

Ohio Elementary School News

October 2008

Dear Parents,

We are off to an exciting year at Ohio Elementary. The school year has opened smoothly thanks to the tremendous efforts and preparation by faculty, staff and families!

In our kindergarten program, we are continuing with *The Magic Penny*. This program helps to focus on the development of phonemic awareness – supporting our students in their reading and writing efforts. We are expanding this program to include some groups at the first grade level this year.

As a building, we are expanding our focus on literacy development to include the *Strive for 25* reading goal for each of our students. This reading goal encourages each student to read at least 25 age-appropriate books during the school year. In order to promote this focus, our building reading theme: *The Magic of Reading* has worked its way into the halls of Ohio. A knight in shining armor travels Ohio to remind students about the wonders of reading. I encourage you to engage your children into 20 minutes of reading each night! In anticipation of reaching this goal, our November NT Youth Vote will include an opportunity for students to vote on a costume they would like to see Mrs. Cuddy-Miller dress in when we meet our building goal.

As a faculty, we will be focusing on the *Continuum of Literacy Learning* to help us focus on differentiating our instruction. This will help us in our goal of meeting the learning needs of each student, every day.

We are excited to continue to focus on delivery a program of excellence in our educational system and welcome you to an exciting new year!

Sincerely,
Karen Cuddy-Miller
Principal

Calendar at a glance:



October

- 1st **O.H.I.O. meeting** – 6:30
Fall Fundraiser begins
- 3rd Picture Day!
- 10th Family Dance: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- 13th **Columbus Day** – No School
- 15th Fall Fundraiser ends
Chiavetta Chicken Dinner Sale (to be held at Meadow School)
- 25th Roller skating Party
- 24th **Staff Development Day** – No School
- 31st Parent Teacher Conferences - ½ day!

November

- 5th **O.H.I.O. meeting** – 6:30
Parent teacher conferences – evening
- 11th **Veterans' Day** – No School
- 12th NYS Social Studies Assessment (Grade 5)
- 13th NYS Social Studies Assessment (Grade 5)
Parent Teacher Conferences - ½ day!
- 14th Picture Re-take day
Fall fundraiser pick-up (in the gym)
- 21st Basket Raffle: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 26th No School
- 27th Thanksgiving Day – No School
- 28th No School



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



Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner

The North Tonawanda Optimist Club is again sponsoring the Chiavetta Chicken Dinner as a fundraiser. Tickets may be purchased in advance through the Ohio Elementary Main Office as well as at Meadow Elementary during the sale. Tickets for the chicken dinner are \$8.00. With pre-sale tickets you can drive right up and have your diners handed to you! Proceeds from this event will support our North Tonawanda students and community.

Arrival Times

8:50 a.m.

Students may enter the building. No student may enter before 8:50 unless they are here for breakfast. As our weather will be changing within the coming weeks, we are aware that inclement weather will be upon us soon. It is important to note that students **cannot** enter the building before 8:50 as we are not able to guarantee supervision. If your child needs to arrive at school earlier than 8:50, we recommend that you contact the BASE program in order to arrange early supervision for your child or children.

In order to be admitted to the building before 8:50 students must be registered for the B.A.S.E. program. Any student, not registered in the BASE program, arriving before 8:50 a.m. will remain outside and unsupervised, as we are not able to provide supervision at this time. If your child walks to school, please time his/her travel time to school appropriately. Students arriving with parent supervision will be asked to remain in the vestibules at each entrance before 8:50 a.m.



Dress Code

Thank you for continuing to honor our dress code. As a reminder for our students, our ultimate goal is for our children to be healthy, happy, and successful, both now and in the future. To that end, we want our students to **“Dress for success.”** At Ohio Elementary, this means that we are dressing *with respect and safety* in mind. We ask that students wear sneakers or shoes that are safe and secure on their feet, (no hee-lies or flip-flops) and clothing that is respectful to self and others. This means that we would like to see clothing that **does not** expose underwear or tummies. Please also be certain that any picture or phrases that might be displayed on clothing are appropriate for an elementary school setting.

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Halloween Parade



On Friday, October 31st, we will be having our Annual Halloween Parade. The parade will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m. If the weather is cooperative, we will follow our annual parade route beginning outside of the Kindergarten Wing. As with last year, all students, including our sixth graders, will have the option of participating. We are excited to enjoy this annual fun again!



Students are asked to wear their costumes to school that morning so that they are ready to have a great time!

In keeping with our philosophy of respect and responsibility, we ask that students refrain from costumes that represent or promote violence and gore. PLEASE do not send students to school with weapons or blood, as students will be instructed to leave or place these in bags to go home and will not be allowed to include these in the parade or classroom activities.



From our Fourth Grade:

Here in fourth grade we are settling into our busy schedules! We have many exciting things going on each day. In Mrs. Quagliana's social studies classes, we are studying the Erie Canal in anticipation of our field trip in October. During this field trip, we will be cruising along the Erie Canal, singing songs from the 1800's, and enjoying the beautiful scenery.

In Mrs. Nino's science classes, students are planning healthy menus and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Mrs. Quagliana's class is also showing that they know how to eat healthy breakfasts and lunches. They are planning a celebration at the end of the month to support this learning!

In Mrs. Zarbo's math classes, students are solving the "Problem of the Week" in order to enhance their higher level thinking skills. We are looking forward to a great year!

From our Sixth Grade:

This year has gotten off to a great start! We are thrilled to be working with your children. We want to thank all of you for sharing what is important about your children in the "Million Words or Less" activity. We feel that it really helped us get to know our new students. We also hoped you enjoyed seeing all the examples of the "Oldest Thing" activity as much as we did during our Open House. It, along with the last name project, does a great job of laying the groundwork for studying the past.

As you know, the entire school is promoting a contest to encourage the love of reading. We are encouraging students to complete reading 25 books by the end of the year. The theme of knights and castles is actually part of the sixth grade curriculum – so students will be learning more and having fun!

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VOCAL MUSIC - MRS. STRONG

Thank you to all of the families who came to visit me in my new room during open house. I enjoyed showing you the space in which your children and I will be making music this year.

We will be sharing many wonderful programs this year. Watch for a flyer to come home about the holiday concerts we will present in school. There may even be an Elvis sighting!

"Kind words are the music of the world." Faber

From the cafeteria:

Breakfast \$.75

Lunch \$ 1.10

Parents may want to consider prepaying for your children's lunches. Prepaying is an ideal way for parents to know exactly what their child is being served – 1 of the daily entrees plus at least 2 of the possible 4 offerings.

Snack items are offered at an additional cost and include:

Ice cream

Chips

Cookies

Pretzel rods

Hot pretzels

Drink

Bottled water

Fresh fruit

School lunches are a great value both nutritionally as well as economically!



From the Nurse...

A sincere thanks to all the Kindergarten and Sixth grade parents that supplied their child's updated immunization records. Ohio school is in total compliance with New York State Immunization regulations.

A reminder to all Kindergarten, Second, Fourth grade parents and parents of new enterers and children having their triennials this year: IF you haven't already done so, please let me know if you DON'T want the school medical providers to perform your child's physical in school. Otherwise the medical providers WILL perform the physical in October.

Beth Galas RN
Ohio School Nurse

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Strive for 25!

Honorable Lords and Ladies Experience the Magic of Reading!



New York State has set forth a reading goal for our young apprentices to read 25 books outside of school. We have castle wide activities planned to help the parents and classroom teachers encourage this noble task.



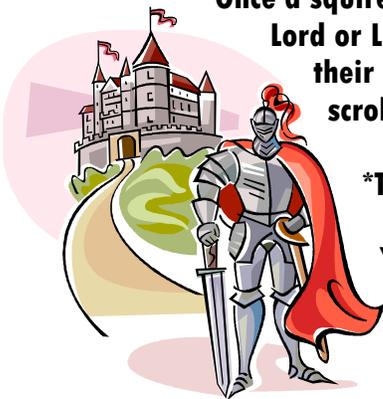
Here is a sampler of events set forth by the Knights of the Round Table:

***A black night is experiencing the magic of reading and mysteriously roaming the hallways of Ohio with his book.**

***If our apprentices reach the school wide goal of 11,200 books read (25 times the number of Ohio students), our queen, Mrs. Cuddy-Miller will dress up in a costume for a day in June. During Kids-Vote in November, the costume will be voted on by Ohio's squires.**

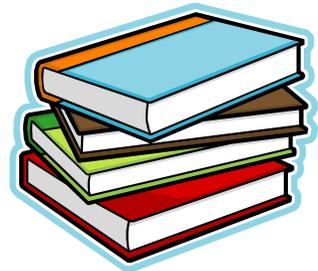
***Our Lord and Ladies in waiting (special area teachers) will support our noble quest by periodically distributing bookmarks to all our squires throughout the year.**

***Once a squire has completed their quest they will become a Lord or Lady. They will be given a Lord or Lady to color and this will be placed in the castle display by the main office. Also, their great deed will be proclaimed throughout the castle with their name added to a scroll held by our noble black night.**



***Traveling jesters will entertain our court with a "Magic of Reading" assembly.**

Your support during your squire's quest is essential. Please establish a regular reading time at your castle. You may want to decree a family reading time or for those busy days of jousting, have the apprentices read in the carriage while traveling.



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Ronald McDonald Beverage Tab Fund Raiser

It's back! Our Ronald McDonald Beverage Tab Fund Raiser is returning during the month of October! Start saving those tabs! We will begin collecting pop-top tabs on October 1st and weigh the tabs each weekend. (Counting the tabs became a full time job in past years!) The class that collects the most tabs during the month of October will win a pizza party donated by our OHIO group. It is great fun to collect the tabs and worth the effort to support this charity. We greatly appreciate your support in this endeavor!



History of the Beverage Tab Fund Raiser:



Jamie Warren is a student at Buffalo State College and a cheerleading coach for Mrs. Schake's daughter. Two years ago, she became extremely ill and had to travel to Indianapolis for surgery. Jamie and her mother spent two days trying to recover in a hotel room while keeping doctor appointments following the surgery. The Ronald McDonald House of Indianapolis contacted Jamie and her mother, offering them a room during their stay. Both Jamie and her mother said that returning to the comfort of the Ronald McDonald House's "homey environment" made recovery from this surgery much easier. Jamie has needed to return to Indianapolis several times since this surgery and has noted that the Ronald McDonald House has continued to be there for them...even picking them up at the airport. When Mrs. Schake asked how she could help the family, they asked only for beverage tabs that help support the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House receives money for every pound of tabs collected!

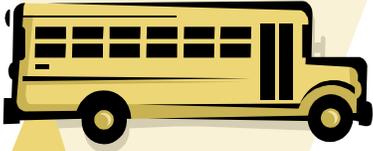
During the 2006-2007 school year, Mrs. Schake and her family took their support further. They began cooking meals for the families that stay at the Ronald McDonald house of Buffalo. Mrs. Schake and her family have had the pleasure of meeting some of the families including children being treated at Roswell Park Memorial Cancer Institute as well as moms and dads of children being treated at Women's and Children's Hospital. Mrs. Schake has noted that the service provided by the Ronald McDonald House is amazing! So start saving those tabs!! Please help us to help others.



Please note: will notify you if there are any changes in this program.

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Bus Safety and Respectful Behavior



Parents - Please review good bus behavior with your children!

Bus drivers are responsible for safely transporting students to and from school, as well as on field trips. At the same time that our drivers are focusing on safety, they are also trying to enforce bus rules:

- ❖ *Children are responsible for appropriate and respectful behavior while riding the bus.*
- ❖ *Children need to remain seated while riding the bus*
- ❖ *Children should use appropriate and respectful language at all times. Please remember we have kindergarteners on the bus!*
- ❖ *Topics of conversation should also be age and school appropriate*
- ❖ *Students should be respectful of others - including peers and the bus driver! Bus drivers also need to be respectful of students and should be commending the students when appropriate behavior has been demonstrated!*
- ❖ *Respectful behavior includes treating others the way each person would like to be treated. A student should ask him or herself, "How would this make me feel?"*
- ❖ *Riding the bus should not make any student feel uncomfortable. All students have the right to be treated kindly and feel safe at school and on the bus.*
- ❖ *If someone has been disrespectful on the bus, please report this to the bus driver or to the building principal. Riding the bus is a privilege and will be treated as such.*



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From the Nurse...

As many communities are witnessing a rise in the incidence of varied food allergies, school districts, buildings, and classrooms, are working to create environments that will support each student in his or her specific needs. Recent conversations have often focused on the nuts or peanut allergies with which a number of students have been diagnosed. As an educational community, it is important that all members of the community – students, staff, and families, make an effort to contribute to the creating an environment that is as safe as possible for our students. This often means that as parents, regardless of a diagnosis that may or may not exist within our own families, we need to become more active in our knowledge of ingredients and foods that we send into our children’s classrooms.



When a student in your child’s class has been diagnosed with a severe allergy to nuts or peanuts, this also indicates that the child is likely allergic to peanut butter, nut oils, peanut oils, and any foods containing or exposed to nut or peanut products of any kind.

Although, as a public school environment, we are not able to guarantee a “peanut-free environment,” we are working to create an environment that can be considered “peanut-safe.” At Ohio Elementary, we have made efforts at several levels to address these concerns. Within the cafeteria, we have designated a “Peanut-Safe” table for students who have been identified with a peanut or nut allergy. Separate cleaning materials are used to wipe this table after each meal in order to ensure cleanliness and prevent transfer of peanut residue from one table to another. Students who need to eat at this table are allowed to invite a friend to join them, provided that peer’s meal is also considered to be peanut-free. (Please note, as many of the snacks provided by the cafeteria service contain peanut products, students who eat at the peanut-free table on not allowed to purchase snacks to eat at that table.) Following lunch, all of the students in the classroom are asked to wash their hands in order to limit the possible transfer of peanut residue within the classroom.

As a parent, that are a number of steps you can take to contribute to the safety and well being of the students within your child’s classroom:

1. Be aware of any indications that a student within the classroom may have a peanut allergy.
2. When sending in treats for birthdays or other occasions, please **READ LABELS**. Foods that contain nuts, peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oils, or other nut oils can be life threatening to our students. Please avoid foods that contain these items. If this cannot be avoided, please **NOTIFY THE TEACHER** in advance so that alternatives can be provided for the affected student.
3. When you invite your children’s friends to your house, inquire about possible food allergies that the visiting friend might have. Having knowledge of such an allergy will help you to avoid inadvertently giving the child a food that could harm them.
4. If you are preparing food that contains nuts and a person with a nut allergy will be eating with you, use a clean surface and clean utensils to prepare their food separately. This will help to avoid cross contamination.
5. Teach your children to be aware of others with allergies, (not just food allergies). Awareness is the first step to providing others with safety, health, and comfort. When you invite your children’s friends to your house, inquire about possible food allergies that the visiting friend might have. Having knowledge of such an allergy will help you to avoid inadvertently giving the child a food that could harm them.

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Attention Parents: Notes to Note

Head Lice:

This is the time of year that we start to see some cases of head lice. The following contains information regarding this common medical issue:

Question: What are head lice?

Answer: Also called *Pediculus humanus capitis* (peh-DICK-you-lus HUE-man-us CAP-ih-TUS), head lice are parasitic insects found on the heads of people. Having head lice is very common. However, there are no reliable data on how many people get head lice in the United States each year.



Question: Who is at risk for getting head lice?

Answer: Anyone who comes in close contact with someone who already has head lice, contaminated clothing, and other belongings. Preschool and elementary-age children, 3-10, and their families are infested most often. Girls get head lice more often than boys, women more than men. In the United States, African-Americans rarely get head lice.

Remember, head lice don't usually jump from one child's head to another child. Instead, they spread by direct contact.

To prevent your child from getting head lice, it can help to:

- teach your children to avoid sharing things that have been on or near another child's head, including hairbrushes, combs, hats, scarves, towels, helmets, etc.
- Find time and make it important to check your children regularly for nits and live head lice so that you can discover a head lice infestation as early as possible and begin treatment before it spreads to the rest of your family and your child's friends and classmates.

However, despite your best efforts if your child does get head lice please notify the school nurse immediately. The nurse will keep this information completely confidential along with checking the heads of your child's classmates so that further infestation does not occur. Your child will be required to stay at home until the head lice are completely gone. Your child will also be required to have his/her head checked by the school nurse upon returning to school.

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Whooping Cough:

The North Tonawanda City School District has been informed by the WNY Section VI Athletic offices that there is an outbreak of whooping cough in **Chautauqua County**. Athletic Directors are advised to take the following necessary precautions at all athletic contests for the health and safety of their students:

1. Suspend the shaking of hands before and after all contests
2. Have hand cleanser available at all contests

Please note that this outbreak has only been reported in Chautauqua County at this time. As a district, we are advising the community of this in our attempt to be proactive.

The following contains information regarding Whooping Cough:

This illness is called pertussis because it is caused by bacteria called *Bordetella pertussis*, which attacks the lining of the breathing passages, producing severe inflammation and narrowing of the airways. Severe coughing is a prominent symptom. Because the child is short of breath, she inhales deeply and quickly between coughs. These breaths frequently make a “whooping” sound, which is how this illness got its common name. Older children might not have the whoop sound. The intense coughing scatters the pertussis bacteria into the air, spreading the disease to other susceptible persons.

Symptoms of Whooping Cough

Whooping cough often acts like a common cold for a week or two. Then the cough gets worse, and the child may start to have the characteristic “whoops.” During this phase (which can last two weeks or more), the child often is short of breath and can look bluish around the mouth. She also may tear, drool and vomit. Infants with pertussis become exhausted and develop complications, such as susceptibility to other infections, pneumonia and seizures. Pertussis can be fatal in infants, but the usual course is for recovery to begin after two to four more weeks. The cough may not disappear for months and may return with subsequent respiratory infections.

Please contact your family doctor if you believe that your child has these symptoms.

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.

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Smarter Adults - Safer Kids District Training Dates:

<u>Date - Time</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Location</u>
<i>Sept. 10 - 5:30 am</i>	<i>Ohio</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>
<i>Sept 11 - 9:00 am</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	<i>Conference room</i>
<i>Sept. 26 - 9:00 am</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	<i>Conference room</i>
<i>Oct. 14 - 9:30 am</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Room 163</i>
<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>

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/. Please also remember that the New York State web site is 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.

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.

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If you would like to visit the school district website this is the web address:

www.ntschoools.org

Ms. Maroney,
Computer Skills Teachers

Attention Families: Has your contact information changed?



Please notify the school immediately if there is ever a change in your contact information – including cell, home, or work telephone numbers and/or your home address. For your convenience, if there has been a change, you may fill out the bottom portion of this sheet and submit to your child's teacher. Thank you!



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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