

North Tonawanda City Schools



Message from the Superintendent



It is hard to believe that we are just a month away from the year 2020! This new year will usher in a new decade and a new generation of future Lumberjacks. The children born in 2020 will be part of the graduating class of 2037-2038. This really brings meaning to our slogan of “educating the future today”! The exciting curriculum development going on in the district is a back to basics approach with hands on learning and experiment. Now, more than ever, our future Lumberjacks need to be problem solvers who can tackle any problem life throws their way. I encourage you to visit our web page often to see the videos and posts of all the exciting programs North Tonawanda has to offer.

One thing the new decade will bring is the responsibility that schools now have for the development of the whole child. While this has become an area that is getting more focus, it can’t be done in isolation. The family structure and family dynamics have also witnessed much change. Together, with our dedicated counselors and social workers, we are working to develop the new family support center in the district. The center has evening hours and can help guide as well as help support families as they find the need for support. Please reach out to your building principals if you want more information on this family support center or visit our web page at www.ntschoools.org.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming holiday season and look forward to a great 2020 and the start of a brand-new decade where we truly are “building the future today”!

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of North Tonawanda Schools



Aspiring Filmmakers Roam Halls of North Tonawanda Intermediate

As part of the North Tonawanda Intermediate School’s two week campaign centered on “Junior Jacks Choose to be Kind”, a group of sixth graders came in before school for two weeks straight to work on a “Don’t Bully” video. The video was shown to everyone in the NTI building during Fall Festival on November 1st.



Movie Crew in NTI hallway.

There were other fun events as well to recognize kindness. Literacy Specialist Lauren Miranto says the students have been having a blast. “We also have classrooms decorating doors, Buffalo Bills players giving students a “shout out” via video messages for students who are caught being kind and UB student athletes sent our students a message as well.”

The students have been also working on the song “Don’t Give Up On Me” by Andy Grammer in class and Music.

Library Conference Is a Huge Success!

The School Librarians Association of Western New York recently had their annual conference at North Tonawanda. School Librarian/Media Specialist Katie LaFever played host and said the event was amazing.

“The great thing about this conference is that it gives all us librarians a chance to renew, refresh and recharge,” she says. “We were exceptionally fortunate to have John Schumaker, also known as Mr. Schube our keynote speaker. His official title is the Ambassador for School Libraries with Scholastic Book Fairs, but he is basically a modern day Mr. Rogers! He was so infectious with his love of literacy and being able to share that with children. We felt very lucky to have him share the day with us. It was very uplifting for us all.”



Community Rallies Around Ohio School Student

Community and family members rallied around Ohio Elementary student Maci Rogers as she and her family look to raise funds for a lifesaving kidney transplant.

Maci has stage four chronic kidney disease and because of her kidneys failing needs a transplant. Fortunately her father Keith is a perfect match, but medical and living expenses are piling up for Maci's family.

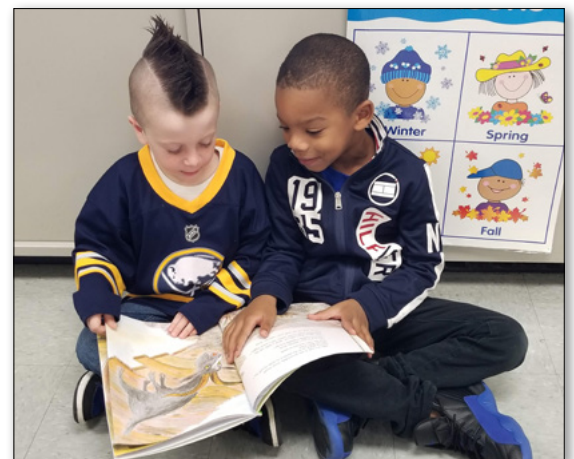
Her family organized a meat raffle to offset the costs and the district raised over \$1,000 to help out the Rogers family. Way to go Lumberjacks!



Ohio Elementary Principal John Steckstor and Maci at the Knights of Columbus Meat Raffle.

Drake Students Partner Up for Readers Workshop

All through the month of October, Drake kindergartners learned the components of the Readers Workshop. The students were instructed on how to partner read. They were then allowed to practice this valuable method.



Sean Price and Jayshawn Hailey, doing an excellent job of partner reading *The Three Billy Goat's Gruff*!

North Tonawanda Schools *Just Say No to Bullying!*

The month of October was Bully Prevention Month at North Tonawanda City Schools. Staff members organized a lot of fun activities to hit home with the message that bullying is never okay. Students all took a pledge against bullying and they were proudly displayed in the school.

Some of the great activities were a magic show, wearing orange for Unity Day, musician Jared Campbell performing for the students and Red Ribbon Week where students learned how to make healthier choices and dressed up for theme days.

Together North Tonawanda students, faculty and staff stand against bullying!



Spruce Elementary's Austin Cole assisting our visiting magician on stage.

NTI Rolls Out Innovative Prevention Education Task Force

NTI School Social Worker Jackie Rose is very excited about a new and innovative prevention education task force that the school is unveiling this school year. The school has been collaborating with several community organizations in an effort to empower students, 4th-6th, with the knowledge to make healthier life choices. "We have several assemblies lined up on topics these kids need to know that are not in their curriculum. We are dedicated to not only providing kids with the best academic education, but the tools and coping skills they need to be happier, healthier people."



Kim Zackey, Lexi Cretacci, Katie Smith, Jackie Rose, Rachel Wagner and Danielle Conlan.

Danielle Conlan, who is with the Mental Health Association in Niagara County was the first speaker for the Prevention Education Program in October. Her topic was Anxiety and Stress Management. "We call this taking a look at their beast. We want to give students something more tangible to look at. We want them to examine what is their relationship with their anxiety or stress. We are going to encourage them to give their beast some TLC and identify why their beast comes out and how to tame it."

Other assemblies will include: "Keeping Kids E-Cigarette Free", "Conflict Resolution", "Healthier Coping Skills" and "Bullying and Building Healthy Relationships."

Drake Students Learning to Set Emotional Benchmarks

This school year, students at Drake Elementary will be working hard to learn the NYS Social Emotional Learning (SEL) benchmarks.



Lily Day, Jayden Kennedy, Madelyn Piskor, Lukas Jamulla, Hunter Knoell and Mr. Schelble (guidance counselor).

School Principal Janet Matyevich says, "Research shows that students who learn about SEL have a better level of school connectedness and become better learners. For the fall months, students focused on developing self-awareness and self-management skills."

At a recent all-school assembly, it was revealed that all students would be working on a project to set a personal goal and to create artwork that represents that goal. Several third graders helped teach the younger students about personal goals and what types of things they could work on. The school is looking forward to when all of the artwork will be displayed in the hallways and cafeteria to show that Drake students are aiming for success in school and in life!



Our Lumberjacks certainly had a great time with Spirit Week! Not only did staff and students enjoy getting creative on theme days, they had a blast decorating the schools, attending the pep rally, the car parade, the T-NT game and our first-ever Chalk Walk and Lumberfest!

We are D



Dynamite!



Happy New School Year!

North Tonawanda Intermediate students were all smiles as they board the bus for their first day of school!



(LtoR): Meredith Roberts, Gianna Panepinto and Eric Grinnell.

NT Girls Soccer Team Wins First Championship in 34 Years

The North Tonawanda Girls Soccer Team took home the Niagara Frontier League crown on October 17th! It was their first league title since 1985!

It was a major upset since their opponents, the Grand Island Vikings, had an 85-match unbeaten streak. The Vikings are ranked fifth in the state in Class A and have won five straight Frontier League titles.

The Lady Jacks squeaked out a 2-1 victory with Macey Gioeli scoring the first goal and Jessica Tyrell making eight saves. With 9:11 remaining in the match, Kaia O'Rourke netted her third goal of the season off a rebound to give the Jacks the lead. Congratulations to the team and Coach Hannah Crouch! We are so proud of our champs!



NT Girls Soccer team poses with NFL plaque after their win.

Guess Who is Going to Sectionals!

The North Tonawanda Relay Swim Team qualified for sectionals which was held November 8th at UB, with States November 23rd at Ithaca College. Coach Matt Schutt is ecstatic!



Coach, Matt Schutt with (LtoR) Megan Orrange, Alaina Roberts, Coach Matt, Addison Chaplin and Leah Gardiner.



Ohio School Enjoys Fun Run

Students at Ohio Elementary School enjoyed an autumn fun run.

Students at all grade levels took their turns running laps around the school as staff and family members cheered them on from the sidelines!



Mrs. Davignon and her class running a lap.

Spruce Welcomes Kindergartners

Spruce Elementary School opened its doors to their incoming kindergartners on September 3rd. Principal Patricia Adler and her staff went out of their way to make the students feel welcomed and gave a presentation to their families on what they can expect for the school year and answer any questions they might have.



The Baughman Family: Brandon, Ariel and Preston.



Calia Anatriello with her son Noah Anatriello.



Mrs. Adler with the Jaworski Family.

Northeast College Fair Points Students in Right Direction

The North Tonawanda High School held their annual Northeast College Fair on Wednesday on September 18th.

Junior and senior students were able to meet with representatives from 100 colleges and universities from across the Northeast and gather college information.



Emily Velzy, Riley Wisniewski, Madeline Fleming.

High School Counseling Center Hosts College Consortium

The North Tonawanda High School Counseling/Career Center hosted the WNY College Consortium in the High School Library on October 2nd.

Juniors and seniors had an opportunity to visit with 21 local Western New York college representatives. Career Center Mentor Lori Graves says, "The students were able to ask questions and gather information about the many different programs the colleges offer, what kind of sports they can participate in, scholarships, grants, financial aid and any open houses the colleges have to offer."





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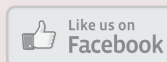
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Literary Pumpkins



Students in Mrs. Davignon's first grade class at Ohio Elementary had a unique literacy experience in which they designed pumpkins as characters from a book. Students chose a book, wrote a report on it, and then created their character on their pumpkin. We loved sharing the stories and hearing the steps students took to make their pumpkin.

A special thank you to Budwey's Market in the Square for graciously donating 24 pumpkins to be used for this project.

Trunk or Treat

The dreary weather did not keep Spruce Elementary families away from Halloween festivities. The annual Trunk or Treat was a huge success!

