

North Tonawanda City Schools



Mission

Empower students to reach their fullest potential by cultivating a community of lifelong learners who think critically about the world around them.

Vision

Students reach their academic and social emotional goals through an inclusive learning environment.

Our Values

- Perseverance
- Confidence
- Community
- Empathy
- Knowledge
- Inclusion

Superintendent's Message

Dear Lumberjack Community,

I am excited to share with you what I have learned about our school district during my first 100 days as Superintendent. When I started in August, my goal was to listen to and learn from as many people as possible. Formally, I have interviewed over fifty people and had conversations with many more.

Our district's greatest strengths lie in its exceptional faculty, strong sense of community, and close, supportive relationships among students, families, and staff. A family atmosphere, mutual care, and a steadfast commitment to student well-being characterizes our district. The people within our community, their experiences, and their willingness to support one another are highly valued and celebrated.

We take immense pride in the family atmosphere that permeates our schools. This environment of mutual care and support is a testament to our district's unique spirit. We are dedicated to fostering this supportive environment, ensuring every student and family feels connected and valued.

Our district is also known for its cherished traditions, vibrant school spirit, and diverse opportunities. From music and art to athletics, we provide many programs that enrich our students' lives and foster a sense of belonging and pride. This was incredibly evident during T-NT week, with every school participating in spirit week.

Learning in our schools is designed to be collaborative, project-based, and engaging; encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving. Our commitment to hands-on, innovative education ensures that learning is tailored to the individual needs, balancing traditional methods with new approaches. We strive to create a happy, safe, and inclusive environment with supportive teachers focusing on foundational skills like reading, writing, and math.

As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the positive relationships within our community. We will continue to prioritize belonging and inclusivity in all of our schools while looking to improve our attendance rates and student engagement.

Thank you for being an integral part of our district's success. Together, we will continue to create a vibrant, supportive, and enriching environment for all. In my first 100 days, I have learned that there is no place I would rather be than NT!

Warm regards,
Dr. Jeffrey Jachlewski



Rubik's Cube Future Champs

Mrs. Colletta's 5th grade Gifted and Talented students at NTI have been using Rubik's Cubes to practice their problem-solving and thinking skills. Can you believe these 3D puzzles have been around for 50 years?

The students were fortunate enough to have a special guest visitor, Mike Zimmerman, who shared his Rubik's Cube solving strategies with them. They learned about pattern recognition as well as algorithms to solve the puzzles.

Maybe someday soon one of these students will become an international speed cubing champion.

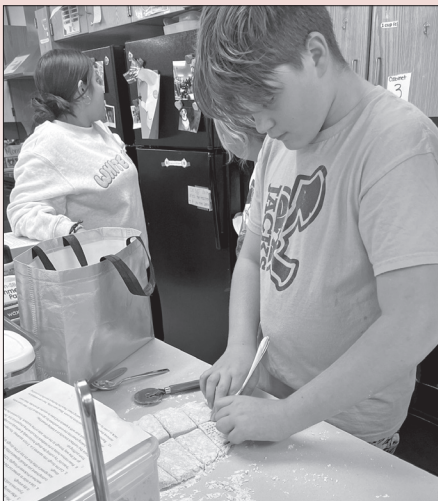


Civil War Unit Has Students Make Staple Food for Soldiers

Students in Brittany Long's 8th grade Social Studies class and Ms. Madison Duchnik's FACS class, recently worked together during their Civil War unit with a hands-on lesson making hardtack.

Hardtack, is a dry, hard, cracker-like biscuit that soldiers would eat during the war. The biscuits are made out of three ingredients: flour, salt and water and are long-lasting making them ideal for military rations during long campaigns.

Students learned that the food was used to give the soldiers energy they needed and was a big piece of their diet.



Student's Artwork Featured on Billboard

Congratulations to Middle School student, Skylar-Rose Smith, who won the Design a Billboard contest through CHANT (Community Health Alliance of North Tonawanda). CHANT, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, aims to foster healthy youth development and contribute to a healthy community for all NT citizens. The billboard was featured on Webster Street with its message "Keep NT Vape Free".



NYSPHSAA Championship

On October 30th and November 1st, North Tonawanda CSD hosted the NYSPHSAA Section VI Class B Swimming Championship swim meets. There were 12 teams and 133 swimmers from across New York State in attendance.

The natatorium was filled with many coaches, officials, family members, administrative staff and supportive fans cheering loudly for the competitors. Many new records were added to the the record board!

NT was grateful for this amazing opportunity!



400 FR 4th Place Champions: Meredith Roberts, McKenna O'Neil, Esther Baker, and Reagan Carney with JV Coach BB Garcia and Varsity Coach Tim Bennett



Teammates Esther Baker, Brooke Raby, Meredith Roberts, Astrid Demart, Charlotte Lyons, and McKenna O'Neil

A Warm Welcome to Our New Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Jachlewski

In many ways, being the Superintendent of North Tonawanda City School District, is like coming home for Dr. Jeff Jachlewski. A lifelong resident of the Lumber City, along with his wife Kim and two children, Carina and Alaina, he is excited to be taking over the helm of his alma mater where he attended elementary and middle school. “My wife is a Special Education teacher in the City of Tonawanda, my eldest is a freshman at St. Bonaventure, and my youngest is a junior at Mount St. Mary Academy. Our lives revolve around everything our daughters are involved in, whether it is dancing, tennis, basketball, or volleyball. I love sports, and I am very excited about watching as many of the Lumberjacks sporting events as I can.”

His journey in education began when he received his Bachelor in Science in Secondary Science Education from Buffalo State College. He started teaching in 1999 as a Science teacher at Tonawanda Middle School and High School. “It was great, I love teaching science and biology. My mentor, Dr. James Newton, talked me into becoming a principal; I knew I had to go to graduate school, so I went on to get my Master of Science in Administration and Supervision from Niagara University. I went into administration because I enjoy making a difference in students’ lives and felt being an administrator was a way to make an impact not only with students, but teachers as well.”

His first administrative role was as an Assistant Principal at Depew Middle School, where he served from 2005-2008. He then joined Heim Middle School in the Williamsville Central School District in the same capacity and was named the Principal in 2013. “It was a phenomenal experience being a new principal,” he says. “I was able to work with teachers and staff to make things better. There is a lot of grace in learning life lessons that can shape teaching and administering.”



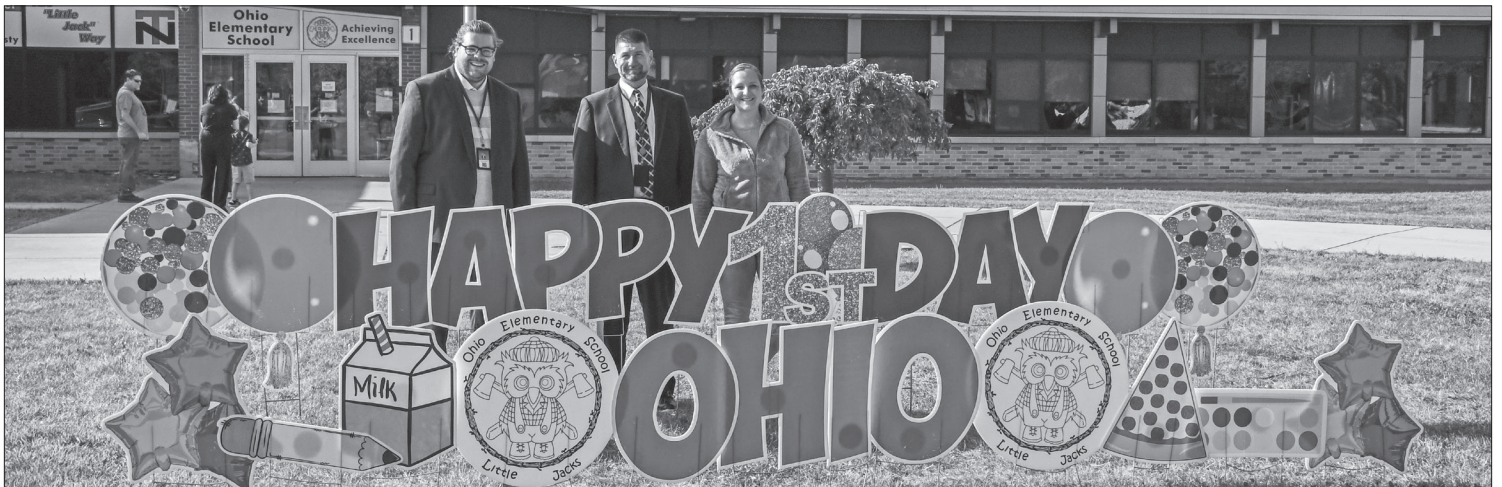
As Principal, he served on the Williamsville Central School District’s Strategic Planning Committee, Curriculum Council, Safety Team, Wellness Committee, and Technology Committee. In addition, he was a member of the Administrator Association Executive Board. Dr. Jachlewski was also instrumental in creating District special education classes at the middle school to bring students back from agency placements. For his work on the Wellness Committee, Dr. Jachlewski and Heim Middle were selected by the New York State Education Department to serve as a pilot school for Restorative Practices. In partnership with students, parents, and teachers, Heim Middle School received recognition as a National PTSA (Parent, Teacher and Student Association) School of Excellence for eight years. “The opportunities were great being such a large district, and I was so fortunate to have fantastic staff, students, parents, and community. There was a lot of work to be done, as there are with most leadership positions.”

He then went on to get his Doctor of Education in Educational Administration from the University at Buffalo and has a micro-credential in the New York State Superintendent Development Program through the State University of New York College at Oswego. “I met some of my closest colleagues and friends through that process,” he says. “Many of them are now superintendents, too, and have been a huge asset to me. They give me advice and support. Developing those relationships has meant a great deal to me.”

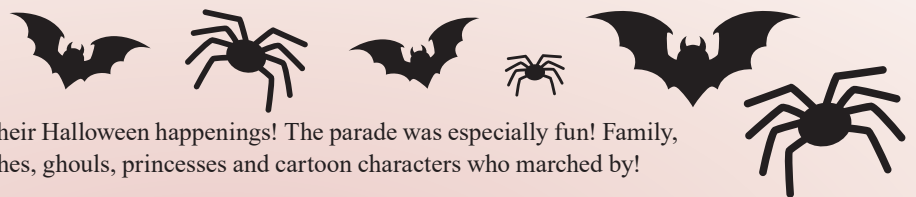
As he settles into his new role as the Superintendent of NTCSD he is excited about what the future holds. “I love being here. I am truly invested in the community and the school district because I am part of it and have been my entire life. You will see me at the Farmer’s Market, the stores and restaurants. It is really the best thing to be in your hometown and work there too, especially because this is truly a 24/7 job. I am really enjoying it. I am hoping to be very visible and I am looking forward to interacting with kids and their families and attending sports, the musicals, and other events. To me, that is going to be the best part of the job.”

New Superintendent Welcomes Students Back to School

The new school year kicked off with a visit from our new superintendent, Dr. Jeff Jachlewski. Dr. Jachlewski enjoyed greeting students and staff as he made his way around our campuses on opening day. What a great way to start off a new school year!



Spooky Spruce



Spruce students and staff had a great time with their Halloween happenings! The parade was especially fun! Family, friends and staff admired the assortment of witches, ghouls, princesses and cartoon characters who marched by!



North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls and Niagara Wheatfield Continue Diversity Collaboration

Students and school district representatives from North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls and Niagara Wheatfield met recently at the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center. The gathering was part of a continued effort to keep the conversation going about tolerance, multiculturalism and race. “I believe that is an extremely important project for our three districts to keep going with and expanding,” says North Tonawanda teacher Scott Gauld. “What started from a negative interaction has become such a positive experience; with the growing diversity of students in each district, it is imperative that our students begin to understand the challenges other students face or have faced in their lives.”

The Heritage Center opened in 2018 near the site where many freedom seekers, including Harriet Tubman, made their way across the former International Suspension Bridge. The center evokes powerful themes in American History and celebrates the bravery of the men and women who risked their own lives to achieve the most basic rights of liberty. Students learned the history through the stories of the freedom seekers, free African Americans and the abolitionists who built the network and used it. Niagara Falls City School District, Mark Laurie says it was a great meeting for the districts. “Our students continue to learn about our neighboring communities, their traditions and challenges. Students also grow friendships and can serve as ambassadors in each other’s communities. We also want to learn about culture, community, and school traditions.”

All three districts agree that the most amazing component of the tri-district partnership is watching the friendships being developed across the schools. “The feedback from the students has been a driving and motivational factor in planning these joint events,” says Mr. Gauld. “The kids have become genuine friends and look forward to getting together at each other’s schools. “They text one another and have a large group chat and that gets them excited in the days prior to the event! I must have two to three students each week come to me and ask, “Can I join you on your next trip or act as a host when they visit?” This is exactly the enthusiasm and positive outlook we wanted to foster when the program began and it has certainly happened!”

Niagara Wheatfield Central School District Superintendent, Dan Ljiljanich adds, “It was such a great opportunity for the students to connect with peers from other districts, and who come from varied backgrounds. It also allows the students from the respective districts the chance to be leaders and ambassadors as they represent their school districts.”

Future plans include each district hosting an event with the possibility of other districts joining the collaboration.



Friendships, Banter Bring Colleagues Together for Tonawanda-North Tonawanda Rivalry Game

Submitted by: Alison Russo (Erie 1 BOCES)

Heading into the annual Tonawanda-North Tonawanda football game, there was not a lot of subtlety at the Angelo A. Delsignore Civic Building in Niagara Falls.

Visitors to the building were immediately greeted with a “Beat North Tonawanda” sign. Heading up the stairs to the chambers of Honorable Justice Frank Caruso, you would find a dozen more signs celebrating the Tonawanda Timberwolves and urging them to “Beat NT.”

Justice Caruso is a proud Tonawanda alumnus from the Class of 1974. Though he didn’t play on the football team, he has joked that he did make an impact on the beloved annual game as first saxophone in the school’s marching band.

Sitting in his chambers decorated with Tonawanda mugs, tumblers and even pens and notepads with the new Timberwolves logo, a Tonawanda jersey-clad Caruso laughed and joked with Court Officer Mark Krupp and Family Court Judge Kathleen Wojtaszek-Gariano, who both graduated from North Tonawanda High School.

The friendly banter around the Tonawanda-North Tonawanda game has been perfected over nearly two decades, with jokes and one-liners causing all three to break out in infectious laughter.

The rivalry began in the chambers 18 years ago, as Justice Caruso and Krupp discovered they went to the opposing schools.

“He brought up how he played football for NT, and I brought up how I shared the gridiron as well, but on the marching band [for Tonawanda]. And then he started to laugh,” Justice Caruso said. “And we decided to make a bet, a friendly bet, on the T-NT game that year, that whoever loses had to bring a cake in, to say the other team rules. And of course, I brought the cake in 17 out of 18 years.”

In 2019, Tonawanda beat North Tonawanda, and Justice Caruso got to enjoy the sweet taste of victory that Monday morning in the form of a cake that his colleagues couldn’t help but decorate with mentions of the rarity of a Tonawanda victory

As they sat in the chambers together, the three shared some of their favorite stories of the courthouse rivalry over the years. Justice Caruso has become a familiar face at DiCamillo Bakery in Niagara Falls to order the postgame cake, to the point that one of the workers got confused when he showed up at the bakery outside of the rivalry week.

“The woman that’s accustomed to seeing him all the time, she says, ‘Oh honey, did they lose again?’” Krupp said. “And he says, ‘It’s not even the game, yet!’”

They also recalled the time Justice Caruso stopped at Wegmans to order a Tonawanda-themed cake, and got confused when it was made in the blue and red colors of NT. He later learned the baker who made that cake was from North Tonawanda.

Just like 18 years ago, Justice Caruso kicks off the rivalry each year.

“I realize it’s the T-NT game because there’s something plastered on my mirror or on my parking spot. He starts it every year,” said Justice Wojtaszek-Gariano.

Over the years, there have been NT parking signs covering up Justice Caruso’s parking spot, Tonawanda signs on Judge Wojtaszek-Gariano’s car mirror and this year, a NT colored stuffed bear sitting near a sign in Justice Caruso’s chambers that said, “Go Jacks! Even our band is better!”

When asked why they continue the tradition every year, their answer was simple.

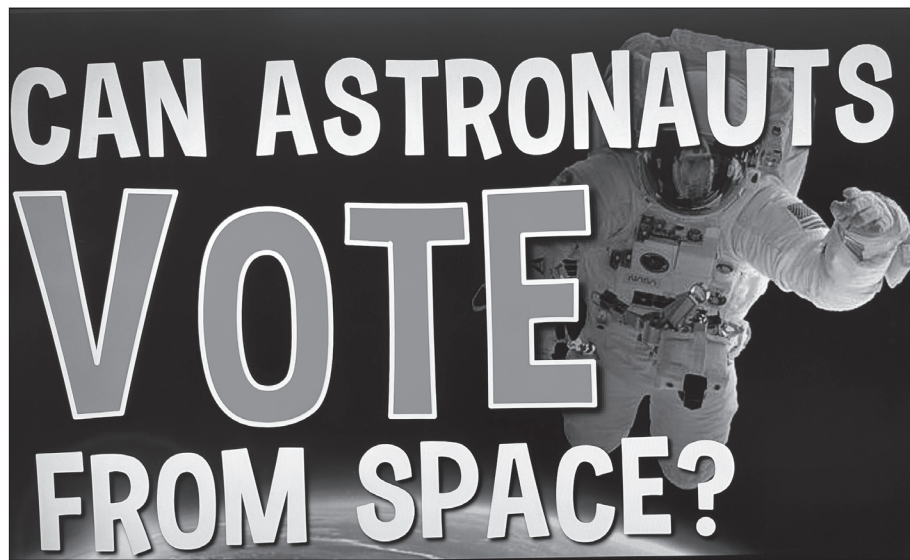
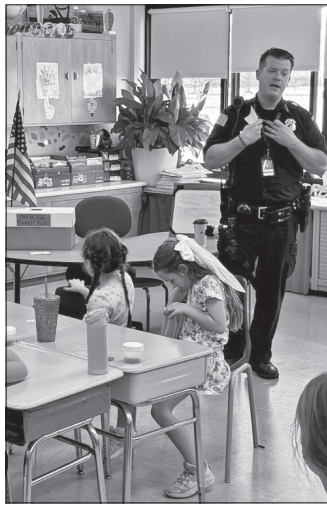
“The fun, it was fun. It still is,” Justice Caruso said. “It’s a beautiful thing about the T-NT rivalry, it doesn’t end.”



Happy Election Day!

In Mrs. Hromowyk's second grade class at Ohio Elementary, students participated in cooperative learning opportunities to explore why voting is so important in our country. Did you know that even astronauts are able to vote from space? Our students found out how they do it, when and why it's even important for citizens far, far away in space to cast their vote.

Students created a postcard to send back to Earth recording their astronaut voting experience. Our favorite SRO, Officer Smith, also joined in for some Election Day excitement.



Drake Students Embrace Their Inner Superhero

Drake students tapped into their inner superhero through a fun and engaging presentation during a Bullying Prevention assembly. Sean, from "Super Me", talked to the K-3 students about how to prevent and respond to bullying situations.

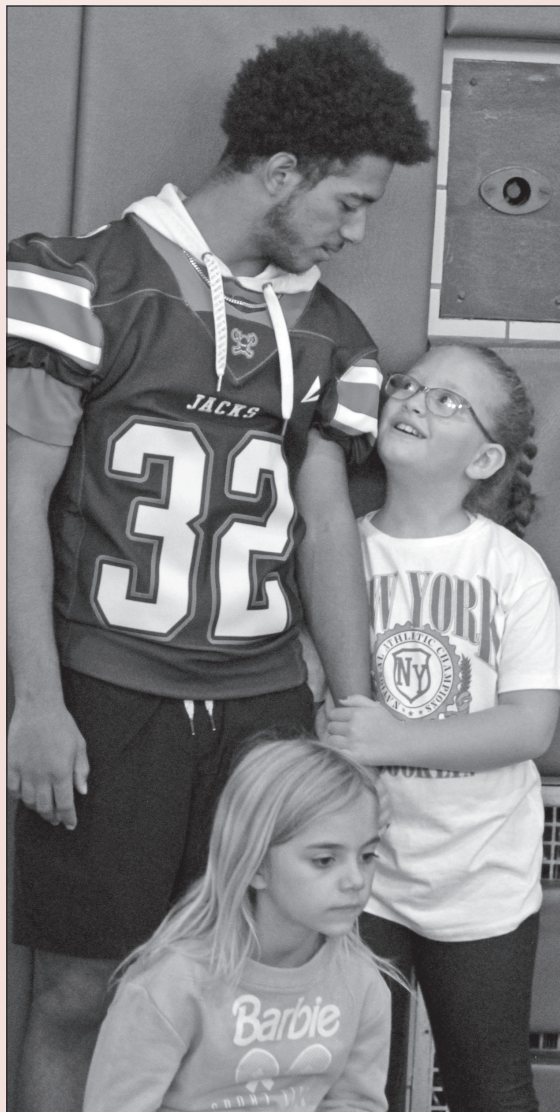
School Principal, Scott Mueller, says the students loved the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) experience as they went on a virtual superhero adventure, saw magic tricks and got to be active participants in the show. "This assembly aligned perfectly with the week's Unity Day and our school's mission of being an all-inclusive community, where everyone belongs!"





TNT - We Are Dynamite!

Our students and staff had a great time during Spirit Week!





Orleans/Niagara BOCES' NT CTE Students Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Congratulations to the students from the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, who were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Out of all the high school students in the United States, the National Technical Honor Society students who receive this honor comprise 1.6 percent of that population. For staff at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES center, they represent the four pillars of the National Technical Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, service and character. The students were honored in front of their teachers, families and school district representatives. The students had to maintain an 89.5 grade average in their career and technical education programs and an 84.5 average at their high schools, have superior attendance, exemplary behavior, be a member in good standing with SkillsUSA and have a recommendation from a faculty member.

Congratulations go to: Malayna Berhalter (Emergency Medical Services), Jayden Burns (Culinary Arts), Elizabeth Finley (Health Occupations Technician), Sophia Haley (Culinary Arts), Elijah Miron (Early Childhood Education) and Savannah Shaffer (Early Childhood Education).



Color Run!

The North Tonawanda Intermediate had its annual Color Run on October 1st. FONTI (Friends of NTI) helped organize this event. FONTI is a team of parents and teacher volunteers who strive to provide the most fun, interactive fundraisers to positively support our students' learning. All the fundraising that FONTI does goes toward students' field trips, sports equipment, Movie and Bingo Nights, Fall Fest, a trip to Jamie's Ice Cream at the end of the year for each class, 6th grade moving up day, and much more.

Students had to fundraise and collect donations to reach the goal of \$15,000. NTI went past its goal and raised \$16,410.15. "It was a blast and just an amazing event," says sixth grade teacher Julia Helfman. "Runners are doused from head to toe in a different colored powder while running. Students ran around the track with a white NTI Shirt and finished the race plastered in color. Once the race is over, the fun continues at the finish line with a larger-than-life party with music By DJ Keidel, dancing, photo ops, vendors, and more massive color throws. Everyone had their color packet to throw at the end of the event and it was a cloud of color in the sky." Families got to enjoy hot dogs, chips, water, popcorn, cotton candy, and cookies! We loved seeing all the smiles and laughs.

Special thank you to CHANT, Cookie D's, the NT REC, high school volunteers, Mr. Nick with the popcorn and cotton candy, all the teachers who helped set up/throw chalk, DJ Keidel, and the whole FONTI crew and volunteers who made this night truly so magical.



Garden Club

The NTI Junior Jacks Garden Club has been hard at work already this year to beautify the school grounds.

Advisors, Emily Colletta and Gene Genco, would like to extend thanks to the Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm. “With the help of Dave from the Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm, students learned about native plants and built a native butterfly garden along the school walking track,” says Colletta. “The location of the new garden allows the whole community to enjoy it. Hopefully butterflies and other pollinators will enjoy it as well.”

The butterfly garden will make a great outdoor learning space for our students!



Students Enjoy Day at Niagara Falls



NT high school students participated in an educational and adventurous field trip on a beautiful fall day at Whirlpool State Park. Science teacher, Amy Criddle, says the students hiked along the Niagara Gorge Rim trail and climbed hundreds of steps down the Whirlpool Rapids Trail to view Earth’s history exposed on the gorge wall. The Niagara Gorge is made up of sedimentary rocks which are formed from the remains of organisms and small pieces of other rocks which were deposited roughly over 443-485 million years ago. Students ate lunch alongside the whirling Niagara River Rapids enjoying the scenic beauty.

After lunch, the students witnessed the thundering roar of 600,000 gallons of water from the Niagara Falls while aboard the Maid of the Mist tour boat. “The students were able to experience the power of the falls and view an amazing natural display of earth science,” Mrs. Criddle said, “We are so fortunate to have Niagara Falls nearby and such a relevant example of so many things we learn about in our science class.”





NORTH TONAWANDA
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Spruce Boys Get on the Right Track

Coaches Emma Banks, Amy Gorman, Kayley Trimboli, Jennifer Prechtel and Chris Zon were thrilled at how well their Boys Running program at Spruce went this year.

The program is an after-school fun, non-competitive running wellness program for young men. The coaching team provided an environment that nurtures social and emotional skills and empowers students to become more resilient.

Their final race was on November 5th, they were asked to bring a running buddy as they ran around the school. "We encouraged the runners to work with their buddies to beat their own record and get as many laps in as they can," explains Coach Zon.

The runners then celebrated with a pizza party to celebrate their achievement!

