



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NT SPIRIT

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

Fall 2011 Issue

Superintendent's Message

It is hard to believe we are almost over with the first two months of school. This past summer and fall marks the end of our major construction projects. Each building has seen classroom and technology upgrades that will help keep the buildings in good shape for years to come. There is still much work that can be done. Every five years school districts across New York State are required to do a building condition survey. This report outlines areas that must be fixed, should be fixed, and could be fixed. We know we have more to do but before that can be accomplished we are completing a detailed enrollment and building use study. This report will be presented to the public and the Board of Education in November. How we use current space and how we might redistrict students will all be part of the report. We will also be looking at how grade levels are configured in the buildings and what that means for the delivery of curriculum to the students. As we try to navigate through hard financial times it will be important to use the current resources we have to the best of our ability.

While our enrollment suffered a decline in the late 90's when we were able to close an elementary and middle school, our enrollment has now leveled off over the past decade to be just fewer than 4,000 students. This summer we experienced a number of late registrations that resulted in increased numbers at kindergarten and 9th grade. This tells us that our enrollment will most likely stay where it is at for a number of years to come. We continually monitor enrollment and will be posting this information online in November as well.

In the meantime our athletic department and athletes are having a great fall season. I encourage you to visit our newly designed web site at www.ntschoools.org to see it and the fall athletic sports schedule. I hope you and your family can come to a game and see how great the children and Western New York School Sports are.

Also new this month is a FACEBOOK page where the district can post important information as an-

other way to get information out to the public. From the district home-page you can "like" our page and notifications can be sent to your e-mail or phone. We are always looking for new ways to get the good news out about the North Tonawanda students and schools. Enjoy this fall and the beautiful colors that this time of year brings. Before we know it, we will be covered in a blanket of clean white snow.



Superintendent
Gregory J. Woytila

NT Starts School On A Good Note

Talented students serenaded their educational leaders and began the 2011-2012 school year on a "good note". As the district assembled for their conference day, a clarinet ensemble, under the direction of Mrs. April Carere, played in the lobby of the Alumni Student Activity Center. To begin the official program, members of the advanced choruses sang a variety of pieces with choral director, Dean Vallas. "I was happy to have the children at our opening day. In any profession we get caught up in the process and tend to forget the purpose. Having the music of students welcome back the staff helped remind everyone why we are here," stated Greg Woytila.



NTHS



NTHS

Gymnasium Schenefeld Exchange Program

Sixteen German high school students, along with two teachers and their school's principal arrived in North Tonawanda on October 2, 2011 to participate in the "NTHS – Gymnasium Schenefeld Exchange Program". The exchange has been running since 2007 and this is the third time that 16 German students have been hosted by families in North Tonawanda. NT HS students will have an opportunity to travel next summer to attend the Gymnasium Schenefeld (*Gymnasium* is the German word for "high school" and *Schenefeld* is the town outside of Hamburg, Germany, where the school is located). The students will be accompanied by their German teachers, Mr. Robert Lucas and Mr. Christopher Heyer. The exchange is entirely run by the

Blick über den Tellerrand

Schüler vom Gymnasium Schenefeld brechen zum Schüleraustausch in die USA auf / Ausflug nach New York geplant

SCHENEFELD Freunde fürs Leben finden, Englisch verbessern, den Horizont erweitern: 16 Schülern des Gymnasiums Schenefeld steht eine spannende Reise in die USA bevor. Am 29. September brechen die Jugendlichen zu einem Schüleraustausch nach North Tonawanda auf. In der Kleinstadt im Westen des Bundesstaats New York werden die Mädchen und Jungen für drei Wochen bei amerikanischen Gastfamilien wohnen und die örtliche High School besuchen.

Den Kontakt zu North Tonawanda stellte Schenefelds Pastor Paul Otterstein her. Daraufhin reiste 2007 die erste Schülerdelegation aus Deutschland in die USA. 2009 folgte eine zweite Gruppe. Auch zwei Gegenbesuche aus den Vereinigten Staaten sind seitdem zustande gekommen. Der nächste steht für den Sommer 2012 an.

Lehrer bereiteten die Reise vor

Federführend bei der Organisation der diesjährigen Tour sind Carsten Apsel und Mechthild Hahne. Flüge, Freizeitprogramm, Vermittlung der Gastfamilien – seit fast einem Jahr planen die beiden Englischlehrer die Reise. Mehr als zehn Vorbereitungstreffen haben Hahne und Apsel anberaunt, um die



Die teilnehmenden Schüler und Lehrer tragen ein Gemeinschafts-T-Shirt. Sponsoren (links) unterstützen die Reise.

ROCHLITZ

Jugendlichen einzustimmen. „Das war sehr wichtig, denn für unsere Schüler ist der Aufenthalt oft ein Kulturschock“, so Hahne. Viele Jugendliche hätten eine von amerikanischen TV-Serien inspirierte Vorstellung von den USA. „Das entspricht aber nicht der Realität in North Tonawanda“, betont Apsel. Der Einblick in die Wirklichkeit vor Ort würde den Schülern jedes Mal sehr

gut tun. „Die Jugendlichen kommen sprachlich hochmotiviert nach Deutschland zurück“, sagt Hahne.

Auftrag der bevorstehenden USA-Reise bildet ein vierstägiger Aufenthalt in New York. Dort will die deutsche Gruppe unter anderem das Empire State Building, die Freiheitsstatue und Ground Zero besichtigen. Zwei Wochen später steht auch ein Besuch bei den Nia-

gara-Fällen auf dem Programm.

Das Los entschied über die Teilnahme

80 Jugendliche aus dem neunten und zehnten Jahrgang hatten sich für die Reise beworben. „Leider gibt es nicht so viele amerikanische Gastfamilien“, bedauert Apsel. Das Los entschied deshalb über die Teilnahme. Ein Mädchen und ein Junge aus

jeder Klasse wurde ausgewählt.

Die Reisekosten tragen Schüler und Lehrkräfte selbst. Zusätzliche finanzielle Unterstützung erhält die Gruppe von Sponsoren. 1400 Euro stellen der Schulverein, das Autohaus Hermann Kröger, die VR-Bank Pinneberg, Terrabaltic und der Malerbetrieb Leipholz für Ausflüge zur Verfügung.

Nicola Rochlitz

Picture is from a German newspaper article about this year's exchange.

teachers on both sides of the Atlantic in an effort to keep costs low for the families. All teachers pay all their own way to offset costs in the spirit of providing their students with a true cultural exchange and the opportunity to attend school in a foreign country and make friends that may last a lifetime. This year, the German chaperones will once again be Herr Carsten Apsel and Frau Mechthild Hahne, accompanied by Principal Herr Meyer.





NT Music Students Give to American Cancer Society

The weather on Sunday, October 2nd was cold and rainy but members of North Tonawanda High School's Choral Program had warm hearts as they walked for a cure for Breast Cancer. Fifty-three members of the program walked the over two-mile route through downtown Buffalo supporting the cause and each other. This event is one of many community service projects the choruses will participate in through chorus club's *Voices In Action*. *Voices In Action* is a component of the choral program at NTHS. Choral Director, Dean Vallas, formed V.I.A. to give his singers a way to give back to the community. "The students I teach are amazing and caring young adults. *Voices In Action* gives them an outlet to serve our community while being together" said Vallas. This year the chorus members collected over \$1000 in donations for cancer.



Global Connect

The North Tonawanda City School District uses "Global Connect" to contact parents when schools will be closed. If your phone number changes, it is very important that you inform the office at your child's school as soon as possible. School closings will be broadcast on television and radio stations.

You can also check our Web site for more information at www.ntschoools.org.

Emergency Information

Radio Stations	Television Stations:
WGR 550 AM	WGRZ Channel 2
WBEN 930 AM	WIVB Channel 4
WNED 970 AM	WKBW Channel 7
WECK 1230 AM	YNN Channel 9
WBUF 92.9 FM	Emergency Informational
WBLK 93.7 FM	Websites:
WJYE 96.1 FM	Criminaljustice.state.ny.us
WKSE 98.5 FM	Redcross.org
WYRK 106.5 FM	Ferma.gov
WGRF 97 Rock 96.9 FM	
WEDG The EDGE 103.3 FM	
WHTT Oldies 104 104.1 FM	
WTSS - Star 102.5	

IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR NTHS JANUARY CALENDAR

Marks Close

January 23, 2012

High School Regents Exams

January 24—27, 2012

2nd Semester Begins

January 30, 2012

NTHS Drama Club Presents

The Wizard of Oz

November 10, 11, 12, 2011—7:30 PM

For information call 807-3644



Spruce Students Complete Summer Challenge!

In June, Spruce students were given a summer challenge to travel the Western New York area with their families to visit many local wonders, some educational while others were just great experiences! Students were provided with a Spruce School Summer Passport which was put together by Spruce's SDM, a committee of parents and teachers. The committee compiled a list of local attractions in various categories such as museums, fruit picking, State/County Parks, Historic Sites, and many more with contact information, admission fees, and hours. Students tracked their visits in their Passports by inserting a picture and completing a small writing piece to narrate their trip. Students returned to school in September to share their Passports and experiences with new classmates and teachers.



Pictured are some of the Spruce School Summer Passport Participants. Pictured from left to right, Top Row: Grandma Crawford, Brandon Thompson, Paul Orrange, Doc Sauer, Victoria Sasso, Zachary Yim, Josh Roy. Middle Row: Bo Staly, Ian Caskie, Hunter Ambrusko, Jack Orrange, Damon Staub, Christian Young, Noah Banas, Jaedon Zalewski. Front Row: Lindsay Rhodes, Harrison Roberts, Alaina Roberts, Lauren Rhodes, and Vanessa Shevchuk Not Pictured: Jillian Young, Alec Roy, Tyler Yim, Trent Woodroe, Amelia Blake, Anna Gehl

We apologize if any students were not mentioned.

Spruce School Summer Passport

Travel to local attractions this summer and keep a log of your adventures!



2010-2011 Teacher: _____

Passport is to be turned in to the school office at the end of the school year. It is subject to change.



Students in Mrs. Dexheimer's Kindergarten class are ready to read into a "Clifford Unit". Student teacher, Ms. Deanna Pierce, has been busy teaching about families, manners, attributes and the story elements with help from the Big Red Dog! As the travel journal revolves around the room for children to share with their families, the students are also busy reading and getting into the "Strive for 25 with Clifford" game. Pictured by the game from left to right are Olivia VanDusen, Sara Solis, Seth Giambra and Ms. Deanna Pierce.

Spruce Teachers Receive "A Day Made Better" Award from Office Max

Mrs. Moore (grade 5) and Mrs. Norris (grade 1) received a \$1,000 award from Office Max to purchase school supplies for their classrooms. Both teachers are extremely enthusiastic and consistently exploring new ways of making teaching and learning meaningful and interesting.



Pictured from left, Mr. Keohane, Principal, Mrs. Moore, teacher, and Mr. Harrington, Office Max Manager



FACS is off to a great start with our eighth graders reviewing their kitchen safety and baking skills by making cookies. This year eighth graders will have 20 weeks of FACS. We will cover a variety of topics including: job and career skills, nutrition, sewing, manners, and many cooking experiences. Seventh graders are working on mastering the sewing machine and will create a pillowcase. Along with sewing,

they will learn about nutrition and kitchen skills, and of course learn how to make a pizza. Mrs. Winston and Miss Catalano look forward to a great year. Pictured are Gina Mallone, Allie Smyth and Tyler Carson having fun in the kitchen creating a giant chocolate chip cookie.

NTMS



GILMORE ELEMENTARY

Fifth grade students at Gilmore Elementary School learned about pulley systems by building them with K'nex kits. Katherine Sieracki, Destiny Harris, and Isabelle Thompson built a block and tackle system, and tested the amount of work being done by adding pulleys and measuring the amount of work being done with spring scales. Other pulley systems that were built and tested included a flagpole and a sailboat. Students also learned about wheels and axles and various levers with similar kits. The students are also learning about kinetic and potential energy by building a large roller coaster with a loop. The students have had to problem solve to overcome friction and construct the coaster in a way that allows the car to gain enough energy to make it around the coaster successfully.



For more information and photos of the flood go to www.wbng.com. Click on "Photo Galleries".

Macarthur Elementary School in Binghamton, NY suffered greatly from the flood which struck the area in September. This building houses students Pre-k - 5th grade. The students will be transferred to two parochial schools which recently closed but have re-opened to accommodate these children.

School Social Workers throughout the North Tonawanda City School District have shown their NT Spirit in coordinating a district/community-wide book drive to provide Macarthur Elementary staff and students with a multitude of resources and materials

OHIO SCHOOL

that have been generously donated by district staff, students, parents, and citizens in the community.

Donations continue to be accepted until the end of October at any one of our elementary or middle school buildings.

Pictured to the left is an aerial view of the affected area surrounding Macarthur Elementary.



Did You Know?

The NT Spirit may be viewed in color on the web at www.ntschoools.org



NT Welcomes New Staff

**Laurie Kay Burger**

Laurie joins the district as Director of Curriculum & Instruction. She earned a Master of Science in educational leadership from the University at Buffalo; a Master of Science in elementary education from Buffalo State College and a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Buffalo State College. Her most recent positions were Middle School Principal at Warsaw Central School District and Supervisor in the Office of School Performance at Buffalo Public School District. In a cooperative venture, her position is shared between North Tonawanda City School District and Lewiston-Porter Central School District.

**Katie Feldman**

Katie joins the NT Middle School staff as a health teacher. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in physical education and health from SUNY Brockport. Most recently she student taught and held a long-term substitute position in the district.

**Karen Saeli**

Karen joins the NT High School staff as a business teacher. She earned her Bachelor's degree in business studies and master's degree in business and marketing education from Buffalo State College. Most recently she worked as a business teacher at Niagara Wheatfield High School.

**John Moskalik**

John rejoins the district as the Director of Special Education. He received his Bachelors, Masters and Administrative degrees from Buffalo State College. His most recent position was Director of Instructional Services/Chief Information Officer in the Barker CSD and Director of Special Education in the Barker CSD and Wilson CSD. John started his teaching career in the North Tonawanda City School District at Colonel Payne Elementary School over 28 years ago. Over the years his career has included serving as classroom teacher, building principal, and central office administrator in Medina, Lockport, Barker/Wilson, and now back in North Tonawanda.

**Andrew Touma**

Andrew joins North Tonawanda Middle School as Assistant Principal. He earned a Bachelor of Science in commerce; a Master of Science in education, and a Master of Science in administration and supervision; all from Niagara University. Prior to joining NT, he was Dean of Students and Director of the Community Education Center (Universal Pre-Kindergarten Coordinator and Enrichment and Accelerated Coordinator), both at Niagara Falls City School District.

**Julie Finiki**

Julie joins the Meadow Elementary staff as a special education teacher. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary and exceptional education from Buffalo State College and is currently enrolled in the master's degree literacy program at Canisius College. Most recently she held a long-term substitute position in the district.



PBIS is Kicked Off at Meadow!

What is PBIS you might ask? Well, it stands for Positive Behavior Intervention System, but at Meadow Elementary School it means being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible. PBIS was introduced to help add cohesiveness to our school-wide behavior program. It concentrates on the non-classroom areas of the building, such as the hallway, cafeteria and playground. It helps to provide every teacher, faculty and staff member with the same language and expectations for how students should behave at school.

On September 9th, Meadow kicked off our 2011-2012 PBIS program. This year the kick-off included being reacquainted with our three main cool tools: Give Me 5, Rules of the Road, and Voice Levels. These tools were reviewed in the cafeteria, bathroom, bus, playground, assembly area, and field-trip locations! The children prac-

ticed these expectations in fun ways, including getting on a bus, playing games on the playground and in the gym, getting their faces painted, and practicing the "right of way" in the hallway.

We have seen great improvement in the behavior of our students since this program was implemented. By providing a common language, positive reinforcement for expected behavior and the desire to work together, we have seen this program help make our students the best they can be!

This was a great kick-off event and the students really had a blast. We look forward to our booster program in the winter and another great Safe, Respectful and Responsible year at Meadow!

MEADOW



Drake School recently welcomed the NT class of 2024 into kindergarten! After attending kindergarten orientation with their families, the students were ready to go and eager to learn on the first day of school! Shown here at the left is Mrs. Cummings and some of Room 1's kindergarteners.

Drake Elementary

On the 10th anniversary of 9-11, Drake School students expressed their pride in several ways. Sixth grade students, under the direction of Mary Beth Brown and Debby Swartz, shared why they are proud to be Americans. They wrote out their ideas and prepared

a bulletin board display. It was placed near the library in the main hall so that all classes would be able to see and read it. Also, the student body wore red, white and blue on September 12 to show patriotic pride.



From left, Tyler Cunningham, Matthew Miller, Hannah Mixon, Hope Clark and Kaitlyn Sledziewski.



NT SPIRIT



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. We acknowledge that such directory information will not be published in any form including District publications, such as playbills, yearbooks, websites, newsletters, newspapers, etc.

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 14th 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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