



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NT SPIRIT

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

Winter 2011



**2011– 2012 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 as well as the North Tonawanda Public Library located at 505 Meadow Drive.

Dates and times to return in person to the Administration Building to have the application packet reviewed and processed are:

Tuesday, Feb. 15 from 1-7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 17 from 1-7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 28 from 1-7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 2 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, 2011
Prekindergarten children must be 4 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2011

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 Meadow School, it is not necessary to complete another packet.

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. 21.
School will resume on Feb. 28.

Did You Know?

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



A Message from the Superintendent

While the holidays are now behind us, we're turning our efforts toward another season: budget time. We have already put in countless hours in the past months to develop a 2011-2012 budget that is fiscally responsible, provides appropriate educational resources for students and focuses on the future which will help the students and the community reach higher standards. As we move toward these goals, it's our intent to be more forward thinking and to more fully share information.

We are excited to be able to offer the following new ways to access information. First, we will be opening the parent portal to e-school which will allow parents to sign in and see up-to-the-minute grades and attendance for their child from any computer. Second, we have moved to BoardDocs which will allow the community access to the Board's agenda items from the comfort of their own homes. A link is on our Web site that will allow you to view past, present and future board meetings.

Of course all of this is just part of the process: good budgeting is a complex and intense process. It's a mix of hard facts and educated forecasting. We are also monitoring the state aid projections, knowing that the state deficit and the change in the governorship could affect this revenue source. As we look to develop a budget we will be examining enrollment, staffing, facilities, special education, BOCES services, employee contractual and fringe benefit costs, building/department allocations, transportation, utilities, debt and revenue. We will look at all areas to help us plan for this coming year as well as years into the future.

At the same time, we are planning for new state mandates that are coming soon. The first is the new set of Common Core Learning Standards which will be shared by nearly 40 states. These changes to curriculum, instruction, and assessment must be planned for in this coming year's budget. We also expect to see a shift in how exams are administered, transitioning from state exams to national exams in the near future. All this makes for a very complex budget process that the Board and I will work through in the coming months.

Please check our Web site at www.ntschoools.org weekly over the next few months to get the latest information as we work to develop a fiscally responsible budget. The Budget vote will be May 17.

*Cordially,
Gregory J. Woytila, Superintendent*

Nominations Sought for Visual and Performing Arts Wall of Fame

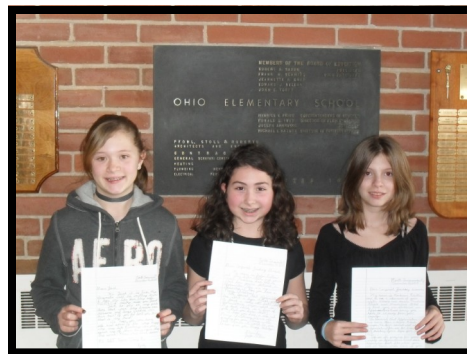
The North Tonawanda City School District is seeking nominations for its Visual and Performing Arts Wall of Fame. The Wall of Fame honors alumni or staff members of North Tonawanda High School who have enjoyed success in or contributed either individually or collectively to the promotion or betterment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

You can download a nomination form on the homepage of our Web site at www.ntschoools.org.

Ohio Elementary

Class Spreads a Little Hometown Holiday Cheer!

Writing a friendly letter fits in with the 5th grade writing curriculum. The students decided to give that task additional meaning by writing to their classmate Alexis Grawe's brother, Cpl. Zachary Grawe, who is a U.S. Marine, now serving in Afghanistan. The students learned about Afghanistan's volatile history, its geography, and culture. They used that information to write conversational letters to Corporal Grawe. Hopefully their letters were able to provide a little hometown holiday cheer! Pictured from left to right are MacKenna Beattie, Jazlyn Ludlow and Alexis Grawe.



Physical Education Promotes Movement



Mrs. Lipps' and Mrs. Charsley's classes are "bustin a move" enjoying creative movements and dance while participating in Physical Education class.



Meadow and Gilmore Top Musicians Selected for All-County Band

Gilmore and Meadow proudly announce that five musicians have been selected for the 2011 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 are Emily McClinsey, alto saxophone; Natalie Paar, bass clarinet; and Sean McManus, tenor saxophone. From Gilmore are Dale Lauzon, alto saxophone and Emily Jenkins, flute. These students bring pride to our NT district, our NT community, and their families. Along with their teacher, Mrs. April Carere, these students will be attending Festival I February 4 & 5.



Pictured from left: Emily McClinsey, Natalie Paar and Sean McManus



Dale Lauzon and Emily Jenkins

Spruce

Spruce School Spelling Bee

On Jan. 7 Spruce School held their school-wide Spelling Bee sponsored by S.H.S.O. Seventeen 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 Alison Contangelo was named the Champion and Trent Woodroe the Runner Up. Alison was able to prevail after six tie breakers with the final four students and five tie breakers with Trent in the final rounds between the two of them. After a large range of words with varying difficulty, Alison's winning words were *supersonic* and *hemisphere*. Prizes awarded to the champion included a certificate, a New College Dictionary, a one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online, and an opportunity to participate in online language classes. Alison 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.



Meadow

Olympic Games at Meadow

The sixth-graders in Ms. Manganello's Social Studies class learned about the Ancient Greeks who held the first Olympic Games.

They learned about the modern Olympic Games and even competed in their very own classroom Olympics. Although the competition was fierce, only one team from each class was awarded the gold!



Pictured from left: Natalie Paar, Ryan Doohan, Patrick Milbrand and Asia Gude.

Meadow Students Love their Character Education Assemblies

The last Friday of each month, Meadow celebrates the students who have shown great character throughout the month. A different character trait is highlighted each month of the school year.

December's character trait was "CARING". Even though we feel all of our students are caring, these students were shining extra bright.





North Tonawanda Students Honored in Washington DC

During Thanksgiving vacation, first class Scout Hayden Holmes of Tonawanda Boy Scout Troop 229 and his two brothers, Jordan and Camerin, both Webelos Scouts of North Tonawanda Pack 193, visited Washington, D.C. with their mother and grandparents. While there, they visited Arlington Cemetery and were given the prestigious honor of taking part in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. As they stood at attention and presented a Scout salute, a bugler from "Pershing's Own" Third Regiment played Taps. Coming down the steps to lay the wreath and accompanied by one of the guards are, from left front, Jordan Holmes (fifth-grade Meadow) and Hayden Holmes (NTMS). At left back, Camerin Holmes (third-grade Meadow) and his grandfather, Armando Leonetti.



High School

Bowlers on Winning Track

The Lumberjack and Lady Jack bowling teams started off the season on the right foot, winning the Maryvale Tournament.

NT's Lady Jacks led from start to finish, posting a 2,851 three game total to top the field of 31 teams. Maryvale was a distant second with 2,736 pins. Brianna Larson, Rachel Kielaszek, Hannah Mosher, Jill Phillips, Jen Hojnowski and Angelia Aquilina were the winning Lady Jacks bowlers.



NT's boys' squad was the surprise of the tournament since six Lumberjack bowlers graduated last year. The new line-up consisted of Peter Wozniak, T.J. Iacono, Jake Enright, Zac Conlan, Alex Kieffer and Alex Behr. They totaled 3,052 pins to out-distance Clarence by 51 pins.

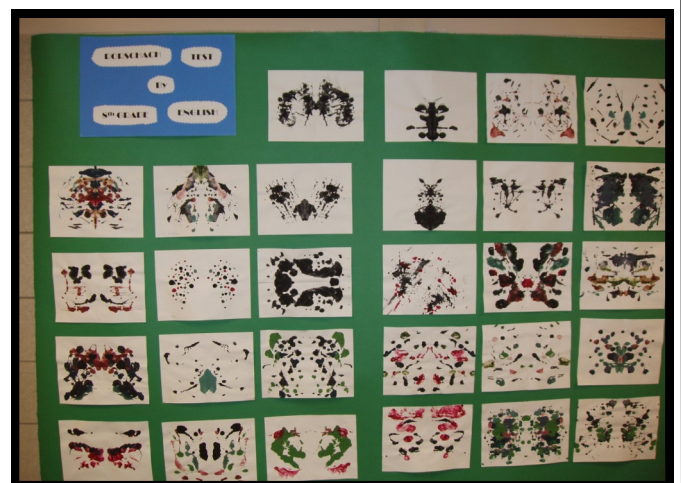
At the Festival of Lights Tournament, the Lady Jacks fought back from a 159 pin deficit to take the title. Gates Chili led for 59 frames with NT overtaking them in the final frame! Webster Thomas was also ahead of the Lady Jacks for three games until NT bashed a 1013 in game four.

In league action, the Lady Jacks were 8-0 at the time of this writing while the Lumberjack boys were 4-4.

Middle School

Bringing a Story to Life

English students of Mrs. DiRienzo and Mrs. Koslosko diligently created their own Rorschach style ink blot pictures after reading "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes. The fun of creation was only outdone by the great time they had discussing what they saw in the botche, as well as listening to comments from other observers in the hall. Students learned that creating these designs was a good example of "less is more" as the best designs came from papers using only sparing amounts of ink. Students found the story a great read and were looking forward to watching the movie version as a before holiday treat.





Gilmore School

'Tis the Season to Build a Snowman

Have you ever peeked out the window, just to catch a glimpse of snow gently falling to the ground? It is amazing to see how a fresh snowfall can inspire young minds! A group of third-graders at Gilmore School worked hard developing their own "how to" reports for an ELA assignment with Miss Grabau. Given the wintry weather, the students decided to write about "How to Build a Snowman." The students were mindful to use their transition words when describing the sequence of their steps. They learned it is necessary to list all required materials, as well as the location needed to build. It was a good challenge for the children to write carefully, adding detail to explain each step to their readers.

Of course, no "how to" report is proven successful until the process has been tested. "How did the students prove their process" you might ask? By building a snowman, of course! Bundled up in snow pants, the students (with some assistance from Miss Grabau and Mrs. Paton) made their way to the wintry landscape to create their very own "Frosty". The snow was relatively cooperative, but the students followed the steps and the process was a success!

Let us continue to inspire our children to make the most out of their experiences! Memorable and teachable moments surround us everyday! What will yours be today?



From left to right: Ethan Keleher, Sebastian Mack, Mason Abrahamson and Debbie Dewey

Web Site Survey

Please take a few moments to take our Web site survey. Your responses will help direct future improvements to the district Web site. The survey can be found at www.ntschoools.org.

Drake Elementary

Celebrity Readers

As an annual event, the Drake School Shared Decision Making team invites "celebrity readers" to come

for a special assembly. The celebrities come from North Tona-wanda High School athletic teams or clubs. This



year's invited group was the girls swim team. In a whole school assembly, the team members were introduced and information was shared about how important academic success is to all athletes. Each classroom then had a celebrity go to their room to read a story and answer student questions. Reading is important at Drake School!

Strive for 25

As the students at Drake School work toward the goal of reading 25 books per year, incentives are given along the way. Those students choosing to participate in the school's *Strive for 25* initiative were treated to a special

event in December if they had finished at least 10 books. Students were invited to a "Staff versus Student" dance contest utilizing the Wii game system. Additional connec-



tions between fitness and reading are stressed throughout the year as well. Shown here are third graders battling Mr. Keohane, Drake PE teacher!



NT SPIRIT



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. We will still notify the 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	

*Welcome
New
Staff*



Cynthia Bullis
Director of Athletics
Physical Education



Victoria Pohlman
Principal
Gilmore School

District Administrative Staff

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

Patrick Holesko
Executive Director of Student Services

Alan Getter
Interim Assistant Superintendent for
Administrative Services

Ronald J. Barstys
Director of Student Services

Warren Scott Rudnicki
Director of Special Education

Jeffrey Gaston
Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds

John Tylec
Personnel Director

North Tonawanda City School District

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Board of Education

Christine Porto, President
Frank DiBernardo, Vice President
Martin Burruano

Michael Carney
Joanne DalPorto
Kevin LoCicero
Arthur Pappas



www.ntschoools.org



