



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of Schools

# NT SPIRIT

Winter Issue 2014

## Kindergarten & Prekindergarten Registration Dates Set for 2014 - 2015 School Year



Registration packets are **NOW** available in the lobby of the NT Administration Building located at 175 Humphrey Street. They are also available online at [www.ntschoools.org](http://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:

- ♦ Tuesday, March 25 from 1 - 6:30 p.m.
- ♦ Thursday, March 27 from 1 - 6:30 p.m.
- ♦ Monday, March 31 from 1 - 6:30 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday, April 2 from 1 - 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, 2014.
- ♦ Prekindergarten children must be 4 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2014.

## Second Annual 5K Run & One Mile Family Fun Walk April 5, 2014

We are inviting the community to participate in the North Tonawanda Middle School's second 5K Run and Family Fun Walk. All runners and walkers of every fitness level are welcomed. The morning will be filled with fitness, fun and community participation. The race will begin promptly at 9 a.m. at North Tonawanda Middle School. Vendors, food and fun for the kids will be available after the race while

times are being tallied.

The race is \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents. Registration forms can be found on the school website @ [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org).



## Zakes Receives Hugh O'Brian Award

Jeslyn Zakes, a sophomore at NTHS, has received the Hugh O'Brian Award. One sophomore from each high school across America is chosen each year. The winner is chosen based on an essay written about leadership. Jeslyn will receive an all-expense paid weekend leadership training seminar in Rochester in June.





## From the Superintendent



Dear Community Members of North Tonawanda City School District,

I hope this edition of the NT Spirit finds you warm and enjoying the winter season here in Western New York.

A few unrelated, yet important, pieces of information for you:

Of course, with winter now upon us, the district will carefully monitor weather conditions and make decisions for school closings and or cancellations that are in the interests of the safety of our students. We will continue to use the automated calling system, our Facebook and Twitter feeds, and the traditional news media. Whenever possible, the decision to close school will be made by 6 a.m.

I encourage all of you to watch the development of this year's school budget by attending a meeting, reviewing the documents we post on line after a meeting, or by sending in a suggestion using our website at [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org). There are always changes at the state level and some of the things the board will consider are the proposed rebate to tax payers if their school district builds a budget that stays in the Governor's two percent tax cap formula limit. It is always a difficult time of the year when we have to balance student programming and funding. We have a talented and dedicated Board of Education who will do their best to maintain educational opportunities while keeping the budget in check.

The district is always looking at possible future capital projects that would enhance the North Tonawanda City School District. The team of professionals, staff, and community that will be assembled to review the possible project will look at the current five year build condition survey to see what and where the focus needs to be. While many improvements were made in the last capital project we can always add to the level of security, program space and outdoor area we currently have to make sure we have everything we need for the families and students to do their best and stay safe.

Congratulations to all our fall sports teams on their successful seasons. We are very lucky to have student athletes who represent our school well, with dedicated coaches and parents supporting their efforts. Special "Kudos" goes to our New York State Qualifiers: Girls Tennis - Doubles Team; Gretchen Ringler and Jessica Robins and in Golf; Logan St. Cyr.

Finally, I would encourage you to visit [www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org), as it contains many resources for parents that support the Common Core Learning Standards. I am confident you will find these materials useful in your efforts to support your children.

I extend my best wishes to you for an enjoyable and successful filled 2014!

Sincerely,

*Gregory J. Woytila*

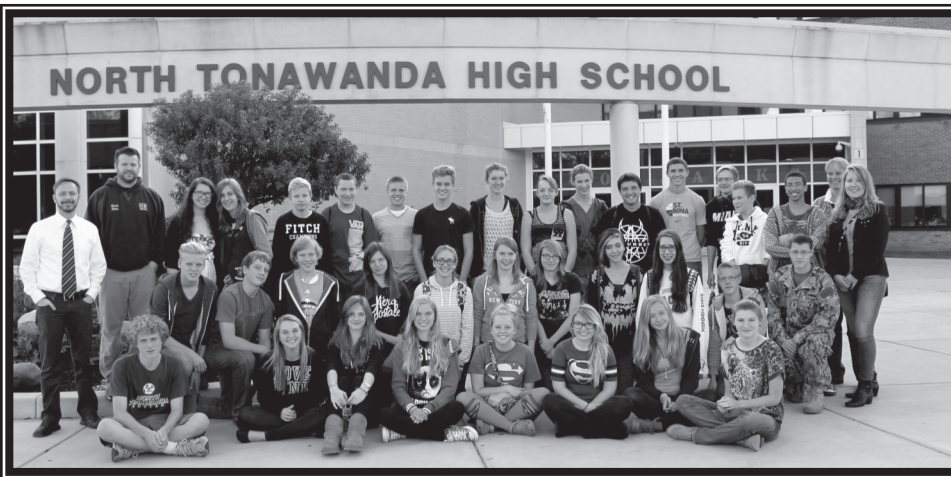
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## German Exchange Tradition Continues at NTHS

North Tonawanda High School has been partnered with the *Gymnasium Schenefeld* ("Gymnasium" is the German word for "High School") since 2006. In that time, over 50 students have participated in the program, which connects students with families in each community and provides them with the opportunity to learn the language, culture, attend school and go on excursions to nearby sights and cities. This school year, 16 German students accompanied by their teachers, Frau Mechthild Hahne and Frau Taija Korbik, arrived at the Buffalo/Niagara Airport at the end of September. They were greeted by their North Tonawanda host families. For the next 18 days, the students spent time with their host families and participated in traditional fall events around Western New York. They attended high school classes, shadowing their host siblings. They also took excursions to Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Toronto and the Niagara Gorge. The NTHS Science Department graciously offered to include the German students and their host siblings on their annual trip to the Gorge. Exchange students and their host families were treated to a party by the Bauerlein family and a bowling party by the Koslowski family. The exchange concluded on Oct. 17 when the German students departed NTHS for the airport. Judging by the long farewells and more than a few tears, lasting friendships were made. NTHS students will have the chance to continue to grow these friendships when they visit Germany, escorted by NTHS German teachers Robert Lucas and Christopher Heyer, at the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year. Both Mr. Lucas and Mr. Heyer would like to thank the Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff and, especially the host families in North Tonawanda who continue to make this partnership between Germany and the United States a great success.



## Golden Apple Award Winner

Kelley Moore, first grade teacher at Meadow School, was awarded the WKBW Golden Apple Award for the month of January. Channel 7, along with Reeds Jenss, named Mrs. Moore the winner after several nominations. This prestigious award, chosen from all of Western New York once per month, lauded Mrs. Moore for going above and beyond. The award was unveiled for a surprised Mrs. Moore at a special assembly.



TNT pancake breakfast made by Mr. Breed's middle school science students.



Students enjoy new reading chairs purchased through book fair profits.

## News from the Library Media Center

A big part of the Common Core State Standards is research and there is not a better place for research than the library. Today's middle school students should find the process of writing a citation for each source used a bit easier with the use of the Noodle Tools for making citations and note taking that the district has subscribed to. The goal for the students is to have a working knowledge of using Noodle Tools and how to find the information to create their citations by the time they enter high school. In high school they will learn much more about the research process. Noodle Tools can be used throughout their education, including college.





### **Second Annual Math/Science Day at Spruce**

Students and staff at Spruce participated in the second annual Math/Science Day on Jan. 17. Activities designed to promote interest in mathematics and the sciences were scheduled throughout the day for all grades. Classes rotated by schedule through stations that focused on such topics as decimals, math facts, multiplication and division, buoyancy, aerodynamics, electricity and non-standard measurement. Two assemblies were also enjoyed that day. "In Jest" featured a comical approach to demonstrate math and science principles through circus skills. Students were amazed and amused as they learned about forces, energy and motion. "Move Your Body" participants spent 40 minutes dancing/exercising to music to promote physical fitness and positive character traits. Math/Science Day is a collaborative effort between the Spruce Shared Decision Making Committee and the Spruce Home & School Organization.

### **Report Cards Paperless at Middle and High School**

Report cards at North Tonawanda Middle and High School are now paperless and viewable on the Parent Portal, via the district web site. This electronic grade reporting replaces the traditional paper report cards mailed to parents/guardians.

The portal allows approved users 24/7 access to their child's academic information, including grades on assignments, attendance, schedules and progress reports. Information on creating a portal account is available on our website at [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org). The Parent Portal tab is located on the upper right of the district web page. Both schools are using the district's automated phone system to notify parents when the report cards are ready for viewing.

Parents who do not have access to a computer may request a paper report card by contacting the guidance offices at the middle school (807-3125) or high school at (807-3642).



### **Academy of Engineering and Architecture News**

The Academy of Engineering and Architecture participated in their 7th "Habitat for Humanity" community service day in October. The students who were 16 years and older spent a Saturday in the City of Buffalo remodeling a very old home. Habitat for Humanity Buffalo is a charitable organization seeking to alleviate the shortage of quality housing in Buffalo. Volunteers work in partnership with people in need to build and renovate decent, affordable housing. The houses are then sold to pre-qualified families at no profit.

Students Natalie Harack, Ethan Farkas, Steve Sass, Isaac Gifford, Joe Karl, Kyle Bortz, Harold Wagner, Grayson Dolata, Evin Steele, Dan Gazdovich, Tim Reese, Kyle Matheis and Brandon Dirmyer, along with the Academy Advisors June Mikulski and Chris Cook, were divided into teams involved with several different

tasks during the day. Some students dug fence post holes, mixed the concrete and installed the posts, while others were instructed to rip out drywall and screw in the new drywall. A group of more adventurous students headed down to the murky crawlspace to install a vapor barrier and rolled insulation.

The Academy Advisory Board felt that this was the perfect fit for this group of students. Not only did they get a good look at the structural foundation of a building, they saw the value of volunteering. The students commented on what a worthwhile community service activity it was and that they had fun and enjoyed the hard work! They were happy with the progress that was made and are ready to go back again.





## Spruce Students are "Young Marines"

Students David Rinehart and Salem Nyari are Young Marines, a youth nationwide education and services program for boys and girls ages eight through high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members and focuses on character building, leadership, and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. David, a sixth grader, has recently completed boot camp and Salem, a fifth grader, has been in the program for the last two and a half years. Both boys are continuing in the program to learn more skills, earn rank, wear the Young Marines uniform and work toward ribbon awards. Ribbons are earned for achievement in areas such as leadership, community services, swimming, academic excellence, first aid and drug resistance education.



## Making Friends with iPads

The first grade class at Ohio Elementary of Miss Byrne and Mrs. Reszczenski are very excited to have iPads in their classroom. The teachers have used iPads to promote critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and create an independent learning environment. The educational apps they are using are directly related to the lessons being taught in the classroom and are carefully selected as tools to support and reinforce learning. The activities on the iPads include spelling, phonics, numbers, counting, sorting, segmenting/blending, fluency, handwriting practice, letter identification, addition, and subtraction. They allow for reinforcement and practice of learned skills. The teachers and the students are very grateful for this very exciting experience.



Our first grade students recently attended a field trip to meet their iPad pen pals at Roy B. Kelley School in Lockport. Students were engaged in various content-related activities as they navigated

throughout the building all while working closely with their new friends. The iPads have helped open doors that our students would never have thought possible.

## Global Connect - School Closing Information

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](http://www.ntschoools.org).

## Artists at Meadow

As part of the PBIS Program at Meadow, students are able to earn Meadow moolah for their outstanding behavior. This winter the PBIS committee came up with creative ways for students to "spend" their rewards. One opportunity was to paint and decorate some of the hallway windows. Each month students will be allowed to use their moolah to take a chance on being the Meadow window artists-in-residence. Shown below is Shay Woodard, grade five.





## Peer Tutoring Has Resumed

Peer tutoring has long been a program at the NT High School to help students who choose to work with another student. The peer tutoring application is now available on the NTHS website. Students who wish to get help in math, social studies, English, foreign language and other courses can apply by filling out the form and delivering it to the Guidance Office or to the Peer Tutoring Manager, Mr. Agugliaro, in Room 123. He checks the availability of tutors, who are all Honor Society members, and matches them with students. He makes arrangements through Mrs. Baker to schedule students during study halls and lunch periods. It is just one more way to offer help to students who are struggling. It is also important to understand that, since the tutors are volunteering out of their busy schedules, students *must be sure* they want tutoring. Application forms should always be completed by the student needing assistance.



## Fifth Graders Honor Veterans

Mrs. Beutel, a fifth grade teacher at Drake Elementary School, is continuing a year-long tradition of honoring and remembering the veterans in the VA Hospital. At various times throughout the year students send cards, letters and poems to the veterans.



## Kindergarteners Visit Alan Herschell Carrousel Museum

Students in Mrs. Dexheimer's kindergarten class at Spruce School were treated to a field trip to the Alan Herschell Carrousel Museum to learn about the history of the town. Retired English teacher Beverly O'Neill was at the museum to meet the bus and give a tour of the new outdoor rides following with a presentation in the factory. The students were able to view some of the tools and machines that the workers used to carve the carrousel along with cranking the old band organ to hear the merry-go-round music. The children were excited to see the many different kinds of animals that were created for carrousels such as the zebra and ostrich.



Pictured L to R are Beverly O'Neill, Caleb Francis, Kaitlyn Zahm and Leo Janowsky.

## "POP to the Top at Drake"

Students at Drake School celebrate meeting their math goals in a school-wide program "Pop to the Top". To encourage math fact practice, students in grades one through six use Xtramath.org to reach a goal set by the SDM math subcommittee. Kindergarten students must be able to count to 100.

Two students from each grade level pop a balloon to reveal the hidden message inside, which indicates the special activity the students who successfully meet the "Pop to the Top" challenge participate in. Activities include watching a video while enjoying popcorn, having a game room which includes math games, doing "Just Dance" and more.

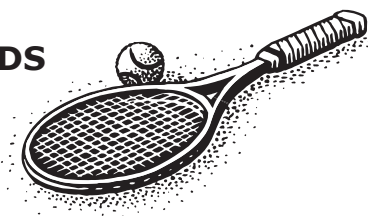
Three more goals have been set for the remainder of the school year. Congratulations to the students and all their efforts.







## Fall 2013 NYSPHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS



### SECTION VI ADPRO ALL-WNY SCHOLAR ATHLETE FALL 2013

Rachel Wieclaw	Varsity Girls Volleyball	Winner
Aaron Giambra	Varsity Boy Cross Country	Winner
Jonathan Bauerlein	Varsity Boys Cross Country	Honorable Mention
Austin Glick	Varsity Boys Cross Country	Honorable Mention
Ming-jie Jiang	Varsity Boys Cross Country	Honorable Mention
Brandon Lavocat	Varsity Boys Volleyball	Honorable Mention
Justin Restorff	Varsity Football	Honorable Mention
Gretchen Ringler	Varsity Girls Tennis	Honorable Mention
Trevor Young	Varsity Boys Soccer	Honorable Mention
Katherine Zgolak	Varsity Girls Volleyball	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 Fall 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 Volleyball	93.885
Girls Varsity Tennis	95.18
Boys Varsity Football	95.021
Boys Varsity Volleyball	93.41
Girls Varsity Soccer	91.72
Boys Varsity Cross Country	94.39
Girls Varsity Cross Country	92.44
Boys Varsity Soccer	91.90



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

### Fall 2013 Niagara Frontier League 1st Team All-Stars

Gretchen Ringler	Girls Tennis
Joseph Piotrowski	Boys Volleyball
Donovan Book	Boys Volleyball
Devin Donohue	Golf
Gabby Hansen	Girls Volleyball
Leanna Metzger	Girls Volleyball
Lauren Testa	Girls Soccer
Nicole Mallone	Girls Soccer

### Football All-League North 1st Team All-Star

Christopher Woodard  
Jacob Ferry  
Jon Zellner



### Kyle Behr Named Super 7 Athlete of the Week



Kyle Behr, a junior at NTHS was featured on Channel 7 in December as the Super 7 Athlete of the Week. While bowling against Lockport, Kyle rolled a 298, 299 and 248 for an 845 series, just short of the record of 847.



## Doing the Right Thing at Spruce Elementary



In the North Tonawanda City School District, we celebrate young people who choose to "Do the Right Thing!" Sponsored by the Niagara County Sheriff's Department, the Niagara Falls Police Department and the Niagara Police Athletic League, the Do the Right Thing program is designed to positively impact the youth of Niagara County who distinguish themselves through their behavior and by establishing themselves as role models for their peers.

Every month up to 80 children from the Niagara County area, on the basis of their exemplary behavior and attitude, are nominated by teachers, police officers, youth leaders and the public for the "Do the Right Thing" award and eight finalists are selected from this group. The first 80 nominees receive certificates of recognition and a t-shirt. The eight finalists also receive a plaque, an incentive prize package and recognitions in the Do the Right Thing public service announcements in local newspapers and TV.

Hailey Joyner, a sixth grader in Mrs. Mahoney's class, was a finalist and recipient of the December 2013 "Do the Right Thing" award. Hailey is a thoughtful student who wanted to make a difference. After losing her beloved grandmother to breast cancer in 2010, she decided to bring awareness of this disease to her school. She made and distributed pink ribbons in school during October, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, in honor of her grandmother and all those who have lost their lives to breast cancer. Hailey has also created a web-site called "Nanna's Little Angels," where custom made items are sold with all proceeds going to benefit Hospice.

## District Administrative Staff

**Gregory J. Woytila**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Patrick Holesko**  
Executive Director of Educational Services

**Alan Getter**  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Administrative Services

**Laurie Burger**  
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

**John Tylec**  
Personnel Director

**Jeffrey Gaston**  
Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds

**Ronald J. Barstys**  
Director of Student Services

**John Moskalik**  
Director of Special Education

**Dana Hoffman**  
Assistant Director of Special Education/  
High School Assistant Principal

**Cynthia Bullis**  
Athletic Director

**Robert Kirisits**  
Director of Transportation

## Ohio Students Get Creative with Common Core

During the month of December in Mrs. Zarbo's third grade class and Mrs. Manning's second grade class, a day was spent responding to the classic story/song "The Twelve Days of Christmas". The story was read aloud and the meaning of the song was discussed. After, the children were asked to verbalize the lesson of the story (CCLS RL2.2) which is there are many different varieties of hidden gifts that are given. Intrinsic and extrinsic gifts were discussed. (CCLS L 2.3) Together the students worked to make a chart of different intrinsic gifts that their families provide them throughout the year (hugs, praise, snuggles). They then added adjectives to the intrinsic gifts. (CCLS L 2.6) The Twelve Days of Christmas books were written and illustrated by the students using the chart and given to their families as holiday gifts. To further extend the children's involvement with the book, they worked in cooperative groups to create large murals representing each day in the book.

**North Tonawanda City School District**  
175 Humphrey Street  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
807-3500

### Board of Education

Kevin LoCicero, President  
Arthur Pappas, Vice President  
Frank DiBernardo  
Dorothy Kuebler

James Martineck  
Colleen Osborn  
Amanda Wildt, Student Member



[www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org)