



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NT SPIRIT

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

Fall 2013 Edition

NTCSD Welcomes New Vocal Music Teacher



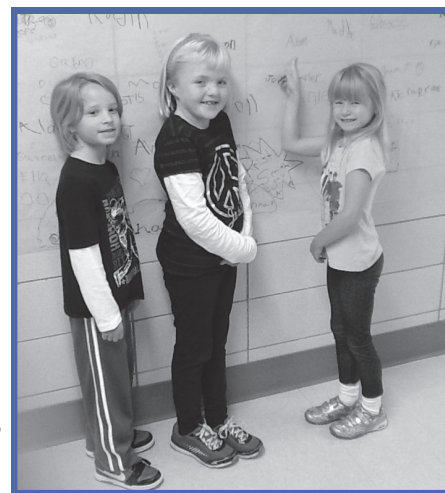
Hello North Tonawanda Families! My name is Marissa Greenwald and I am the new vocal music teacher at Ohio and Drake Elementary Schools. I am so excited to make music with your children. This year students will experience music through singing, chanting, playing instruments, listening and evaluating performances, reading,

and composing. The fourth grade choruses and fifth/sixth grade choruses at both schools have already begun working on their repertoire for the winter concert. Please join us at the Alumni Student Activity Center on Thursday, Dec. 5 for Drake's winter concert and Wednesday, Dec. 18 for Ohio's winter concert!



PBIS at Meadow School

On the first Friday of the year, all of the students at Meadow School participated in a full day of activities to kick off the school's PBIS initiative. PBIS stands for *Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports*. The students reviewed proper bus behavior, how to act in the cafeteria, "rules of the road" for traveling in the hallways, and how to earn Meadow Moolah. Pictured right are second graders Ryan Tuite, Madison Kuebler, and Leah Anson with the school's PBIS banner, signed by the entire student body.



High School Pre-Open House Session

NT High School Reading teachers, Mrs. Chowanec and Mr. Agugliaro, once again presented their annual pre-open house parent session. These instructors instituted holding a session like this many years ago so parents of remedial reading students grades nine through twelve could receive additional time for questions after a thorough explanation of the program.

Parents were able to review the course outline and many points were underlined by the presenting teachers. "The only way for your students to get better at reading is to read," Mrs. Chowanec emphasized. She also relayed how students are identified for the program through state testing, local testing, grades and many other factors that, together, give a clearer picture of each student.

Mr. Agugliaro covered details relating to reading materials to be used this year, and informed the parents of the Reading Lab vocabulary program to help students gain higher level words for high school, the SAT and college. He also made a point to parents that they should contact the school with concerns. "We are always open to parent calls. It is a good idea to follow the protocol of contacting the teacher first." He suggested that greater concerns should be referred to guidance and high school administration.

Attending parents were very appreciative of the extra time with the teachers and voiced their thanks at the end of the half hour presentation.



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**Inquiry-Based Instruction "Matters" at Drake Elementary**

Students in Mrs. Lipps' second grade class at Drake Elementary have been getting their hands on some different states of matter. The children are learning about the world around them by investigating it themselves. They have explored the properties of solids, liquids, gases and solid/liquid hybrid substances through a number of experiments and saw and tasted changes in matter.



Madison Stewart and Nathan Schaefer explore matter.



Hayden Schmitt conducts an experiment.

State of the Art Computer Lab at Meadow

Meadow School is very lucky to have a brand new, state of the art computer lab. In addition to the lab that the school already has, the new lab will create more opportunities for using technology. Teachers will be able to sign up for slots to allow more time for class projects, research, and writing tasks. Shown below enjoying the new lab is third grader Adeline Graff.

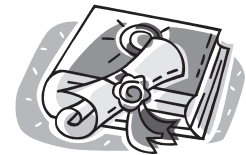
**Excitement at Meadow**

Recently a sports wall was installed in the Meadow School green gym. The wall allows students to take their fitness activities into the digital age. The wall was purchased through the district's PEP grant, and the Meadow students are very grateful for the activities this will provide. Shown below are Meadow Physical Education teacher, Mr. Steffanucci, and grade six student, Nora Klipfel.

**2014 NorthStar Yearbooks Available**

The North Tonawanda NorthStar Yearbook committee would like to remind you that the number of 2014 NorthStar yearbooks available for purchase is limited. Don't let your child's high school memories be forgotten.

If you would like to purchase a 2014 yearbook, please visit www.jostens.com, click on the Yearbook Tab, type in North Tonawanda and place your order. You can save 25% by ordering early!!!

**Yearbook Liquidation Sale**

NorthStar Yearbook is liquidating their inventory of surplus yearbooks. Yearbooks date from 1986 through 2012. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook from previous years, please contact Mrs. Follendorf at **716-807-3600 x1223**.

Books are priced to sell at \$50. Limited yearslimited quantities, first come, first served.



Please like us on Facebook at NT City Schools



Just the FACS Please

It is a pleasure to welcome Miss Kelly to the middle school FACS Department. This is her third year teaching Family and Consumer Science. Previously employed at the West Seneca West Middle School, she completed her undergraduate degree at Geneseo and her Master's Degree at Buffalo State College. Miss Kelly has worked in the financial field for five years before earning her teaching accreditations. She serves as the Public Relations Director/Treasurer on the Executive Board for Business Teachers Association of New York State and is a member of the New York State Association of Family and Consumer Science Educators.

Some changes are happening in the curriculum, too. The Entrepreneurship Project, more commonly known as the cake sale, has been put into the seventh grade curriculum. The eighth graders have a new career aptitude test and software in the program Guidance Direct. Students will be able to record important information, community service hours, and volunteer

work in one spot. This should make it a breeze to fill out those college applications.

Both seventh and eighth grades have one cooking lab completed already. Grade seven is starting with the sewing project before their next cooking lab and cake sale. There will be four cake sales this year. The proceeds help pay for an extra cooking lab for the seventh graders and buying fabric for the community service hats the eighth graders are making.

The eighth grade students are teaming up again this year with Casey House in Niagara Falls. Students have worked with the Casey House for past few years to help those less fortunate. This semester the students are making infant fleece hats as Casey House is expanding its services to include young moms. The hats will be ready close to the Thanksgiving season for delivery. In the spring semester students will be making drawstring bags that will be given to young adults to carry their belongings when they are ready to leave. The department is using a bank-

ing program that allows the eighth graders to view profiles and decide if that person is making a good decision or not. Once they have finished they are able to print their results. This will be an inventive way to end the unit. Career exploration constitutes a large part of the semester. Since many of the students will be looking for a part-time job at the end of the year we are investing instruction time to help them be prepared.

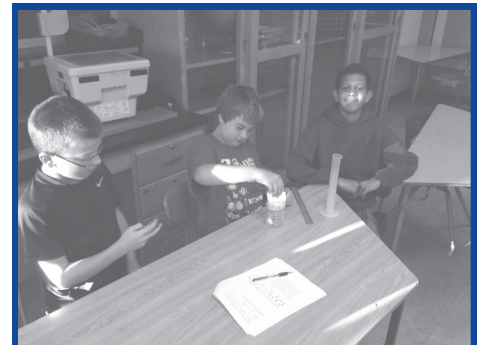
Finally, both grade levels will be devoting time to healthy eating habits. Middle school is the optimum time to educate young people about nutrition. Students are still physically growing and need to eat properly, but have more control over their food choices as they are away from their parents more often. The more they know, the better they can make wise decisions.

Students Experiment

Mr. Breed's Science seven team B students are testing which brand of paper towel is the most absorbent. Students had to design a lab, test their hypothesis and make a conclusion based on their results. Students use experimental evidence to make their choice on what brand to buy.

A "Great" Lake Experience

After participating in a week long outdoor awareness program through "Great Lakes Academy", the fourth grade teachers at Ohio School have been awarded two grants. The grants were used for boat trips taken with the Buffalo Outdoor Awareness program at Canalside. The children toured the Buffalo River, learning the history of the industries that impacted the development of the Western New York region. Sailing on Lake Erie, students rotated through hands-on learning stations conducting exciting science experiments. Everyone had a wonderful time! Great things are happening at Ohio Elementary.





Dear North Tonawanda City School District Parents/Guardians/Residents:

The start of school is one of my favorite times of year. The enthusiasm and the promise it brings for a new year of growth as well as seeing the classrooms come alive again makes the month of September very exciting in the world of education. With this promise of a new start we also reflect on past growth. It is with this in mind that I would like to address the recently released state assessment results.

The third through eighth grade English language arts and math scores were lower across the state. Please be aware that the 2013 assessments were based on the new Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) and are reflective of the rigor that New York State has adopted in their new standards.

Prior to the recent release of the scores, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) forewarned all districts in New York State (NYS) that the scores for content proficiency (levels 3 and 4) would drop approximately 30%. The drop in scores has established a new foundational benchmark of achievement. Districts' results across New York State in 2013 are significantly lower than results in previous years. The following chart compares the change in student achievement between 2011 – 2012 and 2012 – 2013.

New York State Assessments Grades 3 – 8 Overview of North Tonawanda Results					
Results are Proficiency Percentages for the District (Students scoring 3 & 4)					
ELA	2011 – 2012	2012-2013	Math	2011-2012	2012-2013
Grade 3	49.42	22.85	Grade 3	63.53	27.35
Grade 4	60.61	27.93	Grade 4	68.92	39.37
Grade 5	55.56	30.13	Grade 5	69.47	35.58
Grade 6	58.6	24.63	Grade 6	68.29	31.23
Grade 7	43.77	23.6	Grade 7	67.52	21.24
Grade 8	50.37	31.1	Grade 8	51.47	15.4

The change in performance is due to the higher expectations demanded by the CCLS. In addition, a more rigorous rubric was used to score which focused on measuring whether students are on track for college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school. The "raising of the bar" has required all members of our school community to quickly adapt to the rigors of common core.

Throughout the process of implementation of the CCLS, the teachers and administration have worked tirelessly to align units of study, and create assessments which are rigorous and uphold the integrity of the standards set now by NYS. For the past several years, our priority has been aligning work, creating assessments, and focusing on data to drive instruction and readjust instructional planning as needed.

It is important to keep these revamped scores in perspective. The scores are one snapshot in time and one of many data points we use during the year to assess growth. Additional data is collected and reflected on regularly.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's principal/teacher. You may also visit engageny.org to learn more about the CCLS, assessment questions, and changes demanded by NYS.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent



Academy of Business and Finance Students Getting to Work!



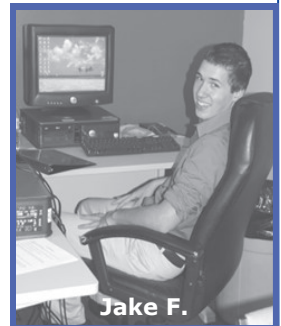
Adam K.

The North Tonawanda High School Academy of Business and Finance students used their skills and training from their Academy courses and experiences to obtain paid internships over the summer months. Students going into their senior year in the high school were eligible to work for an area company to gain direct experience about the company specifically and the working world in general. Students used the computer skills learned through the high school Computer Applications course. They worked in Microsoft Word to create documents, Microsoft Excel to create spreadsheets and Microsoft Publisher to create flyers and other publications.



Kevin I.

The internship providers were very impressed by the students and the students were amazed by the experience. One student, Adam K. said "The skills I obtained from my internship will be with me for the rest of my life." Many times the students are offered jobs by the internship provider because they are now a proven asset to the company.



Jake F.



Trevor Y.

During their internship students many times work in different areas of the company gaining a variety of skills. Some tasks include sales and marketing, accounting, computer work, and normal daily office duties.



Brooke J.

Some of the internship providers the academy has worked with are Tops Corporate Office, Niagara Regional Federal Credit Union, Life Touch Studios, Bryant and Stratton College, State Farm Insurance, NT City Schools, BJ's Wholesale, Key Bank and First Niagara Bank. The academy is grateful to all those providers for giving the students this terrific opportunity.

Strive for 25 – Pirates of the Carri-Reading



Ohio School is in full pirate mode for their Strive for 25 Reading program. Captain Book visited our school with daily messages of encouragement for the children. He gave an explanation of Strive for 25, celebrated National Talk like a Pirate Day, and will return to our school to check on the progress of our students who are striving to read 25 books this school year.

There is a life size pirate replica outside the main office, and the teachers and staff at Ohio School have pirate decorations adorning their classrooms, doors and halls. The children will keep track of their reading in their pirate log, treasure map, or treasure chest. The children are super excited about reading this year.

Strive for 25 – Pirates of the Carri-Reading will continue until June 1. A mid-year and end of the year celebration is being planned for those students who have reached their monthly goal for reading. During the first week of June reading accomplishments will be celebrated with an end of the year Pirate Extravaganza.

WNY College Fair

North Tonawanda High School counselors hosted the Annual WNY College Fair on Oct. 2. Seniors had an opportunity to ask last minute questions and gather additional information on potential colleges. Pictured below from left are School Counselor Melissa Giles, Senior Kasey Cassel and Gene-see Community College Representative Ebony Ross.



**Visual and Performing Arts Wall of Fame**

The North Tonawanda City School District is proud to be involved with the Visual and Performing Arts Wall of Fame. The Wall of Fame honors alumni or staff members of North Tonawanda High School who have enjoyed success in or contributed either individually or collectively to the promotion or betterment of any visual or performing art.

Nominations are gathered annually for alumni or staff that are accomplished professionals in one of the following areas -- Fine Arts, Graphic Art/Design, Broadcast Media, Music Performance, Art Education, Theater Arts, or Music Education. Watch the website each November for information about the nomination process.

Primary funding for the Wall of Fame ceremony, including plaques, programs and refreshments is provided by the Remember Ryan Foundation Inc. The Foundation was established in memory of Ryan A. Bertini to provide financial support for visual and performing arts activities and projects in area schools through educational grants, direct gifts and corporate sponsorships. More information and bios of past inductees can be found at www.RememberRyanFoundation.org

For more information about the Wall of Fame, please visit our website at www.ntschoools.org.



Pictured above at the Induction Ceremony on June 1, 2013 are (l to r) Kyle LoConti, James Piorkowski, John Kerswell, David Manth and Jon Noworyta.

Monster Review of U.S. History and Government Regents

For the past eighteen years teachers, Mrs. Cindric and Mr. Fezer, have been conducting a "Monster Review" for the elev-



enth grade United States History and Government Regents examination. The Monster Review, as it has come to be known, is held the night before the New York State exam is administered. This Monster Review is well attended every year with an average of 250 eleventh grade students from both Niagara and Erie county school districts. The students review the entire US History and Government curriculum for five hours. As an added incentive to students,

there are refreshments and prizes given away which are generously donated by many local businesses. Every student in attendance receives a review book made by the teachers who sponsor the event, along with pens and highlighters to take notes. With the increase in students attending each year, Monster Review is now held at Gratwick Fire Hall on Ward Road.

Character Ed Assembly

Students at Spruce Elementary School are excited about celebrating good character education traits. The Shared Decision Committee along with Principal Victoria Pohlman have put together monthly assemblies to recognize students that have displayed outstanding qualities. Some of

these traits are responsibility, honesty, citizenship, loyalty and kindness. After students have been recognized with a certificate at the assembly, they are presented with a coin to use in the prize machine in the office.



Pictured above with Mrs. Pohlman, Principal, are (l to r) Austin Sukhov, Genna Woodroe and Chloe Ketterer-Beras.



DONATE A DRESS



NT School District's NEW Prom Boutique

**Collecting gently used
formal gowns, dresses and accessories to be
used for Prom!**

Also collecting graduation caps & gowns

Contact:

Brenda Hoffman at 695-2101
brehoffman21@aol.com

OR

Cheryl McMahon at 909-3823
bbgrandel4120@yahoo.com



**NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DIRECTORY INFORMATION
OPT OUT REQUEST**

I am exercising my rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, to hereby request that all directory information of my child not be released. The district acknowledges the following directory information, in accordance with the district designated directory policy listed in the district calendar and posted on the district website:

1. Student's Name
2. Name(s) of the student's parent(s) or legal guardians
3. Student's grade designation (i.e. first grade, tenth grade, etc.)
4. Student's extracurricular school activities and offices (e.g. member of the Math Club; Secretary of Student Council)
5. Student's school achievement, awards and honors (e.g. member of National Honor Society; selected for MVP award in Soccer)
6. Relevant statistics and personal data if a member of an athletic team or other school sponsored course, organization or activity
7. Present and previous school(s) attended by the student

Print name of parent or legal guardian: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian: _____

Signature of student (if 18 or older): _____

Name of student(s) and school(s): _____

NOTE: Please list the first and last name of each student for whom you are authorizing to opt-out of the district directory information. Please return this form by November 22 to the following address: Administration Building, Educational Services Department, 175 Humphrey Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120
If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

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

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