



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of Schools

NT SPIRIT

Winter 2012

**2012– 2013 School Year  
Kindergarten and Prekindergarten  
Registration Dates  
Announced**

Registration packets are **NOW** available in the lobby of the NT School District's Administration Building located at 175 Humphrey Street. They are also available on-line 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:

**Monday, Feb. 13 from 1-7 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 15 from 1-7 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 1-7 p.m.**  
**Thursday, March 1 from 1-7 p.m.**

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

Kindergarten children must be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2012

Prekindergarten children must be 4 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2012

If your child is enrolled in Head Start, you will need to complete a registration packet. If your child is attending the 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.

**COMPLETED REGISTRATIONS** are accepted at the Administration Building **ONLY**

**NO** registrations will be processed without all of the required documents.

Mid-Winter Break begins on Feb. 20. School will resume on Feb. 27.

The NT Spirit may be viewed in color on the web at [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org)

**Superintendent's Message**

It seems like the New Year just started but we have been working on the 2012-2013 school year budget since November.

We know that this budget will be one of the most difficult to develop as school districts move to a revenue driven process forced by the loss of federal and state aid, as well as the imposition of the new tax levy limit (tax cap). While these limits will force us to make decisions on how services, programs, and courses are offered, we will still do our best to meet the needs of the students we serve. State and local taxes will only provide so much so we must work to develop a budget that upholds student learning, reflects district priorities, and is financially responsible and supported by the community.

**"We are like a number of school districts that are facing the reality that costs are outpacing income".**

While we don't have exact funding numbers from the State yet, we know we are looking at a \$5 million budget gap for the 2012-2013 school year. Part of this is the loss of Federal Education Jobs Fund money that will end after this year, resulting in a loss of \$1.5 million for North Tonawanda. We are like a number of school districts that are facing the reality that costs are outpacing income.

While the School Board has already studied plans to close an elementary building and cut other costs, the District finds itself still in the hole as personnel costs account for about 75% of the budget. While the number of staff has decreased over the past few years, the cost of those who remain has increased with mandatory salary increases, health insurance and mandatory retirement system contributions.

While less staff helps with budget costs it also has ramifications that result in increased class sizes/class loads, and loss of electives. We are, however, looking at this in addition to the redistricting and building closure that is possible this year.

On the revenue side, the District will be limited by the new tax levy limit imposed by the State. Property tax is a primary revenue source. Here in North Tonawanda the tax increases have been minimal. The property tax revenue increase over the past 5 years averages 1.2%.

Good Management is a year round process and we have enacted a budget freeze in November to help carry over some funds to offset next year's deficit. We are looking outside the box to find new ways to earn revenue as well as continuing negotiations with all unions to try and work on concessions and new contracts to help the district with long range planning.

The Board of Education and I are committed to sharing data and presentations with the community all year long. Please visit our website at [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org) for a complete listing of all budget development documents. We can also be found on FACEBOOK at [www.facebook.com/NTCitySchools](http://www.facebook.com/NTCitySchools).

**"Good Management is a year round process and we have enacted a budget freeze in November to help carry over some funds to offset next year's deficit."**

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of Schools



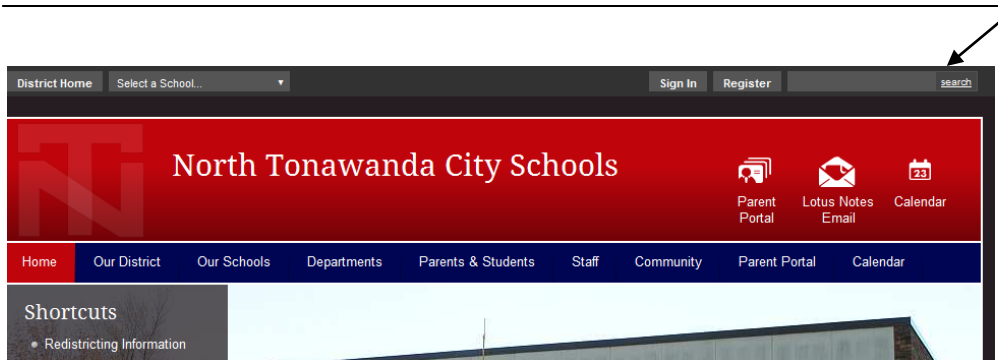
*Pictured left to right, Marissa Burns, Halie Sheehan, Heather Fontana*

## **Community Service**

As part of the mandatory community service hours, Mrs. Pusch's clothing class made chemotherapy caps for Roswell. The fabric was purchased through Roswell and given to the school for this project. The students donated their time to make hats for cancer patients who receive these caps free from Roswell during their chemotherapy sessions. We are proud to see our students giving back to such a worthy cause.

## **Annual Altars Exhibit**

North Tonawanda Middle School students participated in the annual "Altars" exhibit at El Museo, a gallery in Allentown, Buffalo. The show is always open to all artists and students are encouraged to participate. Mrs. Zobrist's 7<sup>th</sup> grade students created symbolic mandalas pertaining to the holiday Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. Mrs. Fernandez's 7<sup>th</sup> graders created Mexican Oaxacan animals. All of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students created clay calaveras or skulls, a popular symbol during the festival.



## **'Search' Function on NT City Schools Website is Available**

The website for North Tonawanda City Schools ([www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org)) has a Search function to help you access information. The search box is in the gray bar at the top of the site; look above the red rectangle nameplate. The search box is located at the far right. Type in the key words of the topic you are searching and hit enter.

Search tips: If you don't find what you are looking for the first time, consider using a different word or phrase (register for school; central registration) or try using multiple words separated by a comma (school, registration).

## **NTMS Spelling Bee Winner**

Congratulations to Molly Curtin, winner of the NTMS Spelling Bee, and to Rory Farkas, our runner up. All the students who participated should be proud, as well, for the hard work they put into preparing for the spelling bee.

Molly will now go on to take the written spelling test for our region, and, if she does well, she will be able to compete in our regional spelling bee against the best spellers from other schools to see if she can make it to the national championship this spring. Good luck, Molly!



# SPRUCE

## Spelling Bee Winner

On Dec. 21, 2011 Spruce School held their annual Spelling Bee sponsored by S.H.S.O. Eighteen students represented grades 4-6. All students participated in classroom bees to determine who would represent each class in the school-wide bee. The bee resulted in an exciting 17 rounds in which Trent Woodroe (grade 6) was named the Champion and Brianna Milks (grade 5) the Runner Up. Trent took the lead after two tie breaker rounds that consisted of Brianna and Trent.



Trent's winning words were *Niagara* and *miscible*. Prizes awarded to the champion included a certificate, a one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online, and one semester of online language classes. In March, Trent will take a written test to qualify to participate in the *Buffalo News* Spelling Bee which could lead him to qualify for the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.

## Meadow and Gilmore Top Musicians Selected for All-County Band

The All-County band, conducted by Mrs. April Carere, will be attending Festival 3 on March 2 & 3. Four students from Gilmore School and Meadow School have been selected for the 2012 Niagara County Music Educators Association All-County Elementary Band. Hundreds of students compete each year for a spot in one of Niagara County's honor ensembles. Attending this year from Meadow School are Nick Cook, baritone saxophone, and Amanda Davis, flute. Attending from Gilmore School are Michael Krawczk, alto saxophone, and Natalie Ambrusko, flute. These students bring pride to our North Tonawanda District, our community and their families. Congratulations!

## New Year's Button Award

Seven year old Alaina Grace Roberts, second grade student from Spruce Elementary, submitted the winning button design for the 2012 New Year's Eve on the Canal for Kid's Fun Zones and was presented with a \$100 savings bond from State Senator George D. Maziarz, who sponsored the contest. The button served as admission to the New Year's activities. Tracey Miles from the New Years Eve Ball Drop Committee was on hand



at the Tonawanda News to present the award. Pictured from left to right is Senator Maziarz, Alaina Grace and Tracy Miles.

# Meadow

## Meadow 4th Graders Learn By Doing

When it comes to learning about the Iroquois Indians in the 4th grade Social Studies curriculum, interest level is high. The subject is fascinating and the project is the culminating activity. According to teacher Mary Lou Pieper there are very few rules associated with this final assignment. She finds by keeping it simple the children are more creative and come up with unique ideas of their own. The project must be

a replica of something the natives used and it must be made from nature. A big part of learning about the life of a Native American is understanding that they had only natural resources available to them. They had to make do with what they could find in the forests, rivers and streams. The fourth graders enjoyed going outside and finding things to use. The students had to have adult supervision if venturing into the woods and if using sharp tools to complete their project. When finished, students were required to answer some questions regarding the process. They were asked to reflect



Liam McMurray with his longhouse project

on what the easiest, hardest and most fun part of making their project was. Comments were *I had a great time working with my grandpa; My dad was very patient with me; My uncle gave me his deer hide to use; We learned a lot working together.*



Macy Gioeli with deer hide stretching, dry hoop





## Veteran's Day Activities at Gilmore

Fifth grade students from Gilmore School were honored at a Veterans Day dinner for essays that they wrote explaining what Veterans Day meant to them. The students learned about Veterans Day through an interactive activity created by Amber Reding. They were able to experience memorials through virtual field trips, and look at medals and an old flag from a veteran of World War II. The students were then asked to write an essay about Veterans Day. Isabella Fortunato placed first for her essay receiving a \$100 gift card to Barnes and Noble. Colin Beach and Lauren Burdo placed second, each receiving a \$50 gift card to Barnes and Noble.

The students were then invited to read their winning essays at a dinner honoring veterans, where they proudly represented Gilmore School.



*Principal, Mrs. Pohlman, and GT Teacher, Amber Reding, are pictured with recipients Laura, Isabella and Colin.*

## Gilmore School Spelling Bee

On Jan. 11, 2012, Gilmore School held their fourth annual Spelling Bee sponsored by Gilmore HSA. Students in grades 4-6 participated in classroom-wide spelling bees to determine the 13 students who participated in the school-wide bee. The bee resulted in an exhilarating 19

rounds in which Noel Nickerson was named the Champion, Natalie Ambrusko, 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Ameer Rizek, 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Each of these 6<sup>th</sup> grade winners received a Barnes and Noble gift card from GHSA. Noel prevailed after four tie-breaker rounds between her and Natalie. Noel's winning words were *virtue* and *ingredient*. In March, Noel will take a written test to qualify to participate in the *Buffalo News* Spelling Bee which could lead her to qualify for the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.



*Pictured are Natalie Ambrusko, Ameer Rizek and Noel Nickerson*



*Left to right: John Lukasik, Alyssa Thompson, Robert Ortt, Cameron Cortes, John Long, Lillian Russell, Daniyil Gargun, David Jakubaszek*

## Veteran's Visit Classes at Gilmore

On Thursday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, Gilmore School was visited by veterans of our military services. These men belong to Sikora Post and served in different branches of the military as well as during a variety of

conflicts. Each veteran also served a different duty in their service. John Lukasik served as a chaplain with the Air Force during World War II. Gene Musial was a Navy cook. Our mayor, Robert Ortt served in the army in Afghanistan helping the police forces there. David Jakubaszek and Dan Coia also served in the Army. Silviu Dan visited the sixth grade and discussed his time as a prisoner of war during World War II when his plane was shot down. Other visitors were John Long and Dale Rogers. Mr. Rogers was in charge of carrier pigeons during his service. He still keeps pigeons at his home today, and brought two of them with him for his visit. The students were all very interested in the information shared by these



*Pictured above are the 13 students who participated in the Gilmore School Spelling Bee*

men and the tasks they had to do to protect our country.



**Drake School Loves Technology!**

The students at Drake have been fortunate to utilize a new type of technology. A brand new laptop cart has been put to good use in many classrooms so far this year. Having the laptop cart, which houses a class set of wireless laptops, has enabled homeroom teachers to have their classes working on internet-based projects, even when the computer lab is already booked.



*Pictured above is first grade teacher, Mrs. DiPrima, helping her class learn to use the new laptops.*

# Drake Elementary

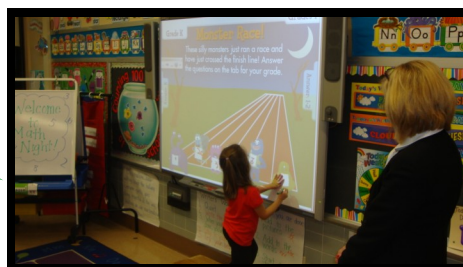


*Left to right: Noah Kogo, Julian Wydysh, Hannah Mixon*

**The Drake School Family**

This year, sixth graders at Drake have "adopted" kindergarten students in a variety of academic projects. One of the favorites for both grade levels is the "reading

buddies" program. Once per cycle, the students get together to read, write and bond. Their collaborative work is then displayed in the hallways. Having sixth graders getting to know the kindergartners has helped to further the family feeling at Drake. It is a special program! Pictured left is Mrs. Swartz's sixth graders and Mrs. Trimboli's kindergartners.



# Ohio

**Family Math Night**

It was a monstrous event at Ohio School as K-2 ghosts, goblins and their parents gathered on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> for Family Math Night! This night was a way for parents and children to talk and work together while learning. Mathematical games and activities were created and implemented by the Ohio School Faculty. These games were meant to encourage communication and learning as students and parents worked together at math stations sharing their understanding of mathematics. It is our hope that parents realized from this Family Math Night that math is more than memorizing rules! Parents also had the opportunity to work on math activities with their children in a supportive and fun environment. Everyone went home with engaging activities to encourage and further math at home!

A special thanks to O.H.I.O. for graciously funding Family Math Night! Stay tuned for details on our upcoming 3-6 Family Math Night on March 15.





## North Tonawanda Athletics/Fall Sport Honors

### Varsity Boys & Girls Cross-Country

Scholar/Athlete Team: 92.81 average

- Jared Schwartzmyer – Honorable Mention Niagara Frontier League
- April Maziarz – Honorable Mention Niagara Frontier League
- Aaron Woods – Section 6 All-WNY Scholar/Athlete

### Varsity Football

Scholar/Athlete Team: 94.705 average

- Ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in New York State and 8<sup>th</sup> in WNY Buffalo News Football Poll
- Shaun O'Leary – All-Western New York Scholar-Athlete, 2<sup>nd</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete
- Patrick Angelhow – 1<sup>st</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League, Co-Offensive League, MVP WNY HS Sports
- Jed Jastrzemski – 1<sup>st</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League, Co-Defensive League MVP WNY HS Sports, 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-WNY Buffalo News
- Mike Grimaldi – 1<sup>st</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League, 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Metro, Honorable Mention All-WNY Buffalo News
- Ian Gilhousen - 1<sup>st</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League
- Evan Volmrach - 1<sup>st</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete
- Brandon Buryta - 2<sup>nd</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League
- Tyler Durham - 2<sup>nd</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League
- Jared Kostrewa - 2<sup>nd</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League
- Chris Mellott - 2<sup>nd</sup> team Section 6 Class A North All-League
- Jacob Clare – Honorable Mention Section 6 Class A North All-League
- Nick Duerr - Honorable Mention Section 6 Class A North All-League
- Brennan Perkins - Honorable Mention Section 6 Class A North All-League
- Zach Wheeler -Honorable Mention Section 6 Class A North All-League

### Varsity Boys Golf

Scholar/Athlete Team: 94.39 average

- Ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the Niagara Frontier League

### Varsity Boys Soccer

Scholar/Athlete Team: 93.931 average

- Ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the Niagara Frontier League
- Corey Pellegrino – 2<sup>nd</sup> team All Niagara Frontier League, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete
- Nick Young – 2<sup>nd</sup> team All Niagara Frontier League, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete

- Caleb Richards – Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League
- Eric Wilson—Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League, Section 6 All-WNY Scholar/Athlete
- Josh Brocklehurst—Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete

### Varsity Girls Soccer

Scholar/Athlete Team: 91.252 average

Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the Niagara Frontier League

- Emily Slominski – 2<sup>nd</sup> team All Niagara Frontier League
- Samantha Costanzo – Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League
- Chanel Nkounkou – Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League

### Varsity Girls Swimming & Diving

Scholar/Athlete Team: 92.762 average

- Ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the Niagara Frontier League and 22<sup>nd</sup> in Section 6
- Madison Wawrzynek – Sectional Qualifier in 5 different swimming events Section 6
- Kaitlin Smith - Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete

### Varsity Girls Tennis

Scholar/Athlete Team: 96.317 average

- Ranked tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Niagara Frontier League
- Jessica Ringler – 1<sup>st</sup> team/Singles All Niagara Frontier League (record 14-0) and Channel 7 Super 7 Athlete of the Week, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete
- Nicole Kaczor - Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete

### Varsity Boys Volleyball

Scholar/Athlete Team: 93.459 average

- Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the Niagara Frontier League
- Will Cruz – 1<sup>st</sup> team All Niagara Frontier League, Lockport All-Tournament All-Star Team, North Tonawanda All-Tournament All-Star Team
- Joe Piotrowski – Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League
- Adam Brodfuehrer – Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League, Grand Island All-Tournament All-Star Team
- David Bzibziak – Ken-Ton All-Tournament All-Star Team
- Nicholas Palisano - Section 6 All-WNY Scholar/Athlete
- Matthew Wieclaw - Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete

### Varsity Girls Volleyball

Scholar/Athlete Team: 95.519 average

- Ranked tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the Niagara Frontier League
- Delaney Laper – 1<sup>st</sup> team All Niagara Frontier League, 1<sup>st</sup> team All Western New York, Channel 7 Super 7 Athlete of the Week, Sweet Home All-Tournament All-Star Team, North Tonawanda All-Tournament All-Star Team, Tonawanda News Player of the Year, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete

Continued

## Varsity Girls Volleyball Continued

- Jordan Tylec – New York State Max Preps Player of the Week, 1<sup>st</sup> team All Niagara Frontier League, 1<sup>st</sup> team All WNY, North Tonawanda All-Tournament All-Star Team, Section 6 All-WNY Scholar/Athlete
- Gabrielle Hansen – 2<sup>nd</sup> team All Niagara Frontier League, 2<sup>nd</sup> team All WNY
- Emily Milbrand – Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete
- Nicholl Martin–Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention
- Kelsey Zuch – Honorable Mention All Niagara Frontier League, Section 6 All-WNY Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete

## Academy of Information Technology Inducts First Cohort

The induction ceremony for the Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) took place in the high school library media center on Thursday, Nov.17, 2011. Twelve students were inducted into the academy. Highlights of the event included guest speaker, Allison Hojnowski, Community Relations Coordinator for the Buffalo Bills. Ms. Hojnowski is a 2005 graduate of NTHS. Her message encouraged the academy students to "lead the charge" - to continue to take on new challenges and be future leaders. Student logo design projects were on display for all to see. At the conclusion of the evening each student was given an academy t-shirt to wear for academy events.

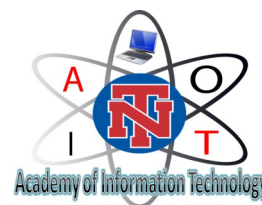
### Academy of Information Technology Inductees

Carlie McClinsey	James Conti
Orian Montgomery II	Stephen Craig
Elizabeth Purpora	Kyle DeNormand
Dominik Snopkowski	Tyler Furniss
Jaclyn Wakeley	Jonah Karnuth
Brandon Zadzilka	Taylor LaPaglia-Lewis

The AOIT is a small learning community and is designed to provide a cohort of students with a 4-year educational experience that will develop skills that are needed in high demand 21<sup>st</sup> century careers. Coursework is rooted in the Art, English, Technology, and Business/Computer departments.

The Academy of Information Technology will introduce students to the ever-expanding digital workplace and to the career opportunities offered in programming, database administration, web design, digital media, and digital media technology and production.

The students in the Academy of Information Technology began their academy experience by designing a logo for the academy. Students learned basic graphic editing and design skills and then applied those skills to develop logo designs. The designs were then transferred to posters to be displayed at the AOIT Induction Ceremony.



## FREE Upcoming Health and Wellness Fair

On March 8 from 6-9 pm, the North Tonawanda City School District's Health Department will be hosting their very first **Health and Wellness Fair** at **North Tonawanda Middle School**. It will be open to all students, parents, and community members. The health fair will include many local vendors, free services, raffles, and giveaways. Get your hair cut, put in a feather, paint your face, grab a bite to eat, or win a free gym membership, plus much more! Please feel free to stop in and join the fun. Remember it's all FREE. Let's make 2012 a year to *Get Up and Get Moving*.

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

**Board of Education**  
Frank DiBernardo, President  
Christine Porto, Vice President  
Donna Braun

Joanne DalPorto  
Kevin LoCicero  
Colleen Osborn  
Arthur Pappas



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