



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NT SPIRIT

NT SPIRIT

FALL 2008

\$48M CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

On April 22, 2008, the residents of North Tonawanda City School District had the foresight to approve a \$48 million capital improvement project that will help address improvements long needed in each of the District's buildings. This project is the first phase of a \$62 million Capital Facilities Plan and is being developed at no cost to the taxpayers because it will be funded through a combination of EXCEL Aid, State Building Aid and the District's Capital and Technology Reserves.

Since the vote, the design team, led by Kideney Architects, has been working to further refine the project's scope of work and the specific design elements of each building. In late August, Christa Construction LLC was selected by the District administration and the Board of Education to provide construction management (CM) services for the project. The company is one the largest K-12 school CMs in New York State, with over \$4 billion of similar work completed or under contract since 1990. Christa's Buffalo regional office is responsible for providing the comprehensive CM services for the company's K-12 Division.

Our buildings range in age from 40 – 84 years old and many portions of the District-wide physical plant have been breaking down. The project's scope addresses these needs with renovations and repairs at each school. District-wide work includes:

- HVAC upgrades to provide proper levels of heating and ventilation and to improve energy efficiency
- Electrical and lighting upgrades to improve energy efficiency
- Plumbing system repairs
- Foundation repairs
- Site safety and security improvements
- Emergency generator repairs or replacements
- Exterior renovations and repairs on roofs, masonry and windows

From a strictly visual standpoint, many of these improvements will not be especially apparent. However, residents of the District will readily notice specific portions of work, including:

- Extensive improvements to the High School/Meadow Elementary site complex to create additional parking, a safer pedestrian environment and improved vehicular flow
- Expansion of technology, providing data, projectors and interactive whiteboards in all classrooms.
- Interior upgrades and repairs, such as ceiling, wall and floor finishes
- Replacement of cracked sidewalks, curbs and concrete steps at most schools

In September of 2008, Christa and Kideney presented to the District a scheduling plan to separate the entire capital project into a Phase IA (the Middle School and Drake Elementary) and a Phase IB (all remaining buildings). The plan was accepted by the District in October and Kideney completed the Phase IA submission to the NYS Education Dept. (SED) on November 3, 2008.

By breaking the project into two phases, the District can now take advantage of the early 2009 bidding market while allowing the majority of the project to be carefully studied, designed, approved and bid without compromising the project's overall completion date.

The SED review and approval time is five months. Therefore, the District will be bidding and awarding the Phase IA buildings in March and April with construction starting soon after.

The Phase IB design will be complete by mid-winter with a February 2009 submission to SED. Local and regional contractors can look forward to a "bid and award" period that will occur in August and September 2009. The IB construction will be phased starting in the fall of 2009.

Completion of work in each school will take place in phases starting in late 2009 - all work for the capital project is scheduled for completion by late 2011.

Elementary School News

Drake School



Kindergarten Students at Drake

The Clicker Performance System

Prior to Election Day, the students at Drake School used the Clicker Performance System in the Computer Lab to vote for President, their favorite school lunch and an activity they liked to do after school. Each class voted prior to their computer lesson. Barak Obama was our students' pick for President. Pizza won favorite school lunch over tacos by just one vote. Going outside to play was the favorite activity after school, with computers coming in second place. Reading and doing homework tied for 3rd place. The results were read during the Morning Announcements and the students received a "kid's vote sticker" from their teachers for exercising their right to vote.

The Clicker Performance System, now available at all NT Schools, uses a wireless response system that communicates between a handheld response pad and a receiver unit. Students and teachers can obtain feedback instantly. This technology invites interactive learning and can be used for class interaction, class quizzes and even formal exams.

Article by Carol Brenner
Computer Skills Department

Reading Recovery

Drake School is lucky to have an amazing reading program available to its first grade students. Reading Recovery is being offered to students who are at risk of low achievement in reading. Each student who is chosen receives one-on-one instruction every day. We are excited about this wonderful opportunity at Drake. Shown here are RR teacher Mrs. Christmann and first grader Trever Booker.



4th Grade Citizenship

In Mrs. Beutel and Mrs. Sanders' fourth grade class, citizenship is important! Students that display good citizenship can find themselves with an extra bonus! Special seat covers are awarded to students who demonstrate such values as kindness, respect, and teamwork. Students enjoy using the festive seat covers and are



proud of their accomplishments. Shown here is Alex Scalzo and a Thanksgiving cover.

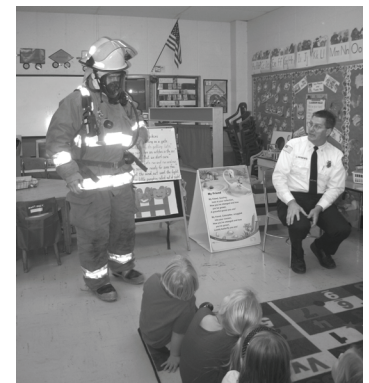


Swing Set

Due to the generosity of the PTA, Drake School now has a brand new swing set! It boasts four regular swings, a baby swing, and a handicapped accessible swing. This is an excellent addition to our community, as it is one of the few handicapped accessible swing sets in Niagara County. Drake students and neighbors have been enjoying the swing set since it was installed in late October. Thank you, Drake PTA!

Kindergarten Fire Safety

During the month of October, Drake School kindergarteners learned about fire safety. After reading stories, making crafts, and practicing safety drills, the unit culminated in a visit from the North Tonawanda Fire Department. Each class had a special presentation from Assistant Chief Larry Hromowyk. He taught the students what to do in case of a fire. He also brought a firefighter to the class so students would not be frightened of the appearance of the firefighter's gear and mask. The students then saw the fire truck and learned all about the various parts. Learning to stay safe is important at Drake School!



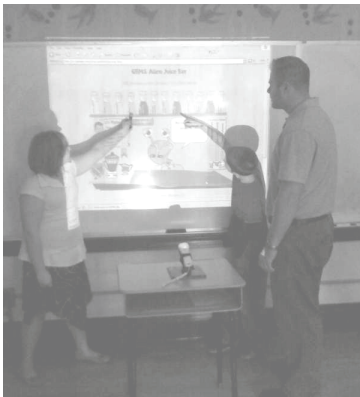


Gilmore School

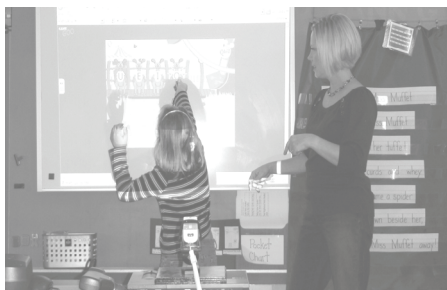
Making Magic Out of A Wii Remote!

When you hear the word Wii, automatically you think of the Nintendo game console. However, with the brains of Johnny Lee, human-computer interaction researcher, and assistance from Mr. Holesko (Principal), classrooms at Gilmore Elementary School are engaging in hands-on-interactive learning using a Wii remote to create a classroom SMARTboard.

Mr. Ruffolo's sixth grade class and Mrs. Mahoney's first grade class have been using this system on a daily basis. The students are able to use the interactive whiteboard basically as a giant touch screen computer. They are able to take virtual field trips, see the relationship between objects, understand concepts in a variety of ways, and actively participate in class through the use of websites and notebook software.

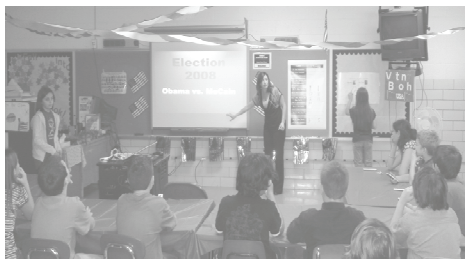


This system has provided endless exploration activities for the children at Gilmore School. Finally, technology that is within reach of all students!



NT Youth Vote Election Day Extravaganza!!!

The students at Gilmore School felt quite proud and patriotic on Tuesday, November 4th for election day. Grades Kindergarten through six took part in learning about why they should vote and also had the opportunity to make their choice for president in the "Gilmore School Election." Each class entered the red, white, and blue voting booth to watch a Brain Pop video about voting, get a chance to see the candidates, and electronically made their vote for president with use of the Classroom Performance System. The Classroom Performance System works with special remotes which the students used to make their choices. With use of these remotes, the students saw immediate results of their class's choice for president. The results were posted throughout the day with Barack Obama winning with 220 votes over John McCain's 118 votes.



Exciting Projects Taking Place at Gilmore Elementary

With the 2008 Presidential election and Halloween just behind us, Gilmore Elementary has been busy with new exciting lessons, programs and of course some fun activities. Just in time for the election, Miss Ellis' 5th and 6th grade combination computer skills class (Mrs. Kendt's MPP students) took part in a project where students were working toward obtaining votes from their fellow classmates. This project took place in the computer lab, where students researched the beliefs and important topics in relation to their political party.

To begin this project, students were split into two groups: Democrats and Republicans. Working in cooperative learning groups, students tracked the campaign trail with the help of Google Earth, developed political speeches, created Photo Story 3 Slideshows and Slogans to try to sway their classmates to vote for their team's candidate. For a closure activity, students presented their speech and picture slide show to the class, as well as voting for a winner.

The day ended with a special live newscast given by 4th grader, Marah Blaser, to announce Gilmore's choice to the school. What an exciting election day we had!



Healthy Halloween Festival

Gilmore's Home School Association held their annual Healthy Halloween Festival. This year there was a great turn out from students and their parents. Students were encouraged to dress up in their Halloween costumes to participate in the fun. The SPOOK-tacular students played games, danced to music provided by a DJ and had tasty, but healthy snacks.



Congratulations goes out to our Halloween Costume Contest winners: Rebecca R. (Lumber Jack), Nathaniel B (The Joker), Louis Medina (Barack Obama), and Brian K (John McCain).



We Have a New Website!!

<http://www.ntschoools.org>



Spruce School

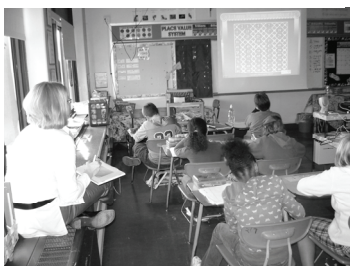
Are They in the Game?

Students in Kindergarten are busy "Getting into the Game" of Strive for Twenty-five! Pictured here from left to right are motivated students, Lauren Gondek, Julia Svirgun and Tony Agueci. These students have already completed their twenty-five books and are placing their game piece onto the board. When all children have completed their reading, the class will celebrate with a Luncheon Party which is at the "finish" spot!

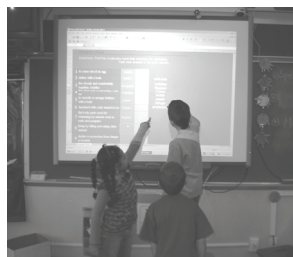


Technology Makes its Way into Spruce Classrooms!

Mrs. Abbott's 5th graders experience technology, almost daily, through an interactive mimio system that is used in order to capture engaging methods for learning mathematical concepts and math facts. Here, students go through learning their multiples using such technology.



In Mrs. LeMar's classroom, her 3rd Grade students were captured using SmartBoard technologies for engaging in self-directed vocabulary instruction based on the Scott Foresman series. Mrs. LeMar's group activities assist students to take turns at stations set up for carrying out engaged learning activities for ELA skill development, writing development, and literacy building. Students enjoy such experiences and welcome technology use to build their learning.



5th Grade Social Studies Assessment

New 5th grade teacher, Kristen Weisel, uses media cart and laptop technologies to assist students with creative and fun ways to review facts and procedures as they get ready to take November's NY State 5th Grade Social Studies Assessments.

Rather than exclusively focusing on test-prep strategies that are often out of context, motivating the learner through exciting technological activities will instill a greater sense of internalized understanding of issues, topics or themes.

Horror Show or Real Life?

Students in Mrs. Norris' Grade 4 classroom, covered by Miss Paveljack, long-term substitute teacher, use investigative skills in class to learn about a life-size wasp nest captured from a tree. Luckily, due to the frost that took place in late October, there were no wasps brought into school! The nest has been evacuated due to these typical weather conditions.



City Market's Centennial Celebration

Students from Spruce School grades K-6 made posters in honor of NT City Market's 100th Anniversary Celebration. The theme for the posters was to display what the market means to them. Miss Mirowski's sixth grade class took the posters to the market to hang them up on the building. It was a great experience for the students to be involved in the community. They really enjoyed helping North Tonawanda celebrate its history.



The Circle of Friends

Students in Mrs. Froebel's 2nd Grade class started off the school year with a character education bonding activity focused on creating self-portraits with this "Circle of Friends" poetry link in order to establish tolerance, cohesiveness, and a true learning community of respectful students.



"Real Voting" Makes its Way into Spruce School



As Election Day rolled around very quickly, Spruce School's participation in our NT Youth Vote consisted of Mr. Burns, a Grade 6 teacher, instructing students on how to use a real voting machine throughout the day as students came down to the Spruce Foyer to vote. Ballot items for this year included: 1. Presidential Candidates 2. Vice Presidential Candidates 3. What they would like to see Mr. Jetter play our school mascot in (tennis, basketball, or

soccer) 4. Favorite fruits that the Cafeteria should serve more of.

Through a description of history and how the voting machine works, all the way up to mobilizing 6th grade students to assist the voting students, the day was memorable and fun!

Independent Health's Fitness 4 Kids Winner!

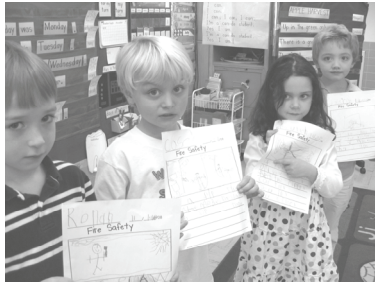
Congratulations to Melissa DiVirgilio on her efforts in the Fitness 4 Kids Program where she received a prize pack-

age courtesy of Independent Health for completing various fitness activities/tasks for the month of October! Congratulations Melissa! Keep up the great work! You have represented Spruce very well!





Ohio School



Kindergarten Students at Ohio

Early Literacy Instruction

Early literacy instruction and intervention, as part of a balanced literacy program, are the keys to helping all children become confident readers and writers.

The Reading Recovery and Magic Penny programs target each child's individual needs for success in early literacy development.

Magic Penny enables teachers to organize instruction of phonemic awareness and letter sound relationships into small groups that support a wide range of abilities and needs within the kindergarten classroom.

At Ohio School, following Magic Penny instruction, children are encouraged to write daily in small groups with the assistance of the Reading Recovery teacher, community volunteers, and other support personnel. This provides children with the opportunity to make the links between reading and writing.

When children are encouraged to write, they take a closer look at the details of print. This forces children to slow down and explore letter and sound relationships.

Through this process, kindergartners are developing phonemic awareness and writing skills as well as a positive attitude towards reading and writing.

Art in the Community

On the evening of October 20th several parents, students, Principal Cuddy-Miller, Art teacher Mrs. Holler, 4th grade teacher Mrs. Ninos and 1st grade teacher Ms. Tirone, all from Ohio Elementary joined in with a celebration at BJ's Store, Young Street in Tonawanda. Several students decorated Halloween treat bags for needy children as others enjoyed the treats provided. BJ's is the partnership store for Ohio School this year.

Besides finding time to read to our students, they have supported the basket raffle as well as other needs our school may have. BJ's has also supported our Art department by allowing our students to display art work on the board in the food court. Grades 1, 3 and 4 art students have their art displayed until Thanksgiving.

Congratulations to 1st graders: Kira Dewey, Megan Mara, Michael Mara, Julie Myers, 3rd graders: Jewel Hewett, Madison MacNeil, Erin Sammarco, 4th graders: Rion DeBellaistre, Maxwell Harack, Olivia Hecei, Irene Johnson, Alphonzo Sims, Nicholas

Rosky, Collin Rambler and Michael Orlowski for having their art work selected. Throughout the year several other students will display classroom projects and achievements. Mrs. Birkman 2nd graders will display class work in January.

DeGraff Memorial Hospital employees were so gracious to donate supplies to students at Gilmore School. As a "Thank you" they invited Mrs. Hollers' art students to display art work at the entrance of the hospital cafeteria.

Congratulations to 3rd graders: Nathaniel Brown, Diana Chaburka, Erin Hastings, Liliya Sakharchuk, Rebekah VerHague, 4th graders: Salina Alvarado, Wesley Payne, Allison Pendergast, Sydney Schafer, Furtuna Sopi, Micah Vandwart, Kaila Veach and 6th graders: Aaron Kibat and Kristina Sisyukin.

This display can be viewed until Thanksgiving.

Meadow School

Clickers

Clickers, computers, and cords? Oh my! The students in Mrs. Karen Anderson's fourth grade classroom at Meadow School use all sorts of "gizmos and gadgets" that help them learn and explore the curriculum mandated by New York State. Innovate forms of technology have made learning more fun and interactive for the students. For example, the students are using the Classroom Performance System that provides each student with a remote clicker. Using questions and games that are entered into a computer program by the classroom teacher, students respond individually by aiming their clicker toward a sensor. The computer instantly scores the responses and provides immediate feedback to the children and the teacher. Study guides can be generated instantly to provide help for all students. The students love using the advanced technology which generates enthusiasm for learning.

The students in Mrs. Anderson's class also use a projector and document camera to enhance their learning. For example, when the class writes a journal response for reading or



solves a math problem, they then place their work on the document camera. All the classmates can learn from their shared responses. Lastly, the students are also using computers in the classroom. Currently, they are creating PowerPoint presentations for their unit of study on the Iroquois tribe.

These current forms of technology are exciting for the students, while also producing tremendous academic achievement, too!



Math Camp

For the past few weeks in Mrs. Reading's class, we have been going to math camp. We have camp shirts to wear as we hike down to the computer lab. Once we are there we get right to work on our math facts. We are trying to memorize all of the addition and subtraction facts to 20. We test ourselves to see how many problems we can answer in 2 minutes. Each child is racing against their own best time. We also have fun sitting around the campfire singing math camp songs. We have a tent where we sit to sing and read. Last week we even had s'mores for snack time.





High School

Literacy is More Than Reading and Writing

As educators it is our responsibility to equip students with the skills, knowledge and experiences they need to be successful adults after they leave the high school. And given the current financial crisis, this task must include financial literacy.

The focus of the Financial Management class is on personal finance and one of the most lucrative career choices today, the Financial Planner. First, students learn to set goals based on a future lifestyle and make plans to achieve

that way of life. Since many have college as their short term goal, Shawn Glogowski of Financial Planning Coordinators came in to discuss savings plans and his role as a college financial planner.

Next, they discuss diversification, risk tolerance and contingency plans for life's changes. James Carey of Edward Jones came in to talk to them about the level of acceptable risk and the importance of being flexible and prepared.

Since investing becomes a major part of wealth management, Taylor Devices, Inc. invited the students to attend a stockholders meeting. Also, Fred Press of NAF (National Academy Foundation) introduced the Stock Market Game, and the students spend the first 10 minutes of class investing in

stocks, mutual funds, and bonds. On December 12, the winning team will host a pizza party.

The remainder of the class will be devoted to protecting assets, looking to retirement, consumer rights and responsibilities, and ethics. In preparation for insurance discussions and to introduce a related career field, Andrew Leon, actuary for Blue Cross and Blue Shield, spoke to the students about the statistics that drive the prices and decisions of insurance companies and other corporations that must prepare for the future.

Both Mr. Glogowski (2001) and Mr. Leon (1998) are commendable examples of North Tonawanda graduates who give back to their community. Although the majority of the students in the

class are in the Academy of Finance, students can take this class as an elective. For their personal well being, as well as an introduction to excellent career opportunities, students should be encouraged to take this class.



Shawn Glogowski giving college planning advice to Iain Thompson

New Class of Freshman Inducted into the Academy of Engineering and Architecture

On September 29th the third group of freshmen were inducted into the **Academy of Engineering and Architecture**. This year's group includes eighteen new students who are interested in careers in Engineering, Architecture and Design.

The four year high school program encompasses careers related to the high demand design fields which are some of the highest paid professions in the country. The students take classes that cover a wide range of academic subjects in the fields of **science, math, art and technology**. The courses taken during their high school career are designed to develop their creative problem-solving and critical thinking skills. They learn the skills of **mechanical drawing design model building and computer aided drafting**. The projects that they are engaged with are based on real world engineering and architectural applications.

Some of the highlights for the academy students this year will be design competitions against other schools. They will be participating in a balsa wood bridge building contest, sumo robot design and building, a trebuchet design and launching contest and Science Olympiad. The students will also take field trips to **Moog** in East Aurora to see their engineering and manufacturing departments and travel to Pennsylvania to see the **Frank Lloyd Wright** architectural masterpiece; **Fallingwater**.

The eighteen inductees were hand picked from a group of twenty five applicants based on interest in architecture and engineering, grades and attendance. Each student had to fill out an application form and write an essay explaining why they are interested in these careers and why they should be chosen for the

academy. The advisory board would like to congratulate this years inductees: Colton Austey, Nick Duerr, Mike Grimaldi, John Kenyon, Ashley Leithner, Dylan Loper, Ryan Marriott, Zach McCabe, Jossy Odonnell, Cris Papay, Dan Pederson, Kevin Petrovski, Chris Romain, Julia Schroeder, John Scozzafava, Josh Snopkowski, Will Swart, Catherine Wagner.



Keyboarding

Students in North Tonawanda High School have the opportunity to master skills that will benefit them as students in the classroom, current and future employees, and proficient users of technology for the rest of their lives. The first skills that should be acquired is touch key typing. This is taught in the keyboarding course that is offered exclusively at the high school. Only a handful of students will be able to develop skills to keyboard without looking at the keys unless they have adequate instruction and practice to master this skill. Extensive research has shown the touch typing technique to be the superior means of using data-entry devices. Communication with their personal computers will be faster and the users will also be able to concentrate on their work more because their typing will be nearly automatic. Keyboarding skills also go hand in hand with the mandatory Personal Computer Skills class where students are taught a variety of Microsoft Office Software applications.

Mastering the universal foundation

skills of keyboarding and personal computer skills prepares students for success in academic, professional and personal endeavors both at North Tonawanda High School and as lifelong learners in a rapidly evolving world. As students plan their future schedules, classes that will teach skills that they will use the rest of their lives are of great importance.

Students Visit Moog

Western New York has a hidden jewel in East Aurora; Moog Inc. Moog designs and even builds hydraulic, electrical and hybrid motion control devices for a wide range of industrial applications. These can be found throughout the world from flight simulators, the Spiderman ride at Universal Studios in Orlando, Space Shuttles and Wind Turbines. Moog operates facilities in 24 countries with over 6500 employees, and brought in 1.9 billion dollars last year alone. In a time of economic hardship it's a blessing that Western New York has a business that is growing and providing opportunities for good paying jobs.

For the students involved with the Academy of Engineering and Architecture, this trip was an eye opening and inspirational experience into the lives of professionals working in the design and manufacturing fields that they are studying about in the hopes of one day working on breakthrough technologies themselves.



Academy students and advisors in front of one of Moog's simulator tables



Welcome New Staff

New Teachers at NTMS



There are 6 new teachers at NTMS this year. We are extremely delighted to introduce them to you.

First we have three new additions to the remedial department. Sara Skierczynski is our new 7th grade remedial reading teacher. Sara is certified in both Literacy 6-12 and Social Studies 7-12. Sara was a teacher at Notre Dame Academy in South Buffalo.

Jayne Garlapow and Heather Ricciutti are our new 7th and 8th grade remedial math teachers. Jayne comes to us from the Hamburg Central School System and Heather taught at Niagara Catholic High School.

Ben Ladik is currently a new social studies teacher on the 7C/8C team. He has worked at NTHS in the extended school day program and as a substitute teacher.



We have two part time positions this year. Mrs. Gianadda is working as a part time art teacher. Mrs. Gianadda worked at Spruce and Meadow Elementary school during the 07-08 school year and we are happy to have her at NTMS.

Mrs. Feldman is working part time as a Physical Education Teacher. Mrs. Feldman has previously worked in North Tonawanda as a substitute teacher.



All are wonderful additions to NTMS!

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

The North Tonawanda City School District appointed Miss Kathleen M. Ellis to the position of Director of Curriculum and Instruction on Tuesday, September 9th, 2008. Kate Ellis comes to the district with thirteen years in education as a secondary English teacher in the neighboring Tonawanda City School District where she built a reputation as a dedicated child advocate, devoting a great deal of her personal time to ensure that students had real world experiences beyond the school day. The North Tonawanda City School District welcomes Miss Ellis to its administrative team.

Miss Ellis has committed many years of professional development and study to curriculum and instruction and served as a teacher leader in the area of curriculum

mapping in her previous district. In addition, Miss Ellis has extensive knowledge of instructional strategies and will work closely with teachers in the district to ensure that student achievement is aligned to classroom curriculum. For three years, she has been a major contributor to the Regional Deep Curriculum Alignment Project facilitated through Erie 1 BOCES involving roughly one hundred educators from WNY charged with building a deeply aligned, regional K-12 curriculum. Additionally, Miss Ellis' expertise in ELA and content area literacy strategies will support the district initiative to increase current reading and writing achievement across the curriculum.

Miss Ellis is a life-long Niagara County resident who received her Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education from Niagara University

and two Masters Degrees in Foundations of Teaching and Educational Leadership from the same university. She comes highly recommended from the Tonawanda City School District where she was an involved teacher and served her last year as a Teacher on Special Assignment as an administrator in the district.

"I am so excited to be a part of a district that is poised for greatness. North Tonawanda teachers and administrators are dedicated to helping students achieve excellence and I am eager to begin working with each of them to ensure academic success for all students in the district."



NT SPIRIT

Universal Pre-K



UPK Visits Kelkenberg Farm

On Thursday, October 2nd and Friday, October 3rd, 2008, the NT UPK program traveled to Kelkenberg Farm for their annual farm visit. This hands-on field trip is both educational and fun for our youngsters. Once arriving at the farm on their first bus ride, small groups of students take part in a variety of activities including a hayride to a pumpkin patch where each child selects a pumpkin to take home, pony rides, a corn maze, and tours of barns where the children are introduced to a variety of animals and learn about their eating habits and care. During the barn tours, students observe chickens, turkeys, rabbits, horses, ponies, mules, goats, pigs, and sheep. In addition to learning about each animal and observing them in their habitats, students also get to brush a horse and milk a goat. The UPK program would like to thank the many parent volunteers who attended for helping to make this field trip a safe and wonderful learning experience for all.



Global Connect

The North Tonawanda City School District is now using "Global Connect" to contact parents when schools will be closed. If you move or get a new phone number it is very important to let the office at your child's school know as soon as possible. We will still notify the television and radio stations.

Emergency Information

Radio Stations:

WGR	550	AM
WBEN	930	AM
WNED	970	AM
WECK	1230	AM
WBUF	92.9	FM
WBLK	93.7	FM
WJYE	96.1	FM
WKSE	98.5	FM
WYRK	106.5	FM

Television Stations:

WGRZ	Channel 2
WIVB	Channel 4
WKBW	Channel 7

Emergency Informational

Websites:
 Criminaljustice.state.ny.us
 Redcross.org
 Ferma.gov

We Have a New Website!!
<http://www.ntschoools.org>



KUDOS



* Gregory Hoffman, a Junior at NTHS, was selected to represent the Western Region as a finalist for the Scholastic Soccer Division in the Empire State Games. To be chosen, participants try out in their region to qualify for the finals along with many other athletes from Rochester and the surrounding Buffalo area. Greg has been involved in soccer since he was three years old and has played for a variety of elite soccer clubs throughout WNY. Greg currently is the midfielder for the Varsity Squad for NTHS. Congrats Greg!

* Dick Grapes was honored for his long-time service to NTHS. The press box at the Lumberjacks Sports Complex will now be known as the "Dick Grapes Press Box". Mr. Grapes is in his 50th season as the football team's public address announcer. Mr. Grapes replaced Earl Tierney when he stepped aside from the PA job in 1958. It's a job he's held for more than 200 NT games. He is also a member of the Kiwanis Club and founding member of the NT Football Hall of Fame. Thank you for a job well done!

Computer Skills Department News

Everyone is excited about using computers!!! We're finding that most students know a little about computers by the time they start kindergarten. More often than not, kindergarten students have some computer experience that pays off in big dividends when starting school. This year we didn't have to spend months teaching our youngest students how to click the mouse, or drag an object from one spot to another. In no time at all, kindergarten students were starting keyboarding practice and navigating the Internet to work on educational programs such as Sounds of Letters through Reading Lesson, Upper and Lower Case alphabet games through the Literacy Center, and in honor of Halloween, children navigated an Internet story called *Monsters in the Dark*.

So what does this all mean? Not too long ago the concepts 1st and 2nd graders were learning are now being taught to kindergarten students and these youngsters are doing a great job of mastering them. Each year the scope of what is taught in the computer lab broadens and deepens at every grade level. More is taught, and by the time students graduate from high school, they have better computer skills than the graduating classes before them. This is extremely important because today almost every career path demands some computer knowledge and skill.

Keep up the good work parents. Together, we make a good team!

Article by Artie McAuliffe
 Computer Skills Department

New Technology Aspect at NTHS

In addition to the 60 plus computers that are housed in the computer labs at North Tonawanda High School, the school district has just added 2 new pieces of equipment to their technological arsenal. The first of the exciting elements is a new SMART board with a mounted projector. For those who may not be familiar with this product, a SMART board is a whiteboard or an information board with digital interactive technology. Information can be displayed from a computer onto the board; you can write on the board as well as load information from other sources onto it for display.

With SMART board interactive whiteboards teachers can integrate digital information into teaching, presenting, and brainstorming. With the use of this new interactive board, students are not only engaged in activities related to the board's use, but are anxious and excited to use the new equipment. The possibilities of this educational tool are limitless.

Along with the SMART board, the interactive software that accompanies the product is absolutely amazing; the program covers every subject and grade level. Teachers have a wealth of templates, data rich resources and fun activities that will no doubt grab the student's attention.

As well as the SMART board, the Computer Skills department has just purchased a new digital camera for use in the computer labs. This form of technology will aid the students in developing various projects ranging from creating slideshows to making short digital movies.

It is always enjoyable to see the students return to school with a new attitude, as they look toward their educational career. This school year has been quite an eye opener, seeing the amount of excitement that has been shown at the High School due to these new technological additions to the computer labs.

Article by Carley Ellis
 Computer Skills Department