TONAWANDA TALES

Vol. 41 January 7, 2011 Issue 9

Dear Tonawanda Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the long holiday break with your families. It is always nice to have time to step away from the routine and frantic pace of everyday life and have those days where we can make our own schedule and let the day just fall into place.
As we begin the new calendar year, our students are entering a time when they start to display significant academic and social growth. At this point in the year, students have mastered routines of the classroom and are fully aware of the expectations their teachers have for them in demonstrating quality work and good citizenship. Students are also becoming more adept at defining their own personal best and setting individual learning goals.
Now that the hustle and bustle of celebrating the holidays is past, the school calendar allows for large sections of uninterrupted time where students have the opportunity to apply and fine tune the learning strategies their teachers have equipped them with earlier in the year. As the end of second quarter draws near, the teachers have a solid understanding of the learning strengths and challenges of each individual student in their classroom, and find ways to meet them at their next level of learning.
In this "New Year", the Tonawanda teachers and staff look forward to continuing to work with your family to do our best to meet the individual needs of your child(ren). We recognize that your support is the KEY to the success of your child's school experience! On behalf of the Tonawanda teachers and staff, may 2011 bring only the best to you and your family!

Warmly,
Mrs. Kluck ☺

January 3rd -7th PAW winners

(KF)	Cole Russo
(KH/S)	Grace Roulier
(KH)	Claire Purtell
(1D)	Jack Laubusch
(1K)	Olivia McSorley
(1M)	Ailie Reid
(1W)	Eve Janavitz
(2D)	Zach Yiannias
(2P)	Jackson Linsmeier
(2S)	Carter Ulschmid
(3H)	Morgan Hathaway
(3M)	Pyper Scullen
(3S)	Grace Armitage
(4K)	Aaron McLaughlin
(4M)	Eric Beckwith
(4N)	JJ Weyer
(5L)	Josh Gerczak
(5M)	Nasiera Cloyd
(5P)	Janelle Boehm

Kindergarten Open House

If you have a child who will be five-years old on or before September 1, 2011, please come to an evening informational meeting at Tonawanda on Tuesday, January 25, at 6:30pm.

If you have a neighbor with a kindergarten aged student, please pass the word. This is a great time to meet the kindergarten teachers and find out more about the kindergarten program at Tonawanda.

Registration begins on Thursday, January 27, 2011. Any questions please contact Mrs. Weyer at 262-785-3950.

5th Graders Save the Date for PPMS Orientation

All current fifth grade students and their parents are invited to an orientation evening at Pilgrim Park Middle School, on January 31, 2011 starting at 5:30pm. The orientation meeting offers the opportunity to receive all scheduling materials, meet the guidance and administrative staff, and learn about various course offerings.

Further information and a schedule will be sent home in Friday folders on December 17th.

Open Enrollment Application Period – FEBRUARY 7-25, 2011

The Public School Open Enrollment Program is a statewide program that allows students grades K-12 to attend a public school in a district other than the one in which they reside, if space is available.

Parents/guardians must submit an application to the non-resident district of their choice during the three-week period of Monday, February 7 through Friday, February 25, 2011 to be eligible for consideration. Applications will not be accepted after the 4:00 p.m. deadline on February 25, 2011. Once the application period begins, you can apply online through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html.

Existing Open Enrollment Families: Please be aware that if you have a child enrolled through Open Enrollment, there is no need to reapply. HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER CHILD WHO YOU WISH TO ATTEND ELMBROOK SCHOOLS, YOU MUST GO THROUGH THE APPLICATION PROCESS. Siblings of currently enrolled students are given preference in the selection process.

Please direct your questions to Michelle Hoffman, Student Services Supervisor, at 262-781-3030, extension 1191.

Get an Elm Grove Volunteer Pin!

Introducing a new program about to hit Elm Grove! It will familiarize you with local activities and hot spots!!!

Volunteer at 4 places: the Elm Grove Library, Sunset Playhouse, Elm Grove Woman's Club and the Elm Grove Business Association. Volunteer at each place for 4 hours minimum and earn your pin!

This program is being developed as a Silver Award project by Maria Cardenas and Josephine Mayhew from Girl Scout Cadette Troop 2734.

This program is open to all ages and will kick off soon! Watch for more information and get ready to earn your own Elm Grove Volunteer Pin!

Next Tales: January 21st, 2011

PTO Page

Tonawanda PTO wishes everyone a safe and happy 2011! Our next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 9 a.m. in Room 110. We have a second semester of fun planned!

Penny Drive January 3rd - January 28th.

This critical drive supports the efforts of the Milwaukee Rescue Mission which feeds our hungry, hurting, and homeless.

For every $360 that we collect, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is able to purchase ONE TON of food!

We welcome pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and paper money …whatever you can spare to help us drive out hunger!

The goal for the Tonawanda community is to purchase 4 tons of food which means raising $1440.00 or 144,000 pennies.

The grade that raises the most will enjoy a hot cocoa party sponsored by the Community Service Committee.

Unique assembly for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders

Alex Palmer, son of village president Neil Palmer, proud Tonawanda alum, and Nancy Marsho scholarship winner is currently a junior at Harvard. He spent 6 weeks last summer teaching and working with children at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. As part of his experience there, he prepared a photo exhibit which was recently displayed at Harvard. According to *The Harvard Crimson*, his slideshow "documents the daily lives of the young refugees, capturing the pride, strength, and hope of these residents amidst the bleak conditions of their domestic situation."

Third, fourth and fifth grade classes will each have the opportunity to hear Alex's presentation, view his photo exhibit, and ask questions about his experience in Kakuma. There will be a follow-up community service project that will take place in the classrooms in the coming weeks. Watch for a letter to come home in the January 14th Friday folder with all the details.

Presentation schedule for January 13th in room 110:

9:00-9:45 4th grade
9:45-10:30 3rd grade
10:30-11:15 5th grade

To read the article in *The Harvard Crimson* on Alex Palmer's work click on the link:
http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2010/10/5/people-kids-kakuma-children