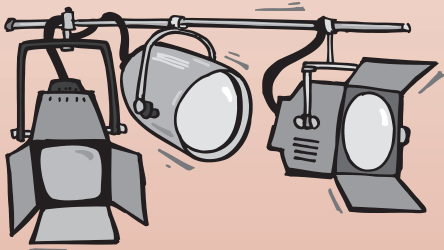


# North Tonawanda City Schools



## NTHS Drama Club Presents: "Shrek the Musical"

Performances will take place December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in the ASAC Auditorium. General admission tickets are \$8. Children 5 and under are \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Come support your NTHS Drama Club and enjoy an evening at the show!

## Substitutes Needed

NT school district is looking for certified teacher substitutes, sub teacher aides and sub bus attendants. All interested applicants can apply online or stop into the personnel office at 176 Walck Road.

Contact the Human Resources Department or go online: <http://www.ntschoools.org/domain/33>

- Laurie Burger, Director of Personnel, 807-3514
- Christine McClinsey, Clerk Typist, 807-3516
- Tricia DiVirgilio, Clerk Typist, 807-3507

## Message from Superintendent

We hope you and your families enjoyed the wonderful summer and fall we experienced in Western New York in 2016. As I sit to write this letter it is hard to believe 2016 is almost over. We never know what Mother Nature will throw our way as far as weather. Please be sure to check the local channels for latest information and please make sure the school has your most current phone number so you can receive the Blackboard Connect calls.



Last year we were lucky not to have any snow days and the year before that we saw extremely cold and snowy weather. We did start planning that year for a delayed start. If the district used that system, it would be listed as a 2-hour delay and everything from before school programs to bus pick-ups would be 2 hours later than normal. Because a delayed start can be disruptive to the family routine we would only use this method if we were running out of snow days and the weather pattern permitted this. The safety of all is what matters most. If schools are open and you find your street isn't plowed, it is your decision whether or not to send your children.

As we get set for 2017 we have many plans to celebrate the districts 150th anniversary. Please check the web site for a complete list and watch for flyers to come home with the K-6 students. This January will be a faculty basketball game to start off the new year with exercise and celebration.

This Spring will be the start of the Capital Project. While the bulk of the work will be at the Meadow complex you will probably see work being performed at all the buildings especially during the summer months. We will be doing video updates on the progress being made and updating the web page as the project gets started.

A pilot program of students using district provided iPads is up and running at the middle school and high school. As with all pilot programs there have been some bumps in the road but most of these have been connectivity and software problems. As we work to correct internal issues it is helping the district as we plan for another group of iPads to go out next year. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for all students grades 7-12 to have a district provided device by 2018. This goal is in conjunction with the capital project that will provide a more robust Wi-Fi for all schools.

So as we get set to say good-bye to 2016 we are excited for what the New Year has to hold for the North Tonawanda City School District in 2017 and beyond.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of North Tonawanda City Schools



# North Tonawanda CSD Celebrates its Sesquicentennial

For 150 years, the North Tonawanda City School District has been educating children. While our community and district have grown and changed considerably since 1816, our commitment to our children remains as strong as ever.

The first settlers arrived in North Tonawanda in 1809. It was named for the Tonawanda Creek which flows on its south border. Tonawanda means Swift Running Water in the Seneca tongue. It was also referred to as The Lumber City due to its primary industry. During this time the children in the area received their education in the Methodist church, which was in the home of Robert Simson.

In 1816, the President of the United States was James Madison. Indiana was admitted as the 19th state in the union, the second bank of the United States obtained its charter and E. Remington and Sons, a firearm and later typewriter manufacturing company is founded in Ilion, New York. It was also the year that the first school in the Lumber City was established in an unoccupied home on Tonawanda Island with Ephraim Kelsey becoming the first teacher.

Twelve years later in 1828, a second school opened in a log cabin on south side of Goose Island taught by John Bush and teacher Ira Benedict opened the first school building located on the north side in the same year. The original official school house was built in 1837 on Main and Tremont Streets. Trustees were James Sweeney, who donated the lot for the building, James Lovell and Loyal E. Edmonds.



The actual North Tonawanda Union School District was established in 1865 and the Goundry School was constructed the following year at 236 Goundry Street, which became the first major school built in the Village of North Tonawanda. The enrollment was 190 students in the winter term and 125 in the summer term. It also contained the only library in the city.

The school had four departments and four teachers. Benjamin F. Felton was the President of the Board of Education for nearly 25 years and assisted by Alfred C. Tuxbury, head of the Northern Lumber Company, Wallace W. Robertson and many others in his efforts. Mr. Felton was a leading citizen



who moved to the area after the Civil War. He lived on a farm across Division Street. He was re-elected every year until his death.

In 1866 until 1882, there were classes for beginning, intermediate and advanced

students. Former Mayor Benjamin Long Rand remembered attending the first day the school opened. "The residents were very angry at the school board for establishing the school there. They considered it so far out in the country! " The residents were so mad, that none of the board of education members who had selected that location were re-elected.

The actual North Tonawanda City School District was established in 1897, the year that North Tonawanda became an incorporated city.

Highlights of the School District:

1885 - First High School graduation.

1889 - Ironton School built at 503-515 Oliver and First Avenue.



1891 - Clinton S. Marsh was appointed Superintendent at the salary of \$1,400.

1891 - Pine Woods School at Schenck Street houses 1st through 8th grade.

1892 - First kindergarten class held at Goundry School.

1892 - Gratwick School at 1310 Payne Avenue and Stenzil built.

1892 - Pine Woods School is constructed at 460-472 Schenck Street between Niagara Street and Division Street.

1901 - Bryant Street High School opened. It was the first high school in the city and along with the usual academic departments, had fully equipped departments for manual training, cooking and sewing. A.C. Tuxbury donated most of the equipment. It was described as one of the best equipped institutions in the state. The building was designed by Edgar E. Joralemon, a Minneapolis architect and he also designed the Carnegie Library and cost \$85,000. It was later named Felton High School after Board of Ed President Benjamin Franklin Felton.

1912 - Evening school classes for immigrants to learn English start at Ironton School.

1915 - Payne School opens at 460 Wheatfield at the corner of Niagara Street on land donated by Lewis S. Payne's heirs.



1925 - Gilmore School opens.

1925 - Wurlitzer School opens on Ellwood at Strad Avenue.

1925 - Gratwick School enlarged.

1926 - Payne Avenue High School opens at 621 Payne Avenue. It was designed by Louis F. Eggert.

1926 - Felton School becomes a grammar school.

1928 - Gilmore School opens at 789 Gilmore Avenue.

1930 - Stadium built behind Payne Avenue High School.

1939 - Ironton School closed. It is used as annex for the High School with programs in vocational studies and industrial arts.



1947 - Ironton School is renamed the North Tonawanda Vocational High School.



## NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1953- Goundry School Closed because of school finances.

1954- Spruce School opens. It is the largest grade school built in the city.

1954 - Grant Street School opens at 35 Grant Avenue.

1954 - Gratwick School enlarged.

1955 - McKinley School opens. Later changes name to Drake School.

1960 - New Senior High School on Meadow Drive approved for the cost of \$2,850,000.

1962- New Senior High School opens. Earl W. Fonner is the first Principal. He adds 40 new subjects. It has a pupil capacity of 1,800.

1962- Payne Avenue School converted to Junior High School.

1962 - Ohio Street School opens in Wurlitzer Park. Wurlitzer deeded the land to be used for educational purposes.

1964- Meadow Elementary School opens.

1965 - The North Tonawanda City School District included 14 schools and the administration building. There were 8,415 students and 365 teachers.

1968 - Reszel Junior High School in Wurlitzer Park opens.

1968 - Felton Grammar School is closed and demolished.

1969 - North Tonawanda Vocational High School is closed.

1969 - North Tonawanda joins Orleans/Niagara BOCES.

1970 - North Tonawanda Junior High School renamed Payne Avenue Junior High School.

1973 - Pine Woods School closed. Sold to the City for \$1.00 and used as a youth center for two years. It was later demolished and turned into a parking lot.

1974 - Gilmore Administration Building built.

1976 - Wurlitzer School closes due to declining population.

1977 - Payne Avenue Junior High School dedicated.

1979 - Gratwick School closed.

1985 - Payne School closed.

1988 - Payne Avenue Junior High School was renamed George L. Lowry Middle School.

2001 - Grant Street is closed and used for Head Start and before and after school programs.

2004 - George L. Lowry Middle School closed.

Gratwick School, Pine Wood School, Iron-ton School, Felton Grammar School, Colonel Payne Elementary and Lowry Middle School are no more.

Today, North Tonawanda CSD has eight buildings: 1 PreK Site, 4 Elementary Schools, 1 Middle School, 1 High School and 1 Administration Building. We have a student enrollment of 3,421, 295 Full time and Part time teachers, 16.5 Guidance Counselors and Social Workers, 225 Full and Part-Time Support Staff, 18.5 Administrators and 28 Transportation employees.



## Drake Elementary Students Renew Commitment to RULER

The RULER program was implemented in the schools at North Tonawanda last year and students at Drake Elementary School are showing their commitment to their social emotional learning.

The social emotional practice has been providing a structure for the classes for handling feelings and emotions. The RULER program aims to teach students how to Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, and Regulate emotions. It is providing a backbone for respect, kindness and teamwork and is incorporated in much of the curriculum.

Recently, counselor Nathan Schelble, has been visiting the classrooms to reintroduce the concepts and strategies to the students. Students gave presentations in small groups talking about the Mood Meter, the Meta-Moment and the Blueprint. They also went over a list of feeling words and actions they could take to achieve more positive feelings.

When they were done with their presentations they were asked to sign a new charter that was created to reflect how they want to feel at school each day. The charter is a collaborative document that acts as a guideline on how to prevent and manage unwanted feelings and conflict and how students should treat each other. "This is a great way to set the tone for the beginning of the school year," says Principal Katie Smith. "We want our students to have the skills to solve their own problems in a positive way, as well as show that we support them."



*Abby Newson signs the charter.*



*Aaliyah Follendorf, Liam Gebhardt, Elijah Barnes and Jacob Riley give their presentation.*

## Drake Elementary School Dedicates "Kale's Court"

City of North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur G. Pappas, North Tonawanda CSD Superintendent of Schools Greg Woytila, Executive Director of Educational Services Patrick Holesko and Drake Elementary School Principal Katie Smith gathered on Friday, October 21st for the dedication of a new basketball court and playground at Drake Elementary School.

Planning for the project began seven years ago by the Friends of Drake School; a group of PTA members who were concerned about the deteriorating playground and basketball court at the school. While repairs were sporadically made to keep the playground structurally intact, the metal continued to rust, the plastic pieces continued to crack and deteriorate, paint faded and there had been vandalism leading to a very rundown appearance.

A new playground was certainly needed, but when the PTA investigated the costs, the amount seemed insurmountable. A fundraising campaign began to raise the much needed funds to purchase a playground that Drake students and the neighborhood deserved and needed.

John and Terri Litten of JL Auto held additional fundraisers so that all the students at Drake and especially their grandson, Kale Shiesley, could enjoy it. Kale suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a progressive disease that took away his ability to walk. Numerous chowder, chili and hot dog sales were held at JL Auto. Principal Katie Smith says, "There were many times that John would ask, 'How much do you need?'" When answered, another chowder sale was always in the works."

Despite everyone's best efforts, the PTA was not any closer to getting the new playground the school so desperately needed. In the spring of 2015, the PTA came up with a strategy of building the playground in phases. While it could not afford the original design, with the money that was raised and the help of several organizations and people, phases one through three were completed that included a new playground, removal of the old basketball court and the installation of a new fully operational one and the installation of a climbing area. "Skip Fisher and High School teacher Chris Cook and his Engineering and Architectural students, Rob Rozicki, Oliver Pace, Jordan DiVirgilio and Lauren Fisher, spent hours finishing the stripping and painting," says Mrs. Smith. "I also want to thank LaFarge Holcim for the generous donation of the blacktop for the basketball court and the North Tonawanda City School District for installing the basketball court poles and backboards."



*Mayor Arthur G. Pappas, John and Terri Litten, Superintendent Greg Woytila and Kale Shiesley.*

Friends of Drake member Tammy Riley said, "Even though Kale hasn't been a student at Drake for four years, the Friends of Drake felt it was necessary to honor John Litten and his family for working so hard in their fundraising efforts to make this playground a reality. The basketball court has been christened 'Kale's Court'. We want to thank Mayor Pappas and Senator Ortt for coming together to assist in having the old basketball court removed and the new one installed."

Mrs. Smith added, "As we all know, a strong partnership between school and community fosters greater success for our children. The time and effort expended for our playground and basketball court exemplify the positive difference that can be made by working together. After all, Drake's motto is 'Together We Grow'. The students of Drake are fortunate to be part of such a strong, giving community of individuals."



## Local Award-Winning Author Visits Meadow Elementary

Local author, K.W. Wilson, recently paid a visit to North Tonawanda's Meadow Elementary School. The Lockport native was invited as its honored guest for its Character Education Kick-Off Assembly where he read from his award-winning book, "It All Starts With You".

The story follows a day in the life of Mickey, Lizzie, Charlie and Nikki as they learn how they can positively impact each other's lives. The story aims to raise awareness about bullying while spreading a message of responsibility, positivity, and change.

Mr. Wilson says when he started writing his story he didn't know where the characters would take him. "I wasn't sure what it was going to be and as it developed, it turned into an anti-bullying message. It was such a pleasant surprise when it started winning awards and schools started picking up on it and wanted it in their classrooms. It feels good to have that kind of recognition."

Although an accountant by trade, he has always had a passion for writing. He says he began to write in the third grade when he was handed an assignment to tell a fairytale from the point of view of the protagonist. "They wanted us to take a character and show that they were misunderstood so I chose the witch from "Hansel and Gretel". I recently got in touch with my teacher to see if she had saved it by any chance. Unfortunately she didn't, so I think I am going to rewrite that one over."

He says he loves interacting with the young students. "I like answering their questions and if I can inspire them to write, like I was, that would be a great thing."



(LtoR) Jayla Pabon, Kayla Selak, K.W. Wilson, Cameron Trenchard and Jacob Kiszka.

## Remember Ryan Grant Helps Meadow Students Express Themselves Musically

Ryan Bertini was a former Ohio Street School student who tragically passed away when he was eight years old. His memory lives on through a series of grants from the Remember Ryan Foundation that go towards visual and performing arts to elementary schools in Erie and Niagara Counties.

Music teacher April Carere has applied for a grant for the last several years and has been lucky enough to secure the funding to help the music department at Meadow Elementary School and the former Gilmore Elementary School. "I started applying for the grant because we really needed instruments," says Mrs. Carere. "There just wasn't enough available to the children like flutes, clarinets and trumpets. I had to think about how we were going to showcase the grant, since it was one of the requirements. Since Ryan loved music we had the students perform an intimate concert at the memorial and meditation garden that is named in his honor. It was just friends and family and it was very special.

That small concert has now developed into an hour and a half performance that is held at the Rivera Theatre in North Tonawanda. "The students will ask "How do we remember Ryan?" and they come up with pieces to play whether they are solos, duets, trios or a large group," says Mrs. Carere. "The only condition is that anyone who wants to join in a piece is allowed to. We do not tolerate anyone being excluded as part of our antibullying stance at the school."

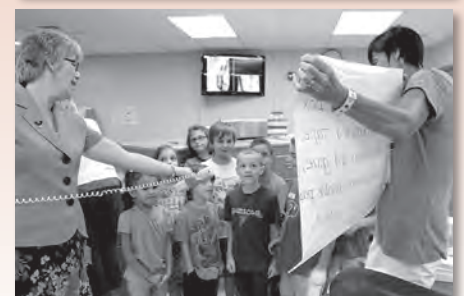


This year's and last year's grant went towards purchasing two tubas for the school. Music teacher Ginny Simoncelli (Hendra), who also has received grants toward the Remember Ryan Foundation, purchased Tubanos (African drums) and blue ukuleles, which was Ryan's favorite color. The instruments remain the property of the school and bear a sticker that says "Remember Ryan" and his dates. "It is such a special and creative thing for all of us," says Mrs. Carere. "I never dreamed it would take off the way that it did and it is such a wonderful thing on so many levels. The students learn about a little boy, who loved music, who is no longer with us and it allows students access to instruments that they normally would not get because of the lack of them at the school or the families not being able to afford to rent them. The concert is a huge deal and our fifth and sixth graders look forward to it all year long. It is their way of giving back to Ryan's family for all the great things these grants have allowed for us."

## It's Poem Fridays at Meadow Elementary

Every Friday the first and second grade students in Judy Hagan's classroom at Meadow Elementary recite a poem to their schoolmates during morning announcements.

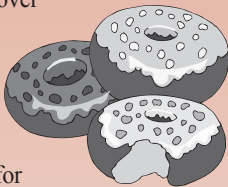
Principal Janet Matyevich invites the students into the main office and the class shares a poem that they have been practicing in class all week. "I pick a poem out of a book we have in class and they practice individually at first and even have an assignment to take it home and read it to their family," says Mrs. Hagan. "Then we practice it as a class and the students have their chance to shine every Friday. It's been a great experience for them."





## O.H.I.O PTA proudly hosts another successful year of Donuts with Dads

Elementary first grade student, Ella Winkler, displays her own artistic rendition of a donut after participating in the morning festivities at Donuts with Dads on October 14th. This year, Ohio welcomed over five hundred fathers, grandfathers, and father figures to celebrate with their children. A special thank you to the PTA for hosting this event, yet again, as a means to celebrate Ohio students and the important male role models in their lives.



## Ohio Kindergarten Students make Individual Mood Meters

Ohio Elementary Kindergarten classes are learning the RULER program, a social/emotional learning program introduced by elementary school counselors in the North Tonawanda School District last year. Mrs. Stefanucci's Kindergarten class is pictured with their individual mood meters, made during a lesson with school counselor, Jennifer Schultz. Each Kindergarten student made an individual mood meter which was sent home with a letter for families to continue the lessons learned at school.



## Ohio Third Grade Students gifted personalized dictionaries by Niagara County Central Rotary Club

Ohio Elementary 3rd grade students in Mrs. Manning's class proudly showcase their dictionaries courtesy of the Niagara County Central Rotary Club. Every third grade student in the NT School District received a personalized dictionary. In addition, the dictionaries came with an appendix- full of useful information-- that will support and service students as they progress through their entire K-12 education. Thank you Rotary Club!



## Ohio's second grade students learned about the Mexican Celebration "Dia's de los Muerto's in art class

This is a very important cultural holiday where loved ones who have passed away are remembered and their lives are celebrated. A big part of the celebration are skulls and skeletons which are sold in the markets. People dress as skeletons and play music and dance in a parade to the cemetery. Our students have created little calacas or skeletons which are on display at El Museo Gallery in Allentown through November 5th.





## University at Buffalo football promotes team-work to Ohio students on Spirit Day

This year, three veteran members of the University at Buffalo Bulls football team spoke to the entire Ohio student population. Their message centered on the importance of hard work, the role scholastics play for successful student-athletes, and team work, to name a few. Afterwards, students had the opportunity to ask the players questions and shake their hands.



## Kindergarten Writing Workshop

Each day, students in Mrs. Montaldi's kindergarten class at Ohio Elementary School participate in Writer's Workshop. During this special time, children are working independently to write narrative stories, aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards. The narratives are stories that 'tell about their life.' Mrs. Montaldi's class is the home of many students who speak a language other than English in their home. While several of these students have a very limited English proficiency, most are now fully involved in the Writer's Workshop process. Even at this early point in the year, most children are already writing the letters heard as they slowly say words out loud. Students are able to compose words and even sentences along with a detailed picture to tell the 'memories they have in their mind'. In this picture, Ms. Gerber, the ENL (English as a New Language) teacher at Ohio Elementary, conferences with a group of kindergarten writers.

## Spruce Elementary Kindergarten Hold Japanese Culture Day

The kindergartners in Mrs. Deborah Dexheimer's class at Spruce Elementary shared their excitement with their grandparents about what they have been learning about Japan in class.

The grandparents were the honored guests of the students and Mrs. Dexheimer and were welcomed with songs and smiling faces as they entered the class. The students shared facts they had learned about the culture of the country, such as what the Japanese flag symbolized. They also talked about the food that is the basis of their diet, such as fish and rice,

the clothing they wear, sports they enjoy like golf, wrestling and baseball and their holidays and celebrations.

A Japanese story, The Magic Mortar, was told in puppetry. For an activity, the grandparents and students made Japanese dolls, fish kite puppets, lanterns, and cherry blossom pictures. The students also showed off their talents with some Japanese graphing!

The students also served their guests rice cakes, fish crackers, tea and muffins.



With Dolls-Maximus Glurich, Payton Tompkins & Molly Pennell



Cherry Blossoms- Henry Stevens & Isabella Feyes



Fish kite puppets-Kaden Yurek-Moore & Steven Melodayo



Lanterns- Payton Tompkins & Isabella Feyes



Group- Standing from left to right is Mrs. Dexheimer & Isabella Feyes, Sitting left to right are Ryan Webb, Steven Melodayo, Shaylee Klaes, Molly Pennell, Paige Hill, Maximus Glurich, McKenna Calkins, Payton Tompkins, Eleanor Steves, Mateo Rosa, Henry Stevens & standing at the end is Addalynn Berry.

## Trick or Treat

At a recent Family Fun Night, the parking lot at Spruce Elementary was filled with goblins, witches, Jedis and things that go bump in the night.

Great fun was had as students and their families dressed up in their Halloween best and gave out and collected treats to celebrate All Hallows Eve!



## Middle Schoolers Have Fun with Themed Spirit Days



Jay Stone, Andrew Traina have fun with "ER" Day. Student Council asked that you dress as someone who has a title ending in "er".



Mrs. Fiegl, Faith Clark, Madelina Mathewson embrace their love for Mickey Mouse.



Ian Denniston, Sean Dolan, Ethan Drajem, Dyllan Setz look the part for Greasers vs. Socs from the book the "Outsiders".



Katie Dielman, Olivia Horn, Jordan Hummel, Alex Fike show their Lumberjack Pride.

## NORTH TONAWANDA HIGH SCHOOL

## North Tonawanda Students Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Two North Tonawanda students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES' Niagara Career and Technical Education Center. The students were honored on October 27, 2016 at the center in front of their teachers, families and district representatives for maintaining 89.5 average in their career and technical education (CTE) programs and 84.5 average at their high school.

The students are eligible for membership based on their ability to emulate the seven NTHS member attributes - skill, scholarship, honesty, responsibility, service, leadership and citizenship. NTHS member attributes - skill, scholarship, responsibility, service, leadership and citizenship. NTHS honors the achievements of top CTE students, provides scholarships to encourage the pursuit of higher education, and cultivates excellence in today's highly competitive, skilled workforce.

Congratulations go to: Hayleann Haudricourt (Early Childhood Education) and Kaila Veach (Emergency Medical Services).



Hayleann Haudricourt, Patrick Holesko (Executive Director of Educational Services) and Kaila Veach.



# Germany Exchange Trip Exposes Students to Culture and Wonderful Memories

Every other year, North Tonawanda High School German teacher Bob Lucas takes a group of students to Germany to live with host families for three weeks. "We have a partner school outside Hamburg that we have been working with since 2006. Over the years, there have been approximately 150 students who have gone back and forth between our partner school and our high school. We trade off every other year," Mr. Lucas explains.

The trip is an actual exchange experience because the students live with host families and attend school. Since their school year lasts longer than the United States, they were able to take part in classes. Some of the students saw familiar faces because they stayed with families of students that they and their families hosted the previous year. "It was amazing seeing her again. She is like my best friend and how many people can say they have a best friend in Germany?" says junior Emily Maziarz.



Mr. Lucas, Superintendent Greg Woytila and twelve students left on July 1st and the students began classes, Monday July 4th. Emily says that she and the other students noticed the differences in cultures right away. "Normal clothes here in the United States are sweatpants and kids even wear pajamas to school. There everyone dresses very nice."

Sophomore Cole Axberg says that everyday life just seemed simpler and more relaxed. "They have an open campus, unlike here where all the doors are locked in school. The students could leave on their lunch break and go to the mall and eat and come back. They had a park outside of school they could hang out in. It was great."

The students commented on how different the teaching environment in Germany is. "Here we go from class to class with the same schedule every day," says Cole. "There you stay in the same room and the teachers come to you unless you have a science lab." Mr. Lucas said he felt having a varying schedule for the students seemed to work well. "Every day is different from classes, when they start, when they end. They take more extensive classes in science for years and English language. The German students have a great grasp on our language even though their use of some of our words would seem odd to us."

He pointed to their nickname for a cellphone. "They call it a 'handy', which yes it is that, but not exactly the word we would use for it. They have outdoor gatherings they call 'Public Viewings' which sound like an execution to us, but are usually jumbotrons where they might show a game or something else. We found it very amusing."

The North Tonawanda students also got to take two excursions, one to Berlin and one to Bremen. "I loved Bremen," exclaims Emily. "It was my favorite day when we were there. It was beautiful and we had a scavenger hunt and I got to talk to a lot of native speakers. Everyone was so nice and helped me out with my German. It was the best."

Although the students had a lot of positive things to say about their experience in Germany, Cole pointed out one major downside; the food.



"The food was so simple, but so good. Their bread has ruined me. I don't know what they do to it, but it is the best bread I have ever eaten and so fresh. Everything there is so fresh. I was surprised at how many vegetarian and vegan restaurants there were. They are so much healthier with their food consumption." Emily says she was surprised at the small refrigerators and trashcans in the house. "We buy groceries for a week and they buy by the day. They visit the butcher, the bakery and pick vegetables out of their own garden. Their waste is very minimal. I was embarrassed when I got home at how much we throw away."



The students also loved how health conscious the Germans were. "They ride their bicycles or walk everywhere," says Emily. "At the school there was a basement and bike racks just filled with bikes and here we are lucky if there is one bike locked outside." Mr. Lucas laughs, "We all had the best intentions when we came back to walk and ride our bikes more and then we just revert back to our American culture of driving everywhere."

The students said the three weeks away helped to sharpen their German skills and grammar. "I loved listening to the natives speak because I would realize that I was saying something the wrong way or with the wrong emphasis," says Emily. "It was great to really immerse myself. I find sometimes now I think in German."



"Their accent, grammar and tone are so much better now that they have had this experience," says Mr. Lucas. Emily and Cole said they would love to go back and that it was an amazing experience. "It is something I can tell my grandchildren someday that I went to Germany," says Emily. "I am really hoping Mr. Lucas lets me go back with him or at least be a chaperone," says Cole. "I know that when I graduate I want to move there and teach English as a second language. I loved it."

Mr. Lucas summed up the experience this way, "I think for the students, it's not just a trip. Friendships are made with their host families, they are truly exposed to the culture because they are living it. They get a different perspective on life."

## NT Prom Boutique offers Prom Dresses

With Homecoming, Winter Dance and Senior Prom purchasing dresses for these events can make quite a dent in the wallet, but it doesn't have to. With over 300 gently used/new formal dresses and gowns the NT Prom Boutique is here to help defray those expenses. Parents can call the boutique organizers, Brenda Hoffman and Cheryl McMahon to set up an appointment.

Approaching its fourth year, Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. McMahon are very excited to offer such beautiful gowns to the young ladies at North Tonawanda High School for the 2016 - 2017 school year. Recently, they received a large donation of gowns from a local church which was greatly appreciated. The boutique accepts donations year round and is currently looking for graduation caps and gowns, full length mirrors for the dressing room, purses and shoes. They are in desperate need of clothing racks and also hangers to hold the many gowns recently received.



To set up an appointment you can contact Brenda Hoffman at 695-2101 or Cheryl McMahon at 909-3823. You can message them through email at [ntproumboutique@aol.com](mailto:ntproumboutique@aol.com) and also check out their Facebook page: NTPromBoutique.

## Spirit Week Culminates In Mighty Lumberjacks Win at T-NT Classic

It was a week filled with fun, school spirit, parades and a 48-18 win as the Lumberjacks took on the Tonawanda Warriors. And did we mention the chowder?



Savannah Haner, Sarah Deering, Mr. Zayatz, Bridget Wilson and Samantha DalPorto



## Middle School Students Enjoy Play, Pancakes and Pizza

On October 21, Teams ORION and ARIES set off to Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo to see *The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh* after their team teachers got them off to a good start and used their "teaching tools", and spatulas, to make over 300 pancakes with strawberry and whipped cream toppings in the morning.

The 60-minute production at Shea's explored the life of a young girl who deals with the challenges of ADHD and being the target of bullying. Students enjoyed the play with the bits of humor and compassion that were modeled.

It was made an even more special day when students returned and were greeted with a pizza lunch and twisty bread. It was a delightful way to spend a rainy and cold day!



## MS School Store Employees Take A Break for Halloween Lanterns

Employees of the NTMS School Store have been working very hard to get the store up and running this fall semester. They recently took a break to make some lanterns for Halloween. The students had a great time painting and drawing for an afternoon of fun while enjoying some snacks.

The NTMS School Store runs in the mornings from 7:10-7:30.



*Maren Kuebler & Carly Reid*



*Marcelina Vazquez, Katie Brosius, Aubregy Haynes*

## Movie Night Proves to Be a Huge Hit

Seventh grade teachers at NTMS hosted their first ever Movie Night!

The food trucks arrived at 5 p.m. and the attendees treated themselves to some smoky barbeque from J & L BBQ. They also treated themselves to some dessert from the Sassi Cakes food truck which had a variety of flavors to choose from like cookie dough and cherry cheesecake.

After indulging, it was time to relax and curl up with a blanket in the cafeteria for a Drive-In Movie celebration of *Inside Out*. All you could eat popcorn was available. It was a great way to spend a Thursday night!





## NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOLS

176 Walck Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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## Vision Statement

To develop a nationally recognized school system focused on:

A collaborative environment that fosters the academic, emotional and social growth of each student through quality and purposeful educational experiences.

Students becoming independent, productive and globally competitive citizens. Instilling the belief that each student is invaluable.

## NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# School of Savers Program Hopes To Reel Students Into Saving

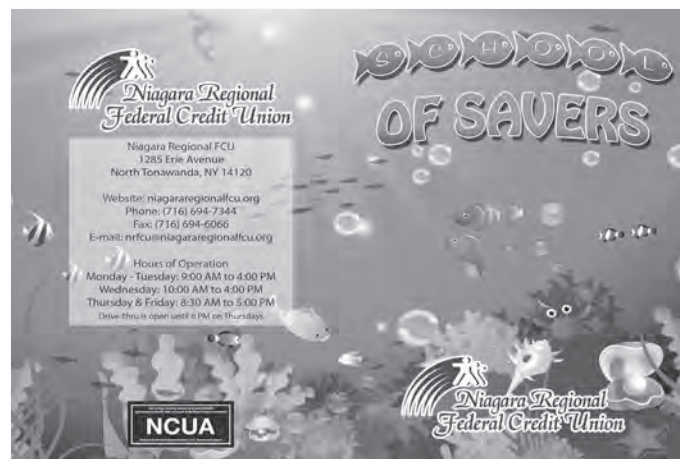
The North Tonawanda School District will be partnering with the Niagara Regional Federal Credit Union to start a new program called School of Savers.

The program is available to students in grades kindergarten to sixth and is geared to helping students save money and teaching them fiscal responsibility. "We want students to start early and teach them the difference between a want and a need," says Credit Union Chief Executive Officer Donna Wick. "One of our core beliefs is educating young people today will create better informed adults, capable of making smart money management decisions tomorrow."

Ms. Wick says she feels it is very important that students learn the importance of investing money while reinforcing math skills and giving the students hands-on experience on handling money. "You would not believe the high school and college students that don't even know how to write out a check. They come to see me for a car loan and if they don't have any savings and I can't help them. It's very scary. We are trying to be proactive with starting this program with North Tonawanda City School District and not reactive."

The program will be rolled out with giving students a card bank and for every quarter they put in them they will receive a point that will go towards prizes. The teachers will remind the students to bring in the quarters and every week in the foyer a bank representative with students acting as tellers will collect the students' savings at the schools. "We are hoping that they will focus on savings and not temptations. If they keep the account with us until they graduate and don't spend their points, they will be eligible for a scholarship when they graduate," says Ms. Wick.

The program is voluntary and the account will be established in the student's name and a joint owner, which will be a parent or legal guardian. The minimum deposit for opening account will be \$2.50 with the opening deposit being matched by Niagara Regional FCU up to \$5.00. Students can watch their savings grow online at [www.nrfcu.com](http://www.nrfcu.com).



## NT Observes National Red Ribbon Week

The week of October 23rd to October 31st was National Red Ribbon Week. It is observed because of the unfortunate loss of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena, at the hands of drug cartel members in 1985. The red satin ribbon memorializes the fallen agent.

The event gained national recognition in 1988 with the support of President Ronald and Mrs. Nancy Regan, which furthered the cause to mobilize communities in educating youth and encouraging participation in drug prevention activities. This year's theme was "YOLO BE DRUG FREE", #YOUONLYLIVEONCE.

This year the North Tonawanda City School District school social workers teamed up with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) for the weeklong observance that included several activities and events including: a penny drive to benefit Kids Escaping Drugs, a Be Smart Don't Start assembly for all 3rd graders, Tar Wars presented to all 4th graders, creation of YOLO banners, a viewing of "The Red Ribbon: A Story of Hope" by John Lasne, signing of drug-free pledge cards and dressing to theme related choices.



Meadow students participate in Put a Cap on Drugs Day.