

North Tonawanda City Schools



Winter 2015

NT SPIRIT

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

Kindergarten & Prekindergarten Registration Dates Set for 2015 - 2016 School Year

Registration packets are available in the lobby of the NT Administration Building located at 176 Walck Road. They are also available online at www.ntschoools.org under "shortcuts". Dates and times to return **in person** to the Administration Building to have the application packet reviewed and processed are:

- ♦ **Monday, March 9 from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **Wednesday, March 11 from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **Tuesday, April 7 from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **Thursday, April 9 from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

If your child is **presently enrolled in Head Start**, you will **need** to complete a registration packet. If your child is **presently attending the Carousel Academy prekindergarten program at Grant School**, it is **not** necessary to complete

another packet. It is necessary, however, to **update any address or phone number changes**.

Age Requirements

- ♦ Kindergarten children must be **5 years old** on or before Dec. 1, 2015.
- ♦ Prekindergarten children must be **4 years old** on or before Dec. 1, 2015.



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Ohio's Penny Drive to Support Charity

Throughout the month of January, staff and students at Ohio Elementary participated in the Pennies for Patients drive. All money raised is donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Ohio staff and families have generously donated a great deal of money year after year as a part of this meaningful tradition. This fundraiser, which is completely voluntary, helps support lifesaving research and services for patients.

**French Classes Visit Old Fort Niagara**

Mrs. Wilson's & Miss Cholewa's French students participated in the French Heritage Day Celebration at Old Fort Niagara. Students learned about the influence the French had in the construction of the Fort, the weaponry used during the French occupation at Fort Niagara and were informed about various aspects of life at the Fort during that time period. Students carried wooden muskets and marched on the parade grounds following orders barked out at them in French by commanders wearing authentic uniforms, tri-cornered hats and sporting bayonet musket rifles. They also learned the many steps involved in loading and ultimately firing a musket.



The students also took part in other activities such as relay races carrying bales that soldiers would have carried up from the river, learning about the role of the fife and drum during war times of that period, the importance of a blacksmith and how to fire a cannon. They also learned about the types of foods prepared at the fort and the supreme importance of the fur trade.

Also identified by the students were the many influences that our region still carries today dating back from the French occupation at the fort.

Smencils for Sale!!

As a community service project, Meadow sixth graders have been seen around the building raising money for a very good cause! Under the watchful eye of Mrs. Slipko, sixth graders have been selling Smencils and Smens to the student body. These reasonably priced, yet very cool items, allow you to write or draw and enjoy a delicious scent at the same time! Some of the favorites are "jelly donut" and "strawberry cupcake."

Niagara County All-County

Each year hundreds of students attend the Niagara County All-County auditions held in December. Each student must prepare a solo, scales and be able to sight read a piece of music. Each student must then perform for a judge and compete for the honor of being selected for their respective Niagara County All-County ensembles. After months of practice, lessons and hard work, the following students were selected to represent North Tonawanda at their respective festivals. Congratulations to all. Job well done!

Jr. High Band

Paul Orrange
Ashley Dixon
Alexis Payne
Samantha DalPorto
Laney Wieclaw

Jr. High Orchestra

Kirsten Ferree
Samantha Michlin
Isabella Fortunato
Caroline Weaver

Jr. High Chorus

Clarice Scarpace
Bailey Walter
Krysta Robinson
Giovanna Fortunato
Isabella Fortunato
Julia Watson
Doc Sauer
Paul Orrange

**Buffalo Bandits Visit Ohio School**

Ohio students and teachers gathered in December to continue the year-long commitment to school pride and unity. Recently, Ohio School was visited by four Buffalo Bandits players who presented powerful lessons on bullying, respect, team work and the importance of reading.

Mark Steenhuis, Ryan Benesch, Dhane Smith, and Rax (The Buffalo Bandit) provided a series of positive and meaningful messages that enriched and enlivened the spirits and minds of the Ohio students. The lessons continued with a history of lacrosse with students and teachers chosen to interact with the players as they took shots on goal and raced against the clock as they attempted to put on all of the players' equipment and gear. It was a privilege for Ohio School to host this assembly. The four gentlemen exemplified the importance of giving back to their supports in the WNY community.

Peace March at Spruce

Students in Mrs. Otis' second grade class at Spruce learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and his quest for peaceful solutions to problems. They read books on the life of Dr. King, including his career and accomplishments. They made real posters and "sandwich board" signs and went on a "Peace March" in the halls of Spruce, chanting "No violence, No hate." They learned "Peace and love will overcome."





BACK TO THE FUTURE

20th ANNIVERSARY

“Life is a Cabaret old chum, come to the Cabaret!”

The High School's Choral Program is proud to announce the 20th annual Cabaret is now in production. This very special anniversary show entitled “Back To The Future” will feature tributes to the past shows through flashback acts performed by current students. Cabaret has truly become a NT tradition entertaining over a thousand people every year. If you have never been, here is what you can look forward to. The auditorium/gym is transformed in to a Cabaret Night Club where patrons are seated at tables. You will be served desserts and beverages while talented student acts are performed from the stage. Acts may include solos, small groups, choruses, and of course large scale numbers with everyone included. The acts are show choir-like with costumes and choreography. It truly is a wonderful event. As part of the 20th anniversary, alumni will reappear to help celebrate our past while looking forward to the future. You can join us for “Back To The Future” on March 13 at 7 p.m. or March 14 at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at NTsings.com.

iPad Pen Pals Visit Herschell Carrousel Museum

Mrs. McCabe's kindergarten and grade one class at Spruce School and Mrs. Seguin and Mrs. Reszczewski's grade one class at Ohio School visited the Herschell Carrousel Museum last fall to meet each other for the first time, ride on the famous carrousel and eat lunch together. Each student was then assigned a pen pal for the year and in January they began to face time each other in their classrooms. The face time activities include shared classroom interactions in addition to individual pen pal reading time. Other fun field trips are planned for the school year. As you can see, the students are so excited about this innovative and wonderful endeavor with their new friends.



Global Connect

The North Tonawanda City School district uses “Global Connect” to contact parents when schools will be closed. **If your phone number changes, it is very important that you inform the office at your child's school as soon as possible.** School closings will be broadcast on television and radio stations as well. You can also check our web site for more information at www.ntschoools.org.

A Special Delivery

A very special delivery was made to a very important person this past holiday season. Master Sgt. Brian K. Starr with the United States Air Force has been away from his family since September 2014. His son attends Ohio School and is currently in Miss Brooks' third grade class. Miss Norris, a school lunch aide, began making cards for Sgt. Starr with the class, and organized a class wide donation for many of Sgt. Starr's favorite snacks. The class also wanted to become pen pals with Sgt. Starr. Before they wrote to him, they learned the friendly letter format, about veterans, sacrifice, and the men and women protecting and serving our country. After much hard work, some peer editing and revising, the polished copies were ready to be sent off to Sgt. Starr, along with all his goodies. A special thank you goes out to the families who donated, Miss Norris, Mrs. Starr, and the Knights of Columbus in NT who also donated snacks and generously paid the postage on the package! Students were able to learn about our service men and women and begin to develop a true sense of what giving is all about. The students are anxiously awaiting his safe return from Qatar in January and a special visit to Miss Brook's classroom!





Meadow D.A.R.E. Success!



Recently, fifth graders at Meadow Elementary took part in the Niagara County D.A.R.E. program. Students participated in nine weeks of classes taught by a Niagara County sheriff. The goals of the program included educating students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco use. They also learned the importance of making responsible decisions and good choices. Each student wrote an essay at the end of the class, explaining what they have learned. Shown above are the proud Meadow fifth graders with their D.A.R.E. completion certificates.

Spruce Honors Veterans

Spruce Elementary School community recently made a wall of honor to pay tribute to the service men and women who have put their lives on the line to protect and defend our great country. Names and pictures were collected and mounted on stars as a way for all of us to remember our veterans on Veteran's Day. An assembly was held for the entire school, led by the sixth graders. Senator Ortt, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, was the key note speaker. Former Spruce students were on hand from the high school to play "Taps" as the student body gathered around the flagpole outside.



Drake's exploration of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Thanks to a grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Western New York, Mrs. Wright's second grade students were able to travel to the world renowned Albright-Knox Art Gallery. The buses and educationally guided tour were free of charge. The students were engaged in a variety of activities surrounding the mirror room and optical illusion art. A reminder to all, every first Friday is free at the art gallery.





2014 Fall Athletic All - Star Awards

Boys Volleyball: Niagara Frontier League All-Stars
First Team: Sam Weglarski, Donovan Book
Second Team: Victor Willison, Brandon Casterline
Third Team: Jonah Verhague

Girls Volleyball: Niagara Frontier League All-Stars
First Team: Gabby Hansen, Kayla Higgins, Leanna Metzger
Third Team: Julie Milbrand, Liz Wildt
All Western NY Awards
First Team: Gabby Hansen
Second Team: Leanna Metzger
Third Team: Kayla Higgins
All New York State Award: 4th Team—Gabby Hansen

Boys Golf Niagara Frontier League All-Stars
First Team: Logan St. Cyr, Jarod Harack
Second Team: Devin Donohue

Girls Tennis Niagara Frontier League All-Stars
First Team Singles: Jessica Robins
Third Team Singles: Leann Richert
First Team Doubles: Carlie McClinsey, Samatha Kennedy
Third Team Doubles: Kaeli McGinnis, Margaret Millar

Boys Cross Country Niagara Frontier League All-Stars
First Team: Matthew Slominski
Third Team: Christopher Manth

Girls Cross Country Niagara Frontier League All-Stars
Third Team: Leah Manth

Boys Soccer Niagara Frontier League All-Stars
Third Team: Dylan Folger, Connor Essenburg

Girls Soccer Niagara Frontier League All-Stars
First Team: Allie Smyth, Samantha Hanes, Lauren Testa
Second Team: Kelly Nichols, Danielle DalPorto, Gina Mallone
Third Team: Erin Schmidt
All Western New York Awards
First Team: Lauren Testa
Second Team: Allie Smyth
All New York State Award: 4th Team—Lauren Testa

Girls Swimming & Diving Niagara Frontier League All-Stars
Third Team: Jenna Krull 100 Yard Breaststroke

Boys Football All WNY & Division Awards
Class A Co-Offensive Player Of The Year: Christopher Woodard
Class A Co-Defensive Player Of The Year: Taylor Mellott
All-WNY Academic Team: Christopher Woodard
All WNY Football First Team: Christopher Woodard
All WNY Football Second Team: Alex Molik
All WNY Football Honorable Mention: Taylor Mellott
Class A North First Team Offense: Christopher Woodard, Cody Sikora, Alex Molik
Class A North First Team Defense: Taylor Mellott, Austin Gibson
Class A North Second Team Defense: Ryan McDonough, Zack Woodard
Class A North Honorable Mention: Bailey Franusiak, Joe Dotterweich, David Eichorst, Nick Kozlowski, Hayden Holmes

Three NT Football Players Named to the NYSSWA 2014 All-State Team

Three senior football players were named to the New York State Sports Writers Association (NYSSWA) 2014 All-State football team for Class A schools.

- Christopher Woodard was named to the First Team All-State, All Purpose Offensive Player
- Alex Molik was named to the Fourth Team All-State, Offensive Lineman
- Taylor Mellott earned Honorable Mention All-State, Linebacker

Scholar Athlete Individual & Team Awards Fall 2014 Season

The NY State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) is proud to recognize student athletes who excel in the classroom. Too often student athletes are only recognized for their performance in the gym or on the field. The Section VI Scholar Athlete program (Individual and Team) was developed to recognize the hard work that student athletes do off the field.

Individual Award: To be considered for the Individual Award, a student must have an overall grade point average of 90 or above for six semesters (fall, winter) and seven semesters (spring); student must be a starter or important reserve and only seniors are eligible.

- Stephen Craig, a member of the varsity football team, was named individual award winner.
- Honorable mentions were given to Daniel Lukaszonas, Ryan McDonough, Adam McNeil, Christopher Woodard (varsity football); Jacqueline Bors and Anya Fike (varsity girls swimming & diving).

Team Award: All 10 varsity teams earned the team award. The criteria for team awards is a required number of team members must have a combined team average of 90% or higher.

Football, 96.308
Boys Cross Country, 95.833
Girls Volleyball, 95.694
Girls Swimming & Diving, 93.884
Girls Cross Country, 93.654
Boys Golf, 93.474
Girls Tennis, 92.934
Boys Volleyball, 92.726
Boys Soccer, 92.233
Girls Soccer, 90.727

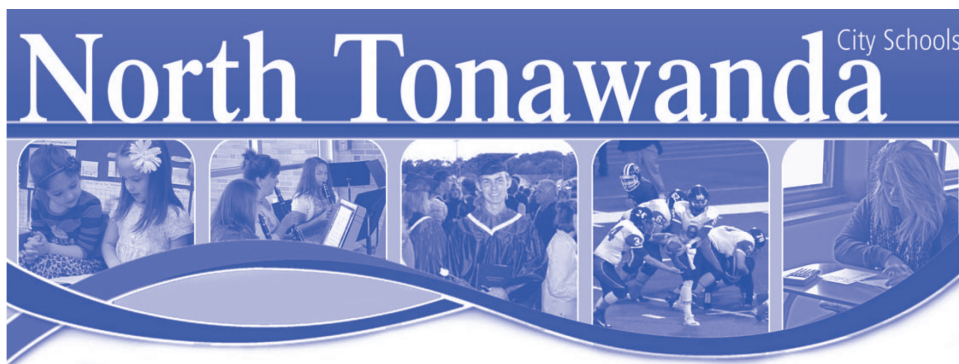
State Award: NYSPHSAA awards State Champion Scholar-Athlete designation to varsity teams that have earned the highest grade point average in their sport among teams across the state. The NT varsity football team, with its 96.31 GPA, earned a place on their list for Fall 2014. The 12 members of the team receiving this award are: Tyler Clare, Stephen Craig, Joseph Dotterweich, Connor Groff, Hayden Holmes, Jordan Holmes, Christopher Labonte, Daniel Lukaszonas, Ryan McDonough, Adam McNeill, Austin Tober, Christopher Woodward.



A Message from Superintendent Woytila

As we look forward to spring and the rebirth of the earth after a long winter, the North Tonawanda City School District is also springing forward with a new Mission, Vision, and Core Beliefs document. A group of teachers who represented each level of education K -12 worked to present ideas for the Board of Education to use when revamping the district's mission statement. The product that was finally produced is pictured on this page. The work, however, doesn't end there. The administration and teachers will be working this spring to align each building's Mission, Vision and Core Beliefs to ensure they are all working to accomplish the same district goals.

Later this spring a group of teachers and administrators will work together to set measurable goals to ensure we are on track and making progress. This work will be the focus for teachers, administrators, and the board as we build budgets and programs in an ever changing financial economy. We are working to create a logo for this work and these goals which will be titled NT 2020 Clear Vision, Bright Future.



— Mission —

To provide an excellent education to all that encompasses developing confident, creative, competitive and caring students.

— Vision —

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

— Core Beliefs —

North Tonawanda Lumberjacks are:

Lifelong learners
Understanding
Motivated
Brave
Empowered
Respectful
Just
Academically sound
Caring
Knowledgeable
Strong





**NT SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLIES TO BE A
"DISTRICT OF DISTINCTION"
FOR ITS HEALTH FAIR AND 5K/FAMILY FUN WALK**

Districts of Distinction is a national recognition program created by *District Administration* magazine to honor school districts that are leading the way with new ideas that work. Our District has applied to be recognized for establishing initiatives that are yielding quantifiable benefits and can be replicated by other districts. Specifically, we hope to be recognized for our annual Health Fair and 5k/Family Fun Walk. We are hopeful the following information will lead to our District being chosen as a District of Distinction for their March publication.

Describe the challenge:

Like schools all across the country, we are fighting against fast food companies and vending machines when it comes to our students' health and well-being. To address this perceived concern, the district partnered with the Health Association of Niagara County, Inc. and the SUNY at Buffalo Primary Care Research Institute. Based on the findings from this partnership's participation in a *Niagara County Overweight and Obesity Prevention Initiative*, funded by the New York State Department of Health, many of our students were, indeed, identified as struggling with obesity and unhealthy eating habits. As a result, the district wanted to present students with healthy alternatives to fast foods and a fun way for our students to get up and get moving.

Describe the initiative:

As a district-wide health initiative, the Health Fair and 5K Race/1 Mile Family Fun Walk were developed. The Health Fair is offered every other year and is based out of our middle school. It is a community event, and any agency related to health, i.e. fitness, mental health, nutrition, and community resources, is invited to participate as a vendor. Students, staff, and the North Tonawanda community are invited to attend. Each vendor is asked to set up an interactive booth that incorporates health and hands-on learning. Each booth also offers resource materials for future reference. Vendors are not charged for this event, but they do contribute a basket to be raffled at the conclusion of the event. This event provides a strong link between our community and resources for lifelong, healthful living.

Our Health Fair 5K/1 Mile Family Fun Walk is offered yearly at a minimal cost (\$5) for residents who can choose to either run (or walk) a 5K race or a 1 mile family course. With some sponsorship, we are able to provide official timing on a certified course, as well as t-shirts and post-race awards and refreshments. Although we charge a nominal fee, we are able to generate enough funds to continue to support both the 5K and the Health Fair year after year.

We host these events during the same week to promote good community health among our students, staff, and community. Students and their families are encouraged to participate in these events. Students at our high school are able to "work" the event, thereby helping them to meet their 30 hour community service requirement for graduation.

Provide data to quantify:

Our biyearly Health Fair has been increasingly successful. We have had over 1,500 participants and over 100 vendors attend our first two fairs. We expect this to continue to grow as we continue to receive positive feedback throughout the community.

Our 5K is also continuing to grow. This race has been offered for two consecutive years and participation has increased by 35% from year to year so far. This past year, we had over 400 participants; 83 of the participants were our students. The remainder of the participants consisted mostly of community members.

Lastly, the data collection and work put into the *Niagara County Overweight and Obesity Prevention Initiative* that led to the creation and success of the Health Fair and Race was also used to apply and ultimately be awarded \$1.47 million from the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grant.

How to spread the word:

We use various ways of publicizing these two events. Our district website and Global Connect phone system are utilized to reach the school community. Newspaper articles, mailbox flyers, posters in local businesses, and school marquees are all utilized. Announcements are made in school, in classrooms, and incentives for participation are offered in physical education and health classes. RoadID and buffalorunners.com websites are also used for promoting our 5K.

District Administration is an American monthly trade publication for education leaders in public K-12 school districts. Based out of Norwalk, Connecticut, and published by Professional Media Group LLC, which also publishes *University Business* magazine for higher education leaders, it is the only education magazine to reach every superintendent in the country, along with assistant superintendents, technology directors, school board presidents and federal funds administrators, among others.

With a circulation of nearly 75,000, the magazine covers current trends and pressing issues in the American education system along with strong coverage of emerging technologies and leadership issues for district-level administrators.



NT SPIRIT



**North Tonawanda City Schools
3rd Annual 5K Run
& One Mile Family Fun Walk**

April 18, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Location: NT Middle School



Let's Get Up & Get Moving

**North Tonawanda City School's
3rd Annual
FREE Health Fair**

April 16, 2015

6:00 p.m.

@ NTMS



North Tonawanda City School District

176 Walck Road

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

807-3500

Board of Education

Colleen Osborn, President

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www.ntschoools.org