

City School District Tonawanda

A publication of the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education

WINTER 2019

Three Board of Education Seats Available

Board petitions are now available for anyone interested in running for the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education.

There will be three openings on the board for the May 21, 2019 election. Members will serve a three-year term commencing July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2022. Petitions are available at the board office located at 100 Hinds St. between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., as well as before and after any public board meeting.

Petitions must be signed by at least 100 eligible/qualified voters. Completed petitions must be filed with the board clerk by 5 p.m. on May 1. You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, a resident of the district for one school year prior to the election and able to read and write.

Visit our Website

Go to www.tonawandacsd.org for important information regarding the District, including registration, news, menus, access to the Parent Portal, important notifications and events.

Follow Us

Stay in the loop by following our Tonawanda Schools Twitter account, @TonawandaCSD.



Theatre Students Participate in State Conference for First Time

This January, Tonawanda High School students participated for the first time ever in the 22nd Annual New York State Theatre Education Association Student Conference in Callicoon, NY. NYSTEA is a strong, statewide organization of theatre educators who promote and support theatre education for students in grades pre-K through 12. NYSTEA believes that theatre is an essential component of education for all students. Studying theatre in schools develops abilities needed for the 21st century, including communication, cooperation, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, applications of technology, social responsibility and creativity.



These students attend 5 individually-chosen workshops given by a wide range of professional artists; teachers from colleges, universities, and other high schools; as well as many other theatre professionals. This was a tremendous way to experience and learn from a variety of different people, as well as a great way to network, build friendships, and meet new people with shared passions.

“It was the most fun I’ve ever had in my years of theatre,” said Emily Kuhn, a senior at Tonawanda. “I learned so much and I’m so glad I got to experience it with my cast mates.”

For the Student Conference delegates, this conference is a highlight of their high school career. In the over 120 workshop offerings, students received expert instruction in technical theatre, acting, dance, voice and various other performance mediums such as aerial arts, film-making, and more. Meeting and sharing interests with other similarly-minded students from every region of the state is paramount in working collaboratively, gaining self-confidence, and exploring new areas of learning.

Allison Garippo shared, “Not only did I grow closer to the people I already knew, but I made new friends from across the state, and I learned so many new things about creating characters, acting, mindful use of the stage, and so much more that will help me with theatre in the future.”

The six THS students who participated were Allison Garippo, Alyssa King, Emily Kuhn, Sarah Maxwell, Haylee Morris, and Ciara Shockley. They were accompanied by THS Theatre Director Jennifer Mysliwy. She was proud of how Tonawanda’s talented students represented themselves, as well as their school district and community. “This weekend conference offered so much for educators and students alike. It was an opportunity we won’t soon forget, and I am already looking forward to taking a new group of students next year!”

Message from the Superintendent:

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members:

This 2018-2019 school year has been an incredible journey. Our students continue to make impressive strides in their scholarly, athletic, artistic, and personal achievements. The Tonawanda City School District provides a comprehensive academic program for all students. The connectivity and care that is provided by our support staff, teachers, and administrators allows our students to strive for excellence and reach their goals. Another example of Warrior Pride!

Our curricular and extra-curricular programs have been a constant focus of our district as we work to engage each student each day. The support of our community has had a



significant role in the development and success of our programs such as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics), the performing arts, athletics and booster clubs, community service, charity events, and other activities that define what it means to be a Warrior.

As you may have heard, we are continuing to plan and prepare for the final phase of the TONA2020 project. In past years, we have addressed areas of our organization that included athletic fields, physical education spaces, science labs, art and music classrooms, and a fitness center and track with community access. The final stage of this project, based on numerous studies and recommendations from focus groups and community participants, is the consolidation and streamlining of our school system.

Our focus for this project centers around:

- **School Safety**

- While we have taken significant strides in ensuring the safety of our students and staff members in our

buildings, the logistical design of our current buildings does not align with contemporary safety protocols.

- **Student Achievement and Support**

- We are confident that our students will be better served by our staff members to meet their diverse and unique needs while attending grades UPK-5 in the same building. Students and families changing schools as often as our current school configuration provides challenges. A single elementary school will allow for increased student achievement and stronger parental engagement and relationships with staff members.

- **Aging Facilities**

- The infrastructure in our three elementary buildings need significant maintenance, repair, and replacement. We continue to spend a significant amount of financial resources on inefficient and archaic equipment and machinery.

- **A Conservative and Responsible Vision for Future Tax Implications on Our Taxpayers**

- We value our ability to remain within the NYS mandated tax cap, providing eligible taxpayers with an annual rebate from the state.

We recognize that for our district to continue to meet all of these local mandates of our community members, we need to adapt to what is the new normal of operations.

Our district looks forward to the opportunity to meet with the community and further discuss our planned consolidation and streamlining of our schools. As our planning and preparation continues in the coming months, we will



be sharing factual information and details of this final phase of the TONA2020 project.

This project is scheduled to be presented to the voters in our community in the Fall of 2019.

As we anticipate the culmination of another great year of achievement in the Tonawanda City School District, I want to thank and recognize all of the faculty and staff for their tremendous dedication and efforts throughout this school year. There are countless examples of these fine individuals providing guidance, support, and care to the students of our district. I am grateful for the daily efforts and compassion offered each and every day to our students, families, and community.

I am honored and proud to serve as Superintendent of Schools for this district, work with this dynamic staff on a daily basis, and serve the wonderful students, families, and community members of the City of Tonawanda.

Your continued support is recognized and appreciated. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you at a future event. Please consider contacting me at toldenburg@tonacsd.org or 716-694-7784 should you have any concerns. Go Warriors!

Kind regards,



Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools





Fletcher School Serves Veterans Breakfast

This school year, Fletcher students put smiles on some veterans' faces by starting a new tradition of a Veterans Day Breakfast.

Students were invited to bring a veteran that they know to Fletcher School for breakfast on Tuesday, Nov. 13. Members of the Tonawanda Kiwanis Club and District Superintendent Dr. Timothy Oldenburg helped celebrate and thank our invited vets.



Fletcher student Aidan Guest sits with a few veterans at the breakfast.

The students and vets enjoyed treats provided by the Fletcher staff and the PTSA. Cards were made for each veteran by students thanking them for their service and contributions. Around 100 people were in attendance this year and it is expected the event will grow even more in popularity next year!

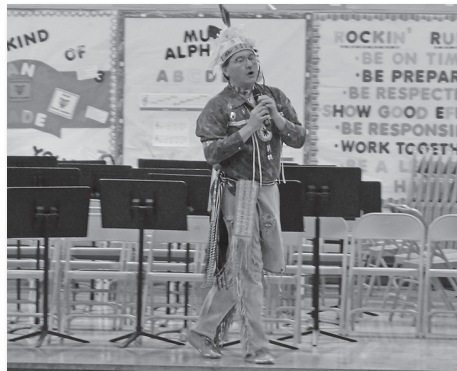
Fletcher Hosts Native American Speaker Perry Ground

The students of Fletcher Elementary School were heard laughing and giggling recently to the stories of the Native American speaker, Perry Ground.

Ground, an engaging Haudenosaunee storyteller, is an author and a speaker and is a member of the Turtle Clan in the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy.

Having been a storyteller and educator for over 25 years, Ground easily captivated the students with his highly interactive stories teaching the students about the history and culture of the Native American people.

This event was sponsored and arranged by the Fletcher School PTSA.



News from Food Services

As a reminder, the District participates in the New York State Child Nutrition Program. This past year, our elementary schools were granted participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, which allows for free breakfast and lunch for all of our elementary students, regardless of household income.

This program will continue for the 2019-20 school year, as well. Households of elementary students will be asked to submit the annual CEP Household Income Form and households of Middle and High School students will complete the Free and Reduced Application. Both forms will be available on the website, www.tonawandacsd.org, in July. It can be found under the Food Services section.

In other news, students and families can now access their MySchoolBucks account on the mobile app! Just download the app and enter your credentials. Visit the Food Services page on our website and click "Student Meal Accounts – MySchoolBucks."

Mullen Special Ed Teacher Earns Silver Apple Award

Amy Feldmann, a 12:1:1 special education teacher at Mullen Elementary, earned the Silver Apple Award, which recognizes excellence in special education.

According to Alison Parzych, an Erie 1 BOCES regional special education training specialist who created the award, "Amy implements an effective and efficient progress monitoring system with ease, writes measurable annual goals based on data collected, and collaborates with her colleagues in writing beyond compliant IEPs."

She continues on, "Amy is attentive to her students' needs by changing her instruction based on progress monitoring data. She digs deep to find the root of the cause for her students' needs areas and targets them with specially designed instruction. This makes Amy the perfect candidate for the Silver Apple Award!"

The Silver Apple Award lets teachers know their work ethic is appreciated. It shines a spotlight on teachers who are innovative or adapt/adopt the practices shared with them during trainings.



Amy Feldmann with her Silver Apple award and Alison Parzych, who created the award.



Mullen Excited to Have New Principal

Diana Nigro is currently in her first year as the principal at Mullen Elementary.



She has worked in the education field as a teacher and administrator for almost 13 years. Diana is committed to building positive relationships with students and their families, and is focused on the personal and academic success of every student. She is honored to be a part of this incredible community and is proud to be a Warrior!

New Principal Joins Fletcher Family

Michelle Siebert is the new principal at Fletcher Elementary.

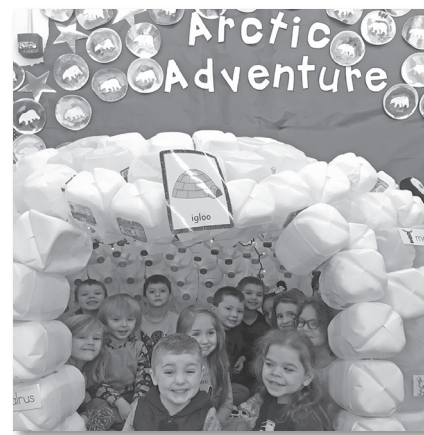


She is very excited to be a part of the Tonawanda City School District, working with our children and families. She has 16 years of experience as an elementary teacher. In addition, she has four years of experience as an Elementary Assistant Principal before becoming an Elementary Principal for the last six years.

UPK Class Builds Igloo as Part of an Arctic Adventure

Mrs. Smith's Universal Pre-K class embarked on an Arctic Adventure after the holidays! With the help of the Tonawanda DPW, they built an igloo out of milk jugs and explored all things cold, including polar animals, snow and ice!

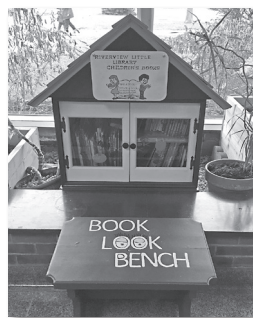
Once the igloo was complete, the igloo became interactive! Mrs. Smith hung up stories with QR codes inside the igloo and the students could go inside, get cozy and listen to a story of their choice on iPads. This was a fun, thematic unit for the class, especially because there was weather as cold as Antarctica during it!



Riverview Students Enjoy Glenn Colton Concert

Students at Riverview Elementary got the chance to dance and sing the afternoon away during a high-energy concert by children's musician and Buffalo Music Hall of Famer Glenn Colton.

Mr. Colton performed a number of holiday tunes, including "O Christmas Tree," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." He also performed other interactive songs, including "Cupid Shuffle," which got the students standing and dancing!



Little Free Library Installed at Riverview

Riverview Elementary has a new Little Free Library for students!

Inside the school, kids can come down to take books out and read them, with the option of keeping them if they like them! Kids are also welcome to donate books they no longer want to this little library. Much different than the library at the school!

A special thank you goes out to our stationary engineer Mark Kingston for building this little library! Painting was done by Mandy Sampson. Mandy has put together the books in the little library and switches them out for different holidays for kids. She is currently working with Mrs. Volpe and the teachers to find ways for kids to use it, and maybe some incentives to promote the love of reading!



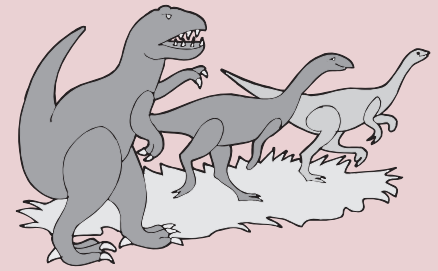
Fish Art Project Teaches Students There is “Only One You”

When the Fletcher principal, Mrs. Siebert, approached Ms. Walter about using the book “Only One You” by Linda Kranz as inspiration for a school-wide art project, Ms. Walter was instantly excited. The book sends a very positive message: that we are all unique and one of a kind.

A recording of Mrs. Siebert reading the book played simultaneously as Ms. Walter projected the pictures from the book on a large screen. The students were thrilled to hear Mrs. Siebert read the book while they were also able to read along.

If their interest wasn't already piqued, making their own unique “fish” caught their attention, along with the information that the fish would be displayed in the cafeteria for the whole school to see. As Ms. Walter was putting the fish displays together, she let each student identify their work by signing their name on it. It was a fun process when the students were able to see their fish swimming among the others.

As the fish were hung in the cafeteria, all the students were excited to see them. The fish have been on display for a couple weeks now, and we still hear the students commenting on the artwork with each other!



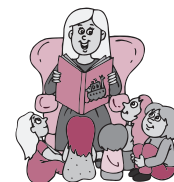
UPK Class Turns the Clock Back to Time of Dinosaurs

The Universal Pre-Kindergarten class at Riverview has been working hard, with one of their fun activities involving dinosaurs as part of Jurassic January! Students were able to become paleontologists and learn all about the prehistoric creatures!



Riverview Class Has First Mystery Reader of the Year

Whitney Tracy's 8:1:1 class at Riverview had a surprise guest for their first Mystery Reader of the year – Superintendent Dr. Timothy Oldenburg! Dr. Oldenburg helped reinforce the weekly reading strategy of “chunking” while reading “The Book with No Pictures” by B.J. Novak.





Daily Video Announcements now Available Online

Tonawanda Middle/High School has created a new school video website called TribeTribune! The site houses the daily morning announcements, along with other videos created throughout the year.

Each morning, homeroom teachers play the video announcements to keep the students up to date with events. The videos are available for the public to view to keep parents and guardians informed on important events, meetings and other items.

To view what the students at the Middle/High School are up to, visit the TribeTribune website at www.sites.google.com/tonacsd.org/tribetribune.



Santa Grams a Hit Once Again for High School

The high school participated in the annual Santa Grams this past holiday season. Students and staff were able to send fun little messages to others in the building with a little treat attached!

Alexis Verrall and Meadow Wright were dressed as elves for the Santa Grams, while Pat Carney was dressed as Santa. This year, Michael Johnston and Nick Gardner played live Christmas music on their instruments as the group walked around from class to class to deliver the grams!

Seventh-graders Create Sweet Treats at Cupcake Wars

Tonawanda seventh-graders squared off in December during a Cupcake Wars competition, hosted by the Erie 1 BOCES Kenton Career & Technical Center.

After the preliminary rounds in Home & Careers teacher Valerie Velasquez's classroom, 18 students from four winning teams experienced the main event at Kenton, competing in the winter-themed Cupcake Wars. The teams had two hours to bake and decorate 36 cupcakes. They also had to incorporate a secret ingredient in their cupcakes – cinnamon, peanut butter, peppermint or almond extract.



Seventh-graders Skylar Fess and Faith Dillon race against the clock to bake cupcakes.

Judges inspected and tasted the cupcakes and awarded first, second, third and fourth place. Judging the cupcakes were Mary Beth Scullion, assistant superintendent; Dave Sellan, Middle School principal; Heather Sternin, Tonawanda School Board president; Megan Hamm, social worker; and Chuck Gilbert, assistant to the Tonawanda city mayor.

Erie 1 BOCES Baking & Pastry Arts students offered tips and assistance for the middle school teams during the competition. The winning team made a snowflake cupcake and included Theresa Beras, Alexander Brown, Matthew Chudy, Skylar Fess, Faith Pilon and Isabella Varecka.

The event was a collaboration between Mrs. Velasquez and Erie 1 BOCES Baking & Pastry Arts instructor Meghan Schaller. The partnership is designed to complement instruction in family & consumer science (FACS), technology, health and art.

Alumna Talks to Middle School about Dangers of Tobacco

In January, our middle school students sat in an anti-tobacco/e-cigarette presentation during one of their physical education classes. Tonawanda alumna Lindsay Amico from Roswell Park came in to discuss with the students the dangers and marketing strategies of the tobacco industry, as well the growing vaping issue among youth.



The students were actively engaged in the presentation, asking lots of questions and sharing their thoughts on the topic. At the end of the presentation, students were able to sign up to join Reality Check, a youth-led program that focuses on the manipulative tactics of the tobacco industry and creating tobacco-free environments.



Senior Paris Miller Represents New York State at Girls Nation

Tonawanda High School Senior Paris Miller received a once-in-a-lifetime experience when she was selected to represent all of New York State at the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls Nation over the summer.

After attending Girls State at SUNY Brockport in July, Paris became one of two girls in the state to head to Washington, D.C. for a week for the national youth leadership conference as "senators." Each year, 7,000 girls participate in Girls State programs across the nation. Among them, only 100 are selected to participate in Girls Nation.

Paris is the first student at Tonawanda who was selected to attend at the national level.

At Girls Nation, Paris learned the importance of civic engagement and how she herself could become a more involved citizen. She got the chance to meet with New York's actual senators, Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, as well as Vice President Mike Pence. She also worked on a legislative proposal with her fellow Girls Nation "senator" from New York. The proposal would remove fast food signs and advertisements on the sides of roadways, with the goal of trying to encourage people to stop eating as much junk food.

A USA TODAY reporter interviewed Paris for an article on Girls Nation, titled, "As more women run for office, these teenagers represent the future of civic engagement."

"This conference taught me so much about civic engagement and leadership in our government, and I'm so honored to have been selected for this opportunity," Paris said. "I definitely feel like this gave me a leg up in figuring out my plans for the future. I would like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary for having the confidence in me to be a part of this elite legacy of girls across our nation."



Paris at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building at the White House.

MS/HS Implements Warrior Way Spotlight

With the Warrior Way a constant motto throughout each school, the Middle and High Schools have dedicated a bulletin board to recognizing students who follow that motto.

Every month, each department selects a student living the Warrior Way, which is to be respectful, be responsible and be safe. Those who are selected have their picture displayed on the Warrior Way Spotlight. They also get a letter sent home and receive a special prize or perks.



Eighth-grade student Madison Nedell, who was recognized in the Warrior Way Spotlight, and Middle School Principal David Sellan.

Middle School Now Giving Out "On A Roll" Certificates

A new program has started at the Middle School!

Staff members noticed there are some students that work extremely hard during a marking period, but just miss the honor roll. Teachers at each grade level felt that these students needed to be recognized for their academic efforts.

To honor these students and acknowledge their hard work has not gone unnoticed, they are awarded an "On A Roll" certificate. In addition, a letter is sent home and they are invited to a pizza party at the end of the marking period.

The overall goal for the Middle School is that these children that have been recognized will pass the word on to their friends and peers. Eventually as the word spreads, more students who struggle will be "On a Roll" themselves!

The first On A Roll recipients include Spencer Pfennig, Matthew Chudy, Aaron Meinzer, Joe Jopp, Madeleine Guthrie, Ashley Rauth, Amarianna Doctor and Elijah Kasprzak.



The first "On A Roll" students with their certificates.



Spots Available for 8th Grade Trip to DC

There are approximately 10 spots still available for the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. on May 21 -23. The trip cost is currently \$649. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. O'Brocta at dobrocta@tonacsd.org.



New Athletic Director Excited for Future

Ben Morton will serve as the Director of Athletics, PE and Health, as well as the Middle School Dean of Students.



He is excited to continue to foster a positive environment that promotes academic achievement for all students while nurturing their social and emotional growth in his role as Dean of Students. He is also thrilled to continue to build upon the strong athletic tradition at Tonawanda City Schools as the new AD.

Morton has been a PE/Health teacher for over 7 years and a coach of multiple sports at various levels for over 10 years. He resides in North Buffalo with his wife Michelle and their dog Leonard.

Varsity & Junior Varsity Cheer 2019



Front Row: Drew Meier,

Chloe Roetzer, Samantha Shotwell, Rachel Stryker, Lynzy Miller, Julia Braddell, Jordyn Gilbert, Della Sieski, Sydney MacClellan and Sydney Miller.

Second Row: Paige Dumais, Brianna Schneider, Elysia Diaz, Aryana Slocumb, Michaela Robertson, Brooke Pieszala, April Culp, Alexis Dunn, Emily Jenkins, Megan Buczkowski, Angelina Illas and Alexis Pobrite. Coached by Jessica Haskill (Varsity) and Ashley Morris (JV).

The Varsity team was named ECIC Division 2 Champions!



Fletcher School Volleyball... The Holiday Tradition Continues!

The month of December at Fletcher Elementary School was the setting for the seventh annual holiday volleyball tournament.

All students practiced skills, learned teamwork, and played in competitive games during their physical education classes, where records were kept for each team throughout the month. Their practice culminated in a single elimination tournament held on the final day of school before the holiday break.

Twelve teams from each grade level competed in the tournament. In 4th grade, the Red team from Mrs. Kennedy's class won the championship, and in 5th grade, the Green team from Mrs. Rice's class brought home the title.

Pictured are some of the teams as they are being cheered on by the crowd. Way to go, Fletcher!



Girls Varsity Basketball has New Head Coach

Amanda Jaworski entered her first year as Girls Varsity Basketball coach with over 10 years in the basketball program – 8 as the Modified Girls coach and 2 as the JV coach.

“It has been quite an awesome adventure to see how much these girls have grown as players and as young women since I worked with them back at the modified level,” Jaworski noted. “Each member of the squad has played a pivotal role, and I am so proud to have all of these girls on the team, supporting each other and honing their skills.”

The squad this year includes three sophomores – returning post player Maddy Janowsky, first-year forward/center Kaitlyn Wood and guard/forward Lexus Frears.

Hannah Hamill is the only junior on this year's squad who was a member of last year's varsity team. Junior Madylyn Taylor is one of three tri-captains. She is a forward who can also play guard on demand.

Rounding out the squad are senior co-captains Kayla Dalke and Alexis Verrall, along with senior Marra Bukowski.

“In the beginning of the season, I had the players write down three goals they'd like to achieve this winter. Each player has been trying their best and acknowledging how the varsity level is much different than JV,” Jaworski said. “Our speed and pressure have been our weapons, even though the scoreboard sometimes doesn't show how hard these ladies truly work. There has been much growth and I am looking forward to the future for these girls.”



High School Concert Chorale Performs with the Pros

On Oct. 20, 2018, THS concert chorale sang with Starring Buffalo, a new performance organization that put on an inaugural concert performance of the musical “The Hunchback of Notre Dame.” After working on the music since the second week of school, they traveled to Buffalo State to perform on stage with local Buffalo performers, as well as Broadway professionals from New York City and Los Angeles.



On the day of dress rehearsal, the students were treated to a masterclass at the high school, held by Jonah Platt. He gave the group constructive feedback and told them about his life and career; he told the students that being a good person and making connections with others will take you farther than talent ever will!

The group had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Our students were not only commended for their musical preparation, they were respectful and represented our district well. Along with Mrs. Urbaniak, the students sang alongside the best in the business! After the show, the professionals took pictures with our students, making the experience even more memorable.

What Does Music and Theatre Mean To You?

Mary Zastrow, Grade 10: *“For me, musical theatre is another form of education. I’ve learned something from every performance I’m a part of. Sometimes it’s a history lesson, other times it can be a real-life situation that confronts us all as human beings.”*

Abigail Woolcott, Grade 12: *“The music/theatre program is a group of people who have one thing in common and that is music or theatre. Because we all love what we do, we all become a family that is always there for each other. That is the best part of what this program is, knowing you’re not alone, you have this family behind you no matter what.”*

Allison Garippo, Grade 12: *“I know I’m not the only one who, without theatre, wouldn’t have any place to fit in. Working day and night to put together a show and then performing it live for the community and seeing all your hard work pay off is a truly magical feeling. I can’t express enough how grateful I am to not only have students who are passionate about putting together a show, but also that we have such amazing teachers who are willing to put in so much time and effort to make something that all of Tonawanda is proud of.”*

Middle School Students Try Their Hand at Theatrical Makeup

Eighth-grade students from the Middle School Art Enrichment class got the chance to have some fun with theatrical makeup as part of a new initiative with Erie 1 BOCES called Starry Night.

The students worked on recreating an original piece of art on paper using oil pastels in the classroom, then they traveled to the Kenton Career & Technical Center Cosmetology program to bring their artwork to life on their faces.

Starry Night is a partnership between Erie 1 BOCES Cosmetology & Career Exploration instructor Ana Fusco and Tonawanda Middle School Art teacher Hilary McAndrew.



Aaron Biggie shows off his artwork and theatrical makeup.

Riverview and Mullen Hold Combined Sing-along for Holidays

Riverview and Mullen Elementary Schools celebrated the holidays with a whole school sing-along.

Students in each grade level performed a special holiday song with motions. Songs included in the festivities were “O Christmas Tree,” “Happy Holiday,” “Winter Wonderland,” and “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree.” The Third-Grade Leadership Chorus also sang an animated choral piece called “Hot Chocolate.”

Following grade-level performances, the whole school joined together in singing “Jingle Bells” and “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.” Our teachers and staff even performed a song of their own! This was a wonderful way to spread holiday cheer before our winter break. Great singing, everyone!



Top Row (left to right): Jayden Basden, Cassey Woroniecki, Ruqaya Al Haddad, Marisol Doctor, Rebecca Kern and Addison Fitzpatrick-Scire. Middle Row: Mary Bayley, Jade Newman, Jordan Swanson, Rami Sattar, Mohammad Abbas, Lucy Jakubczak and Emma Ashcroft. Bottom/Front Row: Emma Genovese, Alina Zbieszkowski, Hannah Clemo-Sperrazza, Jeremiah Luhizo, Cameron Bartels, Peyton Smith and Brooklyn Heuser.



Riverview Garden Club Makes Bird Houses

During its first meeting of the year, the Garden Club at Riverview made bird houses out of milk jugs. The students were very excited and proud of their creations!

A Helping Hand at Halloween

The Middle School Service Club helped out during the PTSA's Trunk or Treat Halloween Party. Pictured are Della Sieteski, Natalie Fisher, Cindi Jaimes-Hix and James Ostrander.



High School Celebrates Holidays with Elf on a Shelf

The high school got into the holiday spirit with a fun "Elf on the Shelf" game! Students were tasked with finding the hidden elf each day when they came in to school. The lucky student who discovered the elf's whereabouts on any particular day would win a bag of holiday candy/treats for being the first person to find him. The bag also included a positive quote to spread to the school.

Students found the elf at all different periods of the day, depending on how good his hiding spot was. He even made it all the way to 7th period one day! He was found in all different locations, including the library, gym, classrooms, display cases, inside pop machines, hallways and other places. This was a fun activity that helped spread positivity and holiday cheer!



Aaron Kasprzak was one of the students who found the elf.

Riverview Collects Winter Clothing Items for Families in Need

During the holiday season, the Riverview students collected 183 winter mittens, socks, hats and scarves on holiday trees in the front hallway. These items were distributed in January at the Buffalo Dream Center at an event there called the Table of Grace.

The Goeddertz family helped to distribute the items. Riverview student Jacob and his father are pictured at the event.



Warrior Wear Celebrates First Anniversary

Warrior Wear, the clothes closet located at Tonawanda MS/HS, celebrated its first anniversary in December! Over 100 families have come in for clothing during the first year!

On Dec. 15, there was a large holiday event in the Wellness Gym that coincided with Christmas for Kids. Clothes, shoes, coats and other winter gear filled the gymnasium and families were able to outfit all household members. There were over 100 coats available in a variety of sizes. It was so exciting to see so many families gathering the clothing that they needed.

Warrior Wear is happy to announce that it has relocated in the High School to a bigger space! There are jeans available in every size for both men/boys and women/girls on display, so it is easy to find your size. There are also clothes and shoes in all sizes – from infants to adults.

To visit the clothes closet, you will need to call the Pupil Personnel Services Office at (716) 694-7684 and schedule a time to come in. Appointments can be made at any time that is convenient for you! To enter the Tonawanda MS/HS, you need to have valid ID.

Warrior Wear is not just for students of Tonawanda; it is open to the entire community!



High School Student Artists Display Work in Public Library

Tonawanda High School students' collective work was put on display at the City of Tonawanda Public Library, 333 Main St., in January.

The title of the art show was "The Shape of Things." It included pieces from Elizabeth Randell's Visual Arts class: Emily Berry, Zach Dickson, Lucy Dietrich, Charlotte Doane, Jordyn Gilbert, Angelina Gonzalez, Morgan LaDue, Laura Leski, Jackie Udell-Lukacz, Morgan Weber, Kelsey Whipple and Kaitlyn Wood.



Students Decorate Classroom Doors for "Deck the Halls" Competition

Students in the high school got the chance to "Deck the Halls" for the holiday season as part of a friendly competition to see who could create the best classroom entryway. There were so many outstanding door decorations, which transformed the hallways into creative holiday wonderlands!

Teachers were able to pick one class period to be the "decoration class" for their door. Winners included the High School Library for Most Festive, Mr. Mercer's Period 3 class for Overall Best Door, Mrs. Kasprovicz's AP Biology class for Most Holiday School Spirit and Mrs. Randell's Period 5 AP Art students for Most Creative.

The competition was sponsored by the High School Student Council. This was the first time the contest took place, and the hope is this will continue as a yearly tradition!



Mr. Mercer's Period 3 class, Overall Best Door.



Mrs. Kasprovicz's AP Biology class, Most Holiday School Spirit.



Mrs. Randell's Period 5 AP Art, Most Creative.



High School Library, Most Festive.

Christmas for Kids a Huge Success Once Again

This year, the annual Christmas for Kids event, sponsored by the Tonawanda Senior High School Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS), was able to serve over 150 children at its party on Saturday, Dec. 15.

Families were able to enjoy breakfast and children were paired up with high school students to play games for prizes, including the ever-popular snowman and Grinch wet sponge toss, face painting, crafts and decorating cookies made by high school BOCES students. The highlight of the party was a story read by Mrs. Claus (Mrs. Scullion), and the big man himself, Santa Claus (Dr. Oldenburg).

Over 160 students from the senior high, teachers and administration attended the event and made Christmas for Kids possible with weeks of preparation and planning led by National Honor Society.

Much of the financial support for this event was gained through NHS fundraisers, donations from community businesses, individual contributions from community residents, and contributions from the district office, faculty and staff of Tonawanda Schools. This support enabled NHS to provide a bag of wrapped presents to the parents of each child attending the party to help brighten Christmas. National Honor Society was also thankful for donations from The Tonawanda City Police for new boots, the Jim Harsztrak Foundation for Christmas stocking hats, First Presbyterian Church on Broadway for bags of food and home-sewn tote bags filled with a book and crafts, along with Sports Physical Therapy of New York for new pajamas, mittens and socks.

The high school students seemed to benefit just as much as the younger children attending and both had a great time at this event!

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RESIDENT

New Business & Finance Director Joins District

Donna Hill joined the district administrative team in August as the Director of Business and Finance.



Previously, she had served as a School Business Administrator for the last 10 years after a successful career in the private sector. Donna holds permanent district and business administrative certifications, as well as a teaching certification in the Pupil Personnel content area.

Donna and her husband Rob are now “empty nesters,” with the last of their five children off to college this past fall. She is very excited to serve and support the students, staff and community here in Tonawanda.



Learning at Fletcher is Moving “Full Steam Ahead!”

Our district STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) program is being fully implemented at Fletcher Elementary School with students and teachers taking full advantage of the program to participate in a variety of activities.

The fifth graders explored 3D printing to discover how it is used in the real world and how it relates to their lives. Each fifth-grade student used the 3D printer to print their own individually created cookie cutter after exploring different cookie cutter designs and dimensions. The cutters were sent to the middle school home and careers class which then made, cut, and baked the cookies. The fifth graders then walked over to the middle school where they got a chance to meet with the eighth graders and together, they enjoyed decorating and eating their custom holiday cookies!



In addition to holiday treats, the fifth-grade classes have also used the STEAM lab at Fletcher School to model pollution by cleaning up an oil spill and planting a “garbage” garden to test the adaptations and effects of pollution on plant growth.

STEAM has moved “full steam ahead” with the fourth-grade students as well, as they have taken full advantage of the STEAM lab to explore the skeletal system by designing and creating robotic hands. In addition, using Stop Motion Studio software and Claymation to understand the concepts of rotation and revolution, the students used LEGOS to engineer and design Native American longhouses. The fourth-grade students have also endeavored into using Pixel art to explore and design Wampum belts, model weathering and erosion with sugar cubes, usage of Play-Doh for a hands-on activity in landform design, and have been introduced to computer and robotic coding.