%**.

How much will my taxes increase as a result of a 0.97% 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 **\$14.53**. Please remember that this is the **total increase** for the **entire year**.

Each year as we plan, prepare and bring forward the proposed budget to our community, it is important for us to express to our taxpayers that we are thoughtful and conscientious of the impact that any increase, even if very small, has on our community

especially in today's society where we are experiencing a very high inflation rate. We continue to take pride in our record of a 0.44% increase in taxes over the last ten years which we believe cannot be found in any other school districts in Western New York. We have and will continue to always prioritize the all-embracing accountability of fighting to keep our tax levy as low as possible.

I encourage you to attend our Public Hearing on May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Theodore Roosevelt Cafetorium. I also hope you exercise your right to vote on May 17, 2022 at our District Budget Vote which will take place in the gymnasium at JFK HS 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 hot dog dinner that you can buy for just **one dollar** (hot dog, chips, drink). You can then enjoy your meal with your friends and family in our JFK Cafeteria. We have added a special sundae bar free of charge for all to enjoy! This same evening, our students will be engaged in musical performances in the JFK Auditorium and their beautiful artwork will be on display in the gymnasium thanks to our amazing Art Teachers. We are so excited about this event as it is yet another example of the steps that we are now able to make toward more normal daily operations in our schools. We look forward to welcoming and socializing with our families and community.

Thank you for your time in reading this detailed article and the entire newsletter which hopefully paints a picture of what we believe in and how we support all of our students each day. We are proud of our learners, we are grateful for our relationships with the parents and community, and we thank you so very much for trusting us with your children each day as they are the most precious gift in the world and the reason why we are all here—to *educate, appreciate, love, and support all children*.

With sincere appreciation,

Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools





JOHN F. KENNEDY MS/HS

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

High School Main Office 716-891-6407 • Middle School Main Office 716-897-7300

Letter from the Principal

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Families:

I hope this newsletter finds you well!

As you know, the 2021-2022 school year marked the transition from hybrid and remote learning back to full-time, in-person instruction for all students. Additionally, John F. Kennedy Middle & High School welcomed the return of several positive elements of our cherished school culture.

The school year began on a high note in Fall 2021 with the ever-popular JFK Homecoming Parade and Bonfire which drew hundreds of JFK Bears including students, their families, and staff! It was a beautiful night and a true pleasure to see our Parent-Teacher Organizations, volunteers, and local police and fire departments come together in true JFK pride.

As the school year progressed, we were absolutely thrilled to open our doors back to our community for in-person celebrations and events. Highlights included our Middle & High School Spirit Weeks; first-ever outdoor Homecoming Dance; and the return of our Honors Breakfasts and Superintendent's Council. Additionally, JFK Music & Drama returned to the stage with amazing and captivating performances including our Winter and Spring Concert series; Fall play *Carol versus Christmas*; and Spring musical *Mary Poppins!* Each show welcomed patrons back to the Greenauer Auditorium, and featured students from both our Middle & High School.



Furthermore, it was exceptionally important for our JFK Bears to give back to their community this year and accentuate the positive. Successful food drives and giving campaigns were hosted throughout the holiday season by the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, Class Officers, Future Helpers of America, and our sports teams. Our Middle School Lighthouse Team created several elements of positive school culture within the building including *30 Days of Gratitude*; *Peace and Kindness Week*; the *March Madness Tournament*; and of course, fan favorite *Buffalo Bills Spirit Days*.



Academically, our faculty and staff focused on constantly improving our instructional practices and student performance results. Specifically, the staff at both the Middle and High School studied and implemented highly engaging teaching strategies that remain mindful of screen-time in the classroom. For example, teachers introduced research-based strategies such as: "I Can" Learning Targets; student-led discussions and questions; cooperative learning; and hands-on learning experiences. Following

a prolonged period of online learning due to the pandemic, these in-person teaching and learning strategies offered students a welcome opportunity to authentically engage with their coursework.

No school year would be complete without welcoming some new members to our community as well. From new students, to new faculty and staff, and certainly our partnership with *Vista Security*, several new JFK Bears joined our team. It is most impressive to see how quickly our students welcomed new JFK Bears to our community, and how quickly our new team members demonstrated their *Black & Gold Pride!*



In closing, I would like to offer our community a sincere *Thank You* for all of your support for our school District over the last several months. It is through our continued partnership that we are able, together, to navigate these unprecedented times in education and society. It continues to be an honor to serve this community!

Thank you again, and on behalf of our



faculty, staff, and students we look forward to seeing you soon!

Mr. Robert N. Julian, Jr.
Principal



JOHN F. KENNEDY MS/HS

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



High School Main Office 716-891-6407 • Middle School Main Office 716-897-7300

JFK HS Student Council 2021-2022

The JFK High School Student Council got back to some old traditions while also creating some new ones during the 2021-2022 school year. The always-popular Homecoming Week returned this fall, and saw students sing Karaoke during their lunch period, decorate their hallways, participate in dress down days, and display their enthusiasm and school spirit in outdoor Powderpuff football games, a pep rally, and a parade. The Homecoming Dance had a different twist as it was held outside in the parking lot underneath a



tent on the blacktop on a warm October evening. It was an unbelievable success!

The Student Council also helped the school celebrate some holidays, bringing back the annual Halloween Costume and Holiday Hallway Decorating Contests. Several students were creative with their costumes and were awarded gift cards as winners from their class. For Veterans Day, some members shared touching poems and readings over the morning announcements as we helped pay tribute to all veterans. Additionally, the hallways were very festive throughout the month of December as holiday spirit filled the air!

Student Council has also assisted in the recognition of students for their efforts in academics, athletics, and the arts. Members have regularly updated a first-floor showcase displaying our school's

“Students of the Month” from each subject area and created paper cut-outs for all of our fall and winter student-athletes as well as members of our band, choir and drama groups. JFK students have proudly displayed these cut-outs over their school locker all year! Our JFK HS Student Council also sponsored a Winter Spirit Week in February, which saw the creation and participation of more dress down days, round two of Karaoke, Door Decorating showing various countries that were Winter Olympics participants, and a mini Band and Choir concert, where talented students were able to perform for their peers.

Kudos goes out to all Student Council officers and members for all of their time and efforts this year – their focus has been on what they are able to do, and not what was lost during the pandemic. This club's

French Class

Bonjour! JFK Middle & High School French classes have been busy this year! We started off the year using JFK library databases to learn about the numerous places where French is spoken around the globe. Since then we've explored many other aspects of the Francophone world, which has included attempting to make traditional French dishes like Ratatouille, crêpes, & le croque monsieur; finding all the latest trends & best designers on a virtual shopping trip at the famous Les Galeries Lafayette in Paris; and traveling to historic Québec on the words of Roch Carrier at the height of the Maple Leafs versus Canadiens rivalry in his celebrated story *Le Chandail*. We have also studied grammar through reading and retelling traditional French fairy tales, practiced irregular verbs by planning a dream beach trip to the French Caribbean, and laughed out loud deciphering the slang and texting lingo of Francophone teenagers. Every day is a delicate mix of academic study and real-world exploration as we strive not just to know French, but to use and apply it in practical ways!

positivity is greatly appreciated – it truly has been a job well done this year! Go Bears!





JOHN F. KENNEDY MS/HS

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

High School Main Office 716-891-6407 • Middle School Main Office 716-897-7300

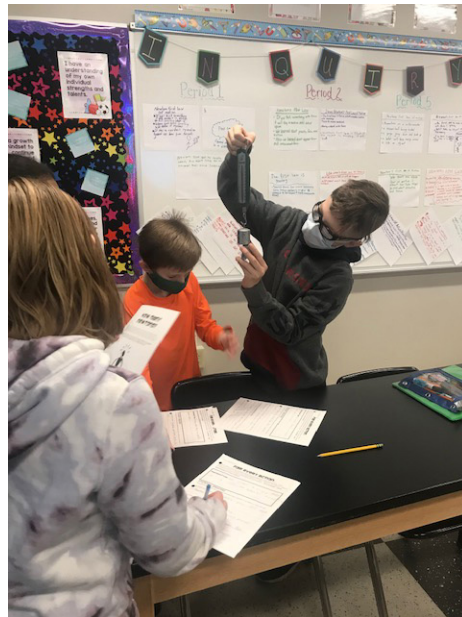
Sixth Grade Inquiry-Based Learning in Science

In-person learning gave students the opportunity to transition into to Cooperative Student-Centered classroom this year! Students were able to engage as leaders and were the decision makers in their own learning.

In Science, students engaged in inquiry-based learning, which is a learning process that engages students by making real world connections through exploration and higher-level questioning. Students are encouraged to engage in problem solving and experimental learning, and did a great deal of this through cooperative groups. For example, while learning about



atoms, students worked together with table partners to create a 3-D model of an atom. When studying synthetic materials, they turned milk into plastic. Our unit on Newton's 3 Laws saw them working in stations making balloon rockets, Hero's Engine, and knocking an egg into a cup without it breaking! Additionally, learning about the phases of the moon was fun



because we created edible models of the moon phases with Oreo Cookies.

It has truly been a "hands-on" experience in Science this year! Great job students!



Greetings from the Middle School Art room!

What a great creative year it has been! After a year and a half of teaching art in alternative ways, the students at JFK Middle have really been enjoying using our creative space and materials as they were meant to be used!

6th grade students have learned about the Elements of Art, and artists such as Jim Dine and Vincent Van Gogh. They have used yarn, cardboard, oil pastels, clay and paint. They are learning about one point perspective and color theory as well.



Students in 7th grade have learned about Andy Warhol and the Pop Art movement, and how to create a self-portrait using a grid, like famous artist Chuck Close. They will be exploring two point perspective and optical illusion art as well. Students really enjoyed printmaking, and creating cubes out of paper. A little messy, but the artistic process was worth it!

8th graders have been taking a tour around the globe as they have learned about Celtic knots from Ireland and making origami

Continued on page 5

Bears Give Back!

Mrs. Capalbo & Mrs. Mehnert's Senior advisement and Mrs. Sokolski's sophomore advisement created 25 fleece blankets that were donated over February break to the SPCA serving Erie County. These blankets will be used to comfort animals in their care. The students worked on these over the course of a few months, whenever there was spare time after participating in community building Restorative Practice circles. Students truly enjoyed this team building experience and having the opportunity to give back and make a difference in their community.



JOHN F. KENNEDY MS/HS

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



High School Main Office 716-891-6407 • Middle School Main Office 716-897-7300

JFK Athletics - "A year of Growth"

A driving goal of JFK Athletics is to strive for growth; personal growth as individuals and collective growth as members of a team. This school year we saw the addition of new sport offerings and new levels offered in existing sports. We are building on this momentum coming out of the pandemic, and will continue to offer positive and supportive athletic opportunities for our students in the years ahead.

Fall Sports

The fall season saw Cross Country, Girls' Soccer, Girls' Volleyball and Fall Cheer all have successful seasons. JFK Football had a new coaching staff continue the proud tradition and on field competition that brought the program success in past years. We were also excited to welcome the John F. Kennedy Varsity Golf team back to JFK Athletics! After a lengthy hiatus, we saw a number of our high school students take to the links representing the Bears on area golf courses.

Winter

The winter sports season had JFK Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams, along with JFK Cheer teams persevering through COVID pauses, showing their commitment to each other and the sport. The Boys' and Girls' varsity Bowling teams both had tremendous seasons, with both teams winning their respective division titles! The winter season also saw the return of our modified Swim team, getting Bears back in the pool for the first time in two years.

This year saw the continuation of live streaming, offering the JFK community the opportunity to watch our athletes when they could not be present here on campus in the audience. Our coaches also utilized this technology as a teaching tool to help their players increase

their knowledge of the game and improve on their team play. We are grateful to offer this opportunity to our students, parents, and families!



Spring

At the writing of this newsletter, we have just begun the final sports season of the 2021-2022 school year, which features Track and Field (varsity, modified); Baseball (varsity, modified); Tennis (varsity); and Softball (varsity, modified). We would like to thank you for supporting our student athletes and look forward to continued success for our athletics program. Go Bears!



Art Room

Continued from page 4

cranes from Japan. They are testing their hand-building skills creating a spiral vessel out of clay. Things will really fly as they move into the Abstract Expressionist movement with splatter painting!



The middle school students have also been very excited to have our Art Club return in full force this year, beginning with 6th grade students and ending the year with our 8th graders. This has been a truly positive way to end the school week (as we meet on Fridays after school). Students have the opportunity to gather with friends in a safe environment to explore even more art materials. Sometimes our Art Club creates art to beautify the building and sometimes just for ourselves. I am truly inspired by our students' creativity and enthusiasm every time we meet.

Our Artists and Art Department are very excited to have the Art Show this year in the High School gymnasium on May 17th! We hope you will join us in celebrating our students' creative endeavors, as Artwork from K-12 will be on display.

Stay creative and hope to see you at the Art Show!



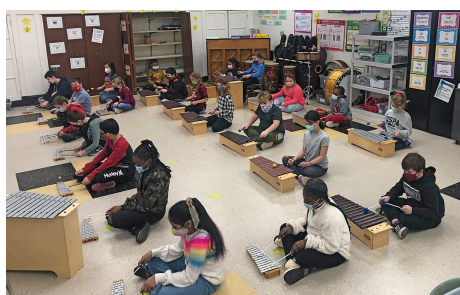
WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY

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

Main Office 716-891-6419

Sharing Music with our Woodrow Wilson, Cheektowaga and WNY Community

Throughout the pandemic music has endured a multitude of changes. Our students have done an amazing job of working to keep music alive and well. Our year continues to see change. However, one thing that has not changed, our love for playing instruments, singing,



and creating. This year students at Woodrow Wilson School have learned so much about music. We began the year learning how to play the Ukulele, a string instrument that has roots tied to Hawaii and even Portugal. Students were able to work in small groups, learning songs such as Mary Had a Little Lamb and

Go Tell Aunt Rhody. Next, we worked with drums and learned about playing rhythm and beat on various sized drums. Xylophones and Glockenspiels became our next set of instruments to play. These instruments are pitched and students have been learning how to read music as well. As we conclude our year in General Music, students will once again have the opportunity to learn recorders, a wind instrument. Students have been eager to play instruments and learn music.

In Choir, students had an amazing opportunity to perform for a live audience in December. This spring, students will perform at the Music Festival at Darien Lake as well as various performances in the district. Finally, students in Drama have been busily preparing for "Pirates! The Musical," which will be on stage in June 2022. We are very much looking forward to our upcoming spring performances.

In Band, we have the largest amount of first year musicians Mr. Murray has had

in his career! We are so proud of the work our students do on and off the stage to get ready to move into band.

Music has such roots and connections to people in their everyday lives. We are very grateful for the support of our community, administrators, friends and family, and of course our performers. Thank you for being dedicated to continuing and fostering music in our community.

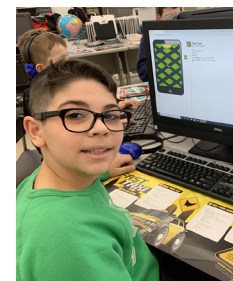


Computer Club

For the first time since 2020 the computer lab has been alive with activity after school. Computer Club returned to Woodrow Wilson this year, and the students were eager to be a part of the fun. Students learned some of the building blocks of computer programming,

such as sequence, coordinates, functions, loops, and more. They needed to use their computational thinking, reasoning, logic, and even

typing skills to code their own custom apps in a program called Bitsbox, using one of the most widely used computer programming languages – JavaScript. Computer Club members also spent time learning about Digital Citizenship. A digital citizen is a person who develops the skills and knowledge to effectively use the internet and other digital technologies. With the prevalence of computers in modern society, these skills are of utmost importance. The smiles on the students faces and the laughter filling the room showed just how excited students are for computer club's return. We can't wait to continue on this technological journey with students in the future!



Growing Leaders and Communicators

We were excited to bring back our Student Lighthouse Team this year and students who showed leadership in the seven habits were selected from each classroom to serve as student leaders at Woodrow Wilson. These leaders collected donations for the SPCA, a place dear to us from our collaboration with Paws for Love. Lighthouse students also have been working on decorating the building with inspirational messages.



All students are learning more about the seven habits each day through our work in the classroom as well as through the morning announcements

where students take turns coming to the office to broadcast our morning announcements to the entire school. We are also proud of the communication skills students practice daily through Restorative Practices. Students check in daily in their classrooms to communicate their feelings, which helps us build one another up throughout the day and form connections with one another to create a strong classroom community. We also learn conflict resolution through Restorative Practices. Building our communication skills is a very important part of our day-to-day here at Woodrow Wilson Elementary.

WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY

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



Main Office 716-891-6419

Woodrow Wilson's Time to Shine

This year we created our theme around the “stars” that make up Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. Students, faculty, and staff were welcomed back on the red carpet. This year we have a lot to celebrate and we are focused on showing the community just how bright we can shine.

Our students have been working very hard on their Wildly Important Goals all year. We have been collecting marbles for showing acts of kindness, reading and answering comprehension questions to make reading goals, and practicing those math facts to reach our math goals. We are so proud of the personal goals students have reached and they continue to climb even higher. We recently were able to tape Mrs. Zaccarine to the wall for reaching our reading goal. We are currently trying to make our new kindness, math, and WIGS for the whole school so our teachers will wear “wigs” for a day.



Colorful Creativity and Our Growing Woodrow Artists

Woodrow Wilson Artists are happy to be back in the art room this school year! We have focused on everything from still life and landscapes to portraits and non-objective pieces. We brought out not only the paper, scissors, and glue but added back into our creative process the tempera paints, watercolor paints, oil, and chalk pastels and are looking forward to wood and clay soon! All are enjoying experimenting whether it be painting, collaging, drawing, coloring, or building! This year has been super colorful and fun!



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 currently participating in a Badminton and Ping Pong Unit and working on skills and drills. This recently included the game pickleball. Students will play modified and active games once they have fully learned the rules of the games. Our Woodrow students continue to learn about teamwork and sportsmanship and these topics will be reinforced with upcoming activities such as lacrosse, fitness testing, Play 60 flag football, and other cooperative activities during the rest of the school year. We are really looking forward to getting outside once the weather breaks. We build teamwork and sportsmanship into every activity we do during PE class and students encourage others while they take turns rotating out during games.



STEM in the Library

For the past few years, a primary focus in the library has been to make it an area of the school where students participate in relevant, purposeful, and challenging activities which promote science, technology, and engineering skills. Although there is still a strong emphasis on the teaching of research skills and the love of reading, the Woodrow Wilson library program is also evolving into a place where students enter the doors of this amazing space to engage in problem solving, and team-oriented challenges that provide an opportunity to design and build interesting structures such as theme park rides, towers, and bridges. For almost two months, students rotated through several engineering challenges such as the ‘Spaghetti- Marshmallow Tower challenge’ and ‘Wood Plank platform challenge’ that hopefully will inspire them to understand and possibly even become a future engineer.



Shining Brighter as Learners

This year we are growing as learners and as teachers. Students work together to practice their learning and even teach one another. Many classrooms work in centers, allowing us to reach students at their specific skill levels with targeted instruction and practice. Students love the opportunity to take turns writing on the boards and leading one another through things like math fact practice. Student are also enjoying more hands-on activities this year and continue to utilize our one-to-one technology for research, writing, and presentations.





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 sums set forth in the proposed 2022-2023 Budget in the amount of \$38,154,824 and to levy the necessary tax?

YES NO

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

Tax Rate	Cheektowaga	West Seneca
2021-2022 Actual	\$21.42	\$63.01
2022-2023 Estimated	\$21.63	\$63.62
Increase	\$0.21	\$0.61

Instruction: 48.7%

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	\$10,270,346
Students with Disabilities	6,303,250
Curriculum Development and Supervision	379,644
BOCES Services / Occupational Education	
Instruction	370,000
Summer School / Continuing Education	96,800
In-Service Training	166,000
Supervision, Planning and Evaluation	1,002,020
TOTAL	\$2,214,715

Pupil Support Services: 6.5%

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

Attendance	\$15,425
Guidance Services	305,543
School Library, Audio Visual Services and Computer Assisted Instruction	962,809
Health Services	225,280
Psychological Services	132,014
Social Work Services	304,048
Co-curricular Activities	140,311
Interscholastic Athletics	361,805
Community Census	17,050
TOTAL	\$2,464,285

General Support: 5.8%

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, Operational Expenses and Legal Notices	\$25,675
District Clerk	7,300
Annual District Meeting	7,050

Central Administration:

Superintendent's Office	272,810
Business Administration	388,614
Legal, Auditing and Purchasing	331,625
Public Information, Newsletters and Brochures	19,280
Central Printing and Mailing	46,000
Central Data Processing	749,175

Special Items:

Insurance	150,800
Association Dues and Assessments	69,635
BOCES Administration Charges	146,751

TOTAL \$2,214,715

Building Maintenance & Operations: 6.6%

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	\$ 1,575,857
Utilities	568,650
Equipment, Materials and Supplies	255,000
Inter-fund Transfer to Capital Project Fund – Facility Improvement	100,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,499,507

Student Transportation Services: 6.5%

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	\$2,608,010
BOCES Services	119,205
Fuel, Equipment, Material and Supplies	50,000
TOTAL	\$2,777,215

BUDGET INFORMATION

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



District Office 716-891-6402

Debts & Obligations: 25.1%

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:

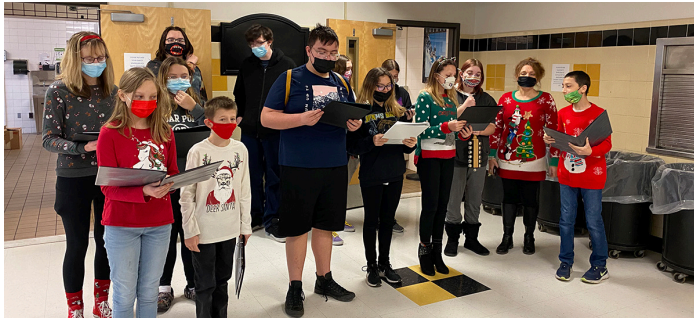
Employee Retirement	\$563,172
Teacher's Retirement	1,430,220
Social Security	1,231,330
Workers Compensation	260,000
Life Insurance	35,000
Unemployment Insurance	50,000
Hospital and Medical Insurance	3,711,926

Debt Service:

Serial Bond Principal	1,825,000
Serial Bond and Other Interest	504,394

TOTAL \$9,611,042

GRAND TOTAL \$38,154,824



Board of Education Elections

To elect one (1) member to the Board of Education, for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2027, currently held by Denise McCowan.

**Candidate 1A:
Denise McCowan**

See candidate bio on page 12.

Budget Vote Hearing

The School Budget Public Hearing will take place on

Tuesday May 10, 2022 • 7:00 p.m.

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

School Budget Vote

will take place on

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 • noon until 9:00 p.m.

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

Who is Eligible to Vote?

To be eligible to vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 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 17, 2022
- 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 891-6402.

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, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person. Please note that the applications may be acquired by anyone but the ballot can only be given to the 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

The District continues to closely monitor all current and future legal developments as they pertain to the District election and budget vote, including those regarding absentee ballots. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health pandemic, certain procedures and/or deadlines may change as required by law or consistent with state guidance. All District residents are encouraged to closely monitor the District's website for the most up-to-date information concerning the upcoming annual vote.

Please contact Denise Knaebe, District Clerk at dknaebe@cheektowagasloan.org or 891-6402 should you have any questions.



CAPITAL PROJECT INFORMATION

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

District Office 716-891-6402

Current Construction Projects:

Since 2014, the Cheektowaga Sloan Union Free School District has worked hand in hand with their architects at Young + Wright Architectural. It has been a strong partnership that has made some much needed improvements to the Districts' educational buildings. After the \$18 million Capital Improvement Project wrapped up in 2019, the District has completed two additional \$100,000 Capital Outlay Projects and currently has another \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project in construction at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. The District has also received grant funding to complete an overhaul of the generator at JFK Middle/High School and is in the process of determining their next \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project working with Young + Wright Architectural. Below are some images that have been taken of the great construction progress to date!

John F. Kennedy Middle/ High School



The exterior doors have been replaced and the columns along the front of the building were painted black to help improve the overall appearance of the building towards the street.



Photos of JFK himself have been installed in the main entrance to the High School. The photos feature President Kennedy standing at his desk in the Oval Office before the Bay of Bigs Invasion and President Kennedy giving a speech on the steps of Buffalo City Hall.



A new secure entrance (part of the capital project work) and signage were installed in the vestibule area of the High School as well as large entry mats with building signage were installed all throughout the District.

CAPITAL PROJECT INFORMATION

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

District Office 716-891-6402

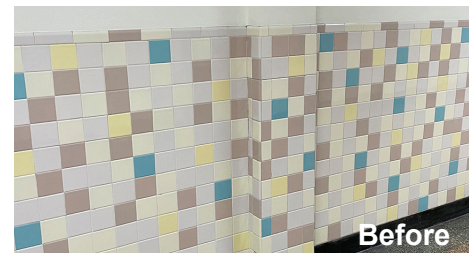


Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School

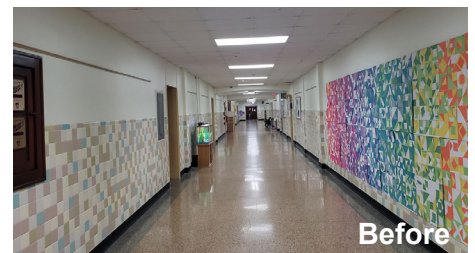


A new secure entrance vestibule was added to the main entrance of Theodore Roosevelt Elementary. The existing glass vestibule was demolished, and a new brick and glass vestibule was constructed along with a portion of the sidewalk.

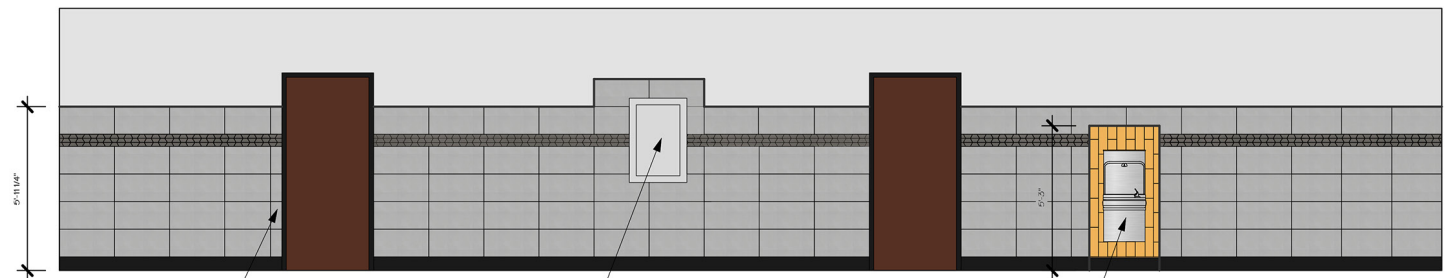
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School



The District is currently underway replacing the corridor wall tile on the 2nd floor of Woodrow Wilson Elementary.



The existing wall tile was installed in the 1970's, so this update was a much-needed improvement for the overall appearance of the school. We cannot wait until its completed this summer!



FINAL CORRIDOR WALL TILE PATTERN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Tile Rendering



Meet School Board Candidate:

Denise McCowan



Hello residents of Cheektowaga-Sloan School District! I'm Denise McCowan, a proud school board member for the past fourteen years. I have had the honor to be your Board President for the last two years. It is my

desire to run again this year.

My husband, Bill, and I purchased our home in 1990 and raised our son, Sean in the district. Prior to COVID I volunteered at PTO events, helped with the concession stand at the HS Basketball games and attended as many events as I could through-out our district. I am looking forward to being a part of these events again.

I've been appointed to the Erie County School Board Executive Board for seven consecutive years, the last two as Vice President. I am a member and Vice President of the William Street Tax Payers Association and a volunteer judge for Distributive Education Clubs of America State competition.

Being a passionate school board member means making tough choices that involve personal time and even sacrifice. I've attended and volunteered at many seminars and classes, opting to continue my education to better serve our district. In the past, I've changed vacation plans in order to attend district and ECSB meetings. I have also teleconferenced meetings when I couldn't personally attend.

I know that I have helped make a difference in the lives of our students over the past fourteen years and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve our district for years to come.

Cheektowaga/ Sloan UFSD Buildings & Grounds

305 Cayuga Creek Road Cheektowaga, New York 14227
(716) 891-6412 Fax: (716) 891-6437

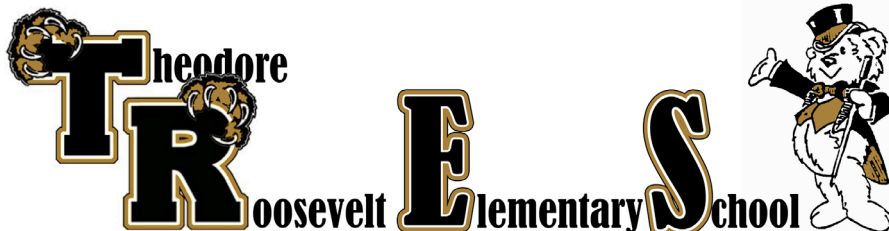
Cheektowaga Sloan Schools has a dedicated Building and Grounds team. This team has come together and met the challenges of the past year. They have focused on their core objective of making a clean safe environment for the all students and staff. This includes the sanitizing of each building throughout the day, snow removal, housekeeping, and much more. These men and women are at every sporting, drama, and special event, working with the same dedication. They work during the school breaks, focusing on the deep cleaning of our district buildings. We are so thankful for our buildings and grounds team!



CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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

District Office 716-891-6402



Universal Pre-K Registration

The Cheektowaga-Sloan School District is now accepting applications for Universal Pre-K for the 2022-2023 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 2022.
- 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 2022-2023 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, 2022 and a legal resident of the Cheektowaga Sloan School District.

SAVE THE DATES

Kindergarten Screening

Will take place May 2nd-6th

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

Kindergarten Orientation

May 16th

Further information to follow as we approach this date



Letter from the Principal

Over the past two years, principals and teachers across the country have recognized the important contributions parents make toward a child's success in school. Through the pandemic, Theodore Roosevelt Elementary faculty and staff have worked with our students and families in remote learning, hybrid learning, and now thankfully back to 100% in-person learning. Throughout all these models there is no question about it - success at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child's schooling. We truly appreciate all your collaboration, efforts, and support.

As we continue to progress through the pandemic, parents will once again have the opportunity to develop our partnership as we have in the past as parent volunteers, field trip chaperones, and participate in school-wide events. I

encourage all parents to join our PTO. It is important to your child that you are involved in some way at school. It's a way to let your child know you think his or her school and education are important. We are always looking for substitute lunch monitors, classroom aides, and teachers. If you or anyone you know is interested please reach out and let me know.

As spring is finally here, I encourage you to help your child finish off the school year strong. At home, it is important to provide routines as we do here at Theodore Roosevelt. Many families build a daily "quiet time" when the television and all screen time is turned off. This quiet time provides students the opportunity for completing schoolwork or for recreational reading if there is no schoolwork. I encourage a minimum of 20 minutes a night of reading to or with your

child. During this quiet time a suitable place, somewhat free of other distractions, should be made available. The routine of daily quiet time provides an opportunity to develop self-discipline, stimulate imagination, and enhance reading skills at the primary level. At Theodore Roosevelt, students are now back to partner reading and working with our teachers in guided reading groups to assist in this vital life skill. It's so wonderful to see our students with books in their hands and not looking at or using an electronic device.

Routines can also make completing chores easier for both children and parents. If children are consistently expected to complete routine household duties at the same time on the same day in the same place, they soon begin to develop a responsibility for their commitment and contribution to the family. This also allows them to establish and grow leadership opportunities like we discuss and encourage through the 7 Habits and our Leader in Me Program each day in school and discussed in our morning circle time.

As families establish or re-establish routines lost during the pandemic for the end of the school year, it is helpful to keep in mind that childhood is a special time of learning, exploration, and growth. Children need to be provided free time to explore their world and experience the joy of discovery. Please have them get outside and play!

Commitment to the best for our children on the part of parents, students, and our staff is the key to success with the children we teach. It is the hope of the Theodore Roosevelt Faculty and Staff that all parents will help us fulfill this commitment to excellence on behalf of ALL children at TR. School and home can work together to build leadership skills, knowledge, reinforce values, and develop a strong sense of self-worth. We must invest our time and energies in our nation's most valuable resource - our children.

Thank you for your continued support,
Mr. Jeffrey S. Mochrie

Read Across America Week 2022

Every March, the students at TR celebrate Read Across America, which promotes reading through a variety of fun activities!

Pictured here is Michael McCloud dressing up as his favorite book character, Clifford!



Ms. Haley's UPK class conducting a circle to share their favorite stuffed animal



Pictured here is Mrs. Hershey's class enjoying Books Color Our World Day!

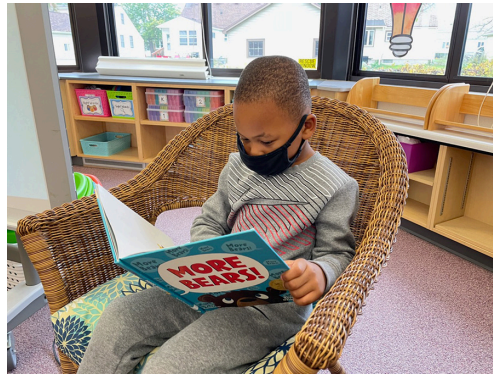


Library Update

The students at TR have been building a love of reading this year during their time in the library! In kindergarten, we have been learning about the different elements that make up a fiction story including characters, setting, and plot. The students have been working on telling the difference between fiction and nonfiction texts by being reading detectives! In the next few weeks we will be starting our nonfiction unit, where they will be learning about different animal groups such as reptiles, mammals, etc.



The first-grade students have been learning all about becoming stronger readers using different “tools in their toolbox.” For example, the students are learning how to make predictions while reading. By predicting what will come next, the students are paying closer attention to potential clues in the text that will allow them to make a more accurate prediction. Some of the other skills they have learned are finding the main idea, learning about characters and how they can change throughout a story, and cause and effect. In the next couple of months, we will be focusing on nonfiction texts where the students will learn about nonfiction text features and how these features can help them understand and remember all of the information they read in a nonfiction book.

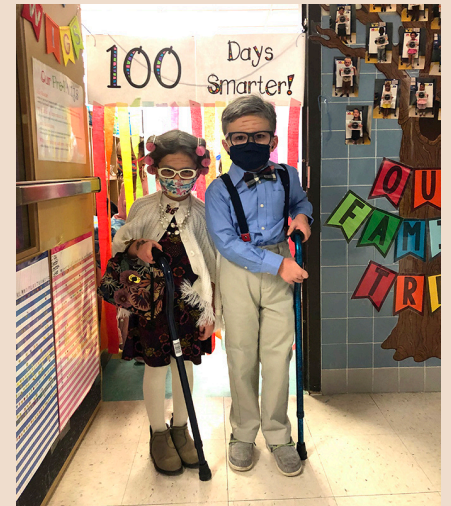


Finally, second graders at TR have been learning all about important people from the past! We have been exploring the genre of biographies where students have participated in different activities to help them appreciate learning about others. For example, the students took part in a “Biography Blind Date,” where they traveled around the room and freely selected a random iPad that had a biography pulled open on it. The students spent this time in the library learning about people from Martin Luther King Jr, Jane Goodall, Walt Disney, to Michelle Obama. They also got to learn about people like Amelia Earhart while making paper airplanes or learning about Helen Keller and what it could be like to suddenly become both blind and deaf. In the next couple of months, the students will be learning to appreciate and evaluate the books they are reading.



Pre-K News

Our Pre-Kindergarten students have been hard at work this school year! We’ve been honing in on leadership skills and working to express ourselves and our feelings during Restorative Circles. We’ve been working hard on our academic skills this school year to prepare for kindergarten; we recently celebrated all of our accomplishments on the 100th day of school! Throughout the school year, we have integrated non-fiction literacy texts during read aloud time. Students had the opportunity to extend their learning during apple week. They were able to taste test apples and choose their favorite type, and participate in apple experiments such as sink or float activities.



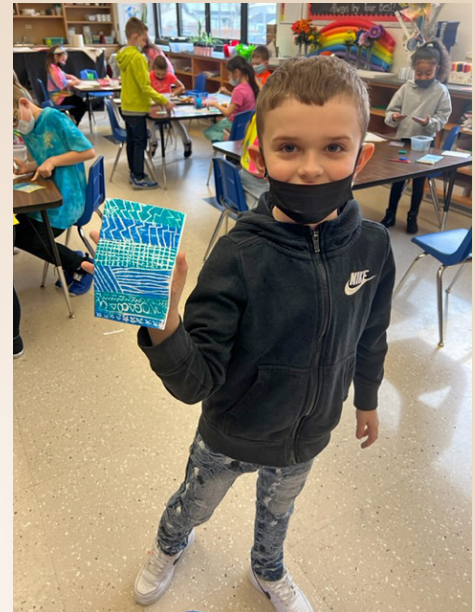


Showing off our artistic side!

This year at TR we are drawing, cutting, gluing, painting, weaving and sculpting! Everyone is so happy to be back in the art room! We have been using paper, fabric, string, clay, paint and more. Our days are filled with lots of colorful creations that have headed home or stayed to be displayed at our district art show.



Pictured here: Students from Mrs. Overs' class working on their art project together.



Pictured here: Chase Sylvia



Pictured here: Emma Pawlowski



Pictured left to right: Kayden Czekaj and Grayson Guzek



STEAM Learning at TR

The students at TR all agree: They have been very excited to see what they will learn during their STEAM classes this year! STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math and this year the students have come down to the library every week to take part in a class that addresses these subject areas.



Pictured here is Evelyn Bernas and Ashton Frommer practicing the rules of gravity vs. weight by conducting Apple Ramp Races!



*Here is second grader Bryce Shanor building the largest tower using just index cards and dot stickers after reading *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds.*



Pictured left to right is Tyler Luchowski, Emma Pawlowski, and Hank Springer showing off their Dogman parade float.



An Update from the TR Student Lighthouse Team

This year, our Student Lighthouse team has a record of 30 students. At our meetings, they work together to come up with ways to improve our school and the local community. Students are given assignments to come up with their own community service projects. They chose to give donations to Garden Gate Health Care Facility in December. This spring, we will create a Little Library for our school. Our students are exemplifying the Seven Habits and helping the entire school to find their own voices, too!



Pictured here are the Student and the Staff Lighthouse teams working together to paint lighthouses for the front display at school.



Pictured here is the Student Lighthouse team dropping off donations to the Garden Gate Health Care Facility.



Update from the Department of Special Education & Student Services:

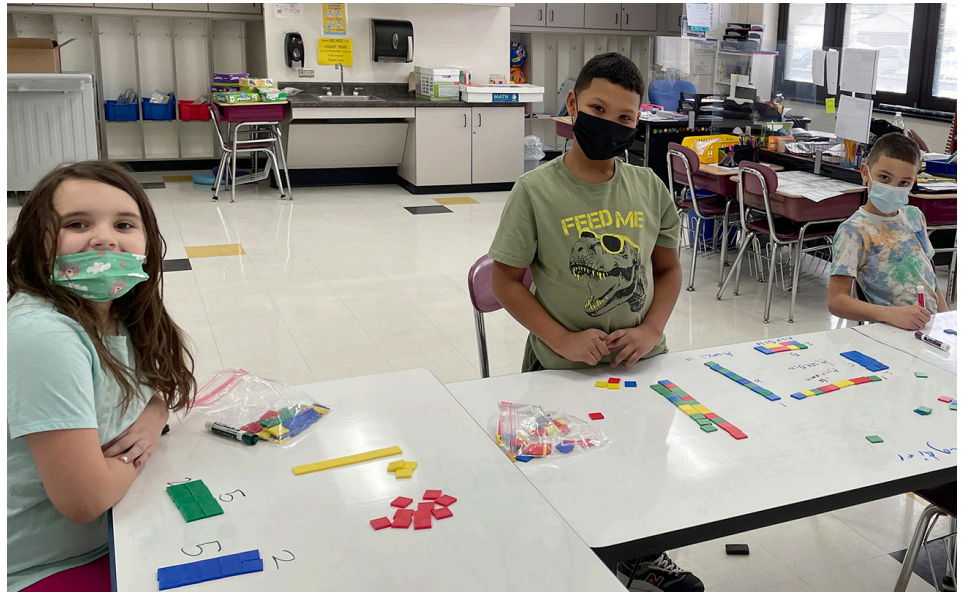
As we approach the final stretch of the school year, there is much to celebrate in the Special Education and Student Services Department. Our support staff has done an exceptional job meeting the needs of our students in creative and innovative ways this year.

Special Education Teachers & Therapists:

A focus of the Special Education Department for the 2021-2022 school year has been on data-driven decision-making. The department has taken many steps to ensure that all decision regarding a student's programming are made on the basis of data. New procedures have been implemented within the department and we have seen success through this new data driven decision process.

Specifically, our special education students have made tremendous progress in the area of reading. The reading levels of our classified students in 3rd-grade have improved by six levels since September 2021, thanks to the hard work of our teachers and the implementation of the Phonics First Program. We have students that started at a C reading level and are now reading level J books. That is six levels of improvement!

One parent explained, "My son has been a struggling reader and receiving Tier 3 services for several years. After minimal progress, we decided to pursue more testing this year through the district's special education office. Results of the evaluation showed that my child was found to have a severe reading disability. I was so happy to find out that Cheektowaga-Sloan had invested in one of these programs, Phonics First. My child has been receiving instruction using the Phonics



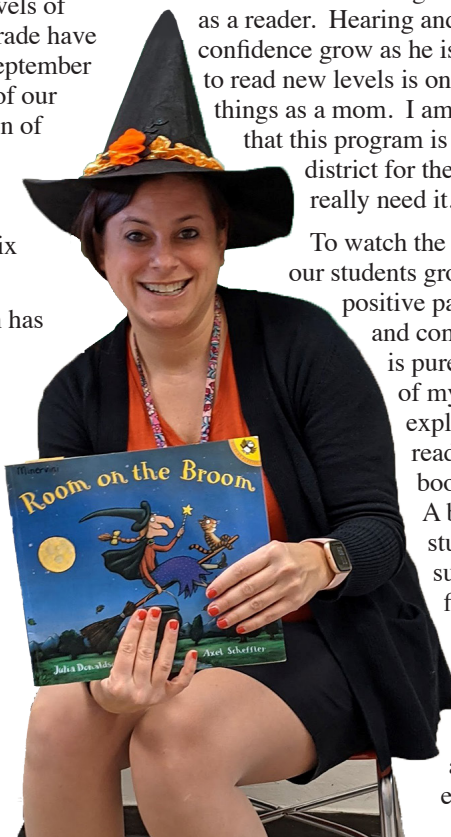
First Program since September and has made amazing gains! It has been so awesome to see him grow and flourish as a reader. Hearing and seeing his confidence grow as he is continuing to read new levels is one of the best things as a mom. I am so grateful that this program is available in our district for the students who really need it."

To watch the confidence of our students grow and receive positive parent feedback and communication is pure joy! As one of my students explained, "I'm reading this H book like it's an A book!" These students feel success and are finding the love of reading.

The 2021-2022 school year has also been an exciting year for

the CSUFSD Speech Department! In the fall, at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary and Woodrow Wilson Elementary, Cara Minervini and Kayla Small led Oral Remediation Programs to help build expressive and receptive language skills for students. This winter, our district has contracted with the Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center to offer speech improvement services to students at both elementary schools. Through this program, we have been able to support more than 45 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!

Also, Ms. Minervini and Mrs. Small have focused on incorporating literacy-based language instruction into their speech therapy sessions. Literacy concepts, such as phonological awareness and listening comprehension, are incorporated into each therapy session to allow students to build on their foundational reading skills while working on their speech therapy goals.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

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



Office 716-891-6429

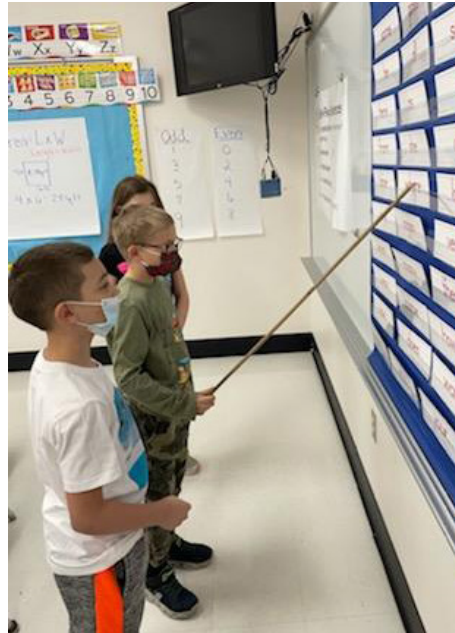
Students are introduced to new themes and books throughout the school year. Utilizing these themes helps to support vocabulary growth and helps children build connections to their classroom lessons, as well as their personal life and knowledge!

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 district's school social workers (Mrs. Bernas, Mrs. Ernst, and Mrs. Stiglmeier) have been successful in delivering family counseling and consultation services to individuals, parents, and families throughout our district through our Family Solution Center. The Family Solution Center utilizes a strengths-based, client-centered, and solutions-focused approach. Through our consultation model of therapy, each family is afforded the input of a primary therapist along with an entire team of professionals.

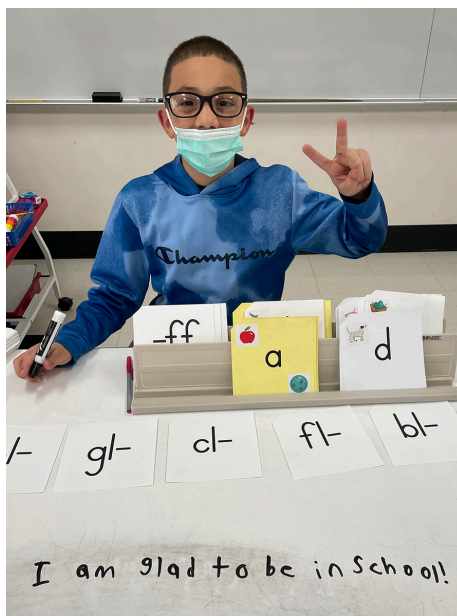
This year the Family Solutions Center has been able to support families on issues including truancy and attendance concerns, behavioral challenges in the



home and classroom, improving family communication and coping, strengthening the parenting team, and linking families to resources in the community. The Family Solutions Center is available to all families in our district on a completely free, confidential, and voluntary basis. If you are interested in learning more about the Family Solutions Center, please contact your child's school social worker!

English as New Language Teachers:

With funds from our Title III grant, the District was able to purchase new reading materials for our English Language Learners. The reading materials purchased were differentiated for each English Language Learner and leveled appropriately to meet their language needs. With the purchase of these materials, each English as New Language Teacher within the District now has a library of books within their classroom. The libraries contain many titles that the students enjoy reading, especially non-fiction titles that help them develop language and vocabulary. This has been an invaluable resource for students and has helped our English language learners discover the pleasure of reading as well as improving their language skills.



Nurses:

Cheektowaga Sloan's nurses have done an exceptional job keeping our health offices a safe and welcoming place for students. When a child enters the health office, the school nurse thoroughly assesses the student's illness and takes the necessary actions after a child is seen. The health and safety of our students are of the utmost importance to our community and the nurses at Cheektowaga-Sloan.



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.





Update from the Technology Department

After a year of hybrid instruction, the technology department attempted to establish the new normal. This began by establishing a unified District Technology Vision statement.

At Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District, our technology will supplement and enhance instructional practices adding interest and engagement, prepare students for the digital world of the future, and allow instruction to continue regardless of any obstacles. The primary use of technology is to support the goals of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and encourage a culture of learning. The District's technology will allow its citizens to be more efficient and provide more time for students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. The District will provide appropriate and equitable access to technology for all faculty and students. District technology will allow collaboration between teachers, students, and the community and help each stakeholder work and learn within a 21st-century environment. Finally, all technology goals align with the CDEP and building-level strategic plans.

The District is standardizing Chromebooks to provide students with a consistent experience. This also allows faster diagnostic and troubleshooting of problems. The Dell 3100 touchscreen, Clamshell Chromebooks will be available to every student at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. We will continue to replace older units with the most recent Dell Chromebook for education.



Our students' need for WiFi access at home decreased but was still present this year. To meet the vision of providing appropriate and equitable access to technology for all faculty and students, we utilized the States Emergency Connectivity Fund grant to purchase Kajeet units. The Kajeet mobile WiFi units are available to families lacking a home broadband connection capable of accessing the District's technology resources.

To be more efficient and provide more time for students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally, we have begun utilizing the single-sign-on site ClassLink. Students and teachers can log into ClassLink and access all of the instructional technology resources available to them without the need to remember other passwords. ClassLink flawlessly integrates with the Google Suite of software applications and provides analytics to ensure that the District's funds are being spent on software utilized regularly.

The safety of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors remains our top priority. The technology department worked with the principals and other administrators to evaluate, upgrade, and increase our

camera coverage at each building. In addition, an AI program was installed to monitor student internet usage and alert administrators of potentially dangerous activities.

Increasing communication with families and the local community is another area where we have made significant improvements. In addition to our texting system, we have introduced Operoo, a form and signature website used for the daily health screener. We also updated our website to include a hyperlinked version of the Board of Education's Policy Manual, an Annual Notifications tab, and a more versatile faculty directory service.

You will also soon find the new three-year technology plan on our website. This plan was created over the first half of the school year with the support of parents, students, teachers, administrators, and staff representatives.

In conclusion, the technology department has been busy attempting to meet the school community's needs. The work that we have completed this year and the modernization of our resources would not have been possible without the support and funding of the community. It is with the deepest gratitude that I bring you this update and look forward to the future.



CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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

District Office 716-891-6402



Restorative Practice

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD began its journey with Restorative Practice in the 2018-2019 school year. In 2019-2020, the District forged a partnership with the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition (ECRJC) and began working with Dina Thompson, their Executive Director.

Restorative Practice is an emerging area of study and collection of actions focused on finding respectful and effective ways to build community, build and restore relationships, and/or to repair harm. The basic premise is that when individuals feel part of a supportive community, they are more likely to behave in a respectful manner and hold themselves accountable to that community.

The District is implementing Restorative Practice across all grade levels, prekindergarten through grade 12. In our schools, the use of Restorative Practice helps build a positive school climate by strengthening social-emotional skills, improving relationships, and giving students a voice. This is accomplished through the use of circles and restorative approaches to conflict resolution.

Over the years we have held a variety of professional development connected to Restorative Practice. Our first training was held on opening day September 3rd, 2019. On this day, all District employees attended an introductory training and learned about the philosophy behind Restorative Practice and the basics of circles. Since then, we have formed a District-wide Restorative Practice Committee. Collaboratively, we have fostered a common understanding of Restorative Practice.

This has allowed us to progress to the next stage of implementation with the addition of Restorative Practice Liaisons - one person per building. The Restorative Practice Liaisons have been instrumental in providing monthly professional development to their faculty and staff around the key elements of Restorative Practice to build common

language and understanding. We have focused training on values and guidelines, the nuances of circles, affective language, and the use of Restorative Practice questions in difficult times.

In the 2021-2022 school year, the Restorative Practice Liaisons held an important role in helping the District determine where each school is at with their training and what is needed next. Before the end of the school year, individualized professional development plans will be developed for each building and this will drive the training received in the 2022-2023 school year. One of our goals for 2022-2023 is to provide opportunities for our families to experience Restorative Practice and deepen their understanding. We encourage families to check out our Restorative Practice page located on our District website. The website provides more in-depth information on Restorative Practice. We have also provided ideas on how Restorative Practice can be implemented at home, and a variety of resources. We will update this page with more information as we continue to focus on strengthening our relationships and community so all students, families, and district personnel feel safe, valued, and connected.



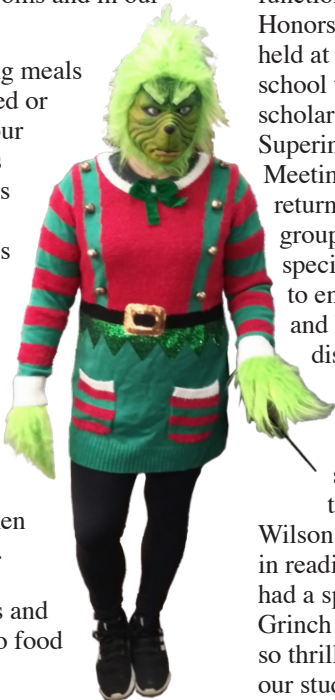


Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5776
Buffalo, NY

Food Service News

Since school re-opened in September, there have been many great changes to the food service department! We have been so happy to have all of our students back in our classrooms and in our lunch lines once again.

We have implemented a new way of preparing meals for our students. Instead of using pre-packaged or pre-made canned and frozen food products, our talented cooks have been making menu items here in our Cheektowaga-Sloan kitchens. This gives our students fresher, homemade meals without much of the sodium and preservatives found in many of the pre-made items. Our students now enjoy tasty handmade pizzas that rival anything ordered from a local pizzeria; Homemade chicken noodle soup that Mrs. Galenski herself said reminded her of what her grandmother used to make; From scratch macaroni and cheese, chili, and stir fry; and new menu items such as rice bowls, popcorn chicken bowls, Buffalo chicken mac and cheese, and chicken souvlaki salads. We have increased the use of fresh fruits and vegetables to make our meals more nutritious and ensure every child in our district has access to food products that may not be available at home.



We've also been able to resume some great special functions for our students. Honors Breakfasts was held at the middle and high school to reward our amazing scholars for their hard work. Superintendent's Council Meeting lunches have returned, where a selected group of students enjoy a specially prepared luncheon to enjoy with Mrs. Galenski and Mr. Julian, while they discuss all important events and school issues. We also held a "You're the Tops" special breakfast for those terrific Woodrow Wilson students who excelled in reading and math. We even had a special visit from Mrs. Grinch at the holidays! We're so thrilled to be back, serving our students each and every day!

