

# Ohio Elementary School News

February 2010

## Calendar at a glance:

### February 2010

- |       |                             |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 1     | Candy Bar Fundraiser Begins |
| 3     | Ohio Meeting 6:30           |
| 5     | Family Dance 6:30           |
| 15-19 | Midwinter Recess            |

### March 2010

- |    |                                      |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | Candy Bar Fundraiser Ends            |
| 3  | Evening Conferences 5:30-8:30        |
| 5  | Staff Development Day (No School)    |
| 18 | Parent Teacher Conferences (1/2 day) |
| 19 | Ohio Variety Show                    |
| 22 | Spring Fundraiser begins             |
| 23 | Parent Teacher Conferences (1/2 day) |



### Ohio Mission Statement:

The staff and parents of Ohio School believe all children will achieve their highest potential in a safe, nurturing environment where goal setting, reaching for excellence and respect are high priorities. We further believe this can be accomplished by a collaborative effort of home, school, and community.

*Building our future together, one student at a time...*

# Parking - Parking - Parking

As many of you are aware, the parking situation at Ohio has been a complex issue for many years. Although we have improved parking conditions during the day - this year, as compared to last year, our parking issues during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal remain a great concern.

We have three current parking related issues that impact Ohio:

The first is our Bus loading zones: We have two bus loading/unloading zones at Ohio. Along *Ohio Street*, at the front of our school, we have a bus loading zone for our large school buses. Parents *can not* drop students off in the morning or pick them up in the afternoon in the assigned bus area on Ohio Street.

We have a second bus loading zone in the *back parking lot* that runs parallel to the primary wing of the school. Although there is a sign indicating that this area is for busses only, many parents often park in this area for drop-off/pick up reasons as well. Some parents have indicated that they wait until these busses have departed before entering this zone. There are two issues with this. The first is that if you are waiting in parking spots our employees do not have a place to park. The second is, some of our busses arrive at a later time particularly during inclement weather. Although many busses may have arrived and departed, we still need to maintain a safe area for the boarding of a late arriving bus. The red cones indicate that cars can not park in this area and that the school is expecting an additional bus (es).

The third parking conflict reflects parents' efforts to park along the *perimeter of Ohio School*, in front of the houses which neighbor our school. Although these areas have clearly posted No Parking signs, many parents often park there during the arrival and dismissal times. Although our focus and concern with this current issue is directed at the bussing zones, I do note that the streets that surround Ohio have been consistently posted as No Parking zones.

While I recognize the frustration of parents as you look for close parking to the school, I am also aware that throughout the year many of our Ohio neighbors - the residents, who live in the houses immediately surrounding the school, remain dissatisfied that the "No Parking" signs are not more fully enforced.

The North Tonawanda City School District Offices and architects have developed, as part of the **Capital Improvement Project**, an improvement plan which contains modifications and additions to the parking and bussing conditions for our school. This is inclusive of, but not limited to, the addition of a bussing circle - for busses only. These improvements will be occurring during the summer of 2011.

At this time, I would recommend that parents who are electing to drive to drop off or pick-up their children park along the adjacent streets, which are not posted to prohibit parking. Parents can then safely walk to greet their children at the school and escort them back to their cars. We have also asked the grounds crew to create an area on the corner of Ohio Street and Abington Place which is free of snow banks for dropping off children who are old enough to walk to the building unescorted. This area is not intended for the parking of vehicles.



# The Ohio Clothing Closet!



During the month of January, Ohio Elementary School has worked to open a Community Clothing Closet. In order to “stock” this closet, we have and will continue to warmly accept any gently used clothing – shirts, sweaters, pants, coats, boots, etc. that families may have outgrown. **All sizes are welcome!!**

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!

Donations may be dropped off to the main office. 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. When coming in for clothes, please bring bags to carry them home.

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

Cut here: -----

Clothing Closet Request Form				
<b>Please describe the clothing items you need:</b>				
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
<hr/>				
<b>Please return to the Ohio Main Office – <u>Attention: Mrs. Dawn Lowry</u></b>				
<b><u>Contact Information:</u></b> Name: _____				
Phone Number: _____ Teacher Name: _____				

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# Strive for 25:



The children around Ohio School are certainly going bananas for books! Both children and teachers alike were mesmerized as Glenn Colton came to entertain us in a K-3 and a 4-6 assembly. The assembly centered around singing, dancing and joking that incorporated the fun of reading. As the year goes on, the children will continue to be rewarded for their dedication to reading. An end of the year celebration will take place for all students who have read 25 books by June. Keep up the good reading Ohio School!

Here's a list of all the children who met their goal of reading 25 books this month:

## **Kindergarten:**

Brennan S

## **First Grade:**

Jessica T, Alexia S, Samantha G, Kailey L, Benjamin G

## **Second Grade:**

Sebastian S, Mitchell S, Cody C, Devin M

## **Third Grade:**

Arianna P, Colin B, Donald L, Bridget W

## **Fourth Grade:**

Paige K, David P, Jewel H, Karma R, Gabrielle S

## **Fifth Grade:**

Madeline G, Leah W, Damian M, Madison S, Theresa B, Molly C, Brittany H, Nicholas K, Shannon M, Austin M, Michael O, Caitlin P, Nicholas R, Bradely W

## **Sixth Grade:**

Layla K

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## **Pop Tabs For The Ronald McDonald House is back during the month of March!**

Do you have a large number of beverage tabs lying around the house? Want to get rid of them? Then we have a solution for you!

Please have your children pull off the tabs from beverage containers, soup cans, etc., and bring them to school. Each class will place them in a bag that will be counted out at the end of each week. The last week of March we will tally the numbers and choose the class that sent in the most tabs. That class will win a pizza party generously donated by our OHIO group, (meaning you since we are all OHIO ). This will be a fun way for our children to learn to help others in their community. I am looking forward to seeing all the tabs come in. Thank you for participating!

Mrs. Schake

Vocal Music – Mrs. Strong

February is Brotherhood Month and we will also be supporting our U.S. athletes as they go for gold at the Vancouver Olympics.

In keeping with these ideas of peoples coming together, our 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be celebrating a Musical Olympics. They will be learning songs from other countries and in many cases singing in other languages.

If your family history includes ancestors that came to America speaking a different language and celebrating different customs than those they found here, please share those family histories with your children.

We also would like to welcome Miss Emily Herberger to Ohio School. Miss Herberger is here to do a portion of her student teaching with us and we know she'll enjoy working with your very talented children.

Dear 4th Grade Parents,

Your children have been working so hard in this new year and we couldn't be prouder of their successes, both academically and socially.

In Social class, we have culminated our Native American study with many wonderful projects. Students created fabulous posters, Shaman masks, and skin stories depicting the Native American culture. We will now begin sailing across the seas, learning about early explorers. Smooth sailing ahead!

In Science class, we just finished a unit on magnetism. We are now preparing ourselves for a "shock" with static and current electricity. Your child will be bringing home several pieces of equipment to reinforce their classroom learning. Please help your child be accountable for a prompt return and gentle use of this equipment. Thank you.

In Math class, we just finished up our graphing unit. Students will have completed a review packet which was due February 1, in preparation for their unit test on February 3. The children have enjoyed their time with Mrs. Breeden and her last day will be February 5, as Mrs. Noe will be returning on February 8. Mrs. Breeden has had a wonderful experience and has enjoyed working with each child. GOOD LUCK MRS. BREEDEN, we will miss you.

Sincerely,

Jena Quagliana 4th grade

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## Reminder: Telephone and Cell Phone Use

Telephone use, by the student, during the school day is discouraged. Students should work with their parents to plan ahead to include homework, field trip permission slips, physical education and musical education equipment, within their preparation for each school day in order to build responsibility and organization skills.



Additionally, while students within our schools may possess mobile and digital technology, including but not limited to personal or family cell phones, possession of these items are subject to the following rules:

1. No use of mobile or digital devices is permitted on school grounds. These devices should not be seen nor heard during the school day.
2. Students possessing these devices may NOT turn these devices on while on school grounds until the end of the official instructional day, unless during an emergency situation AND with adult permission to do so.
3. The school and/or school district is NOT responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment.
4. Should a cell phone or other device be seen or heard during the school day, these possessions may, in part or in whole, be removed by the teacher or adult in charge and held until parent pick-up can be arranged.

### *From the Nurse...*

An important reminder: Both district policy and New York State regulations require that ANY medication, prescription as well as over the counter medications, MUST have a doctors note for the school nurse to administer to the student. This includes cough drops, inhalers, ointments, and pain relievers.

Please have your child's emergency contacts up to date and try to choose contacts that are available to pick up student when they are ill. It is uncomfortable for a child to be in the Health Office for hours when they are not feeling well.

Additionally, when your child has attended a doctor, dentist or counseling appointment and has come to school late, please remember to request a note from your health care provider.

Sincerely,

*Beth Galas RN*  
Ohio School Nurse



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## Attendance:



Good attendance and being on time for school are very important factors for a successful academic experience. Missing the first fifteen minutes or more may lead to your son or daughter missing important information. Often this means that your child enters the day *already* trying to catch up with his/her classmates. This is frustrating to the student and can put the student at greater risk for failure or shutting down during the school day. A late student entering a classroom already at work is also disruptive to the class and the learning that is already taking place.

# Attention Parents: Notes to Note

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

<i>February 11 - 6:00</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>March 3 - 4:30 pm</i>	<i>Ohio</i>	<i>Library</i>
<i>May TBD</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>June 1 - 9:00 am</i>	<i>NTHS</i>	<i>Guidance Office</i>

## **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.

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## 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.

## Let's Keep Safety On Our Minds....

We all know that following afternoon dismissal, we are excited and distracted. Students want to get home and parents have things to do! We are all busy and to get to the next place we need to be. We would ask, however, that you safety on the top of your "To Do" list. With added mounds of snow and winter clothing, many of our students are more distracted than usual. Our Crossing Guards are charged with the most precious responsibility – keeping our students safe. As you are picking up your children or traveling by our schools, certain to take the time to:

Drive slowly

Watch for children in the area

Honor the responsibilities of the crossing guards – and follow his/her directions

- Please do NOT creep into the intersection when the guard is guiding children to cross
- Please remind your children to travel directly home – discourage them from stopping to play in the snow or snow hills – as this only adds to potential safety concerns

If you are picking up your children, please be certain that you keep the students off of the snow mounds – especially around the parking lot! Safety is our first priority and we sometimes need to be certain that **we are thinking** ahead – especially when our children want to “run ahead.”



\*\*\***Please also remember** that at all times during the year, our students should be wearing shoes or sneakers that are **safe and secure on their feet**. Flip-flops or sandals worn to school increase the possibility of slipping and injury!

Thank you for working together with us to keep our children safe!



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ART NEWS from Mrs. Holler

The Art room has been filled with creative minds and energetic students. In case you haven't seen the artwork in the hallways....you are really missing something. You can tell the effort the students are portraying is above and beyond!

Yes, kindergarteners are artists too. The kindergarteners have developed a sketchbook and have shared their talents in their *Lion and Monkey drawings*. They may even be talking about "Wassily Kandinsky." The first graders have developed animal drawings as Artist Edward Hicks developed "The Peaceable Kingdom."

The experience of developing a *paper quilt* has brought the second graders together as a community. Each group had a task to achieve in order for the quilt to go together properly. You know what? They did it! The quilt will be on display in a few weeks. Meanwhile, the art of *Mosaic Design* have been explored by third graders as fourth grade completed *Stained Glass* projects. Both grade levels are moving on to *watercolor* techniques.

The art of advertising is the new adventure of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Learning about advertisements and the "Z syntax" method of design brought each project to life. Talking about "Surrealism" is the next advertising method we are exploring. They may be watching the commercials more careful at night to notice the surrealism. By the way...Surrealism is half real/ half fantasy. There is more and more of it in the world of today.

Sixth graders have been painting "*Monochromatic Landscapes*." They make winter look calm and beautiful. The watercolor paintings like Henri Matisse created gave each 6<sup>th</sup> grader to be a "*Fauve*", wild beast, paint red trees with purple leaves. I even had fun with that project.

The frames are all filled with new art work. The framed artwork will hang in the teachers conference room, teachers lunch room and student lunch room. Due to the renovation this summer the art work will be returned to each artist by June.

Congratulations artists!

Ryan Bille  
Amylea Carson  
Alecia Cox  
Taylor Dietrich  
Emily Gabel  
Madison Heim  
Nicolas Julian  
Allyson Keleher  
Samantha Kennedy  
Jazlyn Ludlow  
Kyle McNeill  
Julia Miskines  
Megan Orłowski  
Victoria Panasyuk  
Timothy Privitera  
Karma Regling  
Brandon Tran  
Ashley Wilczak  
Bridget Wilson

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## **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.

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

## **Global Connect Program**

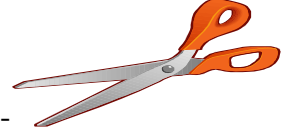
The North Tonawanda City School District has recently implemented the Global Connect program within our district. This program is designed to enable us to complete "mass" phone calling under emergency conditions or to share district-wide information with parents. Many of us should have received on during January's recent closing due to high winds.

In order for this program to work most effectively, we ask you to maintain current contact information with us. If any of your contact information changes, please fill out the form below and submit this to Ohio's main office. We will then forward the information to our district offices so that the Global Connect system can be well maintained.

Thank you for your support!

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# 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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