

# Ohio Elementary School News

April 2010



## N.T. Superintendent Search Information

The North Tonawanda City School District Board of Education invites interested community members to meet with the Search Consultant, Dr. Clark Godshall, to seek input into the development of superintendent search priorities and characteristics for consideration in the process to replace retiring School Superintendent, Vincent J. Vecchiarella. You can assist in two ways; by attending community forums and by taking our on-line survey.

### Community Input Meetings

Community sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 10 a.m. in the Alumni Student Activity Center located at 405 Meadow Drive. The North Tonawanda Board of Education will also be conducting public forums with each of the selected finalists in June (dates to be determined).

### Community Survey

The on-line survey is on the District's website and the link is listed below. Please take a moment to complete this community survey by Friday, April 2, 2010. Thank you.

<http://www.ntschoools.org/ntschoools/site/default.asp?>

All interested individuals and representatives from stakeholder groups are encouraged to attend the community forums. Should you have any questions regarding these meetings, please contact Dr. Godshall at (800) 836-7510, Ext. 2201.



## Calendar at a glance:

### April 2010

7th	O.H.I.O. meeting – 6:30 p.m. Kindergarten Pictures
13-14 <sup>th</sup>	Book Fair Buy One Get One
19-23	Spring Recess, No School
28 <sup>th</sup>	Capitol Project Meeting – 6:00p.m.
29 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten Pictures ( <i>Make ups</i> )

### May 2010

5 <sup>th</sup>	O.H.I.O. Meeting @ 6:30 p.
6 – 7 <sup>th</sup>	O.H.I.O. Mother's Day Plant Sale
18 <sup>th</sup>	District Budget Vote
21 <sup>th</sup>	Ohio Ice Cream Social 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### June 2010

1st	O.H.I.O. meeting – 6:30 p.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Grade 6</b> Musical - 7:00 pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grade 5</b> Spring Concert - 7:00 pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grade 4</b> Spring Concert - 7:00 pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	Field Day
22nd	Field Day – <i>Rain date!</i>

\*Note all musical performances will be at Spruce

## Important Note to Note:

### • Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten Screening is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd. Children need to be registered at the Administration building to be given a time slot.

### • NYS ELA Assessment (Grades 3-6)

April 27- 29<sup>th</sup>

### • NYS Math Assessment (Grades 3-6)

May 5-7<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember, the best way to prepare our students for the New York State Assessments is to make certain our students are well rested with a good night's sleep, and to start their day with a good breakfast on the morning of the testing.

Thank you for your efforts to support our Ohio students in these ways!

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# Capitol Project

Starting this summer, Ohio will be undergoing a capitol improvement project that will last 2- 3 years in duration. On **April 28<sup>th</sup>** the public is invited to a construction meeting which will update you on asbestos abatement as well as the scope of the work to be done here at Ohio. Every school in phase B will have their own meeting with the public. This meeting will be at **6:00** in the **Cafeteria**. All are encouraged to attend.

## Field Day - coming soon!

We are so excited to be planning and preparing for our third annual Ohio Field Day event! As you know, our Field Day is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please be certain to mark your calendars – especially if we can count on you to volunteer for fun on this day!

If you would like to help volunteer, please contact Mrs. Mary Marra to make arrangements or find out more information.

### A few things to remember:

1. **Volunteers** – please remember to wear a solid red shirt so that students and adults can easily identify a volunteer!
2. **Our volunteers** need to have the *Smarter Adults - Safer Kids* training.
3. **We will be organizing a Hot dog/Hamburger lunch again for this day.** As we would like the students to enjoy the experience without worrying about ordering or paying, please look for the opportunity to order & pay in advance. This will be coming soon!
4. **Our contact parents for this event include:** Mrs. Mary Marra @ 693-3176.

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# Strive for 25:



To continue to encourage, motivate and celebrate the Go Bananas For Books theme, the children of Ohio School participated in a book celebration during their library time late last month. Miss Hasson offered to read aloud a book related to the monkey/banana theme with students. Each grade level was also lucky enough to try some banana chips as part of this motivation.

Our Strive for 25 mascot, King Kong continues to motivate the children to read as well as he dresses up for each holiday. The teachers hope that your child is sharing some of these exciting events at home. Keep up the good reading everyone!

All of the children below have met their goal of reading 25 books!

## **Kindergarten:**

Aidan C, Alexa P, Anthony M, Brianna S, Kathryn D, Kyle S, Daniel P, Lucas M, Lucas S, Madison P, Megan H, Parker V, Rebecca G, Rose L, Salvatore A, Serena H, Shea P

## **Grade 1:**

Lily S

## **Grade 2:**

Camerin H, Camara M, Lillian C, Alexis J, Aidenn M, Gia G, William S, Anthony M

## **Grade 3:**

Autumn M, Madison V, Jon K, Michael F, Michael H, Steven R, Joshua W, Mackenzie S, Hannah B

## **Grade 4:**

Dylan C, Krystina C, Lucas G, Madeline K, Madison M, Ashley H

## **Grade 5:**

Mackenna B, Sara D, Dakota F, Bridget G, Alexis G, Matthew G, Logan K, Dylan N, Lindsay P, Emily S, Joshua S, Hunter W, Daniel W, Sofia G, Nathan D, Alexander M, Daniel P

## **Grade 6:**

Joe S, Connor E

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# The ASPIRE Study System

## **A: Approach/attitude/arrange**

- Approach your studies with a positive attitude
- Arrange your schedule to eliminate distractions

## **S: Select/survey/study!**

- Select a reasonable chunk of material to study
- Survey the headings, graphics, pre- and post questions to get an overview
- Study marking any information you don't understand

## **P: Put aside/piece together:**

- Put aside your books and notes
- Piece together what you've studied, either alone, with a study pal or group, and summarize what you understand.

## **I: Inspect/Investigate/inquire/:**

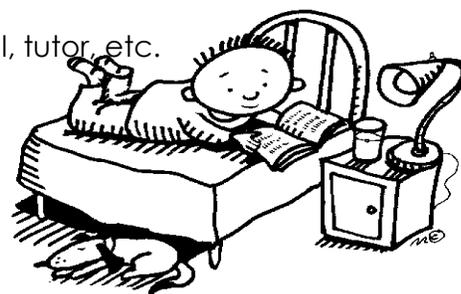
- Inspect what you did not understand.
- Investigate alternative sources of information you can refer to: other text books, websites, etc.
- Inquire from support professionals (academic support, tutors, teachers) for assistance

## **R: Reconsider/reflect/relay**

- Reconsider the content:  
If I could speak to the author, what questions would I ask or what criticism would I offer?
- Reflect on the material:  
How can I apply this material to what I am interested in?
- Relay understanding:  
How would I make this information interesting and understandable to other students?

## **E: Evaluate/examine/explore:**

- Evaluate your grades on tests and tasks, look for a pattern
- Examine your process toward improving it
- Explore options with a teacher, support professional, tutor, etc.



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## Stranger Danger



### **Safety and Awareness Suggestions for Student Walkers:**

- Encourage your children to walk with a buddy rather than alone whenever possible
- Emphasize to your children to be aware of their surroundings when walking
- Never accept rides from strangers
- Never talk to strangers while walking to school or at the bus stop
- If a vehicle pulls up to a child to ask a question, he/she should never get too close to the vehicle
- Keep communication lines open with your children to be apprised of potential safety problems
- Inform your children that if they think something are out of the ordinary, they should report it to a responsible adult
- Inform your children that if they are approached by anyone for any reason they should report the incident to a responsible adult
- Make sure you are aware of your children's whereabouts if they are not going straight home after school
- Keep alert and be aware of being followed
- Remain calm as you review and discuss safety procedures with your children



## Internet Safety

The internet can be a wonderful resource for children and it literally provides access to the world. It is important to keep in mind that the same access can also pose hazards. With this in mind we offer the following internet safety tips:

- Keep the computer in a common area, not in private rooms, where adults or parents can watch and monitor use
- Share an e-mail account with your child so that you can monitor messages
- Bookmark children's favorite sites for easy access
- Spend time online together to teach your children the appropriate online behavior
- Forbid your child to enter private chat rooms; block them with safety features or special filtering software
- Be aware that posting messages to chat rooms reveals the users e-mail address to others
- Take your child seriously if they report an uncomfortable online exchange
- Set up some simple rules for your children to use when using the internet
- Never trade personal photographs electronically
- Never reveal personal information, such as address, phone number, or school name or location
- Use only a screen name. Never agree to meet anyone from a chat room
- Never respond to a threatening e-mail or message
- Always tell parents about any conversations or communications that are scary

\*Call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at (800) 843-5678 if you're aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography online. Contact your local law enforcement agency or the FBI if your child has received child pornography via the internet.

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## “Monitoring Software”

Although we have often been warned that “spy ware” is a danger which can potentially compromise the safety and security of the private and financial information on our personal computers, software designed to monitor computer use can be a tool for parents to consider. “Spy ware software” when purchased or downloaded from specific sites, can be used by parents as a tool to help parents monitor their children’s online activity. Although there are a various software packages which can be purchased and loaded onto your home computer, a number of monitoring software options are available free through the searching the web.

This monitoring software is often set up to record and relay keystrokes that are entered by a user. Such keystrokes are they transmitted to a previously determined account – perhaps a parent’s home e-mail address. Once this transmission has been forwarded, parents can review the information they receive and note the locations, language, and communications in which their children are engaging on the computer. This venue can assure or alert parents about the online practices of their children when they join the World Wide Web.

### *From the Nurse...*

*A reminder to Fifth Grade parents: New York State has mandated all students (born on or after 1/1/94) and entering 6th grade (or the equivalent of 6th grade) be immunized with Tdap. Please make your child's appointment to be in compliance with New York State mandates by September 1, 2009. A physician's written verification is required.*

# Attention Parents: Notes to Note

### *Smarter Adults - Safer Kids District Training Dates:*

<u>Date - Time</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Location</u>
<i>May 4- 9:00am</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>142</i>
<i>June 1 - 9:00am</i>	<i>NTHS</i>	<i>Guidance Office</i>

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# Making Connections!

Within our March newsletter, I dedicated an article to help begin to describe our evolving reading program focus and text gradient levels to parents. As I continue to bring attention to our reading goals, I would like to introduce parents to the concept of connections. Within a balanced literacy program, our instructional goals include a focus that teaches students to make connections: *Text-to-Self*, *Text-to-Text*, and *Text-to-World*.

When students make *Text-to-Self* connections, they are reading a book and making a connection to their own life and their own experiences. Students may read a book about farm animals, noting the effort that a farming family makes to feed and care for their family's animals such as a horse or dairy cows. In a text-to-self connection, the student reading this book may be able to make a connection to a family pet – noting that he or she needs to feed their pet every day or be careful to be certain that the pet has a good shelter – be it in the house or within the yard. Such a connection helps the student to understand their reading with greater depth. By making a text-to-self connection, a student is better able to think like a character, understand the character's motivations or actions, and generalize their reading/learning to other settings.

When we teach students to make *Text-to-Text* connections, we are teaching students to recognize similarities or differences between or among text readings. While reading, we are sometimes reminded of other things that we have read other books by the same author, stories from a similar genre, or perhaps on the same topic. Readers gain insight during reading by thinking about how the information they are reading connects to other familiar text.

A student, may for example, read a story about the Civil War and then read a story about the Revolutionary War. As the second story is being read, the student may be able to recall that a character in the first story struggled with leaving his family to fight in a war that he believed to be important. The reader may find a similar personal battle being described in the second book. Once a student can make a text-to-text connection, they can begin to pull information that they have learned in one story to help understand a second story. Students can make comparisons (how are these books the same), as well as note contradictions, (how characters may make different choices under similar circumstances). Connections between two war stories may be more obvious than other text-to-text connections, but when students learn to read, recall, and apply reading experiences to other books, the power of the reading becomes exponential!

The third connection that we strive to bring to our students is the *Text-to-World* connections. Within this focus, we want our students to begin to recognize events about which they may be reading as they relate to events in our world. These are larger connections that exceed our personal experiences. Students often learn about their world through television, movies, magazines, and now, the internet. Often it is the text-to-world connections that teachers are trying to enhance when they teach lessons in science, social studies, and literature. A reader might comment, "I saw a program on television that talked about... (i.e.: sharks)." In doing so, the reader is able to bring in other knowledge that supports his learning.

When reading with your children – please keep these connections in mind. Modeling and encouraging our children to think about their reading is a powerful tool for everyone!

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# Attention Parents--We need your help!

- ❖ **Bus behavior has been a challenge during recent expectations that our students remain seated, voice,” and keep their hand and feet to your child rides any of our buses, please minutes to remind them of how cooperation is to bus safety!**



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## *Remember the lost and found...*

Please remember that we have a Lost & Found cabinet tucked in the corner opposite the entrance to our cafeteria. We are filling up quickly with a lot of wonderful – albeit – lost, clothing. If your son or daughter is missing any clothing, glasses, jackets, sweatshirts, etc., please be certain to check this location. It is always wonderful to have something be *FOUND!*

Vocal Music – Mrs. Strong

Happy Spring to all of our families!

Spring is an amazing season and many of our truly gifted composers wrote songs reflecting Spring. Vivaldi wrote “The Four Seasons” of which “Spring” is the most famous section. Beethoven wrote his Symphony # 6 as a dedication to spring. It’s called “Pastorale” . Ferde Grofe wrote a piece that is his reflections of the Grand Canyon in music. The section “Cloudburst” will definitely remind you of a spring thunderstorm.

All of these selections may be found at the NT Library. Please take the opportunity to share these great men’s visions of spring with your family.

Peer Club – Mrs. Strong

Our Peer Club members will be selling items at the April book fair to raise money for the Canine Helpers for the Handicapped organization.

For sale will be Puppy Paws for \$1.00 and Puppy Picker-Uppers for \$3.00 as well as doggy treats.

The Peer Club would like to thank our O.H.I.O. families for allowing us to be a part of the book fair. Please come and visit us that evening.

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# The Ohio Clothing Closet!



As our clothing closet is filled, we would like to make these clothing items available to any family in need. If you or your family is in need of any item, we are happy to provide these to you! Because of the renovation we would like to box up all clothing in May and donate it to one of the local charities.

Any requests for clothing may be made by using the Clothing Closet Request Form below.

If you are interested in receiving some of the clothing that has been donated – please fill out the Closet Request Form below and forward this to the main office.

Please mark the envelope: **Attention: Mrs. Dawn Lowry**

Cut here: -----

## Clothing Closet Request Form

Please describe the clothing items you need:

1.) Clothing item(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female / Child Adult

2.) Clothing item(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female / Child Adult

3.) Clothing item(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female / Child Adult

Please return to the Ohio Main Office – **Attention: Mrs. Dawn Lowry**

**Contact Information:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Substitute Support Staff – North Tonawanda is always looking for interested people!**

The North Tonawanda City School District always accepts applications for the following substitute support staff positions:



Teacher Aide - \$9.15/hr

Typists - \$9.15/hr

School (lunch) Monitor - \$8.50/hr

School Nurse (RN) - \$17.00/hr

Cleaners - \$9.75/hr

Custodians - \$10.60/hr

Bus Attendants - \$8.50/hr

Bus Drivers - \$11.66/hr

Applications are available at the Administration Building, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 175 Humphrey Street, N. Tonawanda.

## **Central Registration**

As of July 1, 2008, all new students to the North Tonawanda City School District must register at the Administration Building at 175 Humphrey Street. Additionally, all address changes must be completed and approved. The district requires certain documentation in order to register your child and/or make an address change. These forms can be obtained at the 175 Humphrey Street Building or by calling to make an appointment at 807-3535.

### **SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATION**

The North Tonawanda Police Department has informed the school district that we will no longer be receiving written notification of level 2 and 3 sex offenders through the mail as we have in the past. The Niagara County Sheriff's Department created a web site listing all the level 2 and 3 sex offenders in their jurisdiction and the NT Police Department has teamed up with them. Level 2 and 3 sex offenders residing in North Tonawanda are now on that web site.

Additionally, the web site will allow users to sign up for a notification service that will automatically notify you via e-mail every time a level 2 or 3 sex offender moves into or from place to place within Niagara County.

The Niagara County Sheriff's Department web site is [www.ncsd.com/SOR/](http://www.ncsd.com/SOR/). Please also remember that the New York State web site is [www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/sor/](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/sor/). The state web site allows you to search by name, county, or zip code throughout New York. The state's toll free number is 1-800-262-3257.

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The District will continue with notifications using the District newsletter and District web site [www.ntcityschools.wnyric.org](http://www.ntcityschools.wnyric.org).

# Attention Families: Has your contact information changed?



## Emergency Contact Information

Attention Ohio Elementary School - Please note these changes in our contact information:

Student Name(s) and Grade levels \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Our new home phone number \_\_\_\_\_
- Our new cell number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Our new address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional persons with permission to pick my child(ren) up from school:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Other contact information changes: (i.e.: Grandparent phone number changes if they are listed as emergency contacts)  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

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