



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NT SPIRIT

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of Schools

Budget Edition  
May 2014

## Budget Vote and Board Election - Tuesday, May 20, noon - 9 p.m. Alumni Student Activity Center, 405 Meadow Drive

### Budget Message from Superintendent Woytila

Each year it seems like the process gets harder and harder to maintain programs for the children of North Tonawanda while keeping cost and taxes down. This year the State did a few things to help with that.

First, they allocated funds to help schools who have been operating with less for years by restoring funds to the GEA (Gap Elimination Adjustment). This helped most school districts get back to a funding level from the state that they took away five years ago.

Second, the Governor has proposed language that rebates money to the tax payers if their school district can create a budget at or below the tax cap. North Tonawanda has worked hard to stay at or below this cap since it was put into effect four years ago. The current Board worked hard to maintain quality programs and to trim in other areas to stay below the tax cap. This means that the 1.87% proposed tax increase will be refunded to residents from the state. They are planning on sending rebate checks to residents this fall.

The school vote this year will also include a proposition to get approval from the residents to sell the Administration Building on Humphrey Street. If sold the current employees will be moved into different district buildings this summer. An organization named Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled has put in an offer on the building. They provide services to Niagara County residents who are disabled and in need of help to provide or obtain services. In addition there will be propositions to sell other buildings and land. These propositions give approval to sell these assets at or above the appraised value.

Please visit our website at [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org) to get more information about the budget and all the great things happening in North Tonawanda Schools.



### Message from Board President, Kevin LoCicero

The last several years have been extremely painful as programs were cut due to the imbalance of expenses to revenue. This year's priority was to maintain our current level of services, program offerings and athletics. The board tasked our administrators to achieve these goals.

The Board, administrators and staff must reflect on what our priorities are for the district and our students, not only how our schools are performing today but what we would like to accomplish in the future.

Many difficult decisions are made at this time each year in order to maintain the integrity of our programs while dealing with the financial realities before us. The Board of Education members and district employees have worked diligently to provide a budget that meets our goals and is fiscally responsible to the tax payers of North Tonawanda. The Board of Education believes that the budget this year allows us to continue to offer excellent academic programs for all children in North Tonawanda. I applaud each and every one of the Board members for donating their countless hours of time in order to make the North Tonawanda City school District second to NONE!

### Algebra 1/ELA Common Core Regents Examinations

IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCEMENT!

On Tuesday, June 3, 2014, only high school students who are scheduled to take the Algebra 1 Common Core Regents examination and/or the ELA

Common Core Regents examination are required to be in attendance. High school students who are not involved with either of these examinations need not report to school on June 3, 2014.



## **Meadow Faculty has Olympic Spirit!**

To coincide with the Winter Olympics held in Sochi, the Meadow School faculty staged its own "Teacher Olympics." For a modest admission charge, students and parents were treated to an evening of fun and good sportsmanship. Staff members invited students to participate with them in events such as hula-hooping and making teachers into mummies with toilet paper. All money raised was donated to the Meadow Home School Association to help fund field trips and special events. Meadow's sixth graders were invited to sell concessions to help offset the cost of their fun day at the end of the year. All in attendance had a great time!



## **School Nursing in Perspective**

School nurses are responsible for assessment, intervention and evaluation of a student's health needs. More students with chronic conditions such as asthma, epilepsy, diabetes and congenital birth defects are attending public schools. As a result these students require educated nursing services. Services can include using nebulizers, insulin pumps and pods, feeding tubes and oxygen. In addition, nurses are required to give medications, do treatments, monitor medical conditions as prescribed by a physician, render first aid, conduct screenings related to vision, hearing and scoliosis, write emergency care plans and many more tasks.

A student's health status is directly related to his or her ability to learn. Children with unmet health needs have difficulty with attendance and the learning process. School nursing began in the United States in 1902 to help reduce absenteeism. School nurses today are still challenged by the same basic problem as the early nurses, maintaining healthy children in school.

The school nurse collaborates with the parent/guardian, physician and school staff to promote the health and well-being of each student. Healthy children are successful learners. The North Tonawanda School district nursing staff is composed of eight registered nurses who provide the students and staff with excellent health care and a healthy school environment.



## **Laissez les Bons Temps Rouler!**

The Second Annual International Dinner was hosted by the LOTE Department on Mardi Gras, March 4. Laughter and smiles were as abundant as the good eats which lined the cafeteria. Nearly two hundred members of the middle school community sampled delicious ethnic dishes, representing cuisines from a number of countries around the world. The feast included everything from homemade pierogi, Asian stir fry, Italian pasta dishes, Spanish rice to Moroccan chickpea soup.

The dessert table was filled with so many delectable choices that frequent return visitors could not sample them all. To the delight of everyone, professional cake maker, Ms. Rivera shared a show-stopping purple, yellow, and green cake covered in fondant. The luscious cake was adorned with beads and an elegant Mardi Gras mask.

The piñata and Mardi Gras mask contests produced several dazzling entries. Emoni Leonard, Clarice Scarpace, and Chloe Silvashy were winners of the Mardi Gras mask contest. The piñata contest winners were Olivia Hooley and Madeline Colley. The Horn family took home the door prize, a bag of groceries from Trader Joe's.

The LOTE Department would like to express their thanks and appreciation to everyone who brought a dish or dessert to the dinner. We were honored that so many of the NTMS students participated in the International Dinner. We would also like to thank the Academy of International Studies for outstanding service. It is always a pleasure to talk to former students and hear about what they have been up to since they left us. We wouldn't have had our success had it not been for the support of our local businesses: McDonalds, Tim Hortons, Trader Joe's, Walmart, and Wegmans. Finally, a big thank you goes out to the NTMS staff and principal, Lisa Colburn, for their continued support of LOTE.



## Celebration of Learning

Students in Mrs. Lundgren's class at Meadow Elementary celebrated their recent achievements on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA). Students have been working hard to improve their reading, writing, and math skills in accordance with the new Common Core Curriculum. Recently, Mrs. Lundgren's fourth and fifth graders took time to view their assessment binders. These binders showcase each student's progress from October to February. Each student was able to look through their binder and write down one achievement that they were particularly proud of. It was amazing to see how excited students were upon seeing their progress. After looking at her binder, one fourth grade student smiled and said, "I feel so proud!" This experience was a true testament to how important it is to make students an active part of the learning process.



## Board of Education Candidates

Information on Board of Education candidates can be found on the district website, [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org). Voters will elect two board members.

## Thomas Hewitt Sports Awards Dinner & Scholarship Program

The Thomas Hewitt Sports Awards, recognizing area high school male and female scholar-athletes, were presented at the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner and Scholarship Program on Sunday, May 4, at Niagara County Community College. Nine schools were invited to participate in the program. North Tonawanda was represented by seniors Brandon Lavocat and Gretchen Ringler.

## Immunization Regulation Revisions

New York State Department of Health has revised the regulations regarding immunization requirements for school attendance effective July 1, 2014. The new dosing requirements are based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

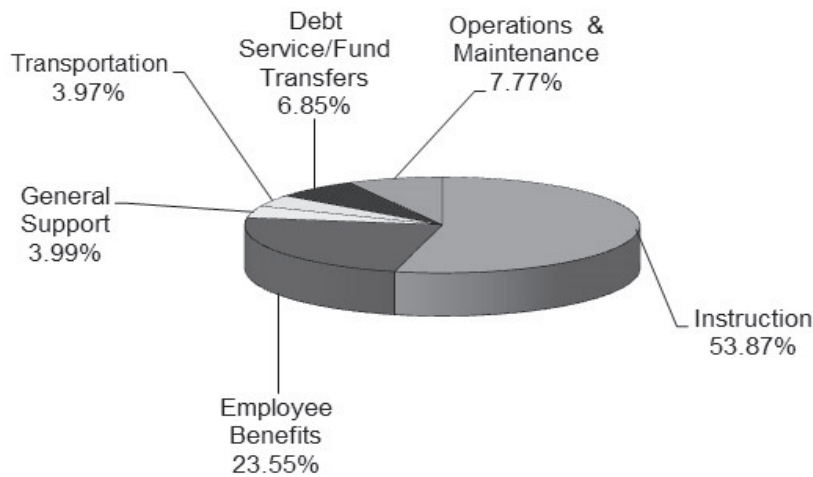
A chart summarizing these new requirements for the 2014-2015 school year is available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf>.

The Office of Student Support Services, within the Department, is in the process of updating the *Immunization Guidelines for Schools* to accurately reflect these changes. Until the guidelines become available we would like to take this opportunity to highlight changes below:

- Students entering kindergarten or sixth grade in the 2014-2015 school year will now be required to have two doses of the varicella (chicken pox) vaccine and three to four doses of poliomyelitis vaccine. All other students will be able to attend school this year with one dose of varicella and three doses of poliomyelitis. This new requirement will apply to all 2014-2015 incoming kindergarten and sixth grade students, along with the subsequent grade levels that the 2014-2015 kindergarten and sixth grade students move up to.
- Students in grades pre-K or K through six will be required to have age-appropriate doses of DPT or DTaP, in accordance with the ACIP schedule.
- Two doses of MMR are no longer required for entrance into kindergarten, though students must have two doses by age seven.
- A student who is in process is defined as one who has had the first dose of all required immunization series and has appointments to complete the series in accordance with the ACIP catch up schedule. See <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>. A student who is in process must be allowed to attend school.
- Students may present proof of immunity by serology (blood test) to the following immunizations: measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, varicella, and poliomyelitis.
- Medical exemptions to immunizations must be reissued annually. The written exemption must identify the immunization exempted, the medical contraindication for the exemption, and the length of time immunization is contraindicated. A sample medical exemption form is available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/>.



## EXPENDITURES



### PROPOSITION #1 VOTE ON BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2014-2015 school year in the amount of \$68,423,968 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources provided by law.

☐ YES

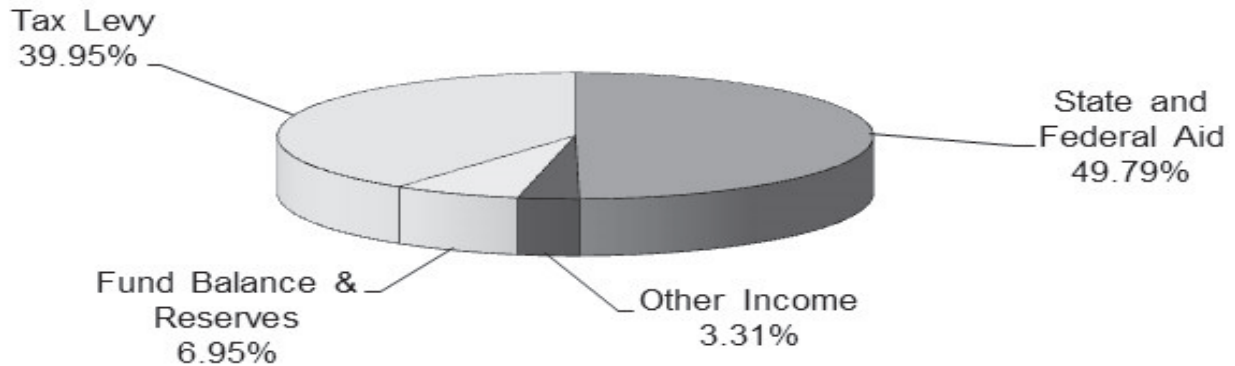
☐ NO

	2013-14	2014-15	Percent Change from 2013-14
<b>Instruction</b>	<b>\$35,777,135</b>	<b>\$36,858,292</b>	<b>3.02%</b>
Includes: K-12 Instructional program, supervision, curriculum development, BOCES, special education programs, occupational education, interscholastic athletics, co-curricular programs, health services, library media, computer instruction, pupil personnel services.			
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	<b>\$14,635,768</b>	<b>\$16,110,684</b>	<b>10.08%</b>
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, Social Security and Worker's Compensation.			
<b>General Support</b>	<b>\$2,706,368</b>	<b>\$2,733,113</b>	<b>0.99%</b>
Includes: Legal services, personnel, insurance, school board, refund on property tax, BOCES administrative charges, administrative and financial services, public information, central data processing and auditing.			
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>\$2,762,904</b>	<b>\$2,713,912</b>	<b>-1.77%</b>
Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.			
<b>Debt Service/Fund Transfers</b>	<b>\$4,504,448</b>	<b>\$4,689,987</b>	<b>4.12%</b>
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects and energy conservation projects. Also, the District's share of special education summer programs and paid to district facilities which maximizes State Aid.			
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$5,354,133</b>	<b>\$5,317,980</b>	<b>-0.68%</b>
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$65,740,756</b>	<b>\$68,423,968</b>	<b>4.08%</b>





## REVENUES



	2013-14	2014-15	Change from 2013-14
State/Federal Aid	\$32,473,889	\$34,065,695	\$1,591,806

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2014-15 school year, it is projected to be 49.79% of all revenue. Last year it was 49.4%. This year, the aid increased by \$1,591,806.

Other Income	\$1,674,267	\$2,262,836	\$588,569
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Any income received by the School District other than State and Federal Aid, Fund Balance or Tax Levy is included under this heading. Examples of other income would be: rentals, interest earnings, payments in lieu of taxes, refunds of prior year's expenses, gifts, fees, tax penalties, commissions and athletic event gate receipt. This year, revenues include the Board of Education's adoption of the stable contribution rate for the Teacher Retirement System. This increased revenues in this category by \$675,000.

Reserves/Fund Balance	\$4,757,385	\$4,757,385	\$0
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**Reserves:** The District maintains Reserve Funds in accordance with guidelines established by the State of New York and adopted and accepted by the Board of Education. With the significant financial issues currently affecting districts across the State, the Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible process to use those reserve funds that are available. They have adopted a process which attempts to maintain quality programs while keeping the tax levy reasonable and within the Tax Cap threshold.

**Fund Balance:** Funds which are budgeted but unexpended at the end of the budget year, and revenues which are realized in excess of those budgeted for the year, are available at the end of the fiscal year to be carried forward as fund balance.

Tax Levy	\$26,835,215	\$27,338,052	\$502,837
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This is the amount to be raised through local property taxes. The Board of Education desires to keep any increases in the levy as low as possible. For the 2014-15 school year, it is anticipated that there will be an increase of 1.87% in the tax levy set by the Board of Education. This amount stays within the legislation that enacted the Tax Cap threshold.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$65,740,756	\$68,423,968	\$2,683,212
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**North Tonawanda City School District Budget Notice****Overall Budget Proposal**

	Budget Adopted for the 2013-14 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2014-15 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2014-15 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$65,740,756	\$68,423,968	\$67,921,131
Increase/decrease for the 2014-2015 School Year		\$2,683,212	\$2,180,375
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		4.08%	3.32%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.46%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Including Levy to Support Library Debt, if applicable.	\$26,835,215	\$27,338,052	\$26,835,215
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$580,123	\$-0-	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt.	\$26,835,215	\$27,338,052	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions.	\$26,851,711	\$27,356,720	
Difference: A-B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval— See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$(16,496)	\$(18,668)	
Administrative Component	\$6,056,672	\$6,324,859	\$6,271,857
Program Component	\$48,632,168	\$50,782,687	\$50,360,444
Capital Component	\$11,051,916	\$11,316,422	\$11,288,830

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2014-15 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Eliminate non-contingent items, student supplies, community use of buildings and grounds, certain equipment, certain salary increases, provide for equipment repairs and contingent expenses.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:  
(Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Sale of property located at 175 Humphrey Street	\$412,000
Sale of property located at 789 Gilmore Avenue	\$525,000
Sale of property located at 25 Grant Street	\$675,000
Sale of property located at 1000 Wright Avenue	\$310,000
Sale of property located at 339 Zimmerman Street	\$ 79,900

**Under the Budget Proposed  
for the 2014-15 School Year**

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$636.27

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2014-2015 by the qualified voters of the North Tonawanda City School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held at the North Tonawanda Senior High School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Alumni Student Activity Center, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



**PROPOSITION #2**  
**SALE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY**

Shall the Board of Education of the North Tonawanda City School District (the "District") be authorized to sell for \$412,000 the Administration Building, along with any adjacent real property owned by the District, located at 175 Humphrey Street in the City of North Tonawanda, New York, to Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, with the stipulation that the District will not accept any offer below the appraised value.

YES

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NO

☐

**PROPOSITION #3**  
**SALE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY**

Shall the Board of Education of the North Tonawanda City School District (the "District") be authorized to offer for sale at \$525,000 Gilmore Elementary School, along with any adjacent real property owned by the District, located at 789 Gilmore Avenue in the City of North Tonawanda, New York, with the stipulation that the District will not accept any offer below the appraised value.

YES

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NO

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**PROPOSITION #4**  
**SALE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY**

Shall the Board of Education of the North Tonawanda City School District (the "District") be authorized to offer for sale at \$675,000 Grant Elementary School, along with any adjacent real property owned by the District, located at 25 Grant Street in the City of North Tonawanda, New York, with the stipulation that the District will not accept any offer below the appraised value.

YES

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NO

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**PROPOSITION #5**  
**SALE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY**

Shall the Board of Education of the North Tonawanda City School District (the "District") be authorized to offer for sale at \$310,000 the parcel of real property owned by the District, located at 1000 Wright Avenue in the City of North Tonawanda, New York, with the stipulation that the District will not accept any offer below the appraised value.

YES

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NO

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**PROPOSITION #6**  
**SALE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY**

Shall the Board of Education of the North Tonawanda City School District (the "District") be authorized to offer for sale at \$79,900 the parcel of real property owned by the District, located at 339 Zimmerman Street in the City of North Tonawanda, New York, with the stipulation that the District will not accept any offer below the appraised value.

YES

☐

NO

☐



## CONGRATULATIONS 2014 SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM

North Tonawanda competed in the 2014 Science Olympiad contest held on Feb. 1. The purpose of this non-profit organization is dedicated to encourage interest in science, technology, engineering and math. Canisius College sponsored the event for the third time for Regional Competition. Each team is limited to fifteen students and must enter twenty events out of a possible twenty-five offered. The types of contests include building projects constructed before arriving at the event, laboratory contests done on site, and study matches performed at the contest. All events are made up of two or three students working together and include all sciences. NT was up against thirty-five other teams this year. Seven of NT's teams medaled and finished in the middle of the pack overall. It is very competitive with many private schools and top Western New York schools involved.

Medals were received by Matthew and Tyler Slominksi - "Circuits Lab", James Conti and Isaac Gifford - "Compound Machines", Michael Carroll and Nathan Proeffrock - "Scrambler", Jarod Harack and Destiny Steele - "Bungee Drop" and Kyle Bortz and Isaac Gifford - "Elastic Launch Glider". Two teams medaled in "Mission Possible", which was definitely the most difficult competition. The teams consisted of the Red Team, Kyle Bortz and Steven Sass and the Blue Team, Marissa Mattice and Jeslyn Zakes.

The Science Olympiad is an amazing opportunity for students to do research, learn, and problem solve in all areas of science. It is much more than what is taught in the classroom and those students involved in it see the value of what they are trying to accomplish.

## Entrepreneur Day

Children in Mrs. Dexheimer's Kindergarten class were busy buying and selling goods along with reinforcing the recognition and value of the penny, nickel and dime. Children needed to make sure that they were giving and receiving the correct coin, handing out receipts to their customers and doing their paperwork when business was slow. Each student invited their father or special guest to be their business partner and to spend the afternoon. There was a wide variety of items being sold such as pencils, erasers, harmonicas, candy and bake goods. It was a fun day of learning! Pictured left to right are:



Michael Phelps with his daughter, Autumn Phelps, Ralph Sasso with his daughter, Olivia Sasso and shopper, Natalie Wulfinf.

## North Tonawanda Educator Chosen as an AP Exam Reader

For the second year in a row, Mr. Brett M. Sommer, Social Studies teacher at North Tonawanda High School, was selected to participate in the College Board's Annual Advanced Placement (AP) Reading in European History.

Each June, AP teachers and college faculty members from around the world gather in the United States to evaluate and score the free-response sections of the AP Exams. Mr. Sommer will participate in the reading taking place in Kansas City.

AP Readers are high school and college educators who represent many of the finest academic institutions in the world. The AP Reading is a unique forum in which an academic dialogue between educators is both fostered and encouraged.

"The Reading draws upon the talents of some of the finest teachers and professors that the world has to offer," said Trevor Packer, senior vice president, AP and College Readiness at the College Board. "It fosters professionalism, allows for the exchange of ideas, and strengthens the commitment to students and to teaching. We are very grateful for the contributions of talented educators like Mr. Sommer."

The Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies (with the opportunity to earn college credit), advanced placement or both, while still in high school. Through AP courses in 34 subjects, each culminating in a rigorous exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue – skills that prepare them for college and beyond. Research indicates that students who score a three or higher on an AP Exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree than non-AP students.

Mr. Sommer, who holds a B.A. in History from Arizona State University as well as an M.S. in Education from D'Youville College, has been a teacher at North Tonawanda High School since 2001 and has taught Advanced Placement European History for eight years.





## NTMS Students Participate in Pi Week Activities

On March 14, the Math Department and students at NTMS participated in various Pi Week activities. Mathematicians celebrate Pi Day on March 14 of each year, since the first few digits of Pi make 3.14 or 3<sup>rd</sup> month and 14<sup>th</sup> day. Leonhardt Euler popularized Pi in 1737 as the Greek letter,  $\pi$ , as found in the Encyclopedia Britannica. The approximate value for Pi is 3.14 and can be found by dividing the distance around a circle (circumference) by the distance across the circle through the center (diameter).



Emails, texts, and reminders were sent home to parents asking for their favorite recipes to share in the first NTMS Pi Recipe Book. Students were asked to participate by designing a cover for the book that reflects pies, Pi, and art. Students who sent in designs included Elizabeth Roth (8D), Trinity Jopp (8E), and Rebekah VerHague (8E).

Students were given approximately one week to memorize as many digits of Pi

as they possibly could. On Pi Day, students throughout NTMS recited these digits to their math teachers. Several seventh graders were able to recite 80-100 digits, but the winners of the competition were in the eighth grade. Leah Manth and Brandon Tran won from Team 8E and 8D, respectively. Leah recited 328 consecutive, correct digits of Pi. Brandon came in second with 265 digits recited. Their reward was to Pie their math teachers. Mrs. Boyko, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Sturgeon, and Mrs. Watson all graciously allowed the students the pleasure of smashing in their faces.

"Come to the Dork Side, We Have Pi" was the theme of the Pi Day shirts this year. Mr. Bush collected t-shirts from teachers and students and had shirts made so they could show their celebration of Pi on March 14.



## Niagara County Elementary Chorus

North Tonawanda was well represented in the 2014 Niagara County Elementary Chorus hosted at Barker Central Schools. The chorus is a select group composed of dedicated and talented students from elementary schools across Niagara County. This year the chorus was conducted by our own Virginia Simoncelli, vocal music teacher at Meadow Elementary. The students brought great pride to the music department and

district with their preparation and professionalism. Members included Drake Elementary students Hayden St. Cyr, Elizabeth Scott, Jessa Krull, Alyssa Dolan, Kiria Gonka; Meadow Elementary students Shay Brosius, Isabel Deschamps, Emily Ford, Kacie Guerra, Nora Klipfel, Rachel Marillo, Katrina Russell, Paige Walsh; Ohio Elementary students Gia Grant, Emily Mueller, Kirsten Ferree; Spruce Elementary students Sophia Scime, Megan Orrange, Samantha Koeth, Giovanna Fortunato, Isabella Markarian, and Emily Russell.



## Drake School Supports SPCA

During Kindness month at Drake School, Officer Bob from the Niagara County SPCA discussed respect and kindness toward our furry friends. The staff, students and families of

Drake School collected \$545, ten large boxes of supplies, numerous towels and 130 pounds of cat litter to help support the SPCA.



## Art News!

At Ohio School, the students have been getting a lot of attention for their amazing sculptural work. The driving force for these projects was the popular concept of "recycle and reuse". The idea of turning junk into beautiful works of art made a lot of sense and came quite naturally to them.

They created projects like sculpture parks for their pet ants, tin can magnetic robots, and Alexander Calder like mobiles. World famous glass artist Dale Chihuly inspired the fifth and sixth graders who designed a ten foot tall hanging "chandelier" and glass like "sea forms". The Ohio students have taken the art world by storm this year!!! (no pun intended)-:





## Academy of Engineering and Architecture Students Perform Well In 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridge Design Competition



The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual ABATE Balsa Wood Bridge Competition was held at Classic V Restaurant in Amherst. This is an annual event for high school students in the Buffalo area sponsored by local Engineering companies. A record number of schools participated in this year's event with 74 bridges being tested. North Tonawanda had 44 students in grades nine through twelve pack up their 18" long balsa wood bridges and compete against the other 54 bridges as well as their classmates. Some of the local schools participating were JFK, East Aurora, Pioneer, Williamsville East, St. Joes, Lake Shore, and the GOW. Most of the students worked in groups of three or four per bridge. The balsa wood bridges varied in design from very light "spaghetti" bridges to heavy beam styled structures. North Tonawanda seniors Ethan Farkas, Dan Gazdovich, Steve Becker and Mike Carrolls' 144 pound carrying beam bridge took fifth place in the competition, only missing third place by .9. The scores of each bridge are determined by an efficiency rating of how much it holds to how much the bridge weighs along with a complexity, engineering and craftsmanship score. Overall NT had four bridges in the top ten and 12 groups in the top 25.

## 2013-2014 Winter Sports Individual Honors

### **Boys Varsity Indoor Track**

Christopher Manth, Kyle Brady, Cody Sikora & Samuel Weglarski/Section 6/Boys 4 X 400 Relay/4<sup>th</sup> Place Finish/NYSPHSAA State Qualifier

### **Girls Varsity Indoor Track**

Kelly Nichols/600 meter run/NYSPHSAA State Qualifier

### **Boys Varsity Basketball**

Joseph Piotrowski/2<sup>nd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

Michael Awad/2<sup>nd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

Christopher Woodard/2<sup>nd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

Nehemiah Stone/3<sup>rd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

### **Girls Varsity Basketball**

Elizabeth Wildt/3<sup>rd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

### **Boys Varsity Wrestling**

Troy Keller/1<sup>st</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star, Section 6 Class Champion & NYSPHSAA State Qualifier finished in top eight at NYSPHSAA tournament

### **Boys Varsity Bowling**

Kyle Behr/1<sup>st</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star, All-Section 6 First Team All-Star, School Record 845 High Series and NYSPHSAA State qualifier.

Dillon Snopkowski/3<sup>rd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

### **Girls Varsity Bowling**

Cassidy Powers/1<sup>st</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star, All-Section 6 First Team All-Star, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Section 6 Tournament and 8<sup>th</sup> Place finish at NYSPHSAA State Championships

Abbey Kieffer/2<sup>nd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

Haylee Sutton/3<sup>rd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

Rebecca Conlan/3<sup>rd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

Bridgette Enright/3<sup>rd</sup> Team Niagara Frontier League All-Star

### **Boys Ice Hockey**

Kyle Painter/1<sup>st</sup> Team Section 6 All-Federation All-Star

Martin Clarke/1<sup>st</sup> Team Section 6 Division 3 All-Star

Samuel Rydzewski/1<sup>st</sup> Team Section 6 Division 3 All-Star

Brandon Lavocat/3<sup>rd</sup> Team Section 6 Division 3 All Star

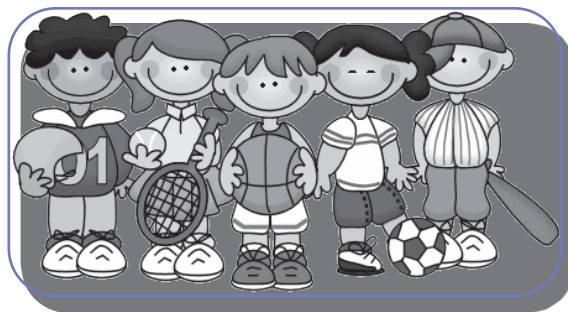
Griffin Spatorico/3<sup>rd</sup> Team Section 6 Division 3 All Star

Kyle Crook /3<sup>rd</sup> Team Section 6 Division 3 All Star

Curtis Vivian/3<sup>rd</sup> Team Section 6 Division 3 All Star

### **Boys Swimming & Diving**

Nicolas Mallone/4<sup>th</sup> Place 50 Freestyle Niagara Frontier League, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 100 Freestyle Niagara Frontier League, 6<sup>th</sup> Place 50 Freestyle Class A Meet, 5<sup>th</sup> Place 100 Freestyle Class A Meet, 7<sup>th</sup> Place 50 Freestyle Section 6 Meet, and 10<sup>th</sup> Place 100 Freestyle Section 6 Meet. Derrick Szpaicher/3<sup>rd</sup> Place Diving Niagara Frontier League, 4<sup>th</sup> Place Diving Class A Meet, and 12<sup>th</sup> Place Diving Section 6 Meet.





## Varsity Bowlers have Outstanding Season

North Tonawanda's Varsity Bowling teams both had strong seasons, each finishing second in the always tough Niagara Frontier League.

The Lady Jacks finished with 12 wins and two losses, beating everyone except Niagara Falls, the eventual league and Section VI Champions. Seniors Rebecca Conlan, Abbey Kieffer and Cassidy Powers were Captains of the team which also consisted of Whitney Werth, Bridgette Enright, Haylee Sutton, Jessica Sass, Samantha Michlin and Jordan Johnson.

Junior Kyle Behr was the only returning starter and thus the Captain of the Lumberjack boys squad. Despite having an inexperienced line-up, the Jacks finished surprisingly with 11 wins and three losses. Dillon Snopkowski, Antonio LaBarbera, David Werth, Hunter Bolam, Nick Cook, Joshua Hojnowski, Jarod Powers and Eli Williams rounded out the team. Season highlights included a school record 845 series by Kyle Behr,

which included games of 298, 299 and 248. Dillon Snopkowski rolled a 717, his first 700 to lead NT over Niagara Falls. Cassidy Powers led the girls with a 192 average and 716 series. Rebecca Conlan had a 255-687 and Abbey Kieffer a 286-684. Behr and Powers were both second at the Section VI Championships, earning a trip to States on Long Island. Kyle and the Section VI Boys All-Section Team finished seventh, while Cassidy led the Section VI girls to a second place finish. The girls were fifth with one game to go when Cassidy came up big. She finished with five consecutive strikes for a 234, lifting Section VI's girls to the Silver Medal. It was a fitting finish to Cassidy's fine bowling career at NTHS.

### Winter 2013-2014 NYSPHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

#### SECTION VI ADPRO ALL-WNY SCHOLAR ATHLETE WINTER 2013-2014

Cassidy Powers	Varsity Girls Bowling	Winner
Gretchen Ringler	Varsity Girls Basketball	Winner
Courtney Crooks	Varsity Girls Indoor Track	Winner
Brandon Lavocat	Varsity Boys Ice Hockey	Winner
Steven Becker	Varsity Boys Ice Hockey	Honorable Mention
Austin Glick	Varsity Boys Indoor Track	Honorable Mention
Christian Lemke	Varsity Boys Basketball	Honorable Mention
Jonathan Bauerline	Varsity Boys Swimming & Diving	Honorable Mention

#### Criteria for the Individual Award

- 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
- Seniors only

#### NYSPHSAA, Inc. Scholar/Athlete Team 2013-2014 Winter Awards

The 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 was developed to recognize the hard work that student athletes do off the field. A required number of team members must have a combined team average of 90% or higher to qualify for the team award.

This year's 2013 fall award winners are the following:

Girls Varsity Basketball	90.517
Boys Varsity Basketball	92.683
Boys Varsity Ice Hockey	94.849
Boys Varsity Wrestling	91.768
Girls Varsity Indoor Track	93.697
Boys Varsity Indoor Track	94.127
Girls Varsity Bowling	92.649
Boys Varsity Swimming & Diving	91.657



North Tonawanda had eight out of nine varsity teams qualify for this year's 2013 Fall Scholar Athlete Team Awards.

#### NTMS Health Fair 5K Run and Family Fun Walk

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the 2014 NTMS Health 5k and Family Fun Walk a huge success.

On Saturday, April 5, there were over 370 runners that came out to brave the cold at North Tonawanda Middle School. It is always great to see the community and the students have some fun, all while working on their physical fitness.



**North Tonawanda City School District**  
175 Humphrey Street  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

#### **Board of Education**

Kevin LoCicero, President

Arthur Pappas, Vice President

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## **ECRWSS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120**



### **Strive for 25 Campaign**



From Kindergarten thru sixth grade Ohio Students have been motivated and encouraged to read. Ohio Elementary teachers and students recently celebrated their mid-year reading milestone for Strive for 25. Students who stayed on track to reach their end of year goal were invited to the celebration. The students were recognized for their commitment to reading and provided a fun atmosphere with snacks and a dance party to celebrate their time and hard work.

### **Voter Qualifications**

- \* You must be a citizen of the United States.
- \* You must be 18 years of age.
- \* You must be a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.

### **Have You Registered Your Child for Kindergarten?**

If your child will be starting Kindergarten in September, please be sure that you have registered your child at the Administration Building on Humphrey Street. Children must be five years of age on or before Dec. 1, 2014. Equally important is to be sure they are signed up for a kindergarten screening time. At the screening your child will be assessed by the kindergarten staff, school nurse and speech department. By attending the screening you are helping to assure your child will receive the best placement.



All kindergarten screenings will be held at Grant School. If you have not signed up for a screening time, please call 807-3539.

### **Drake School has Spelling Bee**

Recently, fourth and fifth grade students participated in a Spelling Bee at Drake School sponsored by the Niagara Regional PTA. The top winners from

each grade level then advanced to the Regional Bee held at Newfane School on March 28. Pictured, sporting their official t-shirts are Kendra Andrews, Jackson Chlebowy, Shawna Zelasko, and Brandon Spencer. Congratulations!

