



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NT SPIRIT

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

Budget Edition
May 2013

Budget Vote and Board Election - Tuesday, May 21, noon - 9 p.m. Alumni Student Activity Center, 405 Meadow Drive

Budget Message from Board President, Frank DiBernardo

As part of the annual budget planning process, the Board of Education, administration and staff reconfirm our goals for the upcoming budget year and then set priorities as to what we need to offer for the next school year. The last several years have been extremely painful as programs were cut due to the imbalance of expenses to revenue. This year, a priority was to maintain our current level of services, program offerings and athletics and the board tasked our administrators to achieve these goals.

Like many districts, we are faced with increased expenses and decreased revenues. Some of the increased expenditures that continue to be passed on from the state to local school districts are contractual obligations to fulfill and increased expenses from BOCES. Last year, we closed Gilmore and redistricted in anticipation of future cost savings and declining enrollment numbers. In order to reduce expenses, we offered early retirements, reduced staff based on adjusted enrollment totals, and locked into a lower percentage for the Teacher Retirement System (14.5% vs. 16-18% variation). These actions put back \$1.5 million into our bottom line, but we still had a shortfall. The 2013-14 proposed budget is \$65,740,756, which includes a 2.56% tax levy increase and a \$987,861 increase over the current budget. The tax levy is below the state cap allowable for the district. This budget plan puts us in a position to meet the goals we set when we started our budget discussions. Many districts are at the state cap max and still cutting programs.

The Board of Education members and district employees have worked diligently to provide a budget that meets our goals and is fiscally responsible despite the economic hurdles we have faced. We believe that this budget strikes a balance that will allow us to continue to offer an excellent academic program for all children in North Tonawanda.

Board of Education Candidates

Information on Board of Education candidates can be found on the district website, www.ntschoools.org. Voters will elect two board members, each for a three-year term from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.



Message from Superintendent Woytila

The Board of Education worked hard to develop a budget that would preserve programs and activities for students. Working to do this and stay within the limits of the Governor's tax cap limits is extremely difficult.

We cut 12 positions this year, and we continue to trim back as our enrollment declines. In the past 10 years we closed a middle school and two elementary buildings. While the district did experience a decline in enrollment over the past few years, we now seem to be leveling off and maintaining at about 3,600 students.

Across the state all school districts are struggling with cutting programs and raising taxes to build a budget. The Board of Education here in North Tonawanda worked hard to stay just below the Governor's tax cap limit and maintain the current level of programs for the students. Please study the following pages for more information. The budget vote and election will be held May 21.

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 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2013. 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.



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.





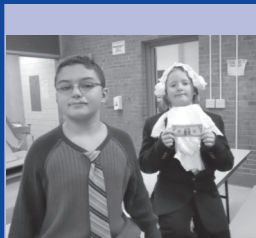
Students Take on the Persona of Biography Studied

Recently fourth-grade students at Drake School participated in a Biography Day. Following the reading of a biography of a famous person, each child created a timeline of the individual's life and a stamp commemorating their accomplishment. Children also ap-



Pictured is Walter Budziszewski

plied their computer skills to design a Kidspiration web based on the life of their individual. To culminate the biography unit, the children dressed up as their famous person and fielded inter-



Pictured L-R Gary Burton and Chase Luly

view questions from family and friends who visited school that day. The children enjoyed sharing their new knowledge with all who attended, including Mr. Woytila, Superintendent of Schools.

Second Graders Agree-We Live in a Sweet World



Father Ryszard Biernat, a local beekeeper, visited second graders at Drake School to read the story The Beeman, and to talk about his hobby of col-

lecting honey from his bee colonies. The activity was sponsored by the New York Agriculture in the Classroom organization. The students learned many amazing facts about Honeybees. All the discussion about honey stirred up the student's appetites which led to a honey tasting experience including honey sticks and peanut butter and honey sandwiches. The more they learned about the wonder of bees making honey, the better it tasted.

Ohio Boosts Recycling Efforts

Taking advantage of the expanded recycling program in place in the North Tonawanda City School District, students and staff are greatly increasing the amount of recycling at Ohio Elementary School. Besides paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, and glass, staff and students can recycle nearly all plastics. Fifth-grade students are volunteering to collect the recyclables from the classrooms and offices on a biweekly basis. Custodians are breaking down cardboard from the cafeteria and adding them to the totes. All classrooms and offices have recycling bins. Currently Ohio staff and students are stuffing five 95 gallon recycling totes to the brim!



Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?

Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Mahady, and Mrs. Smith's fifth-grade classes at Drake School are currently in the middle of a contest for Social Studies. The contest is to see which class can have every student correctly label the United States map first. Each week the three classes take a test to see if they can label the entire map. Once a student correctly labels all 50 states, they are finished with the tests and have their name put on the contest bulletin board.



Pictured are some map superstar students: Alesha Weyant, Aaron Priore, Shannon Lang and Lauren Fisher.

**District Art Show
Opening Reception
May 22
Alumni Center
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

After a busy year of learning about art, creativity, innovation and expressing ideas, North Tonawanda students in grades two through twelve are ready to showcase their accomplishments at the Annual District Art Show. This year's show will be in the Alumni Center at the High School. The opening reception will be Wednesday May 22 from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Throughout the year, students' artwork has been exhibited in many art shows throughout Western New York including the North Tonawanda Administration Building. Three students' work was selected for the Daemen College All High Art show. Senior Ben Stonish will have artwork displayed in the Castalani Art Gallery at Niagara College. Elementary students' artwork was displayed at the UB Fine Arts building in March. Also during the month of March selected student work was shown at Carnegie Art Center in North Tonawanda.



Spring Planting Day

In spite of the rather chilly weather outside, spring planting day was in the works in Mrs. Dexheimer's kindergarten class at Spruce School. The students listened to the Big Book I'm a Seed by Jean Marzollo and listened to the differences between the marigold and pumpkin plants.

Following the comparing and contrasting of these plants, the children got out the dirt, seeds and cups and planted their own and will eagerly watch for sprouts!





Kudos to the Academy of Business and Finance Advisory Board!

Every Academy has a dedicated Advisory Board behind it to brainstorm ideas, review curriculum, implement programs, and assist with a multitude of other items. These boards are made up of business leaders, parents, teachers, counselors and administrators. Our Academy could not be as strong as it is without the support of all these dedicated people. The Academy of Business and Finance Advisory Board is currently made up of the following members: Leah E. Barco - Northwest Savings Bank, Donna Wick and Kristina Bragg - Niagara Regional Federal Credit Union, Jennifer Carr and Krista Rappa - Key Bank, Michael Fetzer and Zachary Niemiec - AOF Graduates, Joseph C. Genco - New England Financial, Shawn C. Glogowski - Financial Planning Coordinators, Michele Golding - Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc., David Jakubaszek - NT City Accountant, Lorne Marshall and Kori Sciandra - Metro Group, Inc., Jeffrey Murbach - Evans Bank, David Prizaznuk - Tops Markets, Joyce Santiago - Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas and a parent, Michael Tasner Jr. - TAZ Solutions, Inc., James A. Vastola - State Farm Insurance, James V. Fisher - NTHS Principal, Mary Jane Clark-Wolentarski - NTHS School Counselor, Annette Follendorf, Sarah Hansgate, and Barb Sattelberg- NTHS teachers. A huge thank you goes out to all these dedicated individuals for all the time committed to this Academy and the students who are a part of it!



James Fisher, Michael Fetzer and James Vastola with Academy Director Laurie Widman and several Academy students

Math and Science Day Debuts at Spruce

In February, the Spruce School students participated in activities all day that revolved around math and science. Students in grades three through six explored topics that involved hands-on learning. The students tested electrical circuits, constructed domino chains, and designed and built race cars.

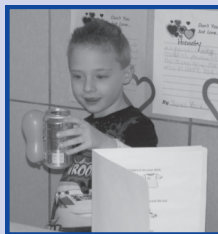
The primary students predicted and tested objects for buoyancy, experimented with static, and designed mini-race cars.

The physical fitness station showed the children that math and science work together. The children calculated their heart rate at rest and after racing.

The Audubon Society spent the day educating our students about birding and cold-blooded critters.

The culminating activity centered around the students racing their cars on professional ramps provided by the Boy Scouts and Grand Island Bible Presbyterian.

This day was made possible by the Remember Ryan Foundation and the Spruce S.H.S.O.



Matthew Woelfle explores static electricity

Jordan Karnuth listening carefully to Madison Ahearn's heart-beat.



Damian Higgins gets ready to race.

Musicians Prepare for Future

In general music class at Meadow School, fourth graders have been diligently practicing their recorders. Learning to play the recorder has been a very rewarding experience



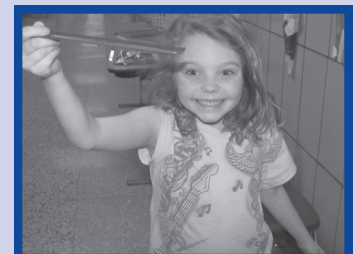
and excellent preparation for playing a musical instrument in fifth and sixth grade. The students are looking forward to performing at the end of the

school year. Shown below is Mrs. Grimm's fourth-grade class.



Extra-Curricular...Totally Voluntary

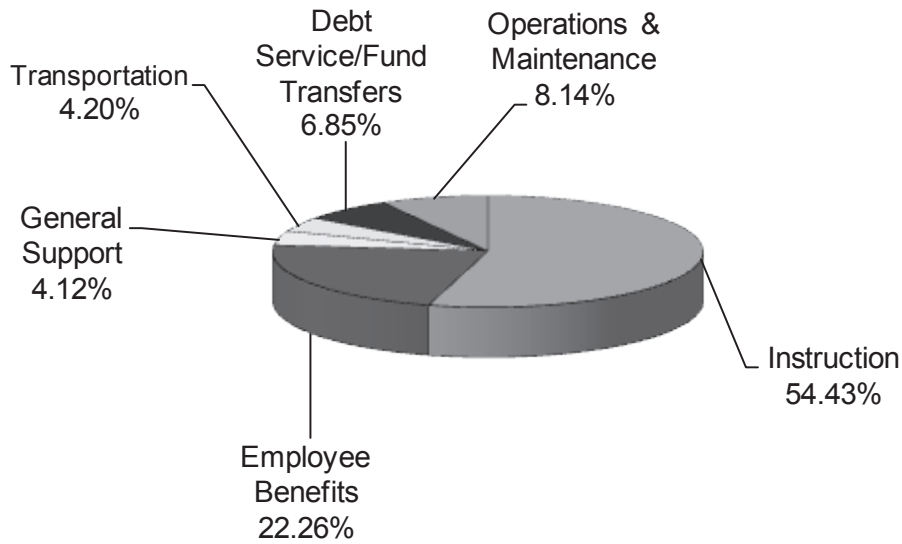
In the extra-curricular, totally voluntary endeavors, Team 7A at North Tonawanda Middle School has shown their unity and dedication in the "Have a Heart" campaign through Roswell Park. Roswell Park is home to world-class research and renowned physicians, and serves more than 30,000 patients each year including one special young lady from Team 7A. The students are showing their support by becoming more aware in the prevention and treatment of cancer. The team has designed a blanket for their fellow student. In keeping with the "Have a Heart" campaign, the blanket is covered with hearts filled with inspirational sayings.



Faith Nutt explores static Electricity.



EXPENDITURES

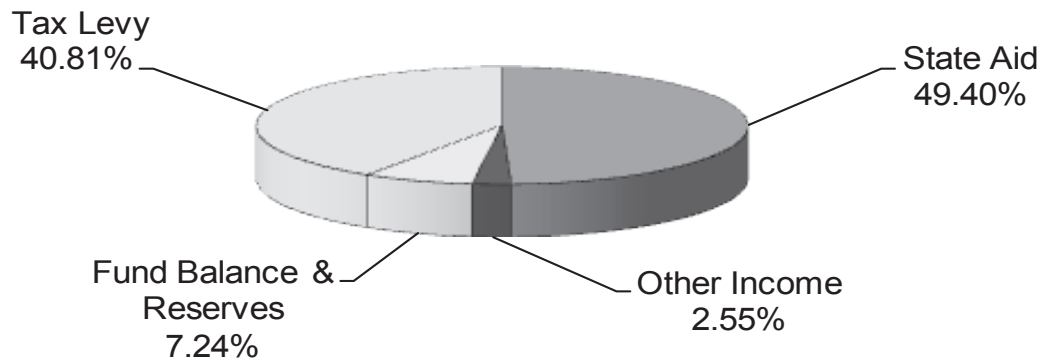
PROPOSITION #1
VOTE ON BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2013-2014 school year in the amount of \$65,740,756 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.

	2012-13	2013-14	% of Change From 2012-13
Instruction	\$35,717,250	\$35,777,135	0.17%
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.			
Employee Benefits	\$13,771,889	\$14,635,768	6.27%
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, Social Security and Worker's Compensation.			
General Support	\$2,678,825	\$2,706,368	1.03%
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.			
Transportation	\$2,720,987	\$2,762,904	1.54%
Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.			
Debt Services/Fund Transfers	\$4,593,113	\$4,504,448	-1.93%
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects, energy conservation projects and pension bonds. Also, the District's share of special education summer programs and reconstruction of the bus garage parking lot.			
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,270,831	\$5,354,133	1.58%
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
BUDGET	\$64,752,895	\$65,740,756	1.53%
School Bus Proposition	\$200,000*	\$0	
* (Approved by the voters as a separate proposition in May, 2012.)			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$64,952,895	\$65,740,756	1.21%



REVENUES



	2012-13	2013-14	Change from 2012-13
State/Federal Aid	\$32,262,629	\$32,473,889	\$211,260

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2013-14 school year, it is projected to be 49.4% of all revenue. Last year it was 49.8%. This year, the aid increased by \$211,260.

Other Income	\$1,767,186	\$1,674,267	\$-92,919
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Any income received by the School District other than State 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 receipts.

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. This amount includes \$200,000 for the school bus purchase proposition approved by the voters in May, 2012.

Fund Balance: Funds that 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	\$26,165,695	\$26,835,215	\$669,520
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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 2013-14 school year, it is anticipated that there will be an increase of 2.56% in the tax levy set by the Board of Education. This amount stays within the legislation that enacted the Tax Cap threshold.

TOTAL ESTIMATED	\$64,952,895	\$65,740,756	\$787,861
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**North Tonawanda City School District Budget Notice**

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2012-13 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2013-2014 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2013-14 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$64,752,895*	\$65,740,756	\$65,071,236
Increase/decrease for the 2013-14 School Year		\$987,861	\$318,341
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		1.53%	0.49%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.1%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Including Levy to Support Library Debt, if applicable.	\$26,165,695	\$26,835,215	\$26,165,695
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$36,190	\$-0-	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt.	\$26,129,505	\$26,835,215	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions.	\$26,147,345	\$26,851,710	
Difference: A-B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval— See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$(17,840)	\$(16,495)	
Administrative Component	\$5,956,599	\$6,056,672	\$5,995,013
Program Component	\$47,829,415	\$48,632,168	\$48,139,307
Capital Component	\$10,966,881	\$11,051,916	\$10,936,914

*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2013-14 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 repair and contingent expenses.

Also meets guidelines required under the recently adopted Tax Threshold legislation.

*In 2012-13 the voters also approved a \$200,000 Bus Purchase out of the District's reserves.

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
N/A	-0-

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Tax Savings ¹	\$625.14
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2013-2014 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 21, 2013 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Alumni Student Activity Center, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



WINTER 2012-2013 SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

SECTION VI ADPRO ALL-WNY SCHOLAR ATHLETE WINTER 2012-2013

Andrew Walck	Varsity Boys Ice Hockey	Winner
Curtis Swan	Varsity Boys Ice Hockey	Honorable Mention
Benjamin Stonish	Varsity Boys Bowling	Honorable Mention
Alexander Behr	Varsity Boys Bowling	Honorable Mention
Kelsey Lowery	Varsity Girls Bowling	Honorable Mention
Alex Krull	Varsity Boys Swimming & Diving	Honorable Mention
Nick Vossler	Varsity Boys Swimming & Diving	Honorable Mention
Judy Rachelle	Varsity Girls Basketball	Honorable Mention
Megan Helf	Varsity Girls Basketball	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 2012-2013 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 2012-2013 winter award winners are the following:

Girls Varsity Basketball	95.606
Boys Varsity Swimming & Diving	95.150
Boys Varsity Ice Hockey	93.731
Girls Varsity Indoor Track	92.908
Girls Varsity Bowling	91.563
Boys Varsity Basketball	90.820



North Tonawanda had six out of nine varsity teams qualify for this year's 2012-2013 Winter Scholar Athlete Team Awards.

Powers, Wozniak Lead Bowlers

Junior Cassidy Powers rolled a Niagara Frontier League and school record 1389 for 6 games (a 231 average) in leading the Lady Jacks bowlers to a third place finish among 47 teams at the Section VI Championships.

Cassidy is now the Section VI Champion and went on to the State Tournament at Syracuse as part of the All-Section team. The Section VI girls set a NYS Tournament record with a 6506 for 6 games in winning the Gold Medal, making Cassidy a State Champion! Senior Peter Wozniak finished fourth at Sectionals, averaging 219 and leading the Lumberjacks to third place in Class A. At States, his Section team took the Silver Medal as Peter averaged 216 and won the Sportsmanship Award.

The NFL season was a success for both boys and girls teams as they both finished second in the league with identical 11-3 records. With high scores too numerous to mention, the Lumberjacks were rounded out by Alex Behr, Matt Noakes, Ben Stonish, Brandon Forster, Kyle Behr, Orian Montgomery, Dillon Snopkowski, David Werth and Antonio LaBarbera. Bowling with Cassidy on the Lady Jacks were Kelsey Lowery, Steffanie Niedzwiec, Becca Conlan, Abbey Kieffer, Bridgette Enright, Whitney Werth, Jamie Richards and Haylee Sutton.



Blankets for Children

Fifth- and sixth-graders at Ohio Elementary showed their good will along with Mrs. Lowry, Miss Byrne and Mrs. Holler as they stayed after school to make fleece blankets for Children's Hospital. Students Emily Caple and Jordan Johnson headed "Blankets for Children". With their eager helpers Megan Marra, Emily Barone, Zachary Hance, Kaylee Butcher, Hailey Heiss, Kaia O'Rourke, Kirsten Ferree, Erin Hall, Emily Hooley, Jack Julian and Madison VanHoff they were able to donate 30 beautiful blankets to Children's Hospital. The staff, parents and children were very grateful for the donation.



Students Work Hard to Show Work!

Spruce students are learning the value of working hard. Even though they can do some math mentally, the importance of "checking" our brain is being stressed. Students that show work worthy of the wall get their scrap paper displayed. The rewards are plentiful. Students are proud of their work and are creating good habits. In addition, for every five pieces, the students get to choose a prize from the Spruce Treasure Tower in the office. They are well on their way to their goal of filling the wall from the ceiling to the floor. Would your work be worthy?



View us on the web at
www.ntschoools.org

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

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www.ntschoools.org

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120

Xtra! Xtra! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

Students at Drake School in kindergarten through sixth-grade are participating in a computer program called Xtramath.org to practice their math facts. Math fact fluency is an area of focus for the Common Core Standards and is also an important base for student success in math. All students start working with addition facts and make progress at their own pace. The program specifically targets the facts that the student most needs to practice.

It is a free and well-designed program that teachers and parents can easily sign on for their children so that they may become more proficient with their math facts. The program keeps track of each child's mastery of their math facts. A weekly report will be sent to your e-mail address so you will be kept informed of your child's progress.

Try out the free math program that will help promote your child's success in math. If a child is able to recall math facts easily, then the transition to more complicated math will be much simpler.

If you have any questions about this wonderful program, Xtramath.org, e-mail BDaigler@ntschoools.org.



Health Fair

NT's second health fair on Saturday, April 13 at the Middle School was attended by over 40 vendors and 400 community members.

Participants were able to participate in many activities such as having their nails done to visiting a smoke house. New this year was the 5k/1 mile Family Fun Run. Over 300 runners participated running through Wurlitzer Park. Despite the wind and cold, a good time was had by all.

