

City School District Tonawanda

A publication of the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education

WINTER 2010

THS Quality Students Chosen

Each year the Rotary-Kiwanis Club honors "Quality Students" from Tonawanda, North Tonawanda and Cardinal O'Hara high schools. This program honors seniors with outstanding leadership, scholarship, service and character.

Congratulations to the following Quality Students: Deanna Bowers, Jillian Carl, Brielle Clontz, Caitlin Devlin-Brooks, Caroline Karanas, Meghan Kossow, Philip Lockhart, Elisa Lorenz, Anita MacKay, Katharine Meyer, Jeremy Nebelecky, Miranda Papp, Daniel Peters, Danielle Primiano, Melissa Primiano, Tara Radkiewicz, Leah Swartz, Michael Tolsma, Amanda Van Hise and Briana Walck.

Community Fair

The annual Tonawanda Community Fair is scheduled for Saturday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tonawanda High School.

The Community Fair is a free, all-ages event that is open to the public. In lieu of admission, donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted for the Tonawanda Salvation Army Food Pantry. This event will feature informational tables and demonstrations from dozens of local businesses, agencies, community organizations and school groups. Additional featured activities will include: kids' activities area; children's safety information and resources; demonstrations; entertainment; blood drive with the American Red Cross; refreshment sales to benefit student and youth clubs; rummage sale to benefit the Family Assistance Center of Tonawanda; and a mattress sale to benefit the Tonawanda baseball team. Free "welcome bags" will be given to the first 500 attendees. In addition, there will be door prizes, a 50/50 split raffle and give-a-ways. For more information, contact event coordinator Melissa Frawley at 695-5578 or e-mail mfrawley@tona.wnyric.org.

January 2010 High School Graduates

Congratulations to Tonawanda High School graduates Will King, Jacqueline Brzezinski, Rosalee Ann Oddo and Brianna Urbaniak. They are four of 10



graduates for January 2010. The other six will walk with the May graduating class.

Graduates pictured left to right are Will King, Jacqueline Brzezinski, Rosalee Ann Oddo and Brianna Urbaniak, along with Superintendent Vantine, Board President Casal, Principal Kazmierczak and Vice-Principal Sedita.

Kindergarten Registration

It's hard to believe but we are already looking ahead to the 2010-2011 academic year. Parents should begin the process of registering their little ones for kindergarten.

Children expected to enter kindergarten in the Tonawanda City School District in September 2010 can register at the Tonawanda District Administration offices at 100 Hinds Street between March 1 and March 5 for the Mullen Attendance Zone and between March 8 and March 12 for the Riverview Attendance Zone (please visit www.tonawandacsd.org to view the zone map).

At the time of registration, parents/persons in parental relationship will be required to furnish:

- Child's original birth certificate with an affixed seal (copies are not permitted)
- Health/immunization records from your child's pediatrician/physician
- Documentation to verify parental residency in the Tonawanda City School District (NYS driver's license/passport/NYS non-driver's license photo ID; one (1) document containing name and address such as a mortgage/tax bill, rental agreement or notarized statement from landlord and one (1) additional document containing name and address of parent/guardian).

Parents/guardians must complete a student registration form (a blank form will be available at registration appointment or on the Web site: www.tonawandacsd.org – click pupil services tab and click the "Kindergarten Registration" link on the side menu panel).

Questions regarding prekindergarten or kindergarten registration should be directed to the district registrar at 213-4799, or contact Robert Breidenstein, 694-7684.

For more coverage on what is happening in the district's universal prekindergarten (UPK) applications process and in the classrooms, be sure to look for the UPK story on page 4 in this newsletter.

TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Message from the Superintendent:

Dear Community Residents:

Economics are on everyone's mind these days, and the Tonawanda City School District is no different. As the 2010-2011 operating budget is being crafted, we are acutely aware that times are difficult for many of our citizens. Yet, a comforting note about our community... it has always supported its children.

As discussions center on how to foster continuous progressive and value-driven expenditures based on providing a platform of educational, social and emotional well-being for each child in our schools, there absolutely must be a close inspection of every facet of operations. We intend to have just that kind of conversation with members of the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education, employee associations and staff.

In my opinion the Tonawanda City School District is poised to make monumental changes that, if enacted, will strongly foster the ability to be fiscally prudent and solvent while simultaneously advancing academic and social programs that will propel students to their highest levels of achievement. The recommendations from our task force groups (who investigated facilities, Clint Small Stadium, and financial issues) will, if enacted, have an impact on budgets for upcoming years.

The old adage "spending like a drunken sailor" cannot be the guiding principle when making fiscal decisions as we debate how best to allocate funds. However, during parallel discussions there must be an effort to not undermine the educational welfare of the students attending our schools. A delicate balance indeed!

Last year in preparation for the 2009-2010 operating budget, the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education took the unprecedented steps of offering a retirement incentive and voted to permanently close an elementary school. These steps were designed to weather last year's unpredictable economic climate. Further, there were marginal reductions in staffing across the full spectrum. Each budget cycle presents a myriad of methods to assist in arrival at a fiscally prudent and educationally sound budget. The year 2010 is no different.

Entering my third budget cycle here in Tonawanda and 26th overall, I am confident that, working in a spirit of conscious thoughtful deliberation, an operational budget will be developed that expresses hope for brighter futures for the children of the City of Tonawanda and its schools.

I look forward to the preparation of the 2010-2011 operating budget and invite your comments.



Sincerely,

Whitney K. Vantine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



PTSA Update

The Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) has been very busy the last couple of months!

In October Halloween parties took place. The PTSA sponsored a special education Halloween party. This went well. Special thanks go out to Effie Cowell for chairing this "spooktacular" event. A T-shirt/sweatshirt sale was held at all the schools and this was a big hit. In November the PTSA held the annual Turkey Trot at Fletcher School. Congratulations to all the winners. Mullen held a food drive and students collected over 1,000 pounds of food for the St. Francis Food Pantry. Riverview held a Turkey Walk, which was a lot of fun. For Christmas a "Christmas Shop" was held for all the elementary students. This was a huge success! Thank you especially to Christina Alvarez and Shea Butts for co-chairing this event. PTSA partnered with student council for "Wrap it up Night." The high school students did a wonderful job with the elementary students. Also, thank you to all of our volunteers. These events would not be possible without you.

We are looking for officers for next year. Please contact rengilb1@gmail.com if you are interested. Visit www.TonawandacentralPTSA.com to stay connected!

Renee Gilbert
PTSA President

District Goals - 2009-2010

- The district shall provide a curriculum, instruction and programs for the effective education of all students.
- The district shall promote a positive image and provide a pathway to continue building strong relationships with community, students and staff.
- The district will continue to explore the effective use of district facilities in order to provide an improved educational environment and to control future costs of the district.

Adopted November 24, 2009

2010 Best Place to Raise Your Kids

In November, *BusinessWeek* magazine named Tonawanda as the "2010 Best Place to Raise Your Kid" for the state of New York. Winning city criteria included affordability, safety and school test scores.



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Coordinator of Athletics and Physical Education



The district would like to welcome Brad Halgash as the new coordinator of athletics and physical education. Mr. Halgash brings with him a wealth of experience to the position. Most recently, he served as athletic director and physical education teacher at Royalton-Hartland School District in Middleport. He also served as chair for the district-wide health and wellness committee, mentor for first-year staff members of the district, and wrote a K-12 curriculum for physical education.

Mr. Halgash received his master's degree from Niagara University and his bachelor's degree from Canisius College. He is New York State certified in administration/supervision, as well as physical education K-12.

Board of Education President Lynn Casal says "Brad Halgash comes to us highly recommended. Everyone spoken to, by the district, had nothing but positive feedback on how energetic, organized and hard working he is. It is a new chapter for the City of Tonawanda School District, and we look forward to Mr. Halgash taking the sports program to a higher level."

Mr. Halgash is supported by his wife Laurie and their two children, Nathan (4 years old) and Quinn (18 months). "I look forward to leading Tonawanda athletics and physical education departments by providing our students/athletes opportunities for success, in order to continue to be a source of pride in our community," Mr. Halgash said.

Annual Fund

Something exciting is happening in our school district even with the economic realities that our state is dealing with and how this will be affecting taxpayers and school districts. We have begun fund-raising efforts that will augment our children's educational experience. Individuals and corporations wishing to support a particular program can do so while helping to minimize overall costs to taxpayers.

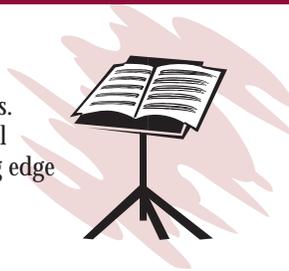
To kick off the annual fund we are looking to the Tonawanda High School music program which is in need of assistance in the area of technology. We are raising funds to create a computer lab, complete with a mobile SMART Board.

This will help students to better meet New York State standards and performance indicators in creativity and analysis. Music students should be writing and composing music, as well as reading music and playing in band. The lab will consist of a new mobile SMART Board (a computer-linked high-tech white board which, will help expand a student's knowledge base through touch control of computer applications and interaction with Microsoft Windows applications), five computer stations and

music keyboards. Each system will have the cutting edge programs GarageBand and Sibelius 6 installed. Both are leading music composition and notation software. The programs would provide the necessary equipment for students to create music or podcasts at their own pace, arrange and record projects throughout the year.

The lab environment helps students in the areas of music theory, jazz improvisation, general music, ear training, composition and keyboard training. This not only helps students meet state standards, but helps give them a competitive musical edge. These tools don't replace tools from the past such as saxophones, pianos and drum sets, rather they enhance the future and enrich the environment in which music is created.

To bring this equipment to the district, our fund-raising goal is \$10,000. We are almost half way there and could use your assistance. If you would like to support the music program, call 213-4698 for details.



Family Assistance Center of Tonawanda (FACT)



The Family Assistance Center of Tonawanda (FACT) is a place to find help and support with life's challenges.

FACT's services include: individual and confidential consultation with the FACT coordinator, linkage to individual and family counseling, information and referrals to other community services based on needs (food assistance, food stamps, health insurance and clothing assistance). It provides a link between the school and family, and prevention programs.

The FACT office, located within the Tonawanda School District, services City of Tonawanda students, families and community members. FACT is a partnership of the school district, public and private agencies, and members of the community. The center is a link to a variety of community services, and has two local office locations with flexible hours. The services of the center are driven by the needs of the community members of Tonawanda.

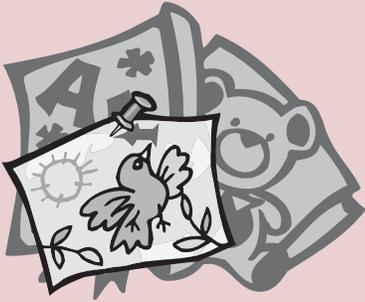
For more information on the above services, please contact the FACT Coordinator at 695-5578.

Amanda Calls 9-1-1



Riverview first-grader Amanda Angelo receives a trophy from City of Tonawanda Fire Chief Charles Stuart for her brave efforts to secure help for her mother, who fell unconscious. Geraldine (Mom), and Dennis (Dad), look on.

MULLEN SCHOOL NEWS



Prekindergarten Enrollment

Applications are available at the locations listed below.

- Fletcher Elementary School
555 Fletcher Avenue (694-7694)
- Riverview Elementary School
55 Taylor Drive (694-7697)
- Mullen Elementary School
130 Syracuse Street (694-6805)
- Tonawanda City School District
Office 100 Hinds Street

Completed applications for first round acceptance should have been postmarked or received at the District Administration Building at 100 Hinds Street by February 16. If you did not make the first-round due date, you can still submit an application. Notification and acceptance (acceptance based on a first-come, first-serve basis) will occur approximately by May 1 contingent upon approval from the New York State (NYS) Education Department.

There is no tuition cost for the program. Parents must provide transportation. Prekindergarten classes will be held starting September 2010 at Riverview and Mullen Elementary schools and Child's Creative Development Center with morning and afternoon sessions five days a week. Children must be four on or before December 1, 2010, and must not be eligible for kindergarten in September 2010.

Shoot! Score! Read More!



Buffalo Sabres defenseman Steve Montador and third-grade student Brianna LoGrasso.

"Shoot! Score! Read More!" is a program sponsored jointly by Perry's Ice Cream and the Buffalo Sabres. Through this program, Mullen Elementary School was fortunate to be selected to receive a personal visit from Buffalo Sabres defenseman Steve Montador.

Mr. Montador read the book, "Hat Tricks Count – A Hockey Number Book," and left an autographed copy of the book for the school library. Mr. Montador spoke about growing up playing hockey and he kindly answered questions from the students and posed for many photos!

Sabretooth, mascot of the Sabres, and Perry Winkle, mascot of Perry's Ice Cream, also added to the fun by coming along to the assembly.

Making Wishes Come True

A boy and his family spent the holidays in Florida thanks to the generosity of the Tonawanda community. A Christmas wish came true as students and staff members at Mullen Elementary School have once again made a Make-A-Wish dream a reality!

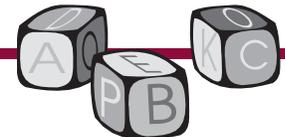
A check for \$5,000 was raised and donated by the school to the local Make-A-Wish chapter granting a life-long wish to a local 14-year-old boy. The funds raised allowed the boy and his family to enjoy some Florida sight-seeing along with attending a professional basketball game.

This is the seventh wish that students, parents and staff at Mullen Elementary School have helped to grant over the past six years.



Left to Right: Andrea Gregory, a Make-A-Wish representative; Susan Heiss, kindergarten teacher; and Make-A-Wish organizer and former Wish Kid, Matthew.

Presenting . . . Pre-K!



Prekindergarten is really taking off in the primary buildings! Although it has been around for years, the program has recently expanded to include more children - now hosting six half day sections (four classes at Mullen Elementary School and two classes at Riverview Elementary School).

Riverview's morning session is integrated* with services from area Heritage Centers. It has been a wonderful collaboration! Parents, teachers and students all agree...Pre-K is the place to be!

It is not all fun and games, though. The students work hard on a daily basis learning numbers, letters and sounds. Prekindergarten students use computers as a learning tool everyday as well as using a literacy program called "Breakthrough to Literacy" that has books and activities on the computer. Prekindergarten classrooms also have Promethean Boards**....the latest and greatest technology!

Stay tuned to hear more of our successes soon!

*Integrated classroom – Instruction to a group of learners that includes both students with and without disabilities to meet the diverse learning needs of all students in a class.

**Promethean Board – Combines the simplicity of a whiteboard with the power of a computer. It provides pen touch controls of computer applications right on the board which can energize teacher presentations and better engage students.



WGRZ's Weather Machine

Riverview Elementary School students competed with other area schools in western New York to bring Andy Parker's weather machine from television station, WGRZ, to their school.

Every morning at 6:20 a.m., Andy Parker announced the "weather word of the day" on the air. Then, school students were given the weather word during class and encouraged to cast their votes at school or at home.

To help promote this event, the students of Riverview School decided to post the "weather word of the day" in the front window of the school, with the help of art teacher, Ms. Jennifer Leone. In this way, everyone could see the word, go to www.wgrz.com to vote, and help Riverview School to win the weather machine. Voting continued until February 4. Even though Riverview did not win, the students learned valuable lessons in teamwork, creativity and how to have a bit of fun in the process.



Riverview students Cole Miller and Alexandria Heffle pose outside the school window which advertises to everyone the "weather word of the day."

No Name Calling

The week of Jan. 25 to Jan. 29 was "Anti-Bullying Week" at Riverview Elementary School. The theme of "no name calling" was emphasized at a building-wide kick-off assembly and students were asked to sign "No Name Calling Pledge." Kevin McCathy, an outside speaker, also presented a performance titled "Believe in Yourself."

During the week, many anti-bullying activities took place. Students were recognized over the announcements for their "acts of kindness" and their good deeds were displayed in the hallway. In the classrooms, curriculums reflected anti-bullying themes, students completed computer "webisodes" (12 lessons to stop bullying), and students read books on the topic, like "Simon's Hook."

Bullying awareness will get a boost with an upcoming magic show during an exciting program presented by local magician and educator, Chris Johnson, on March 5.

Band and Chorus Program a HUGE Success at Fletcher

Fletcher Elementary School is fortunate to have 95 percent of the student population enrolled in the band and chorus program. But with most kids performing at the winter concert, what audience members will listen to their performance? Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Mrs. Mary Beth Scullion and Fletcher School Principal, Dr. John McKenna, saw this as a mentoring opportunity.



Pictured are Fletcher School's principal, Dr. John McKenna, and fourth-grade chorus/music teacher Miss Joanne Jasinski welcoming the Mullen and Riverview Elementary School students to the Fletcher Holiday Band and Chorus Concert.

Third-grade students, attending Fletcher School next year as fourth graders, were bused from nearby Mullen and Riverview Elementary Schools to attend the performance. This concert served to introduce these third-grade students not only to Fletcher School, but also to the band and chorus programs they will be eligible to join next year. An evening performance was held at the Tonawanda Middle School auditorium to accommodate all the Fletcher families and friends wishing to see the students perform.

Activity Days at Riverview School

"Activity Days" have been adopted at Riverview Elementary School during the school day to support the "40 developmental assets" endorsed by the Tonawanda City School District. These fun social activities encourage creative activity and foster, in the students, a bonding to their school and with teachers and parents.

During Activity Days in November, students made "Oreo turkeys" and "sponge-painted turkeys." In December, students created holiday ornaments.

It is agreed that teachers, parents and students all look forward to more of these days together!

Grade 4 and 5 Initiative: Providing Technology Skills for the Future

One of the major initiatives at Fletcher Elementary School is to empower all fourth- and fifth-grade students with proficient technology skills. The Tonawanda City School District has provided its student population with some of the most up-to-date technology programs currently available to public schools. At Fletcher Elementary School, technology-integrated lessons are woven throughout curriculum instruction. The newest teaching technology at Fletcher School is the interactive SMART Board. Instructors can teach from the front of the classroom using the SMART Board as a large-scale computer touch screen.

SMART Board technology allows teachers to simply touch the computerized screen to type, work on Microsoft programs, use web-based researching tools such as World Book and Grolier's online encyclopedias.



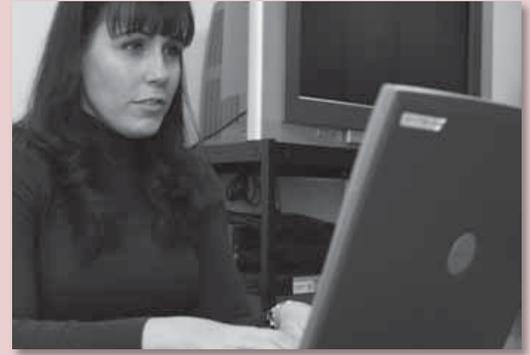
Pictured is fourth-grade Fletcher School teacher, Mrs. Melynda Rice, utilizing the Library Media Center's SMART Board for a fourth-grade research project.

ATTENTION: MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS

PARENT GATEWAY TO CHILD INFORMATION

The Tonawanda City School District is introducing the parent portal. The parent portal will allow you instant access to your secondary school child's schedule, progress report, report card and attendance. Parents of elementary students will have access to the attendance portal only. The portal gives you 24/7 access to your child's academic information. No longer will you have to wait for the mail to arrive. With a parental portal account, you may log on at any time to view information regarding your child.

We encourage parents to take part in the portal by submitting a request via the school Web site at www.tonawandacsd.org. Look for a link to the portal login page and sign up to receive instant access to your child's academic information. If you have questions, please e-mail parentportal@tona.wnyric.org.



Parents can sign up to receive parent portal information at www.tonawandacsd.org.

TONAWANDA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

The Spirit of Giving



You can never match the feeling you get when you give to others. Students and staff at Tonawanda Middle School are experiencing those feelings both before and after the holidays.

Prior to Thanksgiving, the memory book club sponsored a food drive to support the senior citizens of the Tonawanda Housing Authority. With the food that was collected, a Thanksgiving dinner was prepared, assembled and delivered to 45 senior residents.

Instead of having a Secret Santa exchange, the faculty and staff had a giving tree for the students. Gifts were purchased and given anonymously to 28 middle school students.

This spring, a few student clubs will come together to prepare and deliver ham dinners for the senior citizen residents of the Tonawanda Housing Authority.

This service to others has personal benefits as well. In addition to knowing they are helping those in the community, by providing service to others these students are building up their "developmental assets" which represent relationships, opportunities and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive.

2010 Tech Wars - Middle School Students go for 3-peat

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, the students from Tonawanda Middle School (TMS) aimed to 3 peat at the 2010 Tech Wars, an academic technology competition held at Niagara County Community College (NCCC) that pulls together more than 700 middle and high school students from 24 school districts in western New York. Sure enough, the technology students reached their goal, performing a hat trick by winning their third straight CO₂ Dragster competition.

For both of the last two years, the middle school has placed in the top 5 in points for the district. Encouraged by past successes, this year Cory Adams led the way for TMS, winning the event in a blistering .679 seconds (unofficially a new Tech Wars record). Finishing second was Chris Mara, with .692 seconds. After Adams and Mara, TMS finished fourth to seventh to round out the top eight with Christiana Rodriguez in fourth, John Snowman in fifth, Billy Galley in sixth, and Alyssa Pigott seventh.

In addition to the CO₂ Dragsters, the students competed in the bridge construction competition, the T-shirt logo contest, and mousetrap vehicle challenge. Here the middle school teamed up with the Tonawanda High School students.

In the T-Shirt logo competition, TMS student Jeremy Baumann finished third. The competition requires the students

to create a one-color logo, with specific requirements, to be judged by teachers from other districts.

Special thanks go out to Mr. Ty Hardleben and Mr. Shawn Lodovico, middle school technology teachers, and Mr. Gary Novits, the high school technology teacher. See page 7 for Tonawanda student winners of the high school Tech Wars competitions.

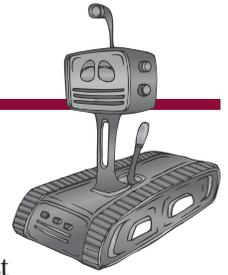
Spelling Bee Champions



Twenty-five Tonawanda Middle School (TMS) students competed on Jan. 11 for the title of TMS Spelling Bee Champion. Eighth-grader Allison Maurer spelled her way to the honor of representing TMS in a county-wide written competition for school champions. Seventh-grader Marina Tighe placed second, while Victor Schmitt-Bush, from the eighth grade, took third.

The top 20 written winners will advance to an oral competition that will be held at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society on March 7. The oral competition is sponsored by the Buffalo News. Best of luck to Allison and congratulations to all who participated!

TONAWANDA HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



Activities and presentations abounded at this year's Christmas for Kids event. The Tonawanda Senior High School chapter of the National Honor Society was able to provide over 130 children with a bag of six wrapped presents to make their Christmas special.

High School Tech Wars

A crowd of over 100 watched and cheered as Tonawanda High School (THS) students, Joe Rank and Eric Krzeminski took first place out of 50 competitors in the feature event, Sumobots, at the 2010 Tech Wars held at Niagara County Community College (NCCC) on Wednesday, Jan. 13. The Sumo robots were designed to push their opponents out of an 8-foot ring as many times as possible in a 60-second timed event. Tonawanda City School District took third place overall at the 2010 Tech Wars. The competition brought together more than 700 middle and high school students from 24 school districts in western New York. Meghan Kossow and Jim Clark, THS students, took second place out of 14 competitors for their model and drawings of a 2,000 sq. ft. Victorian style home. Other high school wins included Kyle McGregor, first place, and Josh Strough, third place, out of 18 competitors in an event called "King of the Hill." The object of this introductory robot event was for participants to capture a ping pong ball, race to the other end of a playing board, and drop the ball in a hole on a small hill.

Other design projects included structural bridges, musical instruments, drafting, and video production.

Special thanks go out to Mr. Gary Novits, the high school technology teacher, as well as Mr. Ty Hardleben and Mr. Shawn Lodovico, middle school technology teachers. See page 6 for Tonawanda student winners of the middle school Tech Wars competitions.

Freshman Seminar 101

A new course is available for Tonawanda High School freshmen to ease the transition into the sometimes overwhelming halls of high school. The Freshman Seminar 101 class meets every other day and there are 10 students per class. Nine teachers are involved in teaching the class and use the book "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens," by Sean Covey. Monthly activities include study skills, journal writing and progress checks.

Events so far this year have included a "staff scavenger hunt" where students were given clues about teachers and their lives outside of Tonawanda High School. Students were then supposed to match those clues with the teacher. One teacher has a commercial pilot's license, another likes to sky-dive, and still another has run 12 marathons. Students also attended a "principal meet and greet" where they were able to get to know Mr. Kazmierczak and Mr. Sedita a little better.

Freshmen viewed the movie "The Pursuit of Happiness" in October to correspond with habit #1, "Be Proactive" in Covey's book. In November, a Diversity Day was held with members of the local community who spoke about their life experiences, and students then participated in various group activities and discussions.

Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention programs were featured in December, along with a freshman class assembly which included an important message from local presenter Cris Johnson about making good decisions while working toward a goal.

Students are currently taking interest and ability assessments and researching careers using the Web site www.nycareerzone.org, along with creating a portfolio of their interests, abilities and job goals that can be used in their future endeavors.

Hats On for a Cause

Hats on for a Cause is a biweekly event run at Tonawanda High School. Every other week students are allowed to wear a hat during the school day if they pay \$1.



A variation from last school year's "Hats On for Cancer," this year the cause for the money collection changes each time a "Hats On" day is held. So far there have been four "Hats On" days and over \$350 has been raised for such causes as: Haiti Relief, Christmas for Kids, the Buffalo City Mission, and for a holiday party sponsored at Tonawanda Towers. Future causes may include (but are not limited to): helping raise money for new recycle bins at the high school, cancer research, the Uganda Water Project, and the FACT office. "Hats On" is organized by Ms. Schork's leadership class.

Virtual Learning Lab

In September, Tonawanda High School (THS) added a Virtual Learning Lab (V-Lab) to its educational arsenal. Online courses are available to students who need "credit recovery," a way to "recover" credit for a course that a student was previously unsuccessful in earning academic credit towards graduation.

Students are technologically savvy and online courses allow them the advantage of using their computer skills to learn in a new way. By taking online courses, students are able to move through the lessons at their own pace, go back and relearn what was taught, and continue on only if they reach "mastery level" (80 percent).

The site of the V-Lab, in the former computer lab, is a friendly and welcoming environment where each student is treated as an individual rather than a group.

There are currently 24 students enrolled in the program. There has been a great deal of positive feedback from the students. "There are less distractions," "It is a warm and welcoming classroom," and "I can work at my own pace, not the teacher's," have been some of the comments.

Two second-year seniors have graduated this January based on their work in the Virtual Learning Lab.

City School District
Tonawanda

Tonawanda City School District
100 Hinds Street
Tonawanda, N.Y. 14150-1815
www.tonawandacsd.org

Dr. Whitney Vantine, Superintendent

Board of Education:

Mrs. Lynn Casal, President
Mr. James Weber, Vice-President
Mr. Augustine Beyer
Mrs. Joyce Hogenkamp
Ms. Jennifer Mysliwy
Ms. Elizabeth Olka
Ms. Sharon Stuart

RESIDENT

Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 170



Back row: Board Vice President James Weber, Joyce Hogenkamp, Board President Lynn Casal, and Augustine Beyer. Front row: Elizabeth Olka, Sharon Stuart and Jennifer Mysliwy.

Three Board Member Openings

There will be three openings for the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education for the May 18, 2010, budget vote. The board members will serve a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2010, and expiring June 30, 2013.

Application Process

- Interested candidates can pick up applications from the board office located at 100 Hinds Street between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Petitions must be signed by at least 100 eligible/qualified voters.
- Completed petitions must be filed with the board clerk not later than April 28, 2010 at 5 p.m.

Qualifications for School Board Membership

- Citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- Resident of the district for one school year prior to the election (before May 18, 2010)
- Able to read and write

This budget vote will be held in the The Wellness Gym for all wards.

Distinguished Alumni

The Tonawanda High School Distinguished Alumni Committee is seeking nominations for graduates it will honor.

Nomination forms are available at Tonawanda High School, the Tonawanda Board of Education, Tonawanda City Hall, the Tonawanda Public Library or by accessing the Web site at www.tonawandacsd.org and clicking on the link for the high school. Nominations are due Wednesday, March 18, 2010.

Alumni criteria includes: having graduated at least five years prior to recommendation; living or deceased; and having distinguished themselves in their field, career or other noteworthy endeavor.

Awardees will be named by the selection committee and announced in the media. Graduates may be nominated by anyone returning the completed form by March 18, 2010 to:

Tonawanda High School
150 Hinds Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Athletics Web site

Be sure to check out the Athletics Tab on the school Web site: www.tonawandacsd.org. Find sports schedules that are updated daily including cancellations, reschedules and facility locations.

You can download and print needed sports forms and practice schedules, as well as find dates and times for meetings, sign-ups and upcoming events.

Add this site to your "Favorites" and check it often!