

City School District Tonawanda

A publication of the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education

WINTER 2014

Wellness Room Opens at THS

The wellness room at Tonawanda High School, equipped with a variety of cardio, strength and core training equipment, opened in December for student and staff use. Built as part of the capital improvement project, the wellness area covers two floors. The space on the first floor will be used in a variety of ways by a variety of populations.

Since December it has been used by students in physical education classes. In the morning and again in the late afternoon and evening, the workout area is available to staff. In the afternoon, it is used by sports teams and then opened to the general student population. The planning stages are underway for opening the center to the community.

The space is ADA compliant and meets adaptive needs for all students. Equipped with ellipticals, adaptive motion trainers, treadmills, freeweight stations, core training stations, strength machines and virtual reality upright bikes, the workout options are numerous.

The workout space on the second floor will be used by sports teams and physical education classes. Students using the functional training stations and freeweight stations upstairs are required to go through training to learn how to use the equipment properly. Students in the area will always be supervised by a teacher or coach. Due to the training requirements, the second floor apparatus is not available to the community.



Using Toy Fruit to Make Multiplication Easier

If you thought fruit was just for eating, think again. Mullen third-graders in Jen Miranda and Patty Truskey's classroom are learning multiplication strategies. One way to solve multiplication problems is to make an array. Pictured are Jonathan Olka and Ariel Francis using bananas, oranges and grapes to manipulate and solve this math problem. By using Habit 6 and synergizing during their practice work, Jonathan and Ariel are using arrays to become successful. That is one healthy way to solve multiplication!

Child Find Notice

As part of the Child Find obligation, part 200 Regulations, the Tonawanda City School District is seeking information from parents regarding their children's learning. If you believe your child is not learning at the same rate as his/her peers and you suspect it is due to a disability, please contact the office of the Director of Pupil Personnel at 716-694-7684.

TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

New Stadium Makes Football Season Special

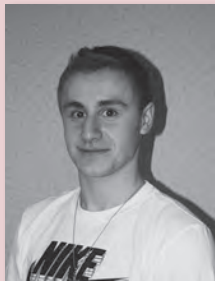


The opening of the new Clinton H. Small Stadium made the 2013 football season at Tonawanda High School a memorable one for the players.



Connor Pumm

Connor Pumm, a senior tight end and linebacker, said “For all athletes, the new field brought that feeling of playing in a big national championship game. Running out of the tunnel onto the field, with the music playing and the fans going crazy, there’s no better feeling in the world. Representing our school and its countless years of glorious tradition was phenomenal. Being the first to play on the state-of-the-art field was just indescribable.”



Paul Palladino

Paul Palladino, a senior linebacker on the team, said walking onto the field for the first season game against Lackawanna made him feel proud to be part of a team and district that had nice new fields. He noticed the support from the community that filled the bleachers during games.

“The number of people that came helped keep the intensity up and gave us extra incentive to fight for a win,” he said.



William Galley

“I felt confidence and a willingness to play hard,” said William Galley, a senior left offensive tackle and D line, about the first time walking onto the field. “It made me eager to win for the city,” said Galley. “I was grateful for every time on the field.”



District Goals 2013-2014

Focus On Instruction

The district shall provide a curriculum, instruction and programs for the effective education of all students.

Objectives:

1. Promote a positive school environment through the continuous use of programs such as Leader in Me, Rachel’s Challenge, Olweus Program, and Warrior Way and develop a mechanism to record events in order to measure progress.
2. Ensure that District curriculum aligns with Common Core Standards across all academic disciplines with the intent to increase achievement results over the prior year.
3. Positively affect District attendance and drop-out rates by strengthening the District’s RTI program, increasing attendance and graduation rates from prior year.

Focus On School And Community Relationships

The district shall promote a positive image and provide a pathway to continue building strong relationships with community, students and staff.

Objectives:

1. Continue to update and advise progress of the District initiatives. (Common Core, APPR, CDEP, School Climate and Budget)
2. Evaluate current and explore new means for the dissemination of District initiatives and information.
3. Incorporate the Task Force Model to encourage community input on District issues.
4. Appraise community members on the educational and financial changes within New York State.

Focus On Fiscal Stability And Facilities/Equipment

The district will continue to explore the effective use of district facilities in order to provide an improved educational environment and to control future costs of the district.

Objectives:

1. Proceed to implement the recommendations that affect the District athletic and educational facilities.
2. Present a balanced budget to the community that supports students and program while reflecting the current economic climate and legislative initiatives.
3. Continually monitor the status of all sources of revenue and take appropriate actions to accommodate any deficiency or surplus.
4. Evaluate and review aspects of the District transportation program.

TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Message from the Superintendent:

Dear Tonawanda Community Residents:

The second semester of the school year has begun. We have had a very interesting winter, weather wise, to say the least. We will continue to place the safety and security of students, faculty and staff at the forefront of our priorities in future decisions about emergency closings.

Unless you are an avid skier, I am sure most of you are looking forward to spring weather.

There are many exciting things happening in our district. I would like to focus on two of them--the Capital Project and TONA 2020.

Phase one of the project has been completed. Clinton H. Small Stadium is absolutely gorgeous. The artificial turf included a concussion pad underneath. The eight-lane track includes an area for the steeplechase event. Our track could be used for ECIC competitions since it meets all requirements necessary for an event. The wellness room was recently opened. It is a State of the Art facility with high level exercise equipment. Soon, the District website will have a registration form for community members to download if they would like to use the wellness room. There will be an annual fee, which will be used to pay for a supervisor who is AED/CPR certified.

Phase two of the capital project has begun. We are in the process of renovating the secondary building band and choral rooms. The band room ceiling will go from a height of 9' to an astounding 17'. New instrument storage lockers are being purchased and the room will be much larger than the existing band room. Acoustically, both rooms will have great sound and they will be aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

Other improvements included in the project include installation of technology and safety wiring in all of the buildings, construction of a security office in the secondary building and upgrading our phone system.

The entire project should be completed by the end of June.

The TONA 2020 committee has been meeting on an ongoing basis. The committee is researching the possibility of building one elementary campus at the Fletcher School site. We are reviewing program, staffing, and financial implications. Once a comprehensive plan is developed, the committee will make its recommendation to the Board of Education. The committee's goal for the construction of one elementary campus is completion of the project by the year 2020. The TONA 2020 motto is All Stakeholders, One Voice!

I have just surpassed my one-year anniversary as your school superintendent. I have been in the district for 15 years and absolutely love the close knit Tonawanda community. I appreciate your continued support of my leadership ability as superintendent. Go Warriors! Please do not hesitate to contact me at jnewton@tona.wnyric.org if you have a question or concern. Thank you.

Respectfully,

James P. Newton, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Above are pictures of the band and choral room renovation.

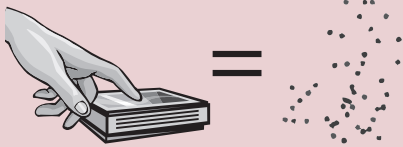
TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

New Cafeteria Program

A new program in the cafeteria developed by SL-Tech, the cafeteria software provider, will enable a child to access his or her meal account by using a sensor that identifies the child by the touch of his or her finger.

The new devices will replace the existing devices which used student ID cards or a student PIN. With the new devices, when a child places his or her finger on the touchpad scanner, the system creates a numerical template based on the scan, checks it against templates in the database and returns an ID match.

The scan is not a fingerprint.



The system does not store a child's fingerprint or images of a fingerprint. The system is secure and templates are only used for identification in the school cafeteria. No information is shared outside of the school cafeteria. Information letters were sent to parent who had the option to opt out of this program.

This system allows students to move quickly through the cafeteria line. This same technology is being used in many places, one of which is Disney.



Two Board Member Openings

There will be two openings for the Board of Education for the election and budget vote May 20, 2014. Members will serve a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2014, and expiring June 30, 2017.

Application Process

- Interested candidates can pick up applications from the Board Office located at 100 Hinds Street between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Petitions must be signed by at least 100 eligible/qualified voters.
- Completed petitions must be filed with the Board Clerk not later than April 30, 2014 at 5 p.m.

Qualifications for School Board Membership

- Citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- Resident of the district for one school year prior to the election (before May 20, 2013)
- Able to read and write

Erie County Association of Schools Boards is holding a free training session for prospective school board members on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at Erie 1 BOCES in West Seneca. Individuals may call 821-7297 to register or e-mail snowak@e1b.org.

Fletcher School Welcomes a New Music Teacher

Kelly Ersing is the new general music and chorus teacher at Fletcher Elementary School.

She earned a degree in vocal performance in 2007 from SUNY Fredonia. In 2011, she received a second degree in music education with a concentration in voice from Buffalo State College. Currently, she is working on a master's degree in music education at the University at Buffalo.

Prior to Fletcher, she worked at DeSales Catholic School in Lockport for a year and a half. One of her true passions is performing and music directing live musical theatre. She has either music directed or performed in the last four seasons of musicals at the Palace Theatre in Lockport, where she also teaches private voice lessons and theatre school in the summer. She has also worked with the Theatre of Youth in Buffalo for the past two years as a music director. Currently, she is working as music director with the very talented Tonawanda middle and high school students on their performance of "Grease".

At Fletcher, she has started a select chorus group which will perform a spring concert. In general music classes, the fourth grade is learning the elements of music in a unit called "mallet madness". In a rotation system, students are able to perform on a wide array of instruments that are in the classroom. Fifth-grade classes had a unit on ukulele. Both fourth and fifth grades will participate in an African drumming unit.



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Technology Engages and Enriches Student Learning

The Tonawanda City School district understands the importance of technology in preparing our children for college and career readiness. Our committed staff implements technology innovatively throughout their lessons to enhance student learning and increase student achievement.



We appreciate that students mature at different rates intellectually and exhibit varying strengths and weakness depending on the content. Technology is used to differentiate instruction based on the needs of the students. It affords teachers the ability to enrich students' learning while reinforcing the learning of others during the same lesson to ensure all students are learning at the appropriate level.

"I really enjoy working on the iPad because it allows me to get involved in the learning," said a sixth-grade student. One integral use for technology

is student engagement. Research suggests that actively engaged students are processing and retaining information and using higher order thinking. In Tonawanda, the students have access to iPads, desktops, Nooks, laptops and netbooks to enhance their engagement in the classroom.



Every classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard that teachers use to engage students daily. Carrie Oliver is using the Promethean board during her lesson and finds that, "it helps increase student achievement because it gives the student ownership and responsibility for their learning." The district takes pride in using technology to provide authentic learning experiences. We have a distance learning cart for virtual field trips that allows students to experience a variety of people and places to enrich their educational programs. Our students also use software programs such as Westpoint

Bridge Builder in technology class to build structures and compete with area schools.

The use of Photoshop in Advertising and Design integrates natural talent and technology to create ads for a local business competition. These learning opportunities increase student self-concepts and create positive attitudes toward learning new material. A student in Mr. Lynch's advertising and design class plans on going on to college and is grateful for the opportunity to use her art skill and technology for a local business competition because "it helps with admittance" when you can feature and have your artwork recognized.

Student Art Work Displayed at UB Center for the Arts

The University at Buffalo's Department of Visual Studies is hosting a regional exhibit of work by outstanding high school art students from the Western New York area. Art instructors may only choose four students for this show. This year's student artists from Tonawanda are Matthew Kurtzworth, Patricia Maess, Rebecca Schuster and Brooke Smith.

An opening reception for student artists was held at UB's Center for the Arts where the artwork will be on display through Feb. 27.



Matt Kurtzworth



Brooke Smith

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Tonawanda City Schools Kindergarten Registration

Parents wishing to register their child for Kindergarten in September 2014 at Tonawanda City School District should schedule an appointment now by calling 694-7690, ext. 1090.

Registration appointments are available between 9 a.m.-noon or 1-2:45 p.m. on April 22 - May 2 for Mullen Elementary School and May 5-16 for Riverview Elementary School.

Registration packets are available online at www.tonawandacsd.org. Look for the Student Registration link on the district homepage under Shortcuts. Packets are also available at the District Office, 100 Hinds St. (Door #11 across from the tennis courts). Please complete the packet and bring the required documentation with you to your appointment.

All kindergarten registration will be completed at the District Office (Door #11).

Please plan to be there approximately 10 minutes if you have all your paperwork completed accurately.

At the time of registration, parents/persons in parental relationship will be required to furnish:

- Health /Immunization records from your child's pediatrician/physician
- NYS Driver's license/passport/NYS non-driver's license photo ID
- Documentation to verify residency in the Tonawanda City School District
 - Current (within the last two months) utility bill
 - Mortgage or lease agreement or a notarized letter from your landlord
- Child's original birth certificate
- Court paperwork showing custody if available



Tonawanda City Schools UPK Program Reservation Information

Reservation forms for the Tonawanda City School Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program for the 2014-15 school year are available at Mullen, Fletcher, Riverview Elementary schools and the District Office, or online at www.tonawandacsd.org. Look for the UPK Registration Information link under Announcements on the district homepage.

Completed reservation forms must be returned to the District Office on March 3, 2014. On that day, reservation forms will be time and date stamped. Program session and location is on a first come, first serve basis. The District Office is located at 100 Hinds St. Use Door #11 across from the tennis court.

Children must be four on or before December 1, 2014 to be eligible for the UPK program. There is no tuition but parents must provide transportation. Morning and afternoon UPK sessions will be offered five days a week at Mullen Elementary School and 8 slots will be offered at the Child's Creative Development Center (CCDC).

Once the reservation forms are processed and you have been notified by the district, you must complete the Student Registration paperwork that was given to you when you turned in your reservation form. If you lose this packet, you can go to the Student Registration link on the district homepage to download the packet. No registration packets will be mailed.

Registration processing will be scheduled by appointment. Questions regarding registration should be directed to 694-7684 or 694-7690, ext. 1090.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Rising to New Heights at Mullen

Staff and students at Mullen Elementary practice the ideas and process of “The Leader In Me” by Stephen Covey. These 7 Habits are the foundation to teaching Mullen students that setting goals and following through with tasks and behavior are all part of becoming strong successful leaders. The 2013-14 school year has a theme attached to this idea; Mullen is Rising to New Heights.

To show that setting goals and being proud of your accomplishments never should end, no matter how old or successful you get, the staff at Mullen has created balloons. These balloons were uniquely created by each staff member to show their pride and talent, and riding along in their baskets are their goals for the school year. These goals are personal and professional to show that whether you are in school or at home, it's always a good opportunity to work toward achieving success.



Mullen Lighthouse Team

Mullen Elementary School has a Student Lighthouse Team. They meet each Thursday to discuss ways to make the school a better place. The team is made up of 12 second- and third-graders. Each week the team sets goals and synergizes to get those goals accomplished in a timely manner. The SLT is currently working on redoing Mullen's Leadership Lane. In the future, the SLT hopes to start working on community projects. When you come to Mullen, please stop by the SLT's bulletin board to see who all the members are.



Pictured are members Brenna Forsba, Lucas Gilbert, Dylan Guarino and Lily Ljiljanich.

Fletcher's Student Lighthouse Team: The Beacon Bunch

Do you see the faint light off in the distance at the corner of Fletcher and Hinds Street? As you get closer, the light gleams out of the windows of Fletcher Elementary School. This radiant light is not just coming from the glow of our wonderful faculty, staff and students, but from Fletcher's student leaders called the Beacon Bunch.

As Fletcher Elementary continues to incorporate the district objective of the “Leader In Me” in its classroom and community environment, its focus and ideas are starting to focus more and come from the student leaders. The program is at a pivotal point where it is making its transition from adult leaders to blended adults and students to solely student leaders.

Fletcher's faculty-based Lighthouse Team has been forming and meeting since the “Leader In Me” originated three years ago. This year is the first year that the Lighthouse Team has taken on the formation of a student Lighthouse Team, the Beacon Bunch. Each fourth- and fifth-grade classroom selected a student to act as its classroom representative. Students that were interested were asked to fill out leadership applications, present their leadership ideas and wants to the classroom, and the class as a whole voted.

The Beacon Bunch is in its beginning phase, but so far has had great success. The amount of student applicants was overwhelming, and



Back row, L - R: Olivia Mileham, Liam MacDonald, Garrett Fisher, Emma Ljiljanich, Henry Caso, Abigail Opalinski, Michaela Robertson, Baylin Tighe, Kaitlyn Wood. Front row: Sana Primiano, Taylor Tycz-Olka, Megan Buczkowski.

each student had great ideas for our school and its community. Right now the Beacon Bunch includes 15 student representatives and meets monthly to work with Lighthouse Team members on leadership displays for the school, student school ideas and goals, and ideas for school wide assemblies. As our student leaders take on more ownership of their school, we hope to build on their leadership skills and grow as a school community with pride.

Other “Leader In Me” news from Fletcher includes the second successful year of student leadership binders. Students started the 2013-2014 school year by setting a personal goal to keep track of their school and/or personal goals, learning,

contributions and celebrations. Their leadership binder is a year-long portfolio all of their accomplishments and it has a special tab where students set “smart goals” for themselves. These goals can be weekly, bi-weekly or monthly, based on the classroom, and usually contain both school and personal goals. The students take great pride in their leadership binder and love to show them off!

Fletcher Elementary hosted its Second Annual Leadership Day in mid-February. The students and staff are proud to show the parents and community all of the great things our school has been doing.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Cheer“leaders” at Riverview

The Riverview cheerleading squad is a very enthusiastic group of young leaders who are doing a great service to their school by sharing their talents as cheerleaders. The squad of second- and third-graders helps motivate the audience at monthly leadership assemblies. Soon, first-graders will be recruited, as well. The cheerleaders were also involved in cheering during the annual motorcade that took place during homecoming weekend in the fall.

The cheerleaders know many cheers that help to reinforce the 7 habits, which is very prevalent in Riverview School. The cheer “Red Hot” reminds us to follow the habits. “Synergize” explains that we should work along with our friends to complete daily tasks. “Our Team” reinforces our strengths as a school by describing Riverview as sharp and great. We have several other cheers that demonstrate leadership, and the squad is working to learn more cheers that encourage sportsmanship, teamwork and responsibility. Riverview Principal Mrs. Panaro has even offered to join us in an upcoming assembly to present a new cheer to our school.



Fletcher School Volleyball Tourney

The second annual Holiday Volleyball tournament at Fletcher showcased students’ hard work in physical education classes.

All students practiced skills and played in games during their physical education classes and records were kept for each team. The finals were held before December break and all students came to the gym to show off their skills and cheer on their favorite players.

In fourth grade, the green team from Mrs. Sugg’s class won the championship game and finished with a record of 10-4 to take the title. In fifth grade, two teams entered the finals with 13 wins, but it was the green team from Ms. Sharry’s class that won the deciding match to capture the title.



Fourth-grade Champions



Fifth-grade Champions

Enrichment Program Develops Critical, Creative Thinking



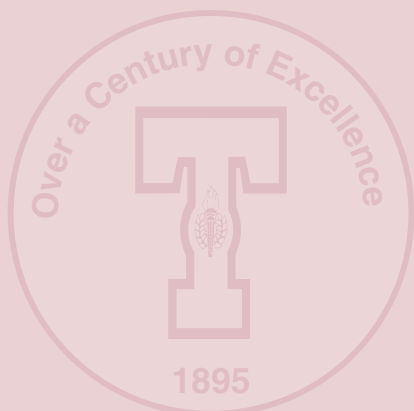
Fourth graders Autumn Bukoskey and Mikayla Boyd testing a model suspension bridge’s strength compared to a beam bridge.

The Tonawanda City Schools’ elementary enrichment program for students in grades 3-5 focuses on developing higher-level thinking skills while aligning with the Common Core Curriculum. The program consists of two tiers. Tier one is a whole group model and tier two is a small group pull-out model.

The whole group enrichment model is offered to all students in grades 3-5. Students work

with enrichment teacher Amber Reding for 40 minutes once a week. During this time the focus is to help students develop creative and critical thinking. Students engage in various group and individual activities that spark creativity and expand on flexible thinking. Students become aware of how they learn and how to expand their thinking in many ways.

The small group enrichment model is offered to students in grades 3-5 who fit a set criteria for needing an additional challenge beyond the grade level curriculum. Students are evaluated and identified based on their academic achievement, task commitment and leadership qualities. Students who fit the criteria receive an extra 40 minutes of enrichment instruction outside of their regular classroom. This year the focus for small group enrichment is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Students explore real life applications of STEM and career possibilities in the field. Students work to expand their problem solving abilities and reasoning skills by drawing conclusions from evidence in each task.



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Middle School Faculty Basketball Game Raises \$400 for Charity

The second annual Tonawanda Middle School faculty basketball game was a great success! With over 30 administrators, teachers and staff volunteering to play, cheer, referee and work behind the scenes, Tonawanda Middle raised \$400 to donate to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Special thanks to the basketball booster club for donating the profits of the concession stand to the charity.

Student had collected money during January to donate to the charity; the faculty basketball game was an additional way to increase the school's donation. It may have been cold outside, but the energy in the Miller Gym was electrifying. The talent ranged from traditional basketball skills to more innovative moves, such as jumping on opponents' backs, crawling through their legs, and even a few tackles. Fun was had by all, the kids had huge smiles on their faces as they cheered on their favorite team. Just for the record the RED team won!



New Assistant Principal Brings Experience



David A. Sellan, the new assistant principal of the Middle/High School, who joined the Tonawanda City School District in July, comes from Cheektowaga Central Schools where he taught social studies for six years at both the high school and middle school level.

In addition to teaching, he was a football coach, seventh-grade team leader, co-advisor to student council and co-advisor to the morning TV program. For the past two years, he volunteered as dean of students and was the lead teacher for the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) initiative.

Mr. Sellan earned his teaching certification and master's degree in special education from Buffalo State College with a second master's degree in educational administration from Canisius College.

He and his wife Mary are the parents of three children: Sophia, 6; Grace, 4; and Joseph, 1.

“Flipped” Classroom Concept

For many of us, an advanced study math course in statistics sounds challenging. For 20 students at Tonawanda High School a new AP Statistics class using iPads and a “flipped” classroom concept is an interesting change to the traditional classroom.

This is a virtual course funded through a \$1.7 million Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) grant that was awarded to Erie 1 BOCES. Tonawanda is one of several school districts partnering with Erie 1 through August 2014 for the purposes of this grant.

Tonawanda High School Teacher Colleen Andres worked with teachers from Depew and Alden to write the AP Statistics course. The course topics are designated by College Board, so students will be learning topics typically taught in a college-level statistics course.

“AP Statistics is a great course,” said Mrs. Andres. “It has constant real world applications to every day mathematical situations. Most majors in college require statistics at some point, so AP Statistics can satisfy that requirement or build a great foundation for it. AP Statistics also brings a great deal of topics that students have seen in prior math courses, but now they can explore those topics in greater detail.”

The “flipped” classroom concept allows students to use iPads to watch the lecture portion of instruction outside of normal school hours. Mrs. Andres is pre-recording her lectures in video format and students



view the lessons before the class so there is more time with the teacher for discussion and getting deeper into topics. The class is also using a technology called Moodle, an online learning management system that supports the classroom curriculum. The grant also funded new textbooks and colored graphing calculators.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Getting to Know Your MS/HS Principal: Jessica Lyons

Are you a dog person or a cat person?

I am definitely a dog person. I have a two-year old Golden Retriever named Cooper. On the weekends we like to go hiking. And he's always happy to see me, even if I just left the house for 2 minutes to run and get the mail.

You are a self-professed chemistry geek - what do you do for fun?

For fun...let's see....I love to read (murder mysteries the most) and stay active. I already mentioned hiking but I also enjoy biking, playing tennis, walking, going to the gym, golfing (for fun, I'm really not very good at it) and spending time with family and friends. No, I don't do chemistry experiments at home for fun!

If you hadn't become a teacher/administrator what career path would you have taken?

I probably would have been some sort of CSI investigator. I'm a sucker for the crime shows. Some of my favorite are: Law & Order SVU, NCIS, Criminal Minds and Elementary.

You recently purchased a home. Are you a Do-It-Yourselfer when it comes to home improvement projects?

I am definitely a Do-It-Yourselfer! My dad always had me help him around the house when I was younger so I've learned to do quite a few things (I can even change a tire). Of course for the larger projects, I put a call into my dad asking for help.

Stone Family Helps Make-A-Wish Foundation

Brian Stone Jr., a fifth-grader at Fletcher Elementary School, and his sister Elizabeth, a seventh-grader at Tonawanda Middle School, thought it would be wonderful to tie in the school district's initiative to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation with their father's place of work, the Tonawanda Bowling Center and Rapids Bowling Center.



Several hundred raffle tickets were sold for a chance to win a Microsoft Surface tablet, similar to a Kindle Fire, which can be used as a laptop computer with a detachable keyboard. The Stone siblings held a live drawing televised on the morning TV school announcements at Fletcher to pull the winning raffle ticket.

This is the fourth year the Stone siblings have spearheaded a school district - community fundraiser to benefit Make-A-Wish. This year they presented a \$1,103 check to Mary Moore of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Great prizes have been raffled in past years, including a Nintendo Wii, X Box 360 with Kinex and a Kindle Fire HD.

The siblings are to be commended for their efforts over the past four years which helped raise approximately \$8,300 for the charity. The raffle proceeds are added to the annual Make-A-Wish fundraising amounts collected by all participating faculty and students in the school district.

Pictured are Elizabeth Stone, Brian Stone, Mary Moore of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and Dr. John McKenna, principal of Fletcher School.

Students Play pH Card Game



This chemistry activity was designed by current MS/HS Principal Jessica Lyons when she was a science teacher and head of our regional STANYS (Science Teachers Association of NY State) section. Science Kit has a program where they sell teacher-developed kits. Ms. Lyons developed a color-coded, hands-on activity that helps students understand the pH scale better.

This kit is a study of acids, bases, and pH values as hydrogen ion concentrations; along with some common substances and their actual pH values. The students arrange cards in the order of the pH scale, and match the pH values with the actual hydrogen ion concentrations that represent those pHs. It is the actual pH scale constructed on their desks.

Students get a better feeling for what pH values actually are and some hands-on interaction with a complex Regents chemistry concept. Mrs. Ruppert's class has used this activity successfully.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Hard Work Can Make Dreams Come True

Sixth-graders learned about a day in the life of a Division I student-athlete and how hard work in the classroom and on the athletic fields can turn a dream into a reality.

Rachael Gregory, a sophomore at the University at Buffalo and a guard/forward on the women's basketball team, visited Tonawanda Middle School through the UB Women's Basketball Reach for the Stars program. The program pairs a university athlete with a local school. During several visits, the athlete presents information to students and works in classrooms with kids.

Her first presentation to all sixth-graders in November was held in the auditorium. Using a slide show, she spoke about a "day in her life" as a student athlete. She spoke about basketball practices and how much time is devoted to practice. She spoke about her academics, her study schedule and how important it is for her to have good grades.

Ms. Gregory also spoke to the students about using social media and advised them to be aware that what's posted online today will exist forever. She told students that coaches, colleges and employers check social media sites to see what information exists about a student or job applicant. She spent 20 minutes answering questions from students, according to Mr. Sellan.

Ms. Gregory, who played high school basketball, track and volleyball, was recruited by 11 colleges.



She returned for another visit to Debbie Hill's second period math class where she played a math-based Jeopardy game and assisted students with math problems.

"Miss Rachel Gregory is a great role model," said Mrs. Hill. "We loved having her come into our classroom. It was a fantastic opportunity. Rachel kept praising the students' hard work. Every student left the room that day with a smile from ear to ear!"

In December she made her final visit to the school and assisted during a physical education class.

"Kids really got an opportunity to see someone just a little older than them who worked hard in school, got good grades, and is at UB on a full scholarship. She was just great with the students," said Mr. Sellan. He has already requested her for next year's program. "She made such a great connection with the kids," he said.

Pruitt Places Second in Auto Tech Contest

At NFADA's 2014 Ron Smith Memorial Auto Tech Competition, Dan Pruitt, a Tonawanda High School junior enrolled in an Erie 1 BOCES auto technician program, earned a second place award.



Pruitt, working with a teammate from Grand Island High School, earned second place in the Tire Rodeo portion of the competition. Pruitt attends E1B Kenton Career & Technical Center.

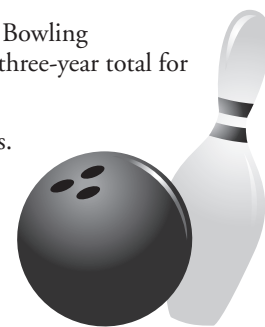
The competition is organized by the Niagara Frontier Automobile Dealers Association (NFADA), hosted by Erie Community College Vehicle Technology Training Center (ECC-VTTC) and supported by local dealerships, educational institutions, and local businesses. It is open to 12th grade automotive students from all seven western New York counties. The senior winners of these regional contests, along with their high school instructor, receive an all expense paid trip to New York City to compete in the nationals at the National Automotive Technology Competition.

Bowling Tourney Assists Food Bank

Twenty-four teams spent Monday, Jan. 20 at the Tonawanda Bowling Center for the third annual Student/Faculty Bowling Competition to help support the St. Francis Food Bank. A total of 600 pounds of food was donated; bringing the three-year total for this event to 1,285 pounds of donated food.

In the end it was Mr. Benson and his "Fantastic 4" team who finished in first place with a grand total of 1,649 pins. Taking second place was Mrs. Normandin and her "Living on a Spare" team with a total of 1,594 pins.

Congratulations also go out to Mr. McGregor's team of the "Bedrock Bowlers" as they were selected by an overwhelming vote as Best Dressed for their Flintstones theme. First, second, and best dressed were awarded a trophy that they may proudly display in their classroom until next year. An extra special thanks to Mr. Halgash and Mrs. Russell for their help in organizing such a great event.



Tonawanda City School District
100 Hinds Street
Tonawanda, N.Y. 14150-1815
www.tonawandacsd.org

James P. Newton, Superintendent

Board of Education:

Mrs. Sharon Stuart, President
Mrs. Jennifer Mysliwy, Vice President
Mrs. Geraldine Angelo
Mr. Fred Busch
Mrs. Diane Misner
Mrs. Danielle Opalinski
Mr. Robert Starr

Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 170

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Starting the Day at the Warrior Wake-Up Café

The High School FBLA club got some real world business experience and warmed up the start of the school day for faculty and students.

The Warrior Wake-Up Café opened this year and sold coffee, tea, cocoa, hot apple cider and flavored coffees and cappuccinos every morning.

The café, operated by the Future Business Leaders of America club, put real business decisions into the hands of the 20 students involved in the club. They had to hone their skills in time management, finances and customer service. They decided what inventory was needed and who worked the café. They also developed marketing ideas to build their customer base, according to Robin D'Amato, FBLA club advisor and a business teacher at the high school.



The café operated out of a supply closet in the main foyer area. The Warrior Wake-Up Café is brand new to the high school this year. Choosing a name for the café was put out to the entire student body through a suggestion box. The FBLA students voted on all entries and chose Warrior Wake-Up Café, suggested by high school secretary, Tammy Charrois.



Pictured right are café workers Michaela Morath, Tom Grimaldi, Laura Opalinski, Faith Schoerleman, Ariana Metzger, Marina McClure, Nicole Harmon, Mia Sette, and Patti Maess.