

# Ohio Elementary School News

January 2010

Dear Parents,

I can't believe we are three months into the school year already. When your child returns to school on January 4<sup>th</sup> it will be a time for tremendous growth. You should begin noticing the difference in your children as they begin to read or be able to carry on a conversation about a topic taught in U.S. History.

We have had a good start to the school year in 2009, but I am predicting that 2010 will be better than ever. We have many exciting activities planned for the second half of the school year.

Thank you all for allowing us to educate your children. I really believe that it is an honor and a privilege.

Have a safe, healthy, and happy new year.

*Wendy Richards*  
Principal

## Calendar at a glance:



### January 2010!!

- 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day –  
No School
- 4<sup>th</sup> Classes Resume
- 6<sup>th</sup> OHIO Parent Meeting 6:30
- 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting 7:30
- 18<sup>th</sup> **Martin Luther King Day-**  
**No School**
- 21<sup>st</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, Orchestra, Chorus  
Concert 7pm at Spruce Elementary  
School
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Kindergarten Report Cards
- 28<sup>th</sup> Roller Skating Party



### February 2010

- 1<sup>st</sup> Candy Bar Fundraiser Begins
- 3<sup>rd</sup> OHIO Meeting
- 5<sup>th</sup> Family Dance
- 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> **No School Mid-Winter Break**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Kindergarten Registration (1-  
7pm) @ Administration Bldg.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten Registration (1-  
7pm) @ Administration Bldg.

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# Pennies for Patients...

Throughout the month of January, our students will be participating in the Pennies for Patients drive. It's not too late for the students to start saving their pennies and/or any loose coins they may have. A reminder will be sent home regarding this drive. All money raised is donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. These funds help support lifesaving research and services for patients.

We will have containers for children to deposit their money. This is strictly done on a voluntary basis. We thank you for any help you may give for this drive.



***Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!***

# The Giving Tree (continued...)



The foyer of Ohio has been filled with a winter-like scene to host the presence of the Giving Tree. Ohio continues to be sponsoring a "Giving Tree" to benefit children within our community through January. Your gift of a **warm hat or a pair of mittens** will be used to warm a child's winter. These items will be donated to a local charity. Any donations that your child/family may want to contribute will be warmly accepted!

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

<u>Date - Time</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 20 - 1:30 pm	Drake	Library
February 11 - 6:00 pm	Middle School	TBD
March 3 - 4:30 pm	Ohio	Library
May TBD	Middle School	TBD
June 1 - 9:00 am	NTHS	Guidance Office

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# Attention Parents: Notes to Note

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

We all know that following afternoon dismissal, we are excited and distracted. Students want to get home, parents have things to do! We are all busy and want to get to the next place we need to be. We would ask, however, that you keep 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, please be 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

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

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## Vocal Music – Mrs. Strong

Congratulations to our wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus and recorder ensemble! What an excellent look at winter celebrations around the world.

We'd also like to thank the staff at Spruce School for sharing their auditorium with us. It is a wonderful place to present a concert.

We are looking forward to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus and band performance on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Hey, Hey, here come the Monkees!

Our third and fourth grade recorder students will be bringing home their recorders and folders in approximately two weeks. Please encourage them to practice their songs every day and to bring their recorder and folder to school on music day.

## FROM THE LIBRARY....

Our December book fair was a success! Thank you for your support. It is deeply appreciated!

The library's online catalog should be up and running by mid-January thanks to your generosity!

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# Strive for 25:

We are almost halfway through the school year which means that we should be about halfway to meeting the goal of reading 25 books. Look at all the children below who have met their goal of reading 25 books this month! Keep working hard Ohio School!

## **Grade 1:**

Tobias C, Matthew P, Elaina B, Michael Z, John A

## **Grade 2:**

Alecia C, Jack J, Connor G, Amelia O, Laykin B, Gianna S

## **Grade 3:**

Chase S, Selena S, Arianna P, Colin B, Bridget W

## **Grade 4:**

Mackenna B, Alexis G, Bridget G, Dylan N, Lindsay P, Autumn A, Erin S, Hallie D, Jake V, Daniel P, Johnathan R, Jared Z

## **Grade 5:**

Irene J, Joseph R, Nicole D, Brooke G, Olivia H, Katelyn Y, Colby M, Theresa B, Brittany H, Nicholas K, Shannon M, Michael O, Caitlin P, Nicholas R

Peer Club – Mrs. Strong

Congratulations to our Peer Club members who reached out to care for others during December. Your children did a wonderful job singing holiday songs at Northgate Nursing Home on the 17<sup>th</sup>. By the enthusiastic response we could tell that they truly brought joy to the residents.

The children also took time to show the teachers and staff members at Ohio how important they are to our school.

In the next few months their focus will turn to caring for animals. Please watch our school newsletter for upcoming events.

Our Peer Club motto for the year is;

It's not about what you get...it's about what you can give.

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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).

### **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.

### **From the Nurse .....**

At this time of year, it is a good idea to talk with children about **cold weather safety**. Extra care is needed, especially in younger children, to be sure that frostbite does not occur.

- It is important to **check** your children's, even teens', **outerwear** everyday during extreme weather conditions. Warm jackets, hats, scarves, boots, and an extra pair of dry gloves in their pockets will protect them during extremely cold temperatures.
- Develop an emergency plan and teach** your children your emergency plan in case you are not home before the bus comes to pick them up. If a bus is delayed, they need to know **where, when, and how to get help** if they think they are waiting outside for a bus longer than they should or if they sense danger. If you are not home while your children are waiting outside for the bus, tell them how long they may wait outside, where to go in the event the bus is delayed, and what dangers and risks of extreme weather are.

**Explain danger signs and risks** of when to seek help:

- The child gets cold or wet, especially boots or gloves.**
- The child feels pain or numbness anywhere especially hands, feet, ears, or nose.**
- The child senses they have waited longer than 5 minutes when you have alerted them temperatures have dipped into the teens, especially on a windy day.**
- The child thinks they may have frostbite which behaves like a burn and requires medical attention.**

Stay warm and safe. Happy winter!

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# Ten Tips for Taking Tests

1. Read the instructions carefully. Never assume you will know what they will say. Always ask the teacher if you are ever unsure about anything.
2. Review the entire test before starting. Notice what you have to do in each section. This will help you to pace yourself.
3. Answer the easiest questions first.
4. If you get stuck on a question, come back to it later. The answer might come to you when you are working on another part of the test.
5. If you aren't sure how to answer a question fully, try to answer at least part of it. You might get partial credit.
6. Don't know the answer on a multiple choice test? First, eliminate the answers that you know are wrong. Then, take your best guess. Your first guess is most likely to be correct, so you shouldn't go back and change an answer later unless you are certain that it is wrong.
7. On an essay test, take a moment to plan your writing. First, write down the important points you want to make. Then, number those points in the order you will cover them in your essay.
8. Keep it neat! If your teacher can't read your writing, you might lose points.
9. Don't waste time!
10. Leave time at the end to look over your work. It is easy to make careless mistakes while taking a test. Did you answer every question? Did you proofread for errors?



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## 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 December’s recent closing due to inclement weather.

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!

# 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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