

City School District Tonawanda

A publication of the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education

SPRING 2011

A Message from the Superintendent:



Dear Residents:

The Tonawanda City School District Board of Education adopted the 2011-2012 annual operating budget on April 14, 2011. I would like to

highlight important issues regarding the 2011-2012 budget:

THE BUDGET

- Adopted budget for 2011-2012 is \$30,036,627
- Budget to budget 2010-2011 to 2011-2012 has an increase of \$53,640 or .18%
- 2011-2012 budget is third year in a row that the tax levy remains the same; \$10,686,560.
- If the assessed valuation of the City remains at \$626,537,332 the tax rate per thousand would remain at \$17.06. It is important to note that the total assessed valuation for the City is NOT available until June and this total will impact the tax rate. Example; last year the assessed value went up so the tax rate went down.

FUND BALANCE OR SAVINGS

- 2011-2012 Property Tax Report Card was adopted by the Board of Education April 14, 2011.
- 2011-2012 Property Tax Report Card reflects the use and balance of Fund Balance which is the district's savings account.

- 2011-2012 budget utilizes more fund balance (or savings) than in the past; it reflects the surplus fund balance that the District accumulated.
- The District informed the public that we would use the fund balance this year and it has.
- The legal fund balance limit is 4%. The District had accumulated 6.36% last year, with the intent to use it this year which is what the district did.
- 4% of this year's adopted budget would equal \$1,201,465. The District conservatively estimates \$902,383, remaining in fund balance.
- The District has kept its promise to use the surplus, and keep the tax levy flat.
- The District is forecasting a reasonable fund balance for next year.

DISTRICT INITIATIVES

What steps were taken to arrive at the 2011-2012 operational budget adopted by the Board of Education and what does it mean for the District:

- A Retirement Incentive provided the ability to avert staff reductions other than through attrition (non- filling) of specific positions. Eight individuals took advantage from various departments.
- Wage Deferral agreements with the Teachers' Association, Custodial/ Clerical/Engineers and Central Administration/ Management Confidential Employees assisted greatly in closing a fiscal gap.

- Memorandum of Agreements with the Teachers' Association and Custodial/ Clerical/Engineers will provide labor peace for the next three years.
- No student programs have been negatively impacted.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE FUTURE

- Adopted budget represents recognition of fund balance surplus and give back to the tax payers.
- Adopted budget represents recognition to several of our bargaining units for their willingness and understanding in closing a fiscal gap without needing to exact staff reductions.
- Adopted budget prepares and aligns the District to begin establishing fiscal plan for 2012-2013 and beyond.
- Adopted budget establishes credibility with members of staff, in particular those that stepped forward and assisted the District in developing a fiscally prudent budget for 2011-2012.
- Adopted budget provides required time to access future programmatic and staff alignment in the future.

I strongly recommended the adoption of the 2011-2012 budget based on the highlighted items above. This budget was built on a continued long range fiscal cycle of anticipating State Aid, federal funding processes, while designed to recognize the residents and communities support and fiscal condition, as well as, building towards the future.

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Budget Vote – May 17

The budget vote will be held May 17, 2011 at the Wellness Gymnasium from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. All voters must be registered in order to be eligible to vote. In addition to the budget and three additional propositions, voters will be electing two members for the Board of Education for a full three-year term commencing July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

The three Propositions on the ballot authorize sale of the former Board Office located at 202 Broad Street, Highland Elementary School, and adjacent vacant lots. Copies of the budget are available at the Board Offices.

TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tonawanda Teachers Triumphant in Corporate Challenge

Good things come to those who try. This motto holds true for four Tonawanda teachers who finished so strongly in the past Chase Corporate Challenge that they were able to advance to a competition in Singapore.

The four are members of the Tonawanda City School Corporate Challenge team and include Liz Randell, Trish Hilbert, Jim Schraufstetter and Jon Lacki. Their strong showing proved to be the inspiration that carried them halfway around the world to the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge Championship, held in Singapore April 21. The team had one substitution with Jim Balcom replacing Lacki. They finished impressively with Randell and Hilbert coming 21st and 51st for the women's and Schraufstetter and Balcom placing 67th and 71st in the men's.

As educators, the four Tonawanda runners see lessons from running that apply to their students. For starters, the victory and trip to Asia are examples of a huge life lesson: The value of setting goals and working to make them become a reality. "As an educator," said Hilbert, "I hope to promote the idea of being a life-long learner. Running is something I started doing later in life. The experience of traveling to run will set an example to students to reach for dreams and seize opportunities."

"This will be an experience we can share with our students," added Schraufstetter. "We are modeling the fact that good things come to those who work hard and live a healthy life style."

Reading Rocks!

Several hundred parents and students attended the district's third annual literacy night on March 10. Families with students in prekindergarten through fifth-grade were invited to participate in the celebration. The event started out with stations where students had the opportunity to have a "Rock Star" photo taken, choose a rocker tattoo, and select a new book to take home with them. Children also entered to win door prizes that were announced the following day in school. Some "Rockers" chose to participate in the book swap where students brought in books to trade with other students. Finally, families joined Glenn Colton in Fletcher's auditorium where they rocked the night away. Pictured are student Sarah Primiano and teacher Mrs. Lunetta.



Tonawanda City School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2010-11 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2011-12 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2011-12 School Year
Total budgeted amount	\$29,982,987	\$30,036,627	\$30,003,923
Increase(decrease) for the next school year		\$53,640	\$20,936
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		.18%	.07%
Change in the consumer price index		1.6%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2010-11 school year		\$10,686,560	\$10,686,560
Administrative component	\$3,494,216	\$3,513,803	\$3,502,246
Program component	\$20,700,257	\$20,826,998	\$20,807,851
Capital component	\$5,788,514	\$5,695,826	\$5,693,826
* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2011 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. 1 * Contingency budget established pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law. Equipment not reimbursable under state aid, student supplies, salary increases not under contract, and community use of buildings and grounds above normal costs will not be included in a contingency budget. Board approved contingent budget will be developed based on state law. * Under NYS Education Law, a Board of Education must adopt a budget after 2 defeats in an amount not to exceed 4% or 120% of CPI. The 2011-12 budget proposes an increase of .18%. * This year's STAR tax savings generally may not exceed last year's by more than 2%.			

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR2 Exemption Savings:

	Budget Proposed for the 2011-12 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$511.80

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2011-2012 by the qualified voters of the Tonawanda City school district, Erie County, New York, will be held at Tonawanda Middle/High school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Tonawanda Middle/High school(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ Provide a statement of assumptions made in estimating the contingency budget pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law.

² The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

MULLEN SCHOOL NEWS

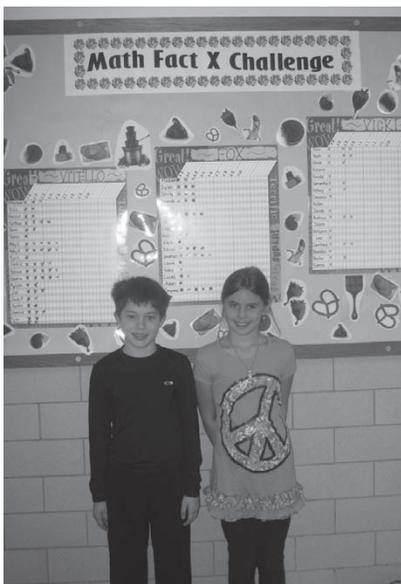
“Banking on Wellness” Teaches Healthy Food Choices, Staying Active



Miss Stephanie Lawson, a representative from The Food Bank of Western New York, recently presented a nutritional program called “Banking on Wellness” at Mullen. Instead of a school-wide assembly, she spoke during the physical education classes of Mr. Jim Balcom. In this more intimate setting, the students were able to ask questions and have them

answered as well as participate in some healthy activities. Through the use of relay races and throwing and tagging games, students learned in a “hands-on” way what a healthy lifestyle means to their body and the importance of exercise. They were taught that eating five servings of fruits or vegetables a day is a healthy way to eat. They also learned that some foods thought to be healthy are actually the opposite, such as when vegetables are fried in oil - they lose their nutritional value! Pictured are students from Mrs. Jackie Stoj’s second-grade class holding some of their favorite fruits and vegetables.

Memorization x Multiplication Tables = Chocolate Fountain



The Multiplication Math Fact Challenge has begun! Third-grade students at Mullen Elementary School have been given a delicious incentive to learn their multiplication math facts from 0-10. Third-grade teachers, Miss Fox, Mrs. Vitello and Mrs. Boros, gave their students multiplication flash cards to help them learn their math facts. The students were to write the answer on the back of the cards and practice at school and at home. The rules for the challenge are simple. Each student will be given a one minute fact test with 30 facts each day. When a student passes a fact, they will be given the next set of facts to memorize. As the entire class passes each individual set of facts, a “reward” will be given to the entire class. There will be a chocolate fountain party in each class when everyone learns their math facts. As another level of learning has been reached, another food will be added for dunking in the chocolate fountain. For example

after the times 6 facts are learned, the students will earn pretzels to dunk into the chocolate fountain. Memorization of the times 8 facts will earn the class bananas to dip in the chocolate as well. Each group of numbers brings another food for dunking. As a bonus incentive, the first third-grade class to reach the goal of having all 0-10 math facts memorized will earn a pizza party along with their chocolate fountain. Stars are given to the students as they make their way toward this scrumptious reward. The progress of each class is being watched closely and students are checking the charts in the hall frequently. Pictured are Jonathan Kurdziel and Corynne Wildrick in front of the charts. Students and teachers are excited. What a great way to learn math facts!



iPads in Special Education Classes

Technology is being used throughout the district and right here at Mullen Elementary School. One example of the use of technology is the iPad in the self-contained classroom. The students use the iPad for a variety of learning experiences. Since the iPads are user friendly and have a touch screen, they are easier to operate.

Teachers have noticed an increase in the independence level of students. Students also have been able to memorize facts at a faster rate and an increase in their learning skills has been noted. Students can use this new technology to learn many things including math facts, colors and shapes. Books are read to the students and they can follow along with the words on the screen. Additionally, students have access to musical instruments while using the iPad. The piano is available for the students to play and they enjoy creating their own tunes.

The iPads are also used to help teach a new behavior to students or to modify an existing behavior. Teachers can create a script of proper conduct and add pictures of the individual student to reinforce how they should be behaving. It becomes an even more meaningful tool with the addition of the teacher’s voice encouraging this behavior. With the use of headphones, students can be working on their specific goals without disturbing those working around them. Students and teachers like the versatility of the iPads. They are a great addition to the classroom and help all students to become successful.

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL NEWS

Learning Friendship and Respect through Puppetry

Students and staff enjoyed a performance by Sadecky Puppets, Inc. with the fun “Hide ‘N Slide” show offering an encouraging message about the importance of friendship and respect. The puppets showed students positive ways to deal with disagreements on the playground, bullying situations and making new friends. Students, as well as teachers and staff, laughed along with the puppets’ antics and jokes while gaining an understanding of how to be a good friend and show respect for other people. The show was an enjoyable, engaging way to illustrate the negative effects of bullying and disrespectful attitudes while highlighting the values of friendship, fairness and respecting others.

Riverview Third-Graders Hop Into FROG Groups!

Third-grade students at Riverview prepared for the New York State English-Language Arts (ELA) assessment through FROG Groups (Facilitating Reading for Optimal Growth). The FROG Groups of six to eight students met three times per week with a teacher to practice and build their reading habits, note-taking strategies, listening, comprehension and general testing abilities. Students prepared for the exam with practice questions and were able to work closely with teachers for specific instruction targeting their test-taking skills. This preparation time supports the Board of Education’s instructional goal of increasing student achievement by 5% on ELA levels three and four as Riverview students continue to hop toward academic success.

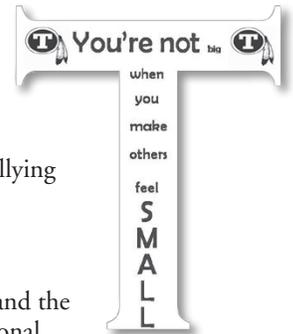
Bully Prevention Across the District

The district Bullying Prevention Committee has been meeting monthly since December and is composed of students, teachers, support staff, administration and community members. They are focusing on proactive approaches to bullying and creating a more positive school climate. In preparation for the Dignity for All Students Act which will be in effect July of 2012, they are exploring:

1. Revising the Code of Conduct to include stricter rules for bullying
2. Positive Alternatives to ISS
3. An anonymous reporting system
4. Programs and Speakers

They also support the Chain Links for random acts of kindness and the new Friends of Rachel (FOR) club which carries on the inspirational message of Rachel Joy Scott, the first student who was tragically killed at Columbine High School, but who left a legacy of helping other students.

During Rachel’s Challenge Friendship Week from March 21-25, the middle and high school clubs held several special events. The Middle School Chain Links Club sold smile suckers with notes and conducted a T-shirt sale. At both the middle and high school, songs with friendship as the theme were played over the PA system before classes started. The high school FOR (Friends Of Rachel) club also sold smiley face suckers. Students were given the opportunity to have a “Friend Photo” taken with their friends for a small fee. They were framed and had a magnet on the back to hang in a locker. The group is continuing to build a chain of good deeds. Anyone witnessing an act of kindness writes that student’s name and deed on a strip of paper to add to the chain. In addition, those who had committed good deeds received a piece of candy as a surprise. Also, a sale was held offering items such as T-shirts, hoodies and key chains.



Riverview Elementary “Builds Good Readers” during PARP Week

This spring, students and staff at Riverview Elementary celebrated Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) as a way to involve students’ families in school reading activities. Students were encouraged to expand their reading and learning habits with a variety of events and activities all week long.

Students brought their families to the library before school for some early morning reading. Students were given prizes if they were “Caught Reading in the Lunchroom” or “Caught Reading at Home” by random phone calls from teachers. Students and teachers had ten minutes of DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read) each day with

surprise visits from Principal Panaro.

All students who turned in an activity slip for reading at home were treated to a “Build Your Own Sundae” party. “Building Good Readers” was a great success and was enjoyed by readers of all ages.

PARP week wrapped up with “Celebrity Readers” from the Tonawanda community. Many thanks to all of our Celebrity Readers and parent volunteers!

Celebrity Readers pictured here include City of Tonawanda Mayor Ronald Pillozzi, Superintendent Whitney K. Vantine, Ed.D., Police Officer Dave Ljiljanich and Riverview parent Ronald Folga, Military.



Superintendent Whitney K. Vantine, Ed.D.



Police Officer Dave Ljiljanich



Riverview parent Ronald Folga



City of Tonawanda Mayor Ronald Pillozzi

FLETCHER SCHOOL NEWS

Art Students Honored at Gallery Reception

Art work created by art students from Mullen and Fletcher Elementary Schools has been chosen to be exhibited in a permanent collection at a local doctor's office, Tonawanda Pediatrics. Titled, "The Tonawanda Children's Art Gallery", the display features outstanding art works from students at both Tonawanda and North Tonawanda School Districts.



A reception was held on April 1. Work by six of our students was selected, framed and hung in this impressive gallery. Mrs. Deb Allen's art students and their families attended the reception honoring the students and their beautiful pieces of art.

Pictured with art teacher Deb Allen are Mullen students, Rebekka McClure, Danielle Papke and Kaitlyn Wood; Fletcher students Allison Curtis, Stephanie Owens. Not Pictured from Fletcher is Dominique Corkery. Congratulations to our talented young artists!

Fletcher Hosts Bicyclists in "Ride for Missing Children"

Fletcher Elementary School is one of many local area schools that will serve as a stopping point and rest stop for the annual awareness and fundraising event, "The Ride for Missing Children" on Wednesday, May 25. In honor of National Missing Children's Day, the 100-mile bike ride will be ridden by more than 100 bicycle riders who will travel throughout Erie County.



Sponsored by The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, the goal is to involve school districts along the route to promote child safety education and enhance awareness of the plight of missing children. This is an awareness event for the schools to honor the memory of missing children and to teach school age children to become conscious of exercising safety both in our community and online.

This event will serve as the culmination to the cyber safety lessons each class is learning as part of the school's library media curriculum taught by Jennifer Patterson, library media specialist and internet safety teacher. Our goal is to help make our children safer, one child at a time. The students of Fletcher School will be outside on the route to help cheer on the bicyclists as they pass through our area.

S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G Bee Time



Fletcher Elementary School recently held its annual Niagara Region PTA Spelling Bee for fourth- and fifth-graders. Each classroom in the school held its own individual spelling bee to select the top three spellers in their classroom who then participated in the school-wide spelling bee. The winners for the fourth-grade spelling bee included Katarina Lazarevic, Lily Bayley and Rose Quinn, with Nicholas Gardner as an alternate. The fifth-grade spelling winners included Kali Beutler, Alexis Cheney and Gerard Corbett, with Jeremiah Martinez as an alternate. The students then represented the Tonawanda City School District in the Niagara Regional Spelling Bee held Saturday, April 9, at Tonawanda High School. Fifth-grader Kali Beutler placed third in the regional competition against other Niagara County fourth- and fifth-graders.



Fletcher School Intramurals

Over 70 Fletcher fifth-graders had the opportunity to participate in an after-school intramural program held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays this spring. This gave the students a chance to get some additional exercise, be part of a team, practice good sportsmanship and enjoy some friendly competition.

Due to the high number of students that signed up, the kids were split into two sessions and put on teams for a floor hockey season. There were many exciting games played with some sweet passes, spectacular saves, incredible "last second goals" and great hustle. Some of the games even went to a shootout to determine a winner!

In session one, the Capitals brought home the title with a 5-2 victory over the Flyers. Members of the Capitals are pictured above: Tyler Buczkowski, Maria Garbo, Matt Muhlbauer, Jackie Haynes, Sebastian Kay, Ashley Baughman, Anthony D'Arrigo, Brittney Marcheson, and Ben Thurston.

In session two, the Sabres won the title with a 6-0 victory over the Bruins. Members of the Sabres are pictured above: Trey Boling, Hannah Strahin, Alex Prims, Amya Bishop, Eddie Walsh, Samantha Lasker, Louis Adamo, William Sampson, and Kaitlyn Keser.

TONAWANDA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

TMS Yearbook Cover Contest

Students in Mr. Lynch's art enrichment class were hard at work designing the Tonawanda Middle School yearbook cover. Students studied the psychedelic



artwork of artist Peter Max and created hand drawn designs that represent all aspects of Tonawanda Middle. They scanned their images into the computer in the high school art rooms working in Adobe Illustrator. Each student created original and unique designs that were bright, colorful and detailed. When all designs were completed, faculty, staff and students were able to vote on all of the 26 designs. Finalists included Nicole Bui, Carly Strauch and Whitney Zimmerman. After a final vote by the students on the morning announcements, Nicole Bui won the 2010-2011 Tonawanda Middle School Yearbook Design Contest. Congratulations to Nicole and all of the art enrichment students for a job well done!

TMS Students Attend All Erie County Chorus

Six of Tonawanda Middle School's very talented sixth-grade students represented Tonawanda at the Elementary All Erie County Music Festival. These students are Aaron Simonds, Alyssa Campbell, Connor Maxwell, Emily Craven, Emily Haentges and Kimberly Durnell. They were chosen to be a part of this special event based on their musical talent, their leadership qualities and great effort and participation in chorus. These students sang with 200 other Erie County students! After all of their hard work, they had the amazing opportunity to sing the concert at Kleinhan's Music Hall in Buffalo.

MS Science Class Studies Systems of the Human Body

Mrs. Haentges' eighth-grade students recently participated in frog dissections while studying the systems of the human body. The students in the photo, from left to right: Yolanda Glavin, Miranda Ralston, Rachel Warthling, Heather Farnham and Elyssabeth Roetzer. Additional photos are on display in the middle school science wing.



Connecting Virtually Across Two Districts

Ms. Wagner's sixth-grade science classes are participating in a Global Summit project. The project connects students from around the state to investigate and collaborate on global issues. Ms. Wagner's classes started out learning about ecosystems and constructing biology bottles to simulate an actual ecosystem. After the grass started to grow, students used a variety of materials brought from home and found in the classroom to "modify" their eco-system to make it more suitable to sustain life. After the students modified their eco-system, they added biotic factors such as fish, crickets and elodea. Recently, a third-grade class from Amherst signed up for a distance learning workshop being held by one of Ms. Wagner's science classes. They prepared and sent the materials in a kit to the third-graders so they could construct their very own eco-bottles. The best part about the project is that the two classes were virtually connected through the district's distance learning lab. The students from Ms. Wagner's class then taught the third-graders from Amherst how to construct an eco-bottle as well as use their experiences in answering any questions by the Amherst students.



TechYES

Tonawanda Middle School has been chosen to be one of 100 schools throughout the United States to pilot a program called TechYes. TechYes is a National Technology Literacy Certification Program for students to show they have the technological skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

Students must present two projects with different technologies used. They may choose from electronic hardware such as computers, digital cameras, camcorders, TV receivers, compact discs, scanners, etc., and computer software such as programs for word processing, drawing, making charts, composing music, publishing photos, accessing the Internet.

Eighth-grade technology teacher Mr. Lodovico originally started the TechYes program with his honors class. The interest among his classes was high so he has integrated TechYes into all five of his technology classes. The projects are monitored and graded by Mr. Lodovico and peer mentors.

"Students can select what type of project they would like to do. This is the power of the program," explains Mr. Lodovico. Examples of the projects the students are working on are music videos, photo mosaics, picture slide shows, Web sites and blogs. The students are learning about internet ethics and digital responsibility which are very important in this age of computer and internet accessibility.

Once Mr. Lodovico and peer mentors have graded projects and have determined students have met all TechYes requirements certificates will be granted to students.

TONAWANDA HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Students Named to American Legion State Summer Program



L to R, top to bottom: Robert Pettitt, Jeremy Driscoll, Jessica Maulucci and Valerie Booth.

Lessons in leadership and patriotism are the order of the day, thanks to the American Legion. The organization sponsors a Boys' State and Girls' State program, a week long summer program where participants learn about our government and constitution. The students will build a fictitious government, participate in campaign rallies, speeches, platform committees, and create bills. THS student participants will work with other students from across the state and gain confidence in their roles and duties as citizens in the United States.

The faculty chose the nominees on the basis of outstanding qualities of leadership, patriotism, scholarship and maturity. Being nominated is an honor and a tribute to the students. This year's nominees for Girls' State were Jessica Maulucci, Valerie

Booth, Madeline Haas, Kila Gilcart, Emily Christman, Jamie Idziak, and Sara Noworyta. This year's nominees for Boys' State were Jeremy Driscoll, David Mara, Clifford Tompkins, Robert Pettitt, Ryan Imhof and Brian Burkett.

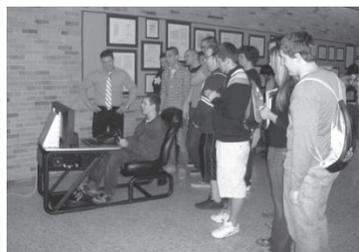
An interview process to select the winners was conducted by members of the American Legion. Named to represent THS were Jessica Maulucci as the Girls' winner and Valerie Booth as the Girls' alternate; Robert Pettitt as the Boys' winner and Jeremy Driscoll as the Boys' alternate.

Celebrating Earth Day

The students in the THS Environmental Club and the Life Skills Class distributed gifts to all of the students in the district with an environmentally friendly message for the celebration of Earth Day. The students were motivated to spread the word about recycling for Earth Day with help from a generous grant from the Air & Waste Management Association-Niagara Frontier Section. Earth Day is designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment and is celebrated April 22. A successful recycling program for both paper and bottles is in place in the middle/high school complex. There is also a paper recycling program at the elementary schools. The THS Environmental Club also offers a pick-up service for bottle and can recycling. Hopefully these gifts will encourage the students to "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle".

LSSNS N LDRSHIP

Leadership students are driving home the point that it is dangerous to text while driving. The high school Student Leadership students planned a "Ban Texting Week" in an effort to limit distracted driving among classmates. During one week in April, each morning announcement enabled the students to view a video on texting while driving. The class brought in a texting while driving simulator with support from Nationwide Insurance, Kiss 98.5, the NY State Police and the Tonawanda Police Department. Students sold awareness rings and bumper stickers with proceeds benefitting the Alex Brown Foundation. Pledges and a banner were signed by almost 200 high school students to not text and drive.



Turton Named to All WNY Academic Team

Nicholas Turton has qualified for this year's list of the 100 most outstanding high school seniors in Business First's 2011 All-Western New York Academic Team.



Winners were chosen for their records of academic excellence, school leadership and community involvement.

"This is a truly impressive honor," said Jack Connors, publisher of Business First. "The Academic Team is an extraordinarily exclusive group. There are roughly 20,000 seniors in Western New York's high schools, and only 100 have met the stringent standards to make this year's Academic Team. That's the top one-half of one percent, the best and brightest students we have."

Jimmy Stuart receives HOBY Award

Jimmy Stuart was recognized by the Kiwanis Club of the Tonawandas as this year's Hugh O'Brian Youth



L to R: Larry Badgely, assistant principal; Jimmy Stuart, award winner; Shawn Lodovico, teacher.

Leadership Award winner during a ceremony at the Fairways Restaurant on March 10. The HOBY award is given annually to a sophomore who displays superior leadership abilities. Stuart was nominated by teachers and staff and unanimously selected by the high school's scholarship committee. He will be attending a youth leadership conference in June at the University of Rochester along with sophomores from Western and Central New York.

Tonawanda City School District
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Dr. Whitney Vantine, Superintendent

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RESIDENT

A Message from the Superintendent *continued from page 1*

Residents will be asked to vote on the 2011-2012 operating budget, two (2) Board of Education seats and the sale of Highland Elementary School, 202 Broad Street (Former District Offices) and one (1) parcel of land adjacent to Highland Elementary School.

The properties were successfully auctioned on February 26, 2011. As per State Education Regulations the voting public must determine final approval for the sale.

202 Broad Street has been purchased by a local resident. Highland Elementary School has been purchased by a Developer who has indicated that the plan calls for Senior Housing in cooperation with People, Inc.

The Board of Education when selling these properties selected an Auction process. When using an Auction there can be no stipulations permitted as to use of the facility. There have been questions raised as to whether or not Highland will be on the City tax roles. If it is Senior Housing connected with People, Inc. the answer is no.

However, the building as it exists is not on the tax roles. Further during the transition of the facility and/or if the plans do not go forward the owner (if he does nothing with the facility and the community votes to sell it) will be required to pay taxes.

In discussion with the Mayor, I indicated that the Board of Education's goal was/is to sell the facility so that it can be used and not sit vacant. If Senior Housing is incorporated then it would be reasonable to assume that those individuals would shop in the City,

use City conveniences and become a part of the community. Further, there would be a reasonable assumption that individuals employed at the building may be residents of the City so there may be jobs available for City residents.

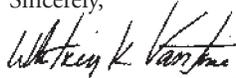
Currently, the Board of Education is developing a Capital Project that may include renovation to classroom space at the Middle-High School for art, music, technology and special education, along with newly designed bus loop traffic patterns and parking, community fitness center, relocation of the existing Clint Small Stadium to land adjacent to the school and possible other renovations.

Information regarding the planning, process, design and cost associated are/will soon be posted on the District Web site.

There has been one public discussion and there will be further public review prior to the Board of Education seeking voter approval. Please feel free to contact either myself or Mr. Joseph Giarrizzo (Business Official) at 694-7681 if you have questions. We would be pleased to answer them.

On behalf of the Board of Education and staff of the Tonawanda City School District I offer my continued appreciation for support of our collective efforts on behalf of the students and families of the City of Tonawanda.

Sincerely,



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



PTSA News

Do you have great ideas you want to share? Are you a good leader? Are you looking for change? Are you an advocate for the education and well-being for every child?

If you answered "Yes" to even one of the questions above or if you KNOW someone who would answer "Yes" to even one of the questions above, then please consider being on the Executive Committee for the Tonawanda Central PTSA! The positions include president, vice-presidents (two per building – Fletcher, Mullen, Riverview, Middle, and High School), corresponding secretary, recording secretary, and treasurer. Nominations can be made on the floor on the day of our Spring PTSA Meeting May 19. You must have a membership to vote. Please feel free to email questions to: TonawandaCentralPTSA@gmail.com

*PTSA Volunteer
appreciation day
will be at the June 20
meeting.*