



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of Schools

# NT SPIRIT

Winter Issue 2013

## Registration Dates For Kindergarten & Prekindergarten 2013 - 2014 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, Feb. 26 from 1 - 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 28 from 1 - 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 4 from 1 - 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 6 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, 2013.
- Prekindergarten children must be **4 years** old on or before Dec. 1, 2013.



**COMPLETED REGISTRATIONS**  
are accepted in person **only** at the  
Administration Building

*\*If schools are closed for any reason, registration will be cancelled\**



### In this issue . . .

Bake Sale for Stella . . . . .	2
Officer and his Dog Visit Drake School . . . . .	3
Mayor Ortt Stops by Drake School . . . . .	3
Grandparents Invited for a Taste of Hawaii . . . . .	4
Second-Graders Complete Map Studies . . . . .	4
Young Artists Receive Recognition . . . . .	5
Students Read to Licensed Therapy Dog . . . . .	5
Message from Superintendent Woytila . . . . .	6
North Tonawanda Parent Support Group . . . . .	6
NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Awards . . . . .	7
Students Decide on Class Pet . . . . .	7
Second Annual Health Fair . . . . .	8

### Community Education Brochure Available Online

The NT Community Education Winter/Spring brochure is now available online at [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org) under the Community tab. Brochures are also available in the lobby at the Board of Education Building located at 175 Humphrey Street. Mail-in registrations are welcomed.

If you need further information, please call 807-3603 or e-mail [ntceinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ntceinfo@gmail.com).

*Mid-Winter Break begins on Feb. 18  
School will resume on Feb. 25*



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





### Eighth-Grade FACS Students

Fall season was apple season and the eighth-grade FACS students fulfilled their entrepreneurship component by selling apple crumb cakes. The project demonstrated to students the amount of work involved with putting a product together, the teamwork needed, and the resources that must be in place so a quality product leaves the room.



The money generated from the project funded an extra cooking lab for the eighth-grade class. This project also funded the community service curriculum requirement. Most recently the students have been helping Casey

House in Niagara Falls, which is a safe house for teens that run away from home. A representative from Casey



House visits all the eighth-grade classes each semester to explain the program firsthand. The representative shares stories about why the teens in the home are there, how Casey House can help, and how the current students' donations will be used. Last year 60 hats were donated in November and 60 drawstring bags in the spring.



A special "shout out" goes to four eighth-grade students this month who organized a bake sale for Stella, a fourth grade student in the district. Emily Jenkins, Furtuna Sopi, Marah Blaser and Brenden Talarczyk worked with Mrs. Evarts to organize a bake sale on October 26 at the middle school which raised over \$400. Over 50 volunteers baked and many others donated their time to work during the lunches selling baked goods. The students really demonstrated a lot of initiative and leadership and should be very proud of their great work!

### Students in the Spotlight

#### Drama in the Sixth Grade

Recently, the sixth-grade students at Meadow have been studying early civilizations in Social Studies class. They were able to study the time period in a variety of ways, including the use of printed materials, video clips, and artifact replicas. To show their understanding of the people of the Paleolithic era, the sixth-graders formed small groups to present skits. They acted out scenes of daily living, as they felt they would have been in the "old stone age."



Shown L to R - Adam Kiedrowski, Joshua Pawlik, Angelina Lauzau, and Kristen Doohan

### Ohio's Message of Hope

Hope can take on many meanings. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated we must "never lose infinite hope." Ohio School's fourth-grade writers whole heartedly agree. What began as a simple acrostic poem grew into a hope-fueled project. The writers brainstormed a vast number of wishes for the students of Sandy Hook Elementary School. Employing dictionaries, thesauri and enthusiastic imaginations, students used the letters **H**, **O**, **P** and **E** to focus their thoughts.

It is perhaps a small gesture; however, we hope it provides some support as the students of Sandy Hook begin to return to their daily routine.





## Kindergarten Students Send Letters to Veterans

Mrs. Helf's kindergarten class at Drake School learned what our veterans have done and what they continue to do for us today. The students wrote letters to the veterans thanking them for protecting our country. The letters were proudly hung in the hallway and then delivered to Sikora Post.



## Fire Prevention Week

Drake was fortunate to have Assistant Chief/Fire Marshall Thomas Croop visit and teach the Kindergarten through third-grade students how to stay safe. The children learned important messages about how to get out of a house and how to make a fire escape plan with their families. Pictured trying on fire gear is student Ayden Woolston.



## Red Ribbon Week at Drake



Officer Sylvester and his trained dog, Regan, visited Drake School for Red Ribbon Week. All through the week the importance of staying drug free was instilled. Officer Sylvester and Regan demonstrated to the students how the police search for drugs using the special skills of a trained dog. Regan was wonderful and even was able to meet some of the students. Pictured left is Officer Sylvester with Regan and sixth-grader Kale Shiesley.



## "No Bullying" at Drake



October was National Bullying Prevention Month. All across the nation students wore orange to show their support of being bully free. Drake students celebrated National Bullying Prevention by dressing in orange. Together we can lead the movement against bullying!

## Fitness at Meadow

Students at Meadow School have been enjoying a variety of healthy activities during physical education class. They have been exposed to many physical activities and have participated in fitness activities, team sports, swimming and even a dance unit.

## Wall of Heroes

Mayor Ortt stopped by Drake School to view the wall where pictures were hung of family and friends who served our country. Drake hallways were decorated in red, white and blue streamers and flags to honor our heroes. The students are proud of all the men and women who help keep our country safe and they celebrate local veterans every day.





## Spruce School Second-Graders Keep Busy

Mrs. Otis' second-graders completed their map studies project by boarding a school bus with a map in hand, to watch out the bus window for each of the following North Tonawanda Community locations: DeGraff Memorial Hospital, N.T. Post Office, Rainbow Roller Rink, N.T. Police Department, Hershel Carousel Museum Factory, Memorial Pool, N.T. High School, N.T. Library, N.T. Middle School and finally a warm welcome at N.T.'s supermarket, Budwey's. The children were treated to doughnuts and apple cider graciously donated by Budwey's.

The next class project consisted of looking at the community with the eyes of a scientist. The children gathered leaves and identified the trees that produced them. They then learned what it was like for both pilgrims and Native Americans by acting out their learning about the history behind the first Thanksgiving in America by putting on a play for their family, friends and new principal, Mrs. Pohlman.

Mrs. Otis' class also created ROBOTS out of recycled items as they learned the importance of recycling and being good stewards of planet earth.

## Sending Support One Card at a Time

Hailey Joyner, a fifth-grade student who attends Spruce School, initiated a community service project with her classmates to send support to those currently battling cancer and to also honor her grandmother's memory. Along with Hailey, fifth-grade volunteers in Mrs. DiPasquale's class put their creativity to good use when they made "Thinking of You" cards for current cancer "fighters" during Breast Cancer Awareness month. Inside their cards students wrote thoughtful messages about *hope*, *courage* & *strength*. The class was glad to send the cards to cancer patients receiving support from Niagara Hospice; the organization that helped Hailey's

Children in Mrs. Dexheimer's kindergarten class at Spruce School had the privilege of inviting their grandparents for a taste of Hawaii. During this visit, the students showed their grandparents their way of learning with the "Smart Board" along with a few songs. The students sang and danced the "Hukilau" along



Kaleb Anderson and Grandparent, Pat Richeah

with enjoying some banana bread and fruit. Together, the children and grandparents did some coloring, graphing, cutting and gluing activities, and made flowered leis.



Lean Parsons and Grandparent, Denise Knox

grandma during her struggle. It was wonderful to watch students work together to make a difference and send support to those in need.



Back row L to R - Lila Wieclaw, Garrett McDonald, Sebastian Reid, Zack Coffelt, Emily Russell  
Bottom row L to R - Katie Smith, Lily Lyon, Fawn Ott, Hailey Joyner

## Aloha Grandparents!



Matthew Grinnell and Grandparent, Donna Braun



## Spreading Holiday Joy

Dressed in elf hats, kindergarten children from Spruce Elementary went "on tour" spreading some holiday joy to DeGraff Skilled Nursing Facility. The performance began with the Pledge of Allegiance and was followed by "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "God Bless the USA". The children continued on with many of their learning songs and topped off the show with Christmas carols. Students in many of the grades at Spruce sent placemats for the residents.



Back row L to R - Mrs. Pohlman, Christine Snyder, Mrs. Dexheimer. Front row L to R - Matthew Grinnell, Lauren Jacobs, Emily Jaccarino and Aaron Niyiorora



## Ohio School Instrumental Music News

Congratulations to sixth-graders Chase Steingasser and Emileigh Mazurkiewicz and fifth-grader Kirsten Ferree who auditioned for the All-County Band and Orchestra in December at North Park Middle School in Lockport. They worked very hard on their solos and did a wonderful job representing Ohio Elementary School.

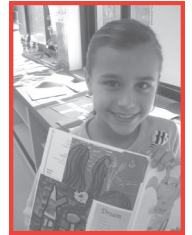


## YOUNG ARTISTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

Ohio Elementary School young artist Lexi Brennan and Meadow School alumni Bailey Crampton both have something to be proud about. Last spring they completed an art assignment with great enthusiasm. After studying Vincent Van Gogh and his love for thick moving lines in art class with Mrs. Holler, Lexi began creating her own version of "Just Like Vincent." Meanwhile, in art class at Meadow School, Bailey was learning the skills needed to complete Chinese Paper cuts. Bailey's detailed symmetrical paper cuts developed into an outstanding display of dragons and was accepted and published in the summer 2012 Magic Dragon Magazine. Congratulations to these young artists from North Tonawanda.



Artwork by Bailey Crampton



Lexi Brennan showing her artwork

## Election Day at Ohio School

It was a memorable and exciting election day at Ohio School this year. In order to educate our students about the electoral process, Ohio School held an election of their own to select a new mascot. The two candidates, the Ohio Otter and the Ohio Owl, were announced the week before Election Day. During morning announcements, facts about each animal were read by students to educate Ohio School on the candidates before they had an opportunity to vote. Teachers also spent time preparing students for the election by teaching them the process of voting and discussing the presidential election in their classrooms. Some teachers even participated in campaigning for the Ohio mascot candidates by doing projects and hanging posters in the hallway.



Pictured L to R - Mrs. Castronova, Andrew Kosikowski, Molly McManus, Erza Sopi, Bailey Glass

## Mitzi the Reading Dog



Ohio Elementary School is very lucky to have a new friend to read with! Reading Center and English as a Second Language (ESL) students are excited about reading with Mitzi, a licensed therapy dog. She helps make reading a warm and enriching experience for the children.

Ohio is the only elementary school in the district that has a reading dog program. Eliminating the anxiety over reading is key to why the program works. Reading to dogs is much less stressful for many students than reading to adults or other children. Mitzi never corrects, judges or makes fun of the reader. She is just a great listener! When students read with a therapy dog, reading skills improve. A study at UC Davis showed that children in reading dog programs increase their reading skills by 12 to 20 percent over children not in a reading dog program. Educators who have participated in reading dog programs note that students increased their reading skills, self-confidence, and class participation.

Everyone at Ohio School is thrilled about Mitzi and she will make more visits to the school this year.

**Superintendent's Message: Factors Impacting the 2013-14 Budget**

Each New Year brings with it a new budget. To start on a new budget for 2013-2014, we begin by looking at a "rollover budget" that will maintain all current programs, services and staffing. There are many pieces of the budget that have yet to fall into place but this much is already known: If all current programs, staffing and financial commitments were rolled forward to 2013 – 2014, adjusted for the cost of living, expenses would increase by nearly \$2.4 million. At the same time there is no expected increase in state foundation aid.



As the budget process progresses, we will be talking about the tax levy "cap" that was imposed by the state last year. This cap limits our primary source of revenue and has already impacted academic programs, services and staffing. While North Tonawanda stayed within the tax levy limit last year, an option is available to school districts to exceed their limit. In such a scenario, approval from a supermajority of voters (60%) is required for the budget to pass.

As we explore sources for additional revenue, we have been looking at how to use some of our assets. One avenue we have pursued is selling underdeveloped district-owned land and school buildings that are no longer needed to meet the long-term needs of the district. The buildings would include Gilmore Elementary School which closed due to decreasing enrollment last year, Grant Elementary School which closed over five years ago and the district's Administrative Building on Humphrey Street which would be relocated to unused space in another building owned by the district.

We are also looking for ways to share staff with nearby districts. We started this share two years ago and are currently looking to see if it would be possible to expand sharing personnel. The Board of Education is committed to leaving no stone unturned as we attempt to maintain a quality educational program and control spending. There is a budget containment suggestion box on our web page at [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org) where you can send in your suggestions. In addition the budget will be discussed at our regular Board of Education meetings the second Thursday of each month. The budget vote will be on May 21.

**NORTH TONAWANDA PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Parents Helping Parents Navigate School  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month - 7 pm  
North Tonawanda High School Media Center

Tentative Schedule

March 18 – Parent Network Presentation on "Changing Behaviors"  
April 15 – Transition to School  
May 20 – Transition Middle/High  
June 17 – Planning for Next Year

For More Information Contact:  
Donna Summerville 694-4784  
John Moskalik 807-3565

No Registration Fees or Fundraisers . . . . . Does Not Replace Your HSA or PTA  
Open to Caregivers, School Staff and Administrators



Fall 2012

## NYSPHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

### SECTION VI ADPRO ALL-WNY SCHOLAR ATHLETE FALL 2012

Amber Kudla	Varsity Girls Soccer	Winner
Emily Slominski	Varsity Girls Soccer	Winner
Jacob Clare	Varsity Football	Winner
Aaron Proefrock	Varsity Football	Winner
Ben Stonish	Varsity Football	Winner
Megan Helf	Varsity Girls Cross Country	Honorable Mention
Kelsey Lowery	Varsity Girls Cross Country	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 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 2012 fall award winners are the following:

**Boys Varsity Golf - 95.400**

**Girls Varsity Volleyball - 94.161**

**Girls Varsity Tennis - 93.732**

**Boys Varsity Football - 93.331**

**Boys Varsity Volleyball - 92.936**

**Girls Varsity Swimming & Diving - 92.149**

**Girls Varsity Soccer - 91.563**

**Boys Varsity Cross Country - 91.106**

**Boys Varsity Soccer - 90.317**



North Tonawanda had 9 out of 10 varsity teams qualify for this year's 2012 Fall Scholar Athlete Team Awards.

### Rio and Maize Land at Meadow

Recently, Mrs. Lundgren's fourth- and fifth-grade class at Meadow School decided to get a class pet. They were torn between a guinea pig and a parakeet. After exhaustive research, a landslide vote helped them to settle on a pair of parakeets which they named Rio and Maizie. Once the birds were purchased the students did more research to learn how to care for them properly. The students work together to make sure the birds are safe and well cared for.



Pictured L to R - Senate Kittle, Mrs. Lundgren, Mrs. Doyle, Stephanie White, Hallie Dooley and Josh Brumley



Mrs. Sturgeon's Integrated Algebra class at the Middle School completes word problem posters for their unit on algebra.



## Dates to Remember

- Feb. 4 - High School Report Cards Issued
- Feb. 5 - Middle School Evening Conferences
- Feb. 12 - 8th Grade Orientation
- Feb. 14 - Board Meeting
- Feb. 15 - Middle School Progress Reports
- Feb. 18 - 22 - Mid-Winter Recess - No School
- March 1 - Progress Reports
- March 4 - Meadow Evening Conferences
- March 7 - Gr. K-6 - Half Day, Evening Conferences - Ohio/Drake/Spruce
- March 8 - Marks Close Grades 1-6
- March 14 - Board Meeting/High School Evening Conferences
- March 15 - Staff Development Day - No School
- March 20 - Report Cards - Grades 1-6
- March 22 & 23 - High School 18th Annual Cabaret
- March 28 - Middle School Report Cards Issued
- March 29 - Good Friday - No School



**2013...**

**A Year to "Get Up and Get Moving"**  
**Second Annual Health Fair**  
**Saturday, April 13**

North Tonawanda is excited to be having their Second Annual Health Fair at the North Tonawanda Middle School on Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Last year over 1,000 participants attended the fair. In addition to the tons of FREE FUN for students and their families, there will be a 5k run/walk which will begin at 9 a.m. Parents and students can enjoy some exercise before walking around the fair



## 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

and enjoying all the festivities which include free services, raffles and giveaways. Some local businesses/municipalities include:

- The Buffalo Athletic Club
- DeGraff Hospital
- Family and Children's Services
- Jindo Martial Arts
- North Tonawanda Youth Department
- North Tonawanda Police
- YMCA

Have your nails and hair done, paint your face, grab a bite to eat, win some raffle baskets plus many other great prizes.

Stop in and join the fun .... It's all free.

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

**Board of Education**  
 Frank DiBernardo, President  
 Kevin LoCicero, Vice President  
 Donna Braun  
 Dorothy Kuebler

James Martineck  
 Colleen Osborn  
 Arthur Pappas  
 Brittany Wurl, Student Member



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