



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NT SPIRIT

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

Fall 2014 Edition

NT City Schools Website Earns Honor Award from NY School Public Relations Association

The North Tonawanda City School District website received an Honor Award from the New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPRA) in September for its use of graphics and news content.

The award entry, "Grabbing Parents' Attention with Web Graphics and News Bites" emphasized how parents, staff and students have come to rely on the site (www.ntschoools.org) as a source of news and information.



Of more than 330 entries from school districts across the state, about one-third received awards in the 35th annual NYSPRA communications contest which recognizes outstanding achievement in educational communications. Awards of excellence, honor and merit were given in a variety of categories. Entries were judged by school communications, marketing, writing and public relations professionals from throughout the United States.

The breadth and depth of content posted on the North Tonawanda site over the last five years makes it the go-to place to have questions answered, learn new information and stay up-to-date on district news and events. The award entry highlighted the district's use of social media, homepage shortcuts and announcements, increased use of graphics, news items and interesting layouts on these pages: Common Core, High School News, Athletic Booster club page, Staff Resources, and Elementary Student Links.

North Tonawanda City Schools partners with Erie 1 BOCES Communication Services and Technology Services to maintain and update the district website. SchoolWires, the software vendor, also featured the school district on its blog at <http://blog.schoolwires.com/k-12-district-website-receives-award-from-nyspra>.

This statewide recognition is another example of how North Tonawanda City Schools is committed to building a proactive culture to share information with our community of parents, staff and students.

Drake Students Invited to Participate in Summer Honors Band

Jackson Chlebowy and Keith Vantino, two outstanding trumpet players from Drake Elementary School, were invited to participate in the Summer Honors Band program held at Starpoint Central Schools this past July. They were both selected due to their high level of aptitude, achievement, and effort throughout the 2013-14 school year.

The honors band consisted of instrumentalists from Starpoint, North Tonawanda, Lockport and Roy-Hart school districts.

Under the direction of Mr. Carere and Mrs. Fish from Starpoint, Mrs. Carere from North Tonawanda and Mr. Martin from Lockport, Jackson and Keith rehearsed for four days in July and concluded their music-filled

week with an excellent performance on July 31. Congratulations to Jackson and Keith for their hard work and dedication to music and proudly representing Drake School.





Ohio Elementary School Receives Anonymous Donation

Music teachers, Mrs. Wright and Ms. Greenwald, would like to express their deepest thanks for the anonymous donation to the Ohio music program. With the extremely generous donation, seven "Ohio blue" music stands for the band room and a beautiful new carpet for the music room were purchased for all the students to enjoy.

Mrs. Wright and Ms. Greenwald would like to express to the donor their appreciation for not only the gift, but also their support of the music program which will directly benefit all the students of Ohio School now and in the future.



Once in a Lifetime Meeting

Ten-year-old Alaina Grace Roberts was invited on Sept. 28 to the Albright Knox Art Gallery for the private book launch and reception in celebration of the "Anselm Kiefer: Beyond Landscape" exhibit. Alaina's drawing and writing, depicting her thoughts on the exhibit, was chosen from more than 1,200 entries to be published in the artist's latest book. The fifth-grade student from Meadow Elementary in North

Tonawanda also was invited to sit at Kiefer's private table to meet and speak with the artist.

German-born Kiefer lives in France and was visiting the Gallery on his first trip to the states. The artist signed his book for Alaina (in Latin) - "With art you will conquer."



Practicing for Winter Concert at Drake School

The music department at Drake Elementary is hard at work preparing for their winter concert at the Alumni Student Center on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Sixth-grade band, fifth/sixth-grade chorus and fourth-grade chorus will be presenting some classic holiday favorites! All are welcome to attend this tradition. Pictured right is Mrs. Anson's grade 4 class practicing for the winter concert.



Helping Hands

NT Middle School counselors, Sue Evarts and Joyce Herbeck, coordinated a service opportunity for seventh and eighth graders called "Helping Hands." In conjunction with the staff of the BOCES NT Learning Center, middle school students are trained to be helpers in classes with developmentally delayed children. Volunteers give up their study hall time to play, read, work on computers, do art work, and enjoy physical education with their friends that share the NTMS campus. Recently, volunteers were carefully bouncing a large, soft ball back and forth with the BOCES students, under the supervision of the gym teacher, to help teach eye/hand coordination.

Safety is stressed throughout the training. There are always two or more adults present in every classroom setting. Volunteers are instructed to follow the directives of the teachers in charge at all times.

Helping Hands is in keeping with the career exploration program the guidance department promotes starting in grade seven. It is a chance for students who have an interest in teaching, speech therapy, counseling, social work, and occupational or physical therapy careers to experience a work setting with a special needs population. It is also an avenue to sensitize and educate adolescents about people with various and diverse abilities.



Growing the Ohio Elementary School Garden

Did you know the majority of America's children go without eating one serving of fruits and vegetables each day? This fact comes from a 2009 report from the Centers for Disease Control. In response to this eye-opening statistic, Ohio Elementary teachers, students, and custodians joined together to create a new fruit and vegetable garden at Ohio School. Mr. Genco, a fifth grade teacher, had an idea to promote healthy living through school gardening. He thought he could engage students by providing a dynamic environment to observe, discover, experiment, nurture, learn, and most importantly - enjoy the "fruits" of their labor!

On a biweekly basis, Mr. Genco would meet with students and parents to weed, plant, water and harvest crops from the garden. They planted and harvested a sampling of vegetables which included tomatoes, peppers, sugar snap peas, beans, eggplant, lettuce (Romaine & loose leaf), carrots, celery, potatoes, fennel, cucumbers, zucchini, corn, Swiss chard, beets, mint, basil, and rosemary.

Fall is harvest time! Students are celebrating the bounty produced by the school garden and exploring the abundance of vegetables that were planted. Ohio is capitalizing on this great time of the year to expand students' food horizons. Students are enjoying delicious garden-based treats in the classroom and learning about the importance of including lots of healthful fruits and veggies on their plates.

Plans are under way to add a strawberry bed and a few apple trees to the beautiful courtyard. If you have any ideas, or would love



Casey O'Bryan, Joshua Trenchard and Nickolas Endres taking a break during Stars for Stella fundraiser

Stars for Stella

During Open House at Meadow School, some very creative students came up with a plan to raise money for a very worthy cause. A classmate of theirs is currently undergoing medical treatment, and staff and students are participating in a variety of fundraising efforts to assist the family.

Several sixth-graders asked for permission to play their musical instruments during Open House. Setting up in a well-traveled hallway and placing their instrument cases open on the floor to encourage tips, they were ecstatic to collect over \$300 for the family.



to donate to our school garden project, please contact Mr. Genco at Ohio Elementary.

Drama Club Presents "Xanadu"

Nov. 13, 14, 15

This year the North Tonawanda High School Drama Club is presenting the Musical "Xanadu" under the direction of Ms. Sydney Forester along with choreography by Mrs. Renee Obringer and vocal coach, Ms. Marissa Greenwald. The musical, which came out

in the 1980's, consists of a very talented cast including Senior Will Alvarado

as 'Sonny Malone' and Junior Kaeli McGinnis as 'Clio' otherwise known as 'Kira'. Other cast members include Alyssa Cirrito, Jeslyn Zakes, Samantha Bentz, Nick Kagelmacher, Dominik Snopkowski, Taylor Grosskopf, Tyler VonBergen, Dillon Lopat and Jackie Bors. Performances will be Nov. 13, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Student Activity Center at North Tonawanda High School. Drama Advisors for this year's musical are Mrs. Jane DiVirgilio and Mr. Dean Vallas.



During the year, please check our website at www.ntschoools.org for updates to our Student Activities Calendar.



NTHS Students Visit Germany

Fifteen students from NT High School participated in the NTHS-Schenefeld Exchange Program in Germany over the summer to experience the culture and language of a region they had only learned about in class. Robert Lucas, the German language instructor and director of the Academy of International Studies at NT High School, chaperoned his language students on the trip from June 25 to July 13, along with NT ESL teacher Christopher Heyer, who is also fluent in German. The students stayed with host families and attended school, the "Gymnasium Schenefeld", just outside of Hamburg.

Students took excursions to the City of Hamburg and also a day trip to Bremen. The exchange culminated in a trip to Berlin, where students visited many historic sites, including Checkpoint Charlie, the Reichstag and the Holocaust Memorial.

Students were visiting during an exciting time in the sports world as the World Cup soccer tournament was being held in Brazil. As they toured the city, game scores were displayed and constantly updated on electronic signs for the trains and subways. Many students

also were able to view games in open-air venues. Unexpected airline delays kept the group in Germany an additional day, but they used that time to gather in one of the hotel rooms to watch the finals, which ended well for Germany with a 1-0 score over Argentina, to win the World Cup.

The last trip to Germany was in 2012; as NT students visit Germany every other year. In October, 2015 sixteen German students will visit North Tonawanda.



Character Counts at Spruce



Students at Spruce Elementary were busy learning about and celebrating the word of the month, "Leadership". Principal Mrs. Pohlman reviewed what the word meant along with giving examples about what it means to be a good leader. Students from each classroom were recognized in the assembly and presented with a certificate and token.

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Middle School Library Media Center

The library is hopping at the Middle School and the books are flying off the shelves. New materials have been purchased to enhance the curriculum and they are stimulating to the students.

The library will be collecting Labels for Education and ink cartridges for recycling. Please consider sending these items to school with your child. The points earned are used to purchase equipment for the school.

The library teen advisory club will be blogging their own book reviews, creating a book trailer (a multimedia advertisement for a book), helping to run the Spring Book Fair and sharing good books together.



It All Starts With You!

The Character Education Committee at Spruce School organized an anti-bullying day for the school. A.K. Wilson, author of "It All Starts With You" visited the school to read his book and discuss its message with each grade level. Mr. Wilson discussed being bullied himself as a child and answered student questions. Copies of his book were available for families to purchase.



NYS Modules Are Well on the Way in Mrs. Swartz Class

The sixth-graders at Drake Elementary School are starting to read "The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan. This is one of the books used for the NYS ELA modules, increasing the rigor of the student learning. The students often are seen working in triad or quads (small groups) working together.



Pictured above are sixth-graders Johnathan Didomizio, Hayden Litten and Jemini Szabad.

Donations Needed

The North Tonawanda Prom Boutique is collecting new and gently used formal dresses, prom gowns and accessories to be distributed FREE of charge to any high school student who is in need of a dress for Prom 2015. If you can help by making a donation or have questions, contact Brenda Hoffman at brehoffman21@aol.com or 695-2101 or Cheryl McMahon at bbgrande14120@yahoo.com or 909-3823. Graduation caps and gowns are also being collected to distribute to any student needing one. Like us on Facebook @ NTPromBoutique.



Pictured from left to right: Helen Licht with grandson, Aidyn; Vera Gunn with grandmother, Anne Gunn; Frank Mitri with granddaughter, Kylee McConnell during a grandparents' day activity in Mrs. Dexheimer's class at Spruce School.



Please like us on Facebook at NTCitySchools

Kindergarten Class Visits NT Public Library

Mrs. Dexheimer's kindergarten class at Spruce Elementary had their first field trip to the North Tonawanda Public Library. The children were able to view the many different types of books that the library has to offer and were able to visit the children's department, where they saw the computers, picture books and magazines that are available. Pictured below left to right are Dylan Vega, Riley Hickey, Vera Gunn and Librarian Mrs. Bugyi.





Ohio students and teachers celebrate Spirit Day once a month to demonstrate the school pride and unity. On Sept. 19, Ohio was visited by four UB Bulls players to kick off their first Spirit Day of the year. Students were elated to listen to stories of their lives and the paths that led them to where they are today. The players shared the importance of hard work, team work, respect, discipline and a positive attitude.

These are a few of the characteristics that will be taught and reinforced throughout the year at Ohio School to ensure each student has the recipe to be the best person they can be. More than 150 students and family members attended the UB football game on Sept. 20 to support the team and show their appreciation for their visit. It was a special week for students. Ohio Elementary is full of spirit as they look forward to many more meaningful Spirit Days!

UB Spirit Day at Ohio School



TNT Car Parade



Voices in Action

The North Tonawanda Chorus Program participates in several different events throughout the year, ranging in a wide variety of scholastic concerts to community service opportunities through the Voices in Action Program.

The Voices in Action Program raised money for the National Alzheimer's Walk which took place in Washington, D.C. and also in the local Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in which they have been raising over \$1,000 annually.

The advanced choruses have their first concert on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at OLC Church on Oliver Street. This concert, referred to as the Candlelight Concert, is the Jacks and Jill's Mixed Choir and Bella Voce All Female Choir's performance together. This performance also houses the school's All Strings Orchestra.

The two freshman groups, Treble Tones and MoMENTum will be performing in the Alumni Center at the High School on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. This performance will also include the bands, wind symphony and red/blue band performing their own pieces for the winter concert.





Books are Great Companions

First-grade students in Mrs. Sequin and Mrs. Reszczenski's class are lucky to have Mrs. Scott and her dog Arthur, also known as the Dynamic Duo, volunteer in their classroom. Mrs. Scott and Arthur visit every week so that the students can practice their



reading skills to a captive audience. The first-grade students love having the Dynamic Duo as their special guests, and look forward to their visits every week. As you can see by the picture, Arthur is also enjoying himself!

Just the FACS Please

FACS classes hit the ground running for the 2014-15 school year. We are very excited for what we have planned! Eighth-graders completed a Super Chocolate Chip Cookie recipe, where they worked within a team to review their cooking skills from seventh grade. Students were very excited about the idea of being able to make their own cookie cake. Currently, students are beginning their Career Exploration Unit, which encompasses several different life skills. Research is conducted in the computer lab and using Microsoft Publisher, students create a newsletter on job skills. They will also complete a career assessment using Guidance Direct, which will help students begin to think about and plan for their future. The final project of the Career Unit allows students to research a chosen career and create a Power Point presentation. Seventh-grade students have anxiously been waiting to use the sewing machines. They have already learned how to hand sew a pin cushion, and many of the students have reported back that they have made some of their own projects at home since learning the skill. We have updated the seventh-grade sewing project to an apron, so that students can wear it during the food labs and can save their wardrobes from ingredient stains! Once the aprons are complete, the students will be busy with multiple food labs. We are looking forward to a productive and positive new school year!



Has Your Phone Number Changed?

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.

You can also check our Web site for more information at www.ntschoools.org.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Radio Stations	Television Stations
WGR 550AM	WGRZ Channel 2
WBEN 930 AM	WIVB Channel 4
WECK 1230 AM	WKBW Channel 7
WBUF 92.9 FM	YNN Channel 9
WBLK 93.7 FM	Emergency Informational Websites:
WJYE 96.1 FM	Criminaljustice.state.ny.us
WKSE 98.5 FM	Redcross.org
WYRK 106.5 FM	Ferma.gov
WGRF 97 Rock 96.9 FM	
WEDG The EDGE 103.3 FM	
WTSS – Star 102.5	



2014 Fall Sports Regular Season Records

Sport	Regular Season Record	League/Div. Place
Girls Volleyball	14-0	1 st NFL
Boys Volleyball	7-5	3 rd NFL
Girls Soccer	10-4	3 rd NFL
Boys Soccer	2-12	7 th NFL
Girls Swimming & Diving	1-6	7 th NFL
Boys Cross Country	5-2	3 rd NFL
Girls Cross Country	1-6	7 th NFL
Boys Golf	18-3	2 nd NFL
Girls Tennis	13-1	Tied 1 st NFL
Football	5-2	3 rd Section 6 Div. A-North

Girls Tennis

Doubles team of Jessica Robins & LeAnn Richert won the 2014 NFL Doubles Championship.

Channel 2 Football Player of the Week

NT Varsity Quarterback Chris Woodard received player of the week honors with a winning performance over Williamsville East on Friday, Oct. 12. Chris totaled 286 yards of offensive with three passing and three running touchdowns for the game.

Kiss 98.5 Players of the Week Game #6 vs. Grand Island by Dick Gallagher

Offense: Chris Woodard

Defense: Taylor Mellott

Kiss 98.5 Team Player of the Year by Dick Gallagher

North Tonawanda: Chris Woodard



Boys Golf Team

Placed 1st at the Niagara Frontier League Team Championship Meet on Oct. 14.

Girls Varsity Volleyball Team

Place 1st in the Niagara Frontier League with a 14-0 undefeated season!



North Tonawanda City School District

176 Walck Road

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

807-3500

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