

# Ohio Elementary School News

November 2008

Dear Parents,

This school year is certainly off and running to a great start! What an exciting year it has been and continues to be. I cannot believe that we are already turning our calendars to November...soon we'll need to be trying out our winter coats, gloves, boots, and hats to be certain that we are ready for Mother Nature's plans.

Along with cooler temperatures outside, November bring much to anticipate inside our school! In addition to the Parent Teacher Conferences scheduled at all grade levels; we will also have the first of our New York State Assessments. The fifth grade Social Studies Assessment is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, this year. Parents are important partners in helping our students be ready for these assessments. Making certain that our students come to school well rested (with a good night's sleep) and well fed (with a healthy breakfast), help our fifth graders start the day ready to do their best!

We are also looking forward to the opportunities to continue to work closely with you to ensure the success of each of our students, every day. It continues to be a pleasure to have joined the Ohio community to support parents, teachers, students, and staff in our endeavors toward excellence in all that we do.

Sincerely,  
*Karen Cuddy-Miller*  
Principal

## Calendar at a glance:



### November

- 5<sup>th</sup> **O.H.I.O. meeting** – 6:30
- 5<sup>th</sup> Parent teacher conferences – evening
- 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans' Day – No School
- 12<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Grade NYS Social Studies Assessment
- 13<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Grade NYS Social Studies Assessment
- 13<sup>th</sup> Parent Teacher Conference Day (1/2 day)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Picture Re-take Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> Parent Teacher Conference Day (1/2 day)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Basket Raffle – 6:00 p.m.
- 26<sup>th</sup> **No School**
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Thanksgiving Day – No School**
- 28<sup>th</sup> **No School**

### December

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Parent Teacher Conference Day (1/2 day)
- O.H.I.O. meeting** – 6:30
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Winter Recess Begins – No School this week

## Please Note::

**Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008** is day of early dismissal as it is a **Parent Teacher conference day!!**

**This date was omitted from the district calendar.**

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# Parent Teacher Conferences

Reminder: Parent teacher conferences are schedule for this fall. During November, evening conferences are scheduled for **November 5th**. Afternoon conferences are scheduled for **November 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**. Each of our teachers provided the opportunity to sign up for a conference during our Open House in September. These will be confirmed with you through your classroom teacher. If you have questions or a conflict, please contact your teacher in order to make accommodations.

*Attention Families -*

Please note the new *North Tonawanda District Website* address: [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org)



*From the Nurse...*

If your child is not going to be attending school due to illness, or for any reason, please call Ohio health office and leave a message with child's name, teacher and reason for absence. We can be reached at 807-3802.

Please remember: **NO** medication, including cough drops, lotions, or any other over the counter medication can be administered during school hours unless your child's doctor has sent a note (prescription) for your child to take the medication during the school day.

Sincerely,  
Beth Galas RN  
Ohio School Nurse

*Reminder: New York State Assessments*

*Fifth Grade Social Studies Assessment is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.*



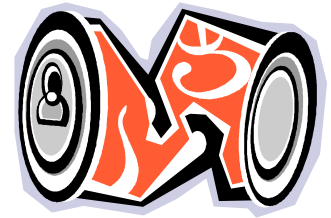
*Building our future together, one student at a time...*



*Dear Parents,*

*Please remember that we are encouraging students to make healthy choices in all areas of their lives. As such, please ensure that your children bring healthy beverages to school in their lunches. These beverages include water, milk or some juices. Please do not send your children to school with high sugar drinks such as soda pops.*

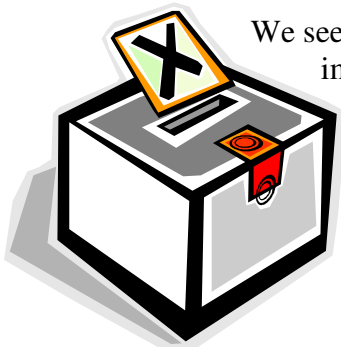
*Thank you for your support as we encourage our children to make healthy life-long choices!*



## *About our North Tonawanda Youth Vote...*

We are very excited that Ohio Elementary School will be taking part in the district wide NT Youth Vote. As it is a presidential election year we encourage you to discuss the election process with your children. Children at every age can feel the excitement of being a part of the democratic process.

The younger members of your family can participate by accompanying you to the voting booth. Children in the intermediate grades can discuss local issues and talk about the candidates running in your neighborhood. Your children in grades 5 and 6 can even discuss the various views of those candidates. Remember the older children in your family will also enjoy the opportunity to travel with you to the voting booth. It is one of those great rites of passage.



We seek to create lifetime participants in our democracy. School and home play an important role in developing civic-minded members of society. We will be having our own mock election at Ohio Elementary on November 4, 2008. The Sixth grade students will be running the election and all students who vote will receive stickers celebrating the event.

Remember Election Day is November 4, 2008. Every vote counts!

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## E-mail Addresses

Included below is an e-mail directly for the faculty within our building. Please consider the following in order to support successful use of this communication venue:

- Please **check with your teacher** for his/her personal preference for communication. Some teachers prefer to talk directly to parents, while others prefer e-mail. Working together will help us to be successful in our efforts!
- Teachers are aware that they **cannot share confidential** information via the Internet. Please honor this understanding.
- If you want to communicate with your faculty regarding an issue that is a **significant or emotional concern**, please call or schedule a meeting with your teacher so that you can work to support your shared children together in the most effective manner.
- We request that you **use e-mail communication judiciously**. We value communication between home and school and want to support this in every way, but do not want to compromise the opportunities for teachers to spend time working with or for our students.
- Please understand that although e-mail can, at times, offer the opportunity for quick response time, some conditions, including schedules, technology, and other professional responsibilities may make it difficult for teachers to respond quickly. We ask for your support and understanding should response time be lengthy. Please remember, **if communication is urgent**, please contact the school directly at 807-3800. Thank you!

kcuddymiller@ntschoools.org	Principal	lloffft@ntschoools.org	Secretary
Bgalas@ntschoools.org	Nurse	dcary@ntschoools.org	Sixth grade
cpogorzelski@ntschoools.org	Kindergarten	vpoole@ntschoools.org	Sixth grade
rhaseley@ntschoools.org	Kindergarten	azbytek@ntschoools.org	Sixth grade
jbunny@ntschoools.org	First grade	dlowry@ntschoools.org	Social Worker
stirone@ntschoools.org	First grade	mcharsley@ntschoools.org	Special Education
mfretthold@ntschoools.org	First grade	llequeuz@ntschoools.org	Special Education
kjordan@ntschoools.org	Second grade	pmaroney@ntschoools.org	Computer lab
sschake@ntschoools.org	Second grade	jreszczenski@ntschoools.org	Special education
mbirkman@ntschoools.org	Second grade	jsmith@ntschoools.org	Special education
dswartz@ntschoools.org	Third grade	jandreoizzi@ntschoools.org	Special education
kmauro@ntschoools.org	Third grade	ksquier@ntschoools.org	Special education
cdesjardins@ntschoools.org	Third grade	srouthier@ntschoools.org	Special education
kninos@ntschoools.org	Fourth grade	skinan@ntschoools.org	Physical edu.
equagliana@ntschoools.org	Fourth grade	jlemar@ntschoools.org	Physical edu.
bdaigler@ntschoools.org	Fifth grade	azarbo@ntschoools.org	Fourth grade
ngreen@ntschoools.org	Fifth grade	Astrong@ntschoools.org	Music
dmccconnell	Fifth grade	ksaeli@ntschoools.org	Psychologist

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## Fall Scholastic Book Fair

The time for our Fall Scholastic Book Fair in the library is soon approaching!! You may want to take advantage of this fundraiser for the library to encourage your child to reach their “Strive For 25” goal!

The dates when students may make purchases during their scheduled library classes are as follows:

Tuesday, November 4 – Day 1

Thursday, November 6 – Day 3

Friday, November 7 – Day 4

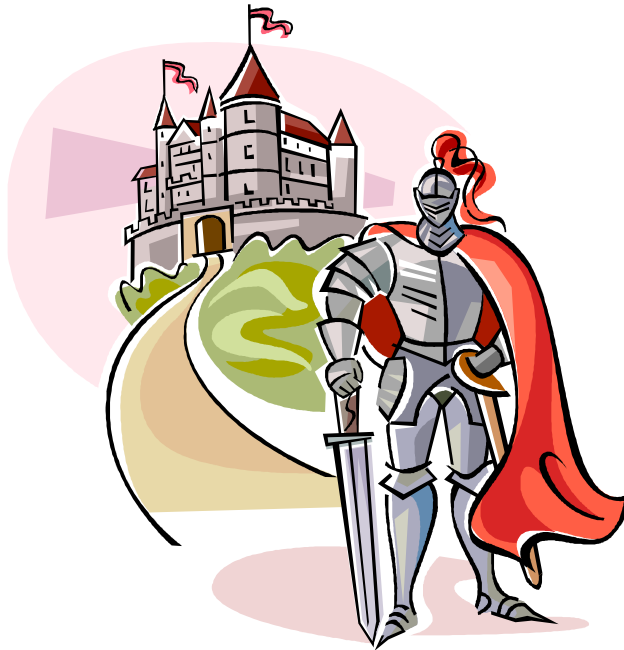
Monday, November 10 – Day 5

***Cash or checks made out to O.H.I.O will be accepted on these days.***

Family Night will be held:

Wednesday, November 5 from 5:30 until 8:00

***Cash, credit cards or checks made out to O.H.I.O will be accepted on “Family Night.”***



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## ART ROOM NEWS....MRS. HOLLER

The art room has been a busy place. Students have enjoyed creating some wonderful work which is displayed in the halls. 15 students were selected to display their artwork at the Young Street BJ's Wholesale store. If you missed opening night with cake to eat, bags to decorate and viewing of the display on October 20<sup>th</sup>, the artwork will be on display until Thanksgiving. So, as you are exiting the store, look to the right in the food court area and enjoy the efforts by Ohio artists. Congratulations to

1<sup>st</sup> graders...Kira Dewey

Megan Mara  
Michael Mara  
Julie Myers

3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Jewel Hewett

Madison MacNeil  
Erin Sammarco

4<sup>th</sup> graders...Rion DeBellaistre

Maxwell Harack  
Olivia Hecei  
Irene Johnson

Alphonzo Sims

Nicholas Rosky

Collin Rambler

Michael Orlowski



- ✚ In the classroom, kindergarteners are working with circles and patterns to create caterpillars.
- ✚ The first graders are exploring drawings of the whole body. Trying to fit the head and toes on one paper is sometimes abit tricky.
- ✚ Our imaginative Egyptian field trip allowed second graders to explore Egypt, the artist style of drawing, hieroglyphics and jewelry design. If a second grader is walking like an Egyptian you will know what they are thinking of.
- ✚ Third graders are learning about texture in science and also in art. Using lines to show a feeling is not as easy as you think. They are so good at it that the lines became seascapes with blended colors.
- ✚ Fourth and fifth graders are learning about calligraphy, "The art of lettering." A 2.5 or 5.0 size *calligraphy marker* is the important tool used to create name designs, proverbs, trivia facts and more. These markers can be a great gift for a holiday or birthday. Locate stores display them in the stationary section.
- ✚ Sixth graders have been learning about Michelangelo, Vatican City, Roman Art and contour drawings of hands. It is amazing what four or five hands drawn on a piece of paper can say without words. These hands communicate feelings of tenderness, pain, force, direction and more.

Remember to ask your child some art trivia. You may learn something.

Who was the artist who designed the dome architectural form? Ask a 6<sup>th</sup> grader!

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# Attention Parents: Notes to Note

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

<u>Date - Time</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Location</u>
<i>Nov. 17 - 1:00 pm</i>	<i>Drake</i>	<i>Main Office</i>
<i>December 3 - 2:00 pm</i>	<i>Ohio</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>
<i>January 15 - 2:00 pm</i>	<i>Gilmore</i>	<i>Social Work Office</i>
<i>February 10 - 2:00 pm</i>	<i>Spruce</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>
<i>March 12 - 7:00 pm</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	<i>Conference Room</i>
<i>April 21 - 9:30 am</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Room 163</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 Aides (\$8.90 per hour)
- Typist (\$8.90 per hour)
- School Monitor (\$8.25 per hour)
- Child Care Worker/BASE (\$8.25 per hour)
- School Bus Attendant (\$8.25 per hour)
- Nurse (\$15.15 per hour)

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

### **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).

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## **SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As winter weather approaches, we would like to share the following information with you.

Our District staff understands the decision to open or close schools due to weather conditions has a big effect on families. We also understand that our students are best served – both academically and socially – by being in school but, as always, the safety of our young people is our top priority.

### **HOW IS THE DECISION MADE?**

The decision to open or close school in bad weather is based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, some of which are:

- **Road conditions** – This information comes from our District snow-plowing crew; our transportation department and the police. The status of City snow plowing efforts is also an important consideration.
- **Amount of snow and/or ice already accumulated and whether precipitation is expected to continue along with the temperature and wind chill factors.** Careful monitoring of weather forecasts.
- **School site conditions** – Information is communicated to the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds from staff members who are responsible for clearing and treating school parking lots, driveways and sidewalks. Any electrical and/or heat problems are also reported by custodial and maintenance staff.

### **WHO MAKES THE DECISION?**

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for the final decision based on the above factors.

### **HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?**

Tune to local radio or TV stations for closing information. The first calls go to TV channels 2 (WGR), 4 (WIVB) and 7 (WKBW) and radio station 930 AM (WBEN) followed by the FM radio stations. Please do not call the schools unless it is an emergency. We are also continuing to implement emergency notification of families through Global Connect. Please make sure that the District has your updated telephone numbers. Also understand after we receive your updated information it will take time to update the District's data base.

### **WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?**

We always try to make the decision by 6:30 a.m. so we can notify radio and TV stations and alert the transportation and food service departments. Waiting much longer to announce a closing means some parents will have already left for work expecting their children to be in school for the day.

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**WILL SCHOOLS CLOSE IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?**

Keep in mind that, even if weather conditions worsen, we cannot reverse the decision in the morning without endangering students. Once the decision is made to open school, many parents rely on it and leave for work. This includes those who drop off children at the BASE Program or Little Lumberjacks Day Care as early as 7:00 a.m. If we were to send students right back home, many would return to unsupervised bus stops and empty houses.

Although the North Tonawanda District Staff does our absolute best in this process, we know that no perfect decision exists. Conditions in one part of the City may differ dramatically from those in other parts. Even if your neighborhood is clear, travel elsewhere in the District could be a problem and vice versa.

**Therefore, if school is open but the conditions as you observe and consider them are such that you do not feel it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment on whether he or she should attend.** Your decision will always be respected.

I hope this explanation helps everyone understand the process we use to make the best possible decision for all in our District.

**Global Connect Program**

The North Tonawanda City School District has 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. Everyone should have received a Global Connect Call during this year’s school 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!

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**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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