



City School District Tonawanda

A publication of the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education

FALL 2009

New Schools Make for "Cool" Classes



Students in Mrs. Denise Danvir's second-grade class are ready to learn! Smiling in the front is Tommy Ostrander and looking on in the back is Savannah Moore.

Tommy Ostrander is all smiles as he begins his first day of school in second grade! Students were excited to be back, and to begin a new year of learning. Great things were sure to be in store for all students as the buses once again strolled down neighborhood streets in the City of Tonawanda to take students to school.

* * * * * H1N1 * * * * *

Swine Flu! H1N1! Influenza A! Influenza-like illnesses! With the massive bombardment of bulletins about the health pandemic it is hard not to tune it all out. Unfortunately, because of the seriousness of this health crisis, it is essential that as individuals, parents and members of the community, we continue to be vigilant. Universal precautions continue to be:

**Handwashing
Sanitization of Hands**

**Respiratory Etiquette
Implement your Preparedness Plan**

We continue to confer regularly with city, county, state and other school districts to make sure we are sharing with you the most current and relevant recommendations from the Erie County and New York State Health Departments, the Centers for Disease Control and other key players. If you have any H1N1 questions, please contact:

Tonawanda City School District School Nurses:

- Mrs. Heibel – Fletcher (694-7690 ext. 1500)
- Mrs. Barone – Mullen (694-7690 ext. 1700)
- Mrs. Perillo – Riverview (694-7690 ext. 1200)
- Mr. Bisone – Secondary Building (694-7690 ext. 2000)
- Mr. Breidenstein – Asst. Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services at the District Office (694-7690 ext. 1002)



As always, consult with your child's pediatrician. **All community residents are encouraged to check the district Web site at www.tonawandacsd.org regularly (click the Pupil Service tab) for important updates and information.** We will keep you informed as new updates become available.

Monitoring the Munchies!



Parents have an ally when it comes to monitoring what their children are eating – The Tonawanda City School District Web site. A new feature off the district's main Web site (www.tonawandacsd.org) allows parents to create a secure account to view a history of what their child has purchased at school over the past 30 days. Parents are also able to replenish the student account with ACH and credit card payments. In the past, parents have had to call the school district to inquire on balance information or to review their child's purchases.

100th T-NT - Celebrating the Centennial is a Sensational Success.



One hundred never looked as good as it did on October 12. This year marked the historic 100th T-NT match-up between the Tonawanda and North Tonawanda football teams. Our local community, along with alumni from across the country, marked this milestone with a celebration worthy of this

10 carat diamond anniversary. Those in attendance were decked out in tuxedos, gowns, suits, dresses and even football and cheerleading uniforms.

The event was held at the historic Tonawanda Castle. Patrons arrived and were immediately pampered with valet parking. They were then greeted in style as they were whisked inside by student volunteers for their evening of music, merriment, food and reveling in fond remembrance of the 100 T-NT games past. *(Continued on page 8)*

A Message from the Superintendent:

Dear Community Residents:

By the time you have had a chance to read this column, we will have completed approximately nine weeks of school and everyone will have had an opportunity to enjoy Halloween with their children, grandchildren or simply kids from the neighborhood.



Tonawanda City School District is forging ahead with the assistance and guidance of members of our school community serving on Task Force groups to investigate and ultimately recommend to the Tonawanda Board of Education three major items: final sale of school property i.e. Highland School and the former Board of Education Office Building (202 Broad Street), relocation of Clint Small Stadium to the Tonawanda High School complex and finally, development of consideration(s) for possible redesigned elementary school facilities and site(s).

Each of these items brings with it consummate questions and decisions that the board of education will be required to determine. It is however, once again, wonderful to witness the involvement of many community members who will help shape the final decisions made by the board. I thank everyone for their involvement.

There are exciting new initiatives that can be witnessed throughout the district. The current primary schools (Mullen and Riverview) are standardizing their instructional approach so that when children transition into the Fletcher grade 4/5 building, we believe that they will be better suited to assimilate and achieve.

At the middle and high school levels, new approaches in technology have been instantaneously accepted by our students. Anyone living with teenagers recognizes that their learning style is highly motivated by electronics i.e. technology. We want to be able to provide this access so that more of our secondary students feel connected and complete their studies.

Finally, we all realize the economy is slowly recovering. The Tonawanda City School District is well aware of its role in developing fiscal decisions that are prudent and fall within reasonable expenditures. The cost of educating children has grown, but the competing global market requires us to think smarter and be willing to recognize when certain programs, etc. have run their usefulness.

I look forward to the winter months and hope that every member of our school community takes advantage of the many opportunities to share with your families all that is done daily to meet the educational, social and emotional well being of the children and young adults of our community.

Thank you and as always, if there are questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a teacher, principal or administrator at the central office.

Sincerely yours,

Whitney K. Vantine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Welcome New Staff

Welcome Joseph Giarrizzo

The school district would like to welcome Joseph A. Giarrizzo, its new administrator for business and financial services. He comes to the district from the Niagara Falls City School District



*Joseph Giarrizzo
Administrator for Business
and Financial Services*

where he was the director of financial services. Mr. Giarrizzo brings a wealth of business acumen to this position. He has overseen all aspects of a school district accounting process and worked at the Carbide/Graphite Group in Niagara Falls where he was responsible for all financial facets and oversight of plants in two states.

He is certified in school business administration and school district administration. He has also served as a board member for the Niagara Falls City School District prior to his staff position.

Mr. Giarrizzo's goal for his department is to provide all the requisite support necessary to support the vision and mission of this district to further the education of all Tonawanda children.

Mr. Giarrizzo is an adjunct professor at Niagara University and resides in Niagara Falls with his wife and two children.



*Nicole Alfieri
Long-term Substitute (Fletcher)*



*Susan Calandra
Physical Therapist (Fletcher)*



*Jaclyn Ferrentino
Physical Education (Middle School)*



*Nancy S. Gutillo
Music Teacher (High School)*



*Rita M. Huk
Special Education (High School)*



*Joelle Labert
Social Worker (High School)*



*Jonathan Lacki
Special Education (Riverview)*



*Jennifer Leone
Art (Fletcher & Riverview)*



*Kimberly Lowes
Long-term Substitute (Riverview)*



*Daniel S. Lynch
Art (High School)*



*Katherine Marcello
Long-term Substitute (Mullen)*



*Alissa Mielonen
Long-term Substitute (Fletcher)*



Staying Connected with the New Centralized PTSA!

Our new centralized Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) is up and running! We are very excited to have the high school and middle school as a part of our unit. Welcome everyone!

Each school now has a vice president, and you can volunteer to be part of what is called a program committee. The program committee meets and plans events that will take place at the different schools. Contact your school's vice president and volunteer your time and talents!

All the officers had the opportunity to attend the open houses. What a wonderful welcome we received! Our first PTSA meeting was held on October 8 at the high school Library Media Center. Remember, when you attend our monthly PTSA meeting, you will leave knowing what every school is doing! This will keep all parents connected to their child or children's schools.

Memberships are available at your child's school. Purchase your membership card so you can vote at PTSA meetings. Memberships are \$5 for adults and \$4 for students and will also be sold at the meetings.

Check out our "new" Web site at www.tonawandacentralptsa.com. Informational updates occur weekly, and this is a good way to stay connected.

Our district-wide fundraiser kick off this year was October 7 for the high school and middle school.

Lastly, we would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to make the centralized PTSA successful.

Best Regards,
Renee Gilbert
PTSA President

District Technology Updates

Staying in the game with the quickly advancing world of technology, the Tonawanda City School District has continued to provide its students and educators with new and up-and-coming technology.

Purchased new for this school year are promethium boards, smart boards and flip video cameras. Promethium boards and smart boards are "touch screens" that work with the district's computers. When a computer's image is projected on them, the user only needs to use their hand and touch the screen to use the computer instead of having to utilize the mouse and keyboard of the computer. The flip video cameras are small video camcorders that can be used to record video as well as take pictures. Teachers are utilizing this technology to videotape students reading for an "electronic portfolio." "If you videotape student reading in September and compare it with a videotape of the student reading by June, you can really see the progress that the student has made in his or her reading ability", reports Library Media Specialist Jennifer Patterson. The cameras are small and easy to use as the video and pictures are recorded digitally and then the camera has a USB plug to directly plug right into the computer for downloading and saving.

In addition to the above purchased technology, the district is also in the midst of replacing all of the televisions in the classrooms at the high school and middle school with permanently installed, ceiling mounted video projectors. The video projectors are less expensive than the purchase of televisions, have a longer lasting performance over the years and project an image of a computer, video or television show that is much larger and proficient to a wide classroom audience than a 32" television screen.

The Tonawanda City School District is dedicated toward preparing Tonawanda's children for a rapidly changing, technologically challenging future. It is our privilege to provide our students and teachers with tools that support education and develop technological skills and know-how.



Riverview teacher Miss Jillian Cherre uses one of the recently purchased flip video cameras to videotape first-grader Nikolaus Caufield, as he reads a book for his electronic reading portfolio and assessment.

District Task Force Initiatives

September 24 was the initial meeting for all three District Task Force groups. Dr. James Mills from Niagara University served as facilitator for the first meeting of the Clint Small and Facilities Task Force joint meeting which was held at the former board offices. Joseph Giarrizzo, administrator for business and financial services chaired the Financial Task Force meeting. Parents, community, staff, administration and board members comprise the cross section of individuals who expressed interest in being part of this process.

The Facilities Task Force consists of 24 members. They will be reviewing the reconfiguration of the elementary schools as well as district student enrollment trends. Based on the review, a recommendation to the board for future plans could include creation of a single elementary site, creation of two elementary sites to house Prekindergarten to fifth grade, or maintaining the current three sites. They are scheduled to report back to the board by December.

The Clint Small Task Force consists of 14 members. They will be reviewing the current legal status of the Clint Small site and work with the city to determine the long-range plan for this property that could include relocation of the stadium to the existing high school site. They are expected to provide the board with their recommendation by January of 2010.

The Financial Task Force consists of nine members – two of whom are community members who have served on the budget advisory team for the last several years. This group will review procedures for sale or future utilization of properties such as Highland, the former board offices, Central School and vacant land. They are expected to provide the board with their recommendation by November of 2009 that will include a timeframe to community input and board action that could include a vote to accept a selling price on selected properties.

Conversations relating to the sale of school properties, the Clint Small Stadium transition and long-range campus planning have also been taking place with representatives from the City of Tonawanda and the Tonawanda City School District as part of the Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) Grant.



Three School Open House



Mullen Elementary School student Hope Martino enjoys taking her grandmother, Carole Martino, on a stroll to meet her teachers and classroom during the school's open house event.

An open house was recently held at all three elementary buildings in the Tonawanda City School District. During the evening's events, parents and family members of all elementary school-age children had an opportunity to meet their child's classroom teacher along with their child's many other teachers including art, music, gym and library.

Fletcher Elementary School's open house, dubbed "Meet the Teacher Night" was all new this year with Dr. John McKenna as principal and a reconfigured faculty of highly skilled teachers. On September 16, the parents of the fourth- and fifth-grade students met the Fletcher faculty and staff and enthusiastically toured the school building.

The students of Mullen Elementary School were encouraged to bring their parents, grandparents, and siblings to this event. Students were given the opportunity to show their families the school and meet their teachers. The officers of the Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) held a brief meeting and explained how the new Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) will be run. Included in the night was a basket raffle, which was sponsored by the teachers at Mullen. All students who attended were given the opportunity to place their name into a drawing for both a movie themed basket and a literacy themed basket. The night was a huge success!

At Riverview Elementary School, open house night was well received by many parents and grandparents who came out to visit their child's new teacher and in many cases, new school. The open house was attended by numerous families and while parents had an opportunity to meet their child's teachers, parents also had the opportunity to become familiar with and join the school's PTSA, meet the children's librarian of the Tonawanda City Public Library and learn how the library's services can lend academic support to their child's education and become familiar with some of the other community services that work together with the school district to provide support for children and their families.

Riverview Students Learn Important Lessons about Fire Safety



Captain Robert Hassett from the Tonawanda Fire Department visited the kindergarten students in Mrs. Tess's class to share some important safety tips about fire safety.



Kindergarten students Jaiden Link and Michael Bertini raise their hands amongst other students in their class in eager anticipation of answering important questions about fire safety and drill from Tonawanda Fire Captain Robert Hassett.

Students were eagerly listening to Captain Hassett as he spoke about "stop, drop and roll" as well as about proper and safe behavior in the event of a fire drill in school. Captain Hassett's lesson came at a perfect time as all Riverview students experienced their very first fire drill of the school year that very day. For these kindergarten students, it was their very first fire drill ever. The safety lessons they learn will benefit them forever.

Constitution Day



Students at Riverview Elementary School celebrated Constitution Day on September 17. The Constitution was signed 222 years ago by the great men who helped form our country including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin. This historical document tells us the laws and rights that people in the United States have.



Gabrielle Gilbert and Marra Bukowski dress up for Constitution Day.

Students celebrated by dressing up in period clothing similar to clothing worn by people of that time. Boys wore short pants and long socks, tri-corned hats and buckles on their shoes. Girls wore long skirts, white hats and big collars. Wearing these clothes all day helped students and teachers think about the Constitution on this special day!



Picturing America Grant Received

Recently Marie Volpe, library media specialist at Mullen Elementary School, and Thomas Murphy, grant procurement specialist, were the recipients of the Picturing America Award. This grant is sponsored each year by The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). The winners of this grant receive reproductions of great American art to use in the classroom along with a teachers resource book. The 20 double-sided laminated posters include paintings and photographs. The purpose of these posters is to introduce students to "America's art treasures and promote American history and culture." The pictures will be on display in the Mullen Library and can be taken to any classroom to be used.



Fletcher Morning Announcement Singers



Have you ever noticed that music has a way of bringing old friends back together, as well as creating new friends? At Fletcher Elementary School, Principal Dr. John McKenna began the new school year by fostering school pride and nurturing a love for a new school by singing daily patriotic songs to the students during morning announcements.



Pictured are some Fletcher Elementary School fourth- and fifth-grade students singing with Dr. John McKenna, Fletcher principal, during the school's morning announcements.

After a few days of listening to a singing principal, Fletcher students began writing their own Fletcher School songs and sharing them with their principal. The student's songs described how students from four schools came together to become one happy school and study body.

Upon receiving the students self-written songs, Principal McKenna decided to have the students join him and share their love for their new school during the singing of the morning announcements. This initiative is also aligned with the Tonawanda City School District's assets program.

Discovering Johnny Appleseed



Shown are Lucas Gilbert and Madison Krammer from Barbara Hoddick's class at Mullen.

Recently students in the morning pre-kindergarten class at Mullen Elementary School learned about Johnny Appleseed. The students made Johnny Appleseed hats. They practiced counting and color recognition to make Johnny Appleseed pictures.



Fletcher ROCKIN' Fifth Grade!

The teachers at Fletcher Elementary School enjoy bringing their experiences outside of the classroom to school to enhance the learning experience inside their classrooms.



Mrs. Mohilewsky, a fifth-grade teacher, went to the Penn Dixie Fossil Quarry in Hamburg, New York this past summer and collected fossils with her daughters. While she was digging for fossils, she began planning how she could utilize them during her earth science lessons.

From left to right, Jarid Silvashy, Cailey Braun, Kyle LaPlante, Stacy Williams and Mrs. Mohilewsky explore prehistoric fossils.

Busy Fletcher School Library Media Center

The Fletcher School Library Media Center has been very busy with students signing out books and completing grade level research projects. The classroom teachers and the library media specialist have been working together in the library teaching students reading, writing, researching and technology. Over the course of the school year Fletcher students will learn real-life research and technology skills through the completion of a wide range of cross-curricular research projects. The flex-library program being utilized at Fletcher School is also based on the Tonawanda City School District Balanced Reading and Writing program.



Pictured are Mrs. Karen Burgett and Mrs. Susan Bognar's fifth-grade students researching the Iroquois Native American tribes cooperatively with library media specialist, Mr. Jim Worthington.



Web 2.0 Skills Science Comes Alive with Technology

Twenty-first century skills such as global literacy, computer literacy, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and critical thinking are extremely important in today's interconnected workforce and society. Technology is the vehicle to bring these changes into the classroom and one of our sixth-grade middle school science educators,



Rachel Wagner, is in the driver seat. She is in the process of transforming her classroom to assist students in meeting these technological standards, which requires a new approach to teaching and learning.

When you walk into Ms. Wagner's classroom students are not learning using the traditional methods. Instead of a textbook on their desk there is a laptop and there is no paper notebook with which to record information; only a wiki. "Kids are so adept at technology it is second nature and it makes the flow of ideas easier. When I used paper and pencil in the classroom it was such a laborious process because it is like working with outdated tools," Ms. Wagner said.

Technology provides a learning environment where students learn through real-world experiences and work to solve real-world problems. Ms. Wagner believes "a successful 21st century classroom is one that differentiates instruction (learning styles and ability level), structures the delivery of information via a variety of resources, and is student-centered, requiring students to be active learning participants."

The best part about this classroom environment is the fact that the students are so immersed in the learning. A student from Ms. Wagner's class offered some interesting insight, "Her class is a hands-on place, and I am more active...not just staring at the teacher watching them do all the stuff."

Achieve 3000

Achieve 3000 is a reading comprehension program for Tonawanda Middle School students. Students use this program to help improve their reading skills. A contest was initiated as an incentive for students to use Achieve 3000 after school. The student who completed the most reading comprehension passages and passed all of the tests would receive an Ipod Touch. Jenivette Garcia surpassed all of the eligible students by completing 20 tests at home. Congratulations Jenivette!

Tonawanda Middle School is on the Lookout for Random Acts of Kindness

Offering assistance, saying a kind word, getting a head start on your homework during lunch, or doing something without being asked - these are random acts of kindness. When a kind act is observed, Assistant Principal Mr. Badgley will present the student with a certificate good for an ice cream or snack from the middle school cafeteria.

Seasonal Start Success for Cross Country



The cross-country teams are off to a great start this year! Paige Hill (seventh grade) and Annie Draves (eighth grade) represent the Lady Warriors. Both middle school students are running well in their first year on Varsity. The girls finished 2nd and 3rd out of four runners in the team's

first dual meet vs. Eden on September 22.

For the first time since 2006, the boys' team has experienced seniors. Mike Burkett has been on the team since 2006, and Jim Clark joined in 2007. Both boys are team captains, and their leadership skills and experience are great motivators for the rest of the team.

The real speed of the team is in Christian Peehler (11th grade) and Jeremy Driscoll (10th grade). Both boys had outstanding season debuts and Personal Records (PRs) at the JFK Invitational on September 22. The contest between the boys proved exciting to watch!

Mike Giuga also had an outstanding season start. The junior has inched up to finish third for the team in the past two meets. Mike posted significant PRs in his first two meets of the season.

Another exciting runner to watch is Bobby Liebel. The eighth-grader ran incredibly well last season, finishing consistently in the top four or five for the Warriors. This year he is continuing to improve. It will be exciting to see what happens as these middle school athletes move into high school next year.

Keep your eyes on Dave Mara and Nik Zimmerman. Dave, a sophomore, is a strong distance runner who was a consistent third place finisher last year. He should break 20 minutes this season. Nik, a freshman, is the grandson of master's running legend Ralph Zimmerman. Nik broke his arm over the summer, but the cast is off and he is driven to improve. He has great potential, and he is a highly motivated, positive young athlete.

Ryan Wild (12th grade), Nate Clifton (10th grade) and Jason Eberl (10th grade) are all new harriers this year. Nate ran well in his first meet at Beaver Island, finishing sixth for the team.

Finally, sophomore Ian Sobocinski returned for a second year. Ian got a late start running his first race at the WNY Cross-Country Officials' Invitational at Beaver Island.



Business Department Chosen as Department of the Year

The business department of Tonawanda High School has been selected as one of 13 statewide recipients of the "2009 Business and Marketing Education Department of the Year" award. The department consists of Mrs. Robin D'Amato, Mr. Scott Benson and Ms. Julie Schork.



Mrs. Robin D'Amato, Mr. Scott Benson and Ms. Julie Schork of Tonawanda High School's marketing education department.

Business departments receiving this award offer an innovative and rigorous curriculum that students find both interesting and challenging. The department is being recognized for having created instructional programs, work experiences and learning opportunities that will help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for success in post-secondary study and in the world of work. These teachers are commended for the quality work they have done in business and marketing education and their collective dedication to the students in their program.

It's Not Too Early to Think About Arts Summer Experiences

Jeff Lavin, a sophomore, spent four weeks this summer at State University of New York (SUNY) Oswego learning about film. Jeff had his portfolio adjudicated last February at the New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) day at University at Buffalo. Only a select number of students are chosen for this prestigious program, so Jeff was part of an elite group of the best and brightest student/artists from across the state.

NYSSSA is a program that provides intensive, preprofessional training programs for New York State's most gifted and motivated young artists. NYSSSA is for students who are considering careers in the arts or entertainment industries. Tonawanda generally sends students to the Media Arts program, but there is also a drawing and painting program. The students live on a college campus, participating in a variety of intensive arts experiences in a rich arts environment. NYSSSA is recognized as one of the finest programs of its kind in the nation, and attracts over 15,000 high school age students.

The eight Summer Schools of the Arts are directed and staffed by internationally acclaimed artists and companies such as the New York City Ballet and The Philadelphia Orchestra. Students work in small groups and in one-on-one sessions with professionals and other students of similar ability.

Entry to NYSSSA is through auditions, which are open to all high school students. Tuition assistance is available based upon financial need. Information about portfolio review dates and the program are available online at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/nysssa/>, or through Mrs. Randell at the high school.

Model Transition Programs Offer Workshops for Parents

The Model Transition programs (MTP) of Grand Island and Tonawanda are offering free workshops for parents and professionals in an effort to provide support for students with disabilities and their families.

Topics of the workshops have included: "Effective Communication", "Guardianship, Wills and Trusts", and workshops that are focused on available community based services.

On Wednesday, November 18, the topic will be "The Office of Mental Health." Parents can learn how to work within the mental health system to help their child be successful in school, at home and within the community. Another workshop, to be held January 27, 2010, will be "What to Do with All That Paper: Binder Building." This workshop will help parents learn what papers to keep, explaining how this may help parents receive necessary services for their student. Both workshops are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. at Tonawanda High School at 150 Hinds Street in room 108. To reserve a spot, call (716) 332-4170, or go online to www.parentnetworkwny.org.

The MTP is a grant-funded program that address vocational, educational and community gaps in services provided to students with disabilities at the high school level. Students participate in vocational training, post-secondary training and will receive assistance obtaining and maintaining competitive employment, job readiness and work skills, social skills and other transition services.

Through the MTP, students are provided with work experience, academic training and post-secondary vocational training. The MTP also provides students with the knowledge and information they will need to make informed decisions about their lives.

Tonawanda Ties for 2nd at the Lewiston Chalk Walk



On August 8, three Tonawanda art students participated in the 25th Annual WNY High School Chalk Walk Competition in Lewiston, and tied for second place. The Chalk Walk is based on I madonnari (street painters), an Italian tradition of street painting that dates back to the 18th century. The team of student artists was comprised of Tyler Lorich ('09), Valerie Fleischauer ('09), and Danielle Anderson ('10). The alternate was Nick Turton ('11).

The students received the theme, "Year of Our Shared Waters," in June, and they met several times to develop a sketch and practice their design on the pavement. On competition day, the teams had from noon to 4 p.m. to complete their drawing. The work was judged by a panel of artists, including surrealist artist Travis Louie. Congratulations team!

Board of Education:

Mrs. Lynn Casal, *President*
Mr. James Weber, *Vice-President*
Mr. Augustine Beyer
Mrs. Joyce Hogenkamp
Ms. Jennifer Mysliwy
Ms. Elizabeth Olka
Ms. Sharon Stuart

RESIDENT

TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parents' Right to Know

Parents of students attending the Tonawanda City School District have the right to receive, upon request to the district, certain information as authorized by federal law regarding the professional qualifications of the children's classroom teachers. Parents have the right to request the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met New York State Education Department qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas he/she teaches;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which New York State Education Department qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived due to special circumstances;
- The teacher's college major (undergraduate level); whether the teacher has any graduate certifications or degrees; and, if so, the field of discipline of the certification or degree;
- Whether your child is provided services by any teaching assistants and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to receive this information, please contact your child's school principal.

(100th T-NT continued from page 1)

100th T-NT - Celebrating the Centennial is a Sensational Success.

Food from Frontier Catering included hors d'oeuvres of hand-selected cheeses, hand-carved melons, and bouquet ere of fresh seasonal raw vegetables; a chef's carving table of slow roasted angus beef served on French baguette; a chocolate fountain and a mountain of desserts including cakes, cookies and home-made delectable delights.

After hearing speeches on the community impact of the match-ups and bidding on baskets, the evening was capped off with dancing to several local bands including the Queen City Chordsman, the George Scott Big Band, City of Lights Chorus along with recent alumni singing our alma mater.

This event was organized by a dedicated group of volunteers led by co-chairs Sharon Stuart and Kate White. Committee members include Diane Carl, Lynn Casal, Joyce Hogenkamp, Frederick Kuhn, Diane MacNeil, Colleen Meyer, Deanna O'Brocta, Chris Warren Pilozzi, Sean Polen, Karen Russell, Lynn Shiesley, Dennis Smilich, Cindy Snyder, Christopher Thomas and John White.

Of course, the evening's success would not have been possible without the support of our community and our supporters. Sponsors include the American Legion, Tonawanda Post 264; BJ's Wholesale Club; Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Buffalo; Friends of Ron Pilozzi (Chuck Gilbert, Blake Boyle, Dale Peters, Steve Sommers and Mayor Ron Pilozzi), Frontier Catering; Golden Warriors (THS); The Historical Society of the Tonawandas; Rainbow Transportation; The Majic Bucket; Mark Saltarelli; National Hose Co. 1 Inc.; the Stuart family; Christopher Thomas; Tonawanda Castle; Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association I.A.F.F. Local 859; Vietnam Veterans of America WNY Chapter 77; and White's Turf Crew. Proceeds from this event are benefiting cultural and arts programs at the Tonawanda City School District.

Emergency Notification System

A systemic way to notify all parents and guardians of immediate announcements, warnings and notices, by our district, is now in place. Should an actual emergency occur district officials have a near instantaneous way to communicate with families in the district. Using the Global Connect System, the superintendent is able to record and send a voicemail message to parents/guardians letting them know if school is closed due to weather, if there is any type of emergency, or if students will be released early. A test broadcast message was issued to parents/guardians of elementary children this past September with an update on H1N1. This system spread the message within a matter of seconds and ushered in a new era of communication to keep you up-to-date.

A technologically friendly feature of the system involves this newsletter. Parents/guardians will also be able to have information/updates emailed to them. In an effort to go green, while saving taxpayers as much money as possible, our winter edition will be an e-edition.