



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NT SPIRIT

Vincent J. Vecchiarella
Superintendent of Schools

SUMMER 2009

Class of 2009



Valedictorian—Jonathan McCarthy

Jonathan is a member of the National Honor Society and Science Olympiad. He is also Captain of the volleyball and tennis teams. Jonathan is a counselor at MDA camp for a week each summer. He also volunteers at the Cornerstone Café and at Camp Good Days' Christmas party and golf outing.

Jonathan was named Student of the Month for the Exchange Club of the Tonawandas and also received awards from Kiwanis and for peer tutoring.

Jonathan will attend the University of Rochester majoring in chemical engineering. He received the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, a Dean's scholarship and a Rochester National Grant.

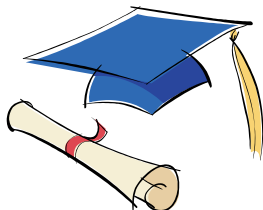


Salutatorian—Scott Ferguson

Scott is a member of the National Honor Society and Science Olympiad. He has participated in Model UN Club, Technology Club, Jazz Band and Scholastic Bowl. He is a youth representative for church vestry and youth group president.

Scott was named Student of the Month for the Exchange Club of the Tonawandas, placed 1st in Trebuchet Design and placed 2nd in the Bridge NCCC Tech Wars.

Scott will attend SUNY @ Buffalo for Pharmaceutical Sciences.



CONGRATULATIONS

TOP 10 STUDENTS

Jonathan McCarthy
Scott Ferguson
Allison Binkley
Patrick Mangus
Abigail Chittley
Michael Heilemann
Jacob Lennox
Sarah Banas
Eric Marriott
Michael Micieli

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATION CLASS OF 2009



Taylor	Ackerman	Jennifer	Busch	Nicholas	Elliott	Michael	Heilemann
Kyle	Adcock	Jesse	Callari	Laura	Ellis	Natalie	Hils
Rachel	Alessi	Amanda	Cameron	Michael	Elmore	Rachael	Hoffman
Avery	Alexander	Patrick	Carey	Caitlyn	Erisman	Briana	Hogan
Joshua	Anderson	Ryan	Carey	Michael	Ertel	Courtney	Iacono
Nicholas	Anderson	Colton	Charsley	Gabrielle	Esmay	Yevgeniy	Ilyenko
Michael	Ando	Derrick	Chelikowsky	Katelyn	Falbo	Alysia	Jaramillo
Bethany	Andrees	Abigail	Chittley	Alexander	Farrell	Alexandria	Jasek
Megan	Angeles	Mark	Christopher	Tina	Faulhaber	Kelly	Jasinski
Meaghan	Angelhow	Marylynn	Clarke	Scott	Ferguson	Dustin	Johnson
Karissa	Anstey	Lauren	Clausen	Derek	Fix	Matthew E.	Jones
Samantha	Axberg	Alyssa	Colangelo	Jenna	Flessel	Matthew R.	Jones
Jessica	Baker	Michelle	Comstock	David	Flores	Matthew	Jordan
Michael	Baker	Julie	Corl	Courtney	Foley	Rachael	Joslin
Nicole	Baker	Kaitlynn	Cramer	Peter	Fornasiero	Joshua	Kasprzyk
Jeremy	Ballsmith	Andrea	Crecco	Justin	Fox	Justin	Kaszubski
Sarah	Banas	Jonathan	Cromwell	Jessica	Francis	Fraz	Kayani
Zachary	Banas	Noah	Crouch	Stephen	Frankosky	Matthew	Kennedy
Andrea	Baron	Haley	Cummings	Jason	Fraser	Tyler	Kindron
Anna	Baroudi	Richard	Cummings	Joanna	Fretthold	Jessica	King
Tyler	Barrett	John	Curtin	Kevin	Fretthold	Patrick	King
Devin	Bartlett	Krysta	Cwynar	Joseph	Gandt	Nicholas	Kirisits
Sara	Basior	Stacey	Czerwinski	Brandan	Gannon	William	Kodeski
Jill	Behrns	Jeffrey	Daigler	Peter	Gazdovich	Brandon	Kofod
Carley	Berrigan	Katlin	Daigler	Mathew	Gebera	James	Kott
Amy	Bevilacqua	Steven	Danat	Drew	George	Phillip	Kozlowski
Allison	Binkley	Matthew	Daugherty	Jillian	Giannetti	Jackson	Krantz
Alissa	Boehringer	James	DeVoe	Alex	Godfrey	Kristy	Kuhar
Brittany	Booth	Jenna	DeVore	Kelly	Gorman	Nathan	Kureczka
Michelle	Bostad	Zachary	Dia Paul	Joseph	Gravino	EricLa	Bruna
April	Boyer	Laura	Dingman	Lisa	Grzeskowiak	Katie	LaFalce
Thomas	Brady	Maria	DiPasquale	Katlin	Gurz	Daniel	Lanier
Daniel	Brandel	Alexander	DiVirgilio	Samantha	Gwizdowski	Chelsie	Larson
Sarah	Bretherton	Matthew	Dlugokinski	Tracy	Hahn	Corey	Lauzau
Samantha	Bryans	Jessica	Dodds	Brittany	Hakes	Donald	Lauzon
Joseph	Buczynski	Heathe	Donoughe	Mark	Hankinson	Jocelyn	Law
Benjamin	Bunker	Andrew	Dotterweich	Michalene	Harbridge	Jessica	Leach
Emily	Bunny	Corey	Drozdz	Juliane	Harmon	Sarah	Leach
Samantha	Burgess	Brian	Dubke	Olivia	Hartwig	Jeni	Leaderstorf
Stephanie	Burgess	Ethan	Duthe	Stephanie	Hassell	Katrina	LeBar
Cristina	Burruano	Kalie-Ann	Elder	Dana	Heider	Alec	Lemanski



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATION CLASS OF 2009



Jacob	Lennox	Marjorie	Moeller	Nicholas	Rosart	Julia	Vogt
Jocelyn	Lewis	Angela	Montaldi	Kelly	Rotolo	Andriy	Vyshnevetsky
Melanie	Lewis	Timothy	Mordaunt	Kelsey	Rumbold	Tyler	Wakefield
Vincent	Libroia	David	Moteyunas	Taylor	Salvatore	Melinda	Walck
Brandon	Licht	Christina	Mott	Ashley	Santangelo	April	Walker
Lauren	Lipinoga	Matthew	Mourgas	Ashley	Say	Koryn	Wasielewski
Elizabeth	Livesay	Victoria	Mowrer	Jenna	Schear	John	Watt
Kevin	Lorenz	Mindy	Munter	Nicole	Schmidt	Zachary	Weiland
Erica	Losito	Amber	Newton	Daniel	Schmigel	Brittany	Wekenmann
Derek	Lowden	Dmytro	Novik	John	Schreckengost	Caley	Wekenmann
Miranda	Lyle	Glen	Nugent	Jeffrey	Schrecongost	Leah	Welch
Todd	Lyness	Kaitlin	O'Connor	Kathryn	Schultz	Tiffany	White
Timothy	MacDonald	Devan	Omahen	Derek	Schwegler	Thomas	Wiech
Meghan	Machaby	Migdalia	Ortiz-Rivera	John	Scott	Eric	Wildey
Stephanie	Mahl	Ashley	Oswald	Taylor	Sexton	Nicole	Williamson
Benjamin	Mangus	Steven	Oswald	Sara	Shank	Andrew	Witt
Patrick	Mangus	Jillian	Palisano	Alex	Shemendera	Ashley	Witt
Joseph	Maraschiello	Matthew	Parish	Brandon	Shoemaker	Jason	Wokersien
Eric	Marriott	Daniel	Patterson	Michelle	Slomba	Shawn	Woodcock
Alexandria	Martin	Danielle	Pawarski	Alexis	Smith	Christopher	Yeomans
Abbey	McCarthy	Jake	Perkins	Ashley	Smith	Mallory	Young
Jonathan	McCarthy	Monica	Philips	Patrick	Smith	Nicole	Zahn
Brandon	McClinsey	Julianne	Piasecki	Taylor	Sommerfeldt	Cody	Zeitler
Kayla	McClinsey	Amanda	Piorkowski	Jennifer	Sommers	Jeffrey	Zellner
Patrick	McDonough	Micah	Puscheck	Jessica	Stahl	Rebecca	Ziehm
Brian	McMahon	Kyle	Rae	Patrick	Starkey	Emily	Zinni
Jacqueline	McNamara	James	Rea	Stephanie	Stewart-Gross	Michael	Zwetsch, Jr.
Joel	Meister	Jennifer	Rechin	Alexa	Stitt	JANUARY 2009 GRADUATES	
Jacob	Metzger	Heather	Redden	Brittany	Stoltz	Timothy	Bryans
Andrew	Metzloff	Kristy	Redding	Cory	Stuff	Michael	Cruz, Jr.
Michael	Micieli	Shauna	Rehar	Elise	Taft	Cara	DiGiulio
Adam	Migliore	Steven	Retzlaff	Garrett	Taravella	Kayla	Gatas
Timothy	Mikos	Brittany	Reynolds	Cameron	Taylor	Deborah	Hayes
Charles	Millar	Lacey	Richards	Iain	Thompson	Jack	Jenkins III
Christina	Miller	Stephanie	Richards	Jesse	Thompson	David	Jones
Kevin	Miller	Xavier	Riley	Adrienne	Tilton	Katie	Reiter
Karen	Miranda	Damian	Ringler	Jeremy	Topolski	Anthony	Rivera
Amanda	Mislin	Thomas	Robel	Joseph	Ulrich	James	Taft
Bianca	Mitchell	Sabrina	Rodriguez	Ashley	VanCuran	Ryan	Thomas
Breanna	Moebs	Victoria E.	Rodriguez	Matthew	Vetter	Diana	Vorobey
Margaret	Moeller	Victoria I.	Rodriguez	Anna	Viele	Cassandra	Welch

Elementary School News

Gilmore School

Riviera Theater Concert

The music students at Gilmore Elementary School performed to a packed and enthusiastic crowd at the Riviera Theater on May 21st. The annual spring concert, which would normally take place in the gym, was moved to the historic North Tonawanda Theater for the first time with a fantastic result.

The concert featured the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade choruses directed by Miss Simoncelli, as well as the 4th grade recorder ensemble, orchestra, and the school band directed by Mrs. Carere. The choruses sang a selection of songs celebrating America, from African American Spirituals to American Folk Songs. The instrumental ensembles played a variety of pieces, ending with the band playing "We Will Rock You" while the Riviera lights flashed along to the song.

The students enjoyed the change of venue and loved



4th Grade Recorder Ensemble, Orchestra, and School Band



4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Chorus

playing in one of North Tonawanda's historic landmarks. "I loved the Riviera," Valerie Goranites, a sixth grader at Gilmore School said, "every thing sounded better there. I think it was nice that we got to perform in a real theater, it made us look more professional." The Riviera Theater was incredibly helpful and went out of their way to make sure the night went as smoothly as possible. The theater's executive director, Frank Cannata, was constantly on hand during the rehearsals to help and to talk to the students about the rich history of the theater.

Students, parents, and teachers alike all had a wonderful experience at the Gilmore Spring Concert. It was a great experience to bring together the rich history of the Riviera Theater with the new blossoming musical talents at Gilmore School. Thank you everyone at the Riviera Theater for making it happen, and to everyone in the community who came out to support our fantastic students!

Kindergarten Classes Celebrate

Mrs. Montaldi's and Miss Neumann's kindergarten classes at Gilmore performed a special End-of-the-Year program to a standing-room only crowd on Friday, June 23. Students sang a selection of songs and received certificates of congratulations before joining their proud families and friends. A special movie followed, showcasing the entire kindergarten class and events of the year. It was a morning to be enjoyed and remembered by all!



Remember Ryan Recital

On June 16, 2009 sixteen young musicians from Gilmore Elementary School performed a beautiful recital at the Remember Ryan Memorial Garden on Sweeney Street in North Tonawanda. The 23 song recital was a thank-you performance to The Remember Ryan Foundation for providing grant money to help purchase additional instruments for the students at Gilmore School.

The foundation was established in Ryan Bertini's name to remember the little boy whose life was cut short at age 8. Dr. John George, former North Tonawanda School Superintendent and grandfather of Ryan, helped establish the foundation to ensure Ryan's love of the arts be remembered while helping fund programs that serve other young students. The Gilmore band program has grown to include over 60 students and is thankful for the funds to purchase additional instruments for beginning musicians. The Remember Ryan Foundation has contributed over \$15,000 to fund projects in local schools. For more information on the Remember Ryan grants fund go to: www.rememberryanfoundation.org.





New Authors at Spruce

Some of the *Reading Recovery* students at Spruce Elementary had the opportunity to write their very own texts for the school's library. The first grade "author's" books were "published" and then borrowed by many Spruce students throughout the 2008-2009 school year...How exciting! These students attended *Reading Recovery* lessons daily with Mrs. Michelle Logan for twelve to twenty weeks this past school year. What great readers and writers they have become!

Mother's Day

Mother's Day at Spruce Elementary was a very special day for the children expressing their love for their Moms in Mrs. Dexheimer's classroom. The children demonstrated some of their regular classroom activities to show their Moms their routine in reinforcing many of the skills learned at their level. Poetry reading, counting, calendar, the pledge and the singing of "You're a Grand Old Flag" were some of the activities. The children helped Mrs. Dexheimer read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and fill in a Story Web along with the re-telling of the story with puppets. The class read the book, *My Garden* for their Moms and concluded the festivities with the sharing of a treat.



Spruce School



School Song

Students in Mrs. Dexheimer's class performed the Super Spruce School Song and became winners of the School Song Contest that was held this past May 2009. Students celebrated their "pizza party" winnings with each other and were very proud of their accomplishments and sense of school pride.

Community Involvement

Career Day

The fourth graders at Drake School recently combined their language arts skills with community involvement. In language arts class, students learned how to write a friendly letter. Each student chose a person from our community and wrote a letter asking about his/her career. Quite a few community members responded, and several came to visit to tell about their careers. The fourth graders really appreciated the visits and learned a lot about various jobs available in our area. Below are two of our visitors: Mr. Stefanski talking to class and Mr. Frank Budwey.



Empty Bowls

Mrs. Lloyd, Drake School art teacher, recently asked for volunteers that would like to help the community. Ten students gave up their spare time to work with Mrs. Lloyd in creating beautiful bowls out of clay. Each student shaped, fired, glazed, and decorated a bowl. The bowls were donated for the **EMPTY BOWLS** project. Donated bowls from all over Western New York were on display at the Burchfield Penney Art Gallery and were auctioned off to benefit the WNY Food Pantry.



Drake School

Special Friends

Many students at Drake School enjoyed the Special Friends program throughout the course of the year. Students worked on areas such as communication, organization, making friends, and staying positive. They all enjoyed coming down to the social worker's office to work with Miss Sandy and Mrs. Gorman.



Mrs. Gorman with Ethan



Meadow School

Playing Mother Nature

Students in the 4th grade classes at Meadow School got to try their hand at being "Mother Nature" and creating a new, never-before-seen plant as a culminating activity to their unit on plants. The students were not allowed to use any real or artificial plant parts in their designs. They did have to justify why they chose what they did for the plant's parts by telling a connection their chosen part had to a real plant part. Creativity abounded in the creations and the names they chose for their plants!



K-9 Demonstration

On June 2nd, Meadow School was treated to a canine demonstration by Officer Tim Sylvester, of the North Tonawanda Police Department's K-9 Unit, and his German Shepherd Odin. Officer Sylvester and Odin were joined by Captain Roussele, grandfather of Isabelle Thompson, a student in Mrs. Haynes' second grade class. The class was honored to have a special presentation in the classroom. Subsequently, all of Meadow School was invited to join in the demonstration outdoors. The children observed as Officer Sylvester and fellow officer Jeff Shiesley presented Odin's method of attack. The event ended with a question and answer session where children learned that Odin is trained to search open areas and buildings, apprehend criminals, and track illegal drugs. Everyone enjoyed this experience.

Immigration Unit

As a culminating activity to their immigration unit, Mrs. Utzig's 3rd grade class enjoyed an ethnic tasting party. Each child shared information about their family's heritage and culture and then tried a variety of food and desserts from different countries.



Young Writers and Illustrators Contest

Alexandra Kiedrowski, a kindergarten in Mrs. Lesmeister's class, won third place in the 15th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest from over 700 entries throughout Western New York. On June 2nd, Alexandra presented her story entitled A Walk in the Woods at a ceremony at WNED studios.



Ohio School

Kindergarten Graduation

"Smile a lot...laugh a lot... wash your hands and face a lot..." on June 19th the 42 Kindergarten students at Ohio School presented a program for families and friends based on the themes of kindness, good manners and healthy living.

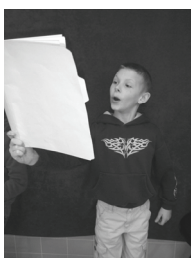
"Do your homework, help with chores, be clean of body and dress..." were some of the ideas they shared as they recalled their year in Kindergarten. Making, and being, a friend as well as being a 'Can Do' student ready to move on to first grade were also items the children sang and spoke about. Performing a shared reading of a text about having a good attitude that can help you through even the toughest days gave us all a moment to reflect.

Measurement Mania

Students measured "giant steps," "baby steps," and various items of different lengths around the room to give them practice with measuring while offering real-life applications of math.



3rd Grade Readers Theatre



In our Readers Theatre scripts included a Nigerian folk tale about how thunder came to be, a mixed-up fairy tale about a story-stealing contraption, the legend of St. Nicholas, and stories from Wayside School. This gives the students practice with fluency and expression and is a blast

to perform AND watch!

6th Grade Field Trips

The 6th grade classes at Ohio School attended many field trips in June. The classes attended LaFarge quarry in Lockport. The students toured the facility and saw the workings of the enormous quarry.

Virtually, students attended a trip back in time to the middle ages to meet a peasant named Hal. He interacted with the students and showed them what life was like in his time period. He also played various instruments and even taught the students how to dance the traditional dances of that time.

Finally, the students attended their 6th grade luncheon at Niko's restaurant. They enjoyed a delicious meal and celebrated their time at Ohio School with a slide presentation. We were very proud of the behavior and manners displayed by these young ladies and gentlemen. It was a wonderful way to end a productive, exciting year.



Mother's Day Tea

"I love my mom. My mom loves me." were words that echoed through the hallways at Ohio Elementary School in early spring this year as the first graders set out to honor the special women in their lives. As Mother's Day was around the corner, they needed to prepare a special presentation for their hard-working moms. The children spent hours practicing lines, making crafts, and preparing gifts to be presented at a Mother's Day Tea during the first week of May.

The Tea began with the children reciting poetry and singing songs expressing their love and appreciation for moms everywhere. Delicious treats and a wonderful time spent with that special someone followed the program. It was delightful. In the words of the children, "Thanks, Mom!"



"Helping Hands"

North Tonawanda Alternative High School students have been very busy with community service activities this school year. As part of North Tonawanda's newly adopted District Service Learning Policy, students are required to complete activities that assist individuals or organizations within our community. Our AHS students have been quite helpful in participating in various programs, organizations, and with individuals to help complete daily tasks that will accomplish a variety of goals. Some AHS students have chosen to volunteer their free time to help Universal Pre-K students with Magic Penny, a reading program designed to help children learn to read. The AHS students have really enjoyed spending time with their new preschool friends and teaching them the essentials of beginning reading. From this experience, we have discovered some future teachers in the making. AHS students should feel proud of themselves for playing a very important role in helping these children build such essential academic skills to benefit their future education.

Grant & Alternative High School

This type of student collaboration has had such positive effects for both groups of students, because they have learned so much from each other.

In April, AHS had a very special "guest baker" visit the program to conduct a mini lesson in the subject of home and careers. This special guest baker is no one other than Megan McCormick, North Tonawanda's Director of Special Education and to us, a fabulous baker!

Ms. McCormick planned out a perfect lesson in cake design, as she taught AHS students how to turn simple, ordinary cupcakes into dazzling, but festive "Easter cupcake baskets." Prior to our baking day, AHS students made the suggestion to invite some of the preschoolers they became friends with through Magic Penny.

The star students of each Pre-K class were able to join their friends from AHS and design their very own "Easter basket." It was a lot of fun to watch this amazing collaboration among Ms. McCormick, AHS students and UPK students.



We would really like to thank Ms. McCormick for sharing her creative talent and baking tips with us. It was a lot of fun to see three areas of education come together for such a tasty activity!

Annie

The 5th grade chorus at Ohio School recently presented a production of songs and scenes from the musical "Annie."

Opening on Broadway in 1977 "Annie" is based on a depression era comic strip by Harold Gray. The book for the show was written by Thomas Meehan with Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin writing the much loved songs. "Annie" won 7 Tony Awards that year including ones for Best Musical, Best Musical Score and Best Book.

Ohio School's production starred Christina Quinlan as Annie with Aden Dean portraying Daddy Warbucks and Marissa Mattice as the not-so-lovable Miss Hannigan, the orphanage operator. Also starring in the production were Kaeli McGinnis as Grace, Daddy Warbucks's secretary, Connor Essenburg as Rooster Hannigan and Allie Smyth as Rooster's girlfriend, Lilly St. Regis.



While working on the play the fifth graders had the opportunity to learn the terms for many items that actors must refer to in their work. Props, sets, upstage, etc. all became commonly used words during rehearsals as the children worked to present the play and helped build the sets and collect props for the show.

The students did a fantastic job in all aspects of the production and the audience agreed and showed their approval by giving the cast a standing ovation. We're all looking forward to next year's performance!

We Have Talent!

Goldilocks

As the Alternative High School continues to service their community, the good feat of giving continues as students choose to lend a helping hand to others within Grant School. Grant School is unique because it houses educational programs that service different types of learning. One of these programs here at Grant School is Niagara Children's Education and Treatment Center (ETC). Niagara Children's ETC hosted their annual children's play for the students of Headstart.

AHS students volunteered to join the cast for the amateur production of *Goldilocks*. Our actors and actresses were very animated as they brought *Goldilocks* and *the Three Bears* to life. The production was a hit as it had very good reviews from the 3 year old and 4 year old audience. Christian Goerss humored the audience as Papa Bear, while Tina Faulhaber captivated the group as Mama Bear, and Joshua Crowe charmed the spectators with his role as Baby Bear. Brittany Stoltz and Abby Lewis each fascinated the crowd with their lively performance of *Goldilocks*. We give this performance a two thumbs up!





Groundbreaking

The North Tonawanda City School District held a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday June 22, 2009 for the first phase of their \$48 million district-wide Capital Improvement Project. The ceremony took place at the North Tonawanda Middle School, 1500 Vanderbilt Avenue.

Representatives of the District that were in attendance included:

The North Tonawanda City School District Board of Education

Christine Porto, President
Frank DiBernardo
Kimberly Robertson

- Vincent Vecchiarella, Superintendent of Schools
- Gregory Woytila, Executive Director of Educational Services
- Susan Villiers, Asst. Superintendent for Administrative Services

Others that were part of the ceremony include Dr. Clark Godshall, District Superintendent of Orleans/Niagara BOCES, and North Tonawanda Mayor Larry Soos. Representatives of the project's construction manager, Campus Construction Management Group, and the architect, Kideney Architects, were also in attendance.

Superintendent Vecchiarella opened the groundbreaking ceremony by stating that "the North Tonawanda City School District's vision is to be a leader in public education by providing the best opportunities for students to achieve academic and personal excellence."

"In order to provide these opportunities, the District must continue to provide our children with the programs and facilities necessary to succeed within the financial realities of the community. This includes repairs and upgrades to current school buildings as well as improvements to health, safety, security, instruction and a ten classroom addition at the NT Middle School. The district also needed to address the limited technology infrastructure available to operate an updated technology program in the schools. It was clear that until more is done in the area of technology, our students will be at a competitive disadvantage against those from other districts."

The improvements are designed to address:

- Code conformance,
- Health, safety, and security,
- Repairs, maintenance, and updates to facilities and mechanical/electrical/plumbing services
- Accessibility issues,
- New technology advances,
- Site issues that address parking and the necessary separation of students, buses and passenger car circulation.

Also included in the scope of work is a ten-classroom addition to North Tonawanda Middle School to initially be used by the Orleans/Niagara BOCES.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Gregory Woytila, Executive Director of Educational Services, 716-807-3535.

