

Ohio Elementary School News

October 2009

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: *Going Bananas for Books* has worked its way into the halls of Ohio. A monkey 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 the name for our Strive for 25 Mascot.

The Shared Decision Making Team met to discuss the focus for the upcoming year. The team has a good representative sampling of parents, administration, teachers, and staff. In an effort to include parents in the academic programs, you will begin to see two articles coming home in each newsletter. The articles will focus on math and reading activities that can be completed at home.

Sincerely,
Wendy L. Richards
Principal

Calendar at a glance:



October

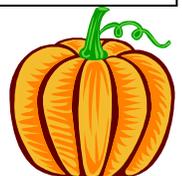
- 7th **O.H.I.O. meeting** – 6:30
Fall Fundraiser begins
- 9th Picture Day!
- 12th **Columbus Day** – No School
- 13th Board of Education Meeting 7:30
- 14th Chiavetta Chicken Dinner Sale (to be held at Meadow School)
- 16th 100th TNT Game
- 22nd Roller skating Party
Fall Fundraiser Ends
- 30th Staff Development Day ½ day

November

- 4th **O.H.I.O. meeting** – 6:30
- 6th Theme Tray Raffle 6:00-8:00
- 11th **Veterans' Day** – No School
- 12th NYS Social Studies Assessment (Grade 5)
- 13th NYS Social Studies Assessment (Grade 5)
Family Dance
Picture Re-take day
- 20th Staff Development Day
Early Release Elementary Schools
- 25th No School
- 26th Thanksgiving Day – No School
- 27th No School

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Transportation is limited in its ability to add students to other buses. We will be unable to honor requests that a student be allowed to ride home with another student on their bus unless it is an emergency



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 on October 14th 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 dinners 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.

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

Halloween Parade



On Friday, October 30th, 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 Kindergarten:

The kindergarten students are becoming a fine community of learners. They are quickly learning classroom routines/procedures and happily making new friends. Within their literacy block they are joyfully singing, reading, and writing about colors, numbers, ABC's and their world. The current math concepts are patterns, sorting, and counting. Their five senses are being used to discover many things every day.

From our First Grade:

Miss Tirone's class has begun Writing Workshop and this month we are focusing on capturing the small moments of every day life. Like authors, we are planning and revising stories and best of all, learning to write with confidence and skill. We have launched our first grade writing portfolios.



From our Second Grade:

We have Monarch and Painted Lady caterpillars in our rooms this year and are following their live cycles. Our Monarchs have flown to warmer places (migrated) but our Painted Ladies have just gone into their chrysalises. We are very excited to see that not all chrysalises are the same size or color. We have read stories, labeled the parts of a caterpillar and butterflies, and created our own butterfly life cycles. Butterflies are a blast!



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

From our Fourth Grade:

The fourth graders are eagerly anticipating their trip to the Erie Canal and the Niagara County Museum on October 7. But until then, here's what is happening in fourth grade:

In social studies, we are learning about the tremendous impact the canal had on the growth of New York State. In conjunction, our language arts program includes reading of The Erie Canal. It is a mystery filled with many historical facts about life on the canal in the early 1800's.

Can the Erie Canal be a solid, liquid, or gas? Of course, it can! In science, we have begun studying properties of matter. Children will be participating in many hands-on experiments, as well as gaining new knowledge about chemical and physical changes. Please encourage your child to use their senses to describe the matter that surrounds them.

In math, students are learning about place value and have begun comparing and ordering numbers. They are currently working to develop their understanding of one million. The students truly enjoyed reading How Much is a Million? by David Schwartz. Try asking your child how large a goldfish bowl would need to be in order to hold a million goldfish. Do they think that the Erie Canal would be big enough to hold a million goldfish too?

In closing, we would like to thank Mrs. Opera, our reading specialist, and Miss Jayne Garlapow, our math specialist. With their support and efforts, all children are off to a great fourth grade start.

From our Fifth Grade:

Mrs. Mahoney's October Newsflash

It was great to see all of our Room 118 families at open house. I hope you enjoyed your children's letters, and the tour of our classroom. This is a busy month in our classroom, as we are establishing our routines for Reader's Workshop. The children are reading realistic fiction this month, and will complete several projects (at school-don't worry!) related to that genre.

In Language Arts we are learning about suffixes, and different kinds of sentences. In Math we are working on estimating, rounding, and ordering whole numbers and decimals. Mapping skill are the focus of Social Studies, and in Science we are planting beans, watching mold grow, and observing plant parts at work. The children are settling in, and are hard at work!

From our Sixth Grade:

September was a great settling in month for the 6th grade. The students adjusted to their new schedule and the switching of classes very well. They are completing their agendas everyday before they go home. Please ask your child to show you his or her agenda and tell you what they are working on.

In addition to settling in, we are letting the students know our goals. A big part of Sixth grade is preparing the students for middle school and helping to transition them from elementary to middle school. We are encouraging independent and responsible behaviors.

Finally, talk with your child about the upcoming local elections. Mrs. Cary and the sixth grade students will be coordinating the Kids Vote for Ohio school.

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

From the cafeteria:

Breakfast	\$.75
Lunch	\$ 1.10
Milk	\$.65

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	\$.75/ \$.95
Chips	\$.75
Cookies	\$.35
Pretzel rods	\$.15
Hot pretzels	\$.75
Drink	\$.55
Bottled water	\$1.00
Fresh fruit	\$.60

Snacks CANNOT be prepaid and prepaid lunches CANNOT be used to purchase snacks.

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



From the Nurse...

With all the new flu protocols from the Center for Disease Control and the New York State Department of Health, please make sure that your Emergency Contacts for picking up your ill child are able to pick up in a timely manner, preferably 15 - 20 minutes. This is so extremely important since we don't have an isolated waiting area for ill children. Thank you for your co-operation.

New York State requires Health Physicals for those students in grades Kindergarten, Second, Fourth and new enterers to the district and those requiring Triennials. Ohio school physicals will be in early November. If you have an appointment with your own child's physician for the examination, let me know. Health Office phone is 807-3802.

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

© Instrumental Music News ©.....from Mrs. Wright

Greetings and welcome back to another wonderful year of music!!! Rehearsals and lessons are in full swing!!! Everyone has been prepared and is sounding GREAT!!! Thank you for giving your child this opportunity to experience the life long benefits of musical participation!! Below are just a few more tidbits of information:

- 1. The Recorder Program is now a part of the 3rd grade general music class. (4th graders will still receive recorder instruction this year as well.) A letter went home explaining this change earlier this month.**
- 2. Instrumental lessons will be available for 4th grade students beginning in January. Recruitment will start soon!!! Watch for more info!!**
- 3. Deadline for returning All-City Band permission slips is October 15th (6th grade band members).**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, I will not be able to do the Ronald McDonald Pop Tap fund-raiser in October. Since I do not want interfere with other school activities, I will delay it until March. Sorry for the inconvenience! Thanks to all that have already been collecting!



Sincerely,
Mrs. Schake

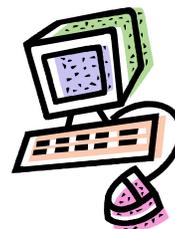
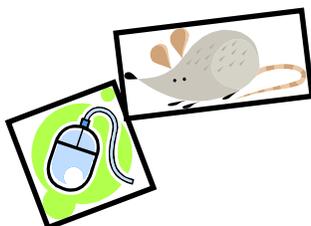
Building our future together, one student at a time...

Summing up September in the Computer Lab

It was wonderful to meet so many parents and students at Open House. I hope you enjoyed seeing just a taste of what a SmartBoard can do.

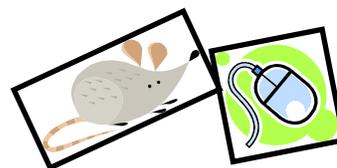
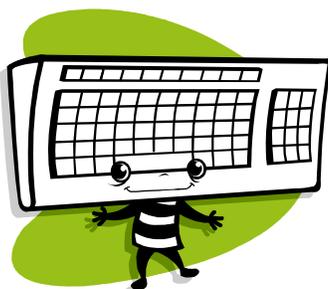


All grades levels spend time in September talking about Computer Lab rules, parts of the computer and computer terms. We also learned some of the Do's and Don'ts of On - Line Safety.



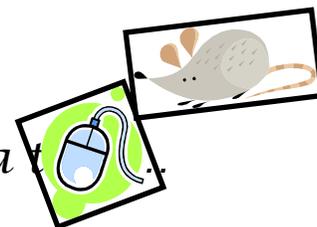
K-2

Practice, Practice, Practice! K- 2 students used a variety of programming to sharpen their mouse skills.



3 - 6

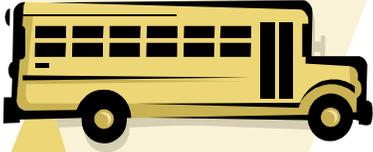
Grades three thru six used the internet programs DanceMat Typing and Spider Typer as a refresher to prepare them for the ten cycles of keyboarding they receive throughout the school year in our Type to Learn Software.



Building our future together, one student at a time.

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

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.*



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

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.



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

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

Smarter Adults - Safer Kids District Training Dates:

<u>Date - Time</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Location</u>
October 15 th - 2:00	Gilmore	TBD
November 4 th - 11:00	Spruce	TBD
December 3 rd - 9:00	Meadow	TBD
January 20 th - 1:30	Drake	TBD
February 11 th - 6:00	Middle School	TBD
March 3 rd - 4:30	Ohio	Library

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.

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

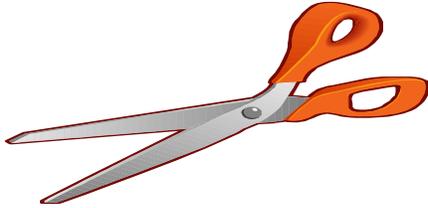
www.ntschoools.org

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

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:

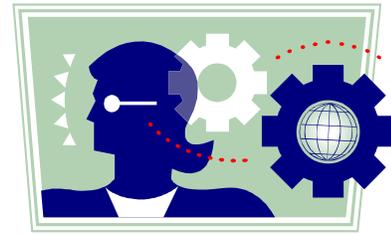
Other contact information changes: (i.e.: Grandparent phone number changes if they are listed as emergency contacts)

Parent Signature

Gifted and Enrichment Programming Identification

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Many parents are interested in how the identification process works for Gifted and Enrichment classes. We follow the Renzulli, Reise, and Smith's *Revolving Identification Model*. At the end of the school year, the classroom teachers work with Mrs. Young to recommend who might be identified as creative producers, gifted learners, bright learners. These recommendations include a reflection of strengths and weaknesses in different academic areas, task commitment, creativity, inquisitiveness, and New York State results.



Door
students
or
student
testing

Throughout this year and for each unit of study, Mrs. Young selects students who have been recommended based on their identified strengths. For example, a student may be included in a science group, but not for a math group because they are demonstrating outstanding aptitude in science, but not in math. Because the rate of child development varies, the pool of students considered is reviewed with updated recommendations throughout each school year. Revisions to the pool of students considered include additions of students who might be newly recommended based on new observations by this year's teachers or reductions of students who are not demonstrating the same skill levels during this school year.

When each unit is concluded the student lists are reviewed and students with the targeted strengths (identified by the unit goals and objectives) will be invited to participate in the coming unit. This flexible grouping approach enables Mrs. Young to best meet the needs of each student throughout the school year. Ability, creativity, and talent combined with a solid work ethic contribute to the likelihood of participating in a Gifted and Enrichment Programming group during the school year.

Parents are informed of their child's participation in a GT group via a letter sent home with the student explaining the new unit, its goals, when the group meets, and an estimate of how many classes the unit will take.

Carol Young
Gifted and Enrichment Programming Specialist
Ohio and Meadow Elementary

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