

# North Tonawanda City Schools



## Mission

To provide an excellent education to all that encompasses developing confident, creative, competitive and caring students.

## Vision

To develop a nationally recognized school system focused on: A collaborative environment that fosters the academic, emotional and social growth of each student through quality and purposeful educational experiences. Students becoming independent, productive and globally competitive citizens. Instilling the belief that each student is invaluable.

## Core Beliefs

North Tonawanda Lumberjacks are:

- Lifelong learners
- Understanding
- Motivated
- Brave
- Empowered
- Respectful
- Just
- Academically sound
- Caring
- Knowledgeable
- Strong

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Lumberjack community,

It is hard to believe that we are entering 2023 and are already four months into the 22-23 school year. We are thrilled to be back to normal and be able to offer events and gatherings that help build a strong Lumberjack NT family.

New for this winter, we'll be returning Community Education to NT. We have several classes being offered in-person and remotely. While we are not at the level we once were, we hope to grow this over the coming months to be improved upon by next winter. Please review the courses offered in this edition of the NT Spirit and register online. If you would like to teach a course in the next round of classes, do not hesitate to reach out to us and let us know.

The Board has already begun the budget process for the 23-24 school year and we encourage you to follow their progress by viewing the documents on our webpage or by attending a meeting in the coming months.

As we are never sure what Mother Nature has in store for Western New York, I wanted to remind parents that NT will have traditional snow days as needed. We build extra days into every calendar for any type of emergency. If it is a terribly difficult winter, we can always add remote days so that we do not cut into spring recess. Please make sure your current phone number is on file, so you receive global notification calls informing you of any emergency closure days.

NT has had several awards and accolades to share with you in this edition. From sports to the arts and STEAM programming, we are making it know that you cannot beat a LUMBERJACK.

Stay well and stay strong as you celebrate the holidays with your families. Working together we are One NT taking pride in our past and preparing our future.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of North Tonawanda City Schools



## College Fair

As always, our College Fair was a huge success! What a great opportunity for our high school students to talk to representatives from the dozens of colleges, trade schools and military while trying to decide their future plans.





## Color Run

Ohio Elementary kicked the year off with a Color Run fundraiser. Students raised money to earn prizes and color packets. Students and families ran the block of Ohio while having colored chalk, silly string and bubbles thrown at them! After the run, there was a color war and dance party! It was a messy blast.

This year our goal is to get our Ohio Little Jacks a book vending machine. Students will have the opportunity to earn tokens which can be used in the machine for a free book to keep. As always, we thank our amazing staff, teachers and parents for all of their help to support our Little Jack community.



## Drake Elementary Shares Halloween Spirit with Bishop Gibbons Residents

Second grade students at Drake Elementary have decided to adopt residents at the Bishop Gibbons Residence this year. The three homerooms picked a holiday and that will be when they schedule their visit to spread some holiday cheer. Lauren Block's Second Grade class dressed in their spooky, magical and silly finest and paid a visit. "Their Halloween visit was amazing," said Principal Janet Matyevich. "The residents really enjoyed seeing the students."



## Trunk or Treat!

Families at Spruce Elementary School had a great time at the annual Trunk or Treat celebration! It was awesome to see all the great costumes and celebrate the Halloween spirit!



## Pumpkin Globes

Third grade students in Mrs. Zintek's and Mrs. Stefanucci's class, at Ohio Elementary, have been working hard to build and develop a better understanding of the world around them.

Students were able to end the unit by turning pumpkins into globes! They strategically hand drew the seven continents and then painted them each a different color. Finally, the students created a map key to identify the different continents and oceans of the world. The pumpkins were displayed in the school and the students are very proud of their work!



# Community Ed Classes

## Aqua Fitness Fun

A low impact but high intensity water aerobics class where no swimming skills are needed. This class is designed to improve flexibility, range of motion, strength, muscle tone and cardiovascular endurance while using the resistance of the water to cushion the feet, knees and back. Exercises are performed to lively, motivating music and are effective and easy to follow. Water hand weights, pool noodles, kickboards are all incorporated. Participants are encouraged to bring their own pool noodle. Non-swimmers welcome!

Instructor: Cyd Green

### \$100

On-line Registration Only: <https://nts.schools.coursestorm.com/>

Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:30  
January 9 – March 20, 2023

(no class 1/16 and 2/20)

North Tonawanda Intermediate School

## Social Media Marketing and Events

There are actionable steps marketers can take to optimize their likelihood of success when marketing themselves, their businesses, and/or events. The key is developing your online algorithm skills. The struggle is real for

marketers that don't fully understand what algorithms are or how they work. This course is designed to start you on the road to becoming a marketing master.

Bring a Smartphone or Laptop

Instructor: Jacob Quinn

### FREE

Prior registration by phone is required:

Call 716-807-3603

DAY TBD, 7 – 8

January 9 - March 31, 2023

North Tonawanda Middle School  
Room 111

## Protecting your House, Retirement, and Lifestyle from Medicaid and Nursing Home Events

This course is designed to help you learn the secrets to protecting everything you have worked for from Medicaid & Nursing Homes. Some topics include:

- Avoid losing your house to Medicaid & Nursing Home
- Is your house set up for care correctly
- Avoid impoverishing your spouse
- Avoid effecting your children and grandchildren's financial future
- Mitigating the Longevity Risk on your House Retirement & Lifestyle
- Plan for the expected and unexpected

in your life

Bring a notebook

Instructors:

Les Robinson CLTC Author: Protecting your Money from Medicaid and Nursing Home Event

Chrystal Manzare Senior R.E. specialist at Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

### FREE

Prior registration by phone is required:

Call 716-807-3603

Tuesday, 6-8

February 28, 2023

North Tonawanda Middle School  
Room 134

## Digital Marketing for Beginners

Digital marketing is any form of marketing that occurs online with the help of mobile, laptop, internet, and other technologies. If you are interested in getting started on the right foot with an industry expert with over 10 years of experience this course is for you. We will cover the basics of SEO, paid advertising, analytics, the importance of social media, and much more.

A computer with internet access (email address) is needed

Instructor: Joe Tilton

### \$60

Registration Online Only: <https://nts.schools.coursestorm.com/>

Wednesdays, 6 – 6:30

January 11 – February 15, 2023 (no class January 18)

Online Class: Zoom

## Yoga 1

Yoga 1 is suitable for all experience levels. This class will be great for a brand new beginner but also wonderful for an experienced yogi. It is a hatha based class, where proper alignment and breath integration are taught as the foundation to practice. Students of all ages and experience levels are very welcome! Students will learn each pose from the bottom up and gain a deeper understanding of their bodies and the practice of yoga. Yoga has many benefits for body and mind. Hope to see you!

A yoga mat is required

Blocks, blanket, or bolster optional

Instructor: Eileen Colling

### \$70

Registration Online Only: <https://nts.schools.coursestorm.com/>

Tuesdays, 4:15 – 5:15

January 10 – February 7, 2023

North Tonawanda Middle School,  
cafeteria

## North Tonawanda City Schools Community Education Policies

### ENROLLMENT

Class registration is on a first-come basis. We welcome anyone 18 years of age or older (exceptions are given by some instructors and listed in the class description) to enroll in our Community Education Program. The enrollment deadline is one week prior to the start of class. Our program is open to the entire community; we encourage residents of other districts to enroll in our classes.

Online: Registration is available for our classes at <https://nts.schools.coursestorm.com/>. Our third-party processing company will assess a \$1.99 non-refundable fee for each class registration. If you need assistance registering, please call 716-807-3603.

We do not allow walk-in registrations at the class locations.

### REFUND POLICY

Requests for refunds must be made in person or in writing and received no later than five (5) school business days prior to the start of the first class. Weekends and days that the school is closed are not considered business days. Make requests to the North Tonawanda Community Education, 176 Walck Rd, North Tonawanda,

14120. There will be a \$7 processing fee applied to all refunds by the district. Please note that refund checks are issued twice a month by our business office.

Classes are held based on a minimum enrollment of students registered for a class. As such, NO REFUNDS will be issued past the deadlines stated above. We regret that no exceptions can be made to this policy due to life events, illness (including COVID 19 illness, quarantines, and mask & distancing policies), personal or business conflicts that would cause you to cancel. NO REFUNDS

### CANCELLATIONS

If the minimum enrollment is not met for a class to be held, you will be notified by phone or email within three business days of the class start date. You will be refunded for any class cancellations in full.

Emergency closings due to weather or otherwise will be announced on local radio/TV stations. If the school district is closed, then all evening activities on that day will be canceled.

### INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Our instructors are here to share with you a skill,

talent or expertise that they possess. The opinions shared by the instructors are not necessarily the opinions of the North Tonawanda City School District. Instructors are not required to be certified teachers, although many have certifications in their own fields of expertise.

### SCHOOL RULES

You must abide by school rules while on campus, and that includes a strict no smoking or e-cig/vaping policy. You will be asked to leave the campus, and we may remove you from enrollment for that semester.

### MINOR POLICY (child/youth/under age 18)

If an instructor has opened their classes up for minor/underage children to register, a parent/guardian must be registered and attend the same class. Children must be always in the care of and under direct supervision of their parents/guardian in all locations. At no time shall children be on district property if not registered in a class. Parents/guardians are always also responsible for the behavior of their children during instruction. Failure to abide by this policy will result in the removal of all parties involved from our program. There will be no refunds given in the event this policy is enforced.



# NTI Annual Fall Festival

NTI once again held its annual Fall Fest. This event always proves to be a success with many NTI families and students.

Students danced the night away to DJ Keidel under the parking lot lights on a beautiful October night. Families, community members, faculty and staff, and school board members volunteered their time to host trunks to hand out candy. Yards of Fun Entertainment donated an inflatable slide which was a huge hit. Inside we hosted a Scholastic Book Fair to continue to promote our love of literacy. A silent pumpkin auction was held, where classes designed and decorated a pumpkin to auction off. The top pumpkins sold for \$250 and \$160!

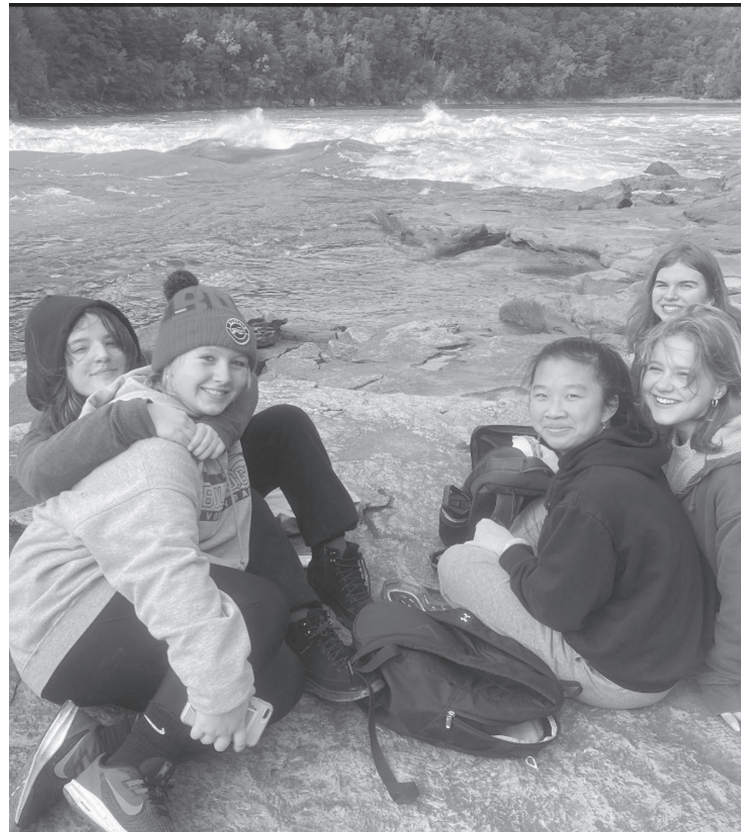
All proceeds from the Fall Fest will go towards supporting our NTI students with field trips, events and classroom experiences. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event successful and fun!



# Earth Science Students Enjoy Beautiful Fall Day and Lesson

On a beautiful October day, Earth Science students from the High School participated in an outdoor field trip to Niagara Falls. At Whirlpool State Park, teachers Amy Criddle and Thomas Mohring along with their students hiked the Niagara Gorge Trail to get a firsthand view of the exposed sedimentary rock layers as the waterfalls receded through the escarpment. Descending into the gorge, students stepped through 400 million years of geologic time.

The class enjoyed their lunch on the scenic flat rock along the Whirlpool Rapids of the Niagara River. After hiking the trail, students boarded the Maid of the Mist boat tour to observe the rushing flow of water over the falls. Mr. Mohring was excited to bring back this field trip and enjoy this amazing natural wonder with the students. Mrs. Criddle said, "It was a great opportunity for students to bring real world connections to the content they are studying". Student Macy Gabel added, "I loved it! Seeing all of the physical changes in the rocks while in the gorge was so interesting. The Maid of the Mist was the perfect refresher after a long hike and the beauty of the falls was incredible!"





# Spruce Yoga Helps Students with Social Emotional Learning

Spruce Elementary School engages in some unique activities to promote Social Emotional Learning (SEL). School Counselor Christopher Zon and Social Worker Liz Aures, organized grade level yoga activities to get the kids up and moving.

“Mindfulness is taught in every classroom at Spruce, a concept which is seen to help students focus, pay attention and regulate themselves,” explains Mr. Zon. “These rudimentary skills are essential to help students along the way. When SEL grows, so do students as learners and individuals!” The school is finding that yoga reinforces concepts of mindfulness, while also engaging the students in a developmentally appropriate way. Mr. Zon added, “Bringing all the kids together again was great and thanks to the positive feedback, this is something we hope to continue in the future!”





# North Tonawanda CSD Recognized for Making a Difference

The Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas celebrated the North Tonawanda City School District for making a difference in the lives of those in the community.

North Tonawanda City School District Superintendent, Gregory J. Woytila and Board of Education President, Matthew Kennedy represented the district when it was honored at a Chamber of Commerce meeting for the school district's achievements. Mr. Woytila had this to say about the award, "We are greatly honored and happy for this recognition. In addition to being a one to one iPad district, we have been recognized by WOZ Ed for being a STEAM school for K-12. We also take pride in our Arts and Athletic programs that have a wide level of offerings." Mr. Woytila also noted that the district will be bringing back Community Education this winter to offer to residents.

North Tonawanda became a school district in 1866 and is currently starting its 156<sup>th</sup> year. They employ over 750 people and service over 3,100 students in six school buildings.



(LtoR) Matthew Kennedy (NTCSD Board of Education President), Sarah Nelson (Director of the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas) and Gregory J. Woytila (Superintendent of NTCSD).

## Woytila Honored by New York State Theatre Educators

The New York State Theatre Educators Association (NYSTEA) held their annual Professional Development Conference in New York City, where teachers gathered for workshops and an awards ceremony. North Tonawanda City School District Superintendent, Gregory Woytila, was honored as the Administrator of the Year at the famous Drama Bookstore (owned now by Lin-Manuel Miranda) by the NYSTEA President. "I was shocked," says Mr. Woytila. "This is a very old and prestigious award that is handed out sporadically because the review process is quite intense and every nomination is scrutinized. It is quite the honor to receive this."

Woytila was nominated by North Tonawanda CSD's Director of Fine Arts, Dean Vallas, who spoke to the crowd about his nomination. "Mr. Woytila is a superintendent that cares about fine arts. He is always ensuring that our department has what students need to be successful. So often athletic arenas see updates and new venues. Greg made sure that our theatre kids had an equally nice and technically advanced Fine Arts Center to showcase their abilities. In 2019, Mr. Woytila cut the ribbon on a brand-new a state-of-the-art theatre which was built under his vision. He was also instrumental in creating the position of Director of Fine Arts for our district ensuring that Arts education was even more supported in North Tonawanda. Through this new directorship, a Theatre Arts course was implemented and Mr. Woytila now has a direct line for fine arts. Mr. Woytila is also instrumental in the advancement of our Fine Arts Wall of Fame where past students and educators are honored for their accomplishments in the arts. He is also not just a behind the scene's supporter, he has dazzled audiences in some of our High School musicals. He appeared in the local award winning *9 to 5* and most recently as one of the Harvard admissions counselors in *Legally Blonde*. His involvement shows our students, staff and community his level of commitment and caring for fine arts and more specifically, theatre." "I am very proud of the five year plan we developed for our Fine Arts Center," says Woytila. "Not only is it a beautiful venue for our high school and middle school performances, we made sure to incorporate an



(LtoR) North Tonawanda CSD Superintendent Greg Woytila and North Tonawanda CSD Director of Fine Arts Dean Vallas.

art gallery in the space to allow our students to display their works of art for the public to enjoy."

"North Tonawanda CSD is extremely proud of our Superintendent. Mr. Woytila continues to strive to make the district the best for our students and staff. He values programming and opportunities for all students to grow. This award is certainly well deserved," says Mr. Vallas.



# Ohio Elementary Declared a Pathway School

Ohio Elementary was recently inducted as a Pathway School by Woz Ed. Woz Ed's founder, Steve Wozniak, is the creator of the first home computer and partnered with Steve Jobs to launch Apple.

Last year Ohio opened the Discovery Den and has reimagined the computers special to now include Woz Ed curriculum components such as coding, robotics, animation, and aeronautics. The Discovery Den is the product of hard work, dedication and support by Ohio Elementary staff and the community. It provides students with a unique and fun way to learn valuable skills that will help them thrive in the future.

We look forward to this program expanding to Spruce Elementary and Drake Elementary to ensure all the primary aged children of North Tonawanda have the most rewarding learning experience. Currently, North Tonawanda Intermediate offers Woz Ed curriculum and anticipates being inducted as a Pathway School next year.



## Campus Visit

On Wednesday, September 28th, NTHS' School Counselors Lynn Wright and David Musielak and Career Center Mentor, Lori Graves took senior students on a field trip to Niagara County Community College (NCCC). Students toured the campus to get a feel of the size, layout and recent improvements including the newly renovated dorms. They also had the opportunity to speak with the Financial Aid Department and explore the many different programs available.





# Homecoming Week

What an amazing week we had at our schools during Homecoming Week (October 17th-21<sup>st</sup>). Hall decorating, pep rallies, the Chalk Walk, Lumberfest, car parades, the burning of the jinx and of course the T-NT game! The Lumberjacks claimed the victory with a 30-20 score against the Tonawanda Warriors!



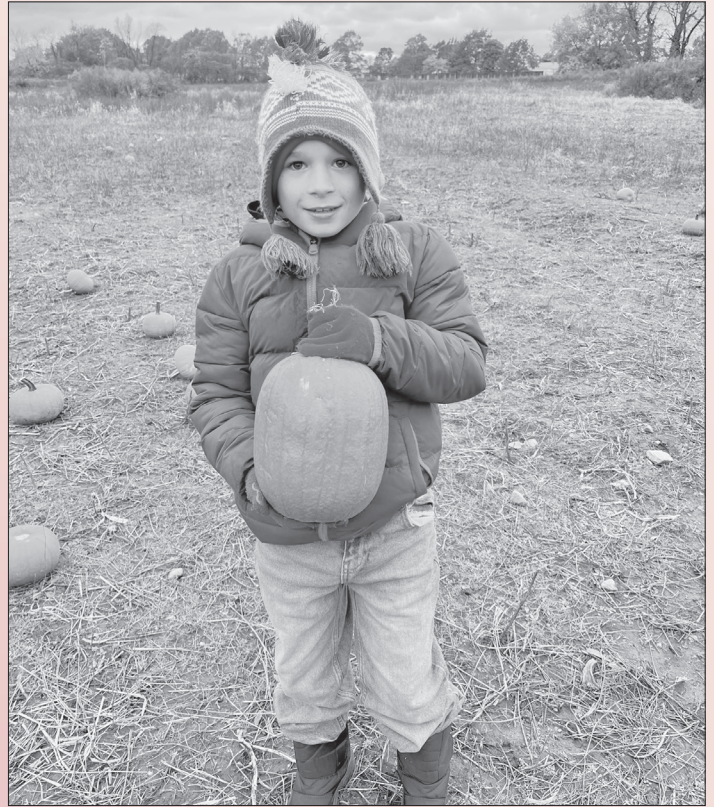


# NT Police Donate to Spruce Elementary



A very special thank you to the North Tonawanda Police Department for the huge amount of supplies that they donated to the students at Spruce Elementary. It helped a lot of students start off their school year with a big smile! Principal Patricia Adler says the staff is incredibly grateful for their amazing gift.

# Fall Farm Frolic



*JJ DiVirgilio*

Students in Miss Braun's class at Drake Elementary spent a beautiful fall day at The Great Pumpkin Farm. It was the first field trip of the year and students had a great time feeding the animals, going on a hayride and watching a crazy chicken show.

# Fire Safety Lesson

At Ohio Elementary, the first graders learned about fire safety in October. Teacher Kelly Billman says that one of her student's father is with the North Tonawanda Fire Department and sent over some fire hats for the lessons. "The students have loved reading and writing about fire safety," she says.





# North Tonawanda Boys Basketball Camp

Basketball Camp was a huge success thanks to Coach Ryan Mountain, the basketball staff, and several members of the Varsity Basketball team. "It was a lot of work, but it came together beautifully," Mountain says.

The week-long camp was open for any boys entering grades 5 through 8. Most of the attendees were from North Tonawanda, but there were also students from Starpoint, Sweet Home, and Williamsville School Districts as well. "The camp was 60-80 hours of work to plan, prepare, and execute but, was well worth it!" says Mountain. "We had 31 campers register. Pretty good turnout for a first year, but we hope to expand and grow over time."



## Girls Soccer Team are Niagara Frontier Champions

On October 13th, the Lady Jacks Varsity Soccer Team won the Niagara Frontier League Championship. Prior to this win, the last North Tonawanda Girls' Soccer championship came in 2019.

Congrats to Coach Hannah Crouch and her team!

*Top row from left to right: Emma Stahl, Abigail Roy, Haleigh Suitor, Elizabeth Lyons, Taylor Sciandra, Emily Zander, Brooke Barone, Brooke Formaniak, Paige Spatorico, Coach Hannah Crouch*

*Bottom row from left to right: Brenna Penfold, Gabrielle Giesing, Ella Smith, Kelsie Meredith, Raygen Manzare, Isabella Hooley, Shea O'Rourke, Molly Lyons, Alexis Gamp*



## BOTRT at Spruce Elementary School!

Spruce Elementary is now part of the Boys on the Right Track Program, which is growing in WNY! Elisabeth Aures (School Social Worker), Mallory Luparello (Kindergarten teacher) and Chris Zon (School Counselor) implemented this influential program for willing third graders at their elementary school and have seen many positive outcomes!

The after-school program has practiced leadership, coping and social skills that will help all the boys grow! Additionally, the boys all trained and completed a 5K (3.1 Mile) race this November 2022. Last year, when we had the Girls on the Run Program, the boys were discouraged there was no program for them to join, we are so glad we found one for them to participate in! The plan is to continue this program next fall for a new group of third grade boys!





# Benevolent Swimmers

The Girls Swim Team collected food at their meets this season. The items were then placed in one of the three pantries around campus. Great job everyone!



(LtoR) Charlotte Lyons, Meredith Roberts and Juliana Haacker.

# No Bullying Allowed

Drake School wore orange on Wednesday, October 19 for Unity Day. Unity Day shows how students and teachers can stand together against bullying.



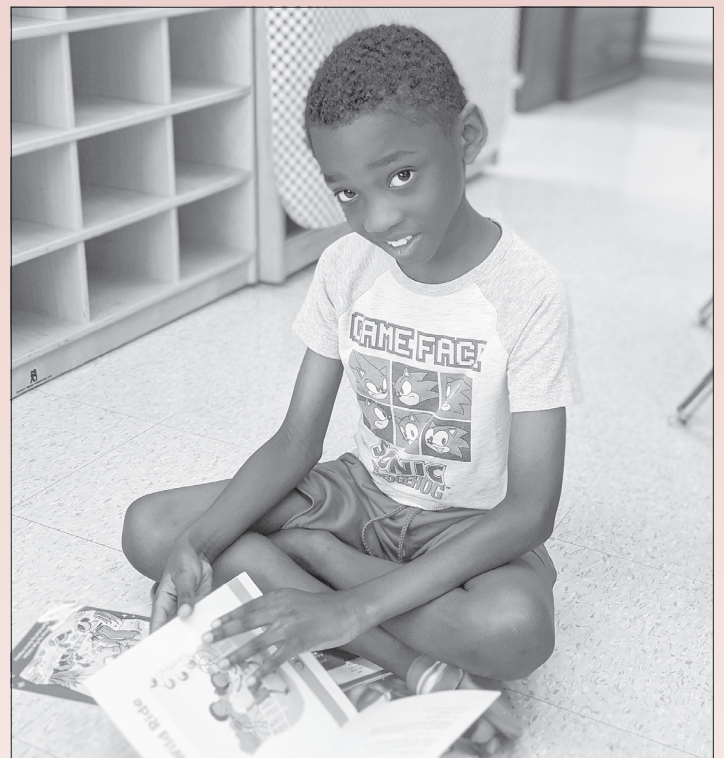
(LtoR) Charlotte Lyons, Meredith Roberts and Juliana Haacker.

# Little Jack Literacy and Math Labs

Our Little Jacks were back at it this summer in our K-6 enrichment program. With the help of our awesome teachers and staff members, we again were able to provide a program to support foundational skills, build the students' joy and confidence in reading and writing, and accelerate their academic growth. New to this year was our math labs that helped solidify core concepts in arithmetic to provide students the ability to hit the ground running in September.

The Literacy program utilized the work of Lucy Calkins with a focus on phonics, reading and writing workshops, and comprehension skill work. The Math program was built by our talented teachers that allowed for individualized lessons to build a strong mathematical foundation for our Little Jacks. The students actively participated in powerful and engaging lessons to help prepare them for this upcoming school year. With an enrollment of over 150 students, the Little Jack Literacy Labs afforded many families with an opportunity to build the foundational skills needed to be successful.

We look forward to building the Little Jacks Literacy and Math Labs in the future and invite you to be a part of this great program. Stay tuned for more information this coming spring of 2023.







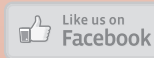
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NORTH TONAWANDA  
CITY SCHOOLS  
176 Walck Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

### Board of Education

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Superintendent of Schools  
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## NTI Has a New Pavilion

At the start of the 2020 school year, Friends of N.T.I. (F.O.N.T.I.) worked with North Tonawanda Intermediate school to determine a need for the campus. COVID-19 put a pause on field trips, so all fundraising opportunities could lend itself to a larger fundraiser goal than usual. Since our campus was newer, it was determined we were missing an outdoor meeting space.

With the help of parents, families and community members, NTI was able to raise the \$25,000 needed for a 20ft by 40ft pavilion. This project was completed in October of 2022 and staff and students can't wait to start using it. Concrete will be laid in the spring using money from an awarded grant. Under the pavilion will sit picnic tables that the High School Shop students made, which the NTI Art Alive Club is painting. Thank you to all that were involved in this project which surely enhances our campus!

