



YOUR SCHOOLS

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Sweet Home Central School District

December 2008 Your Schools - The Newsletter for the Residents of the Sweet Home Central School District

State Champs!!!

A perfect 13-0 season for the Sweet Home varsity football team concluded with a New York State Class A State Championship in a 35-28 victory of Burnt Hills on Saturday, November 29 at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse. Quarterback Casey Kacz was named the game's MVP and three other of his teammates - Deshanaro Morris, Matt Zon and Steve Phillips - were recognized for their outstanding play.

Well over 2,000 students, family and friends witnessed the first ever state title for the Panthers who are coached by John Faller. Congratulations to the team and coaches on their outstanding season.



(Top): Senior Ryan Wilson hoists the championship plaque. (Bottom): The Carrier Dome scoreboard at the final gun.



Inside

Superintendent	2
News Briefs	3
Kindergarten Registrations ..	3
Student Honors	4
Health Corner	6
Office of Instruction	9
Picture Page	12

A Message from the Superintendent of Schools...



*Superintendent of
Schools
Geoffrey M. Hicks*

A Perfect Season

On November 29th I had the opportunity to witness a piece of Sweet Home history, the state championship football game at the Syracuse Carrier Dome. I was one of approximately 2,000 Sweet Home fans, including students, parents, faculty and community members, that cheered on our team as they completed the perfect

season. The football team established a record that can never be broken, 13 wins, 0 losses, a sectional championship and a state championship.



The improbable journey of the football team energized our high school student body and the community. The players learned the value of setting goals, trusting in your teammates, and the intense focus of pursuing a dream with passion and commitment. The student body rallied together in support of the team and the spirit that surrounded the run through the playoffs exemplified the sheer fun of high school sports. In a school where athletic excellence is commonplace, the football team took winning to another level. It was an experience that the players will never forget, and one that provided all of us another reason to be proud of Sweet Home.

One of the things I am most proud of is that the student-athletes had the best season in the storied history of Sweet Home football while under a new, more rigorous academic eligibility policy. Our kids proved that they will meet the higher expectations placed upon them, both on the football field and in the classroom. It made their accomplishment even more impressive.

As the final seconds ticked away in the state championship game I looked around the stadium. I saw proud parents, fans with painted faces, a section of screaming students, alumni, and a sea of blue and gold shirts. I saw players and coaches hugging each other, physically and emotionally exhausted, finally realizing that their goal had been reached. It was a scene of pure joy and sense of pride welled up among the crowd. It was a piece of history, a moment to be savored, and it reminded me of the very best experience school can provide.

Changes to the District Calendar...

Please note the following changes to the Sweet Home Central School District 2008-09 calendar. The Staff Development Day originally scheduled for Friday, January 30, 2009 has been moved to Friday, February 6, 2009. **All schools will now be in session on Friday, January 30, 2009 and there will be NO SCHOOL for all students on Friday, February 6, 2009.**

In addition the January Regents Exams were incorrectly listed in the 2008-09 Calendar & Handbook mailed home in August. **The correct dates for January Regents Exams are January 27-30, not January 20-23 as originally listed.**

The district apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.



HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS PRACTICE PSAT / SAT

Save the date of Saturday, February 28 for the opportunity to take a practice PSAT or SAT. The PSAT/SAT Practice Test, which is being sponsored by Kaplan Test Prep and Sweet Home Dollars for Scholars, will be offered to all students in the sophomore (PSAT) and junior (SAT) classes on Saturday, February 28 at 9:00am. **Students must preregister and can do so February 12, 25 and 26 between 10:30am and 1:30pm outside the high school cafeteria. Cost of the test is \$7.** Following the practice test, students and parents are invited to come back on Thursday, March 5 at 7pm where students will be given a computer-analyzed printout detailing their strengths and weaknesses. For more information, please call 250-1414.

FAMILY FUN DAY SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Save the date of Saturday, January 31 for the 3rd annual Sweet Home Family Fun Day. From 1pm to 4pm on January 31 at the high school, the district will host a day full of fun for the entire family. There will be inflatable attractions, a craft tent, face painting, rock climbing and an open swim in the pool. Popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones and hot dogs will be available.

All proceeds from the day will benefit the Sweet Home Dollars for Scholars Scholarship Fund. More information will be sent home with your children in mid-January about the event. Please plan on attending one of the highlights of the Sweet Home year!

Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration Information....

Applications have been sent out to families in the Sweet Home School District for the 2009-2010 Universal Pre-K school year. If you live in the Sweet Home School District and haven't received an application and are interested in sending your child to Universal Pre-K, please call Elaine Skalski at 250-1414. Any child who will reach their 4th birthday on or before December 1, 2009 is eligible to attend. Pre-K registration will take place in April.

Parents of children who will be 5 years old by December 1, 2009, can register them for Kindergarten during the designated times below. If you are not sure which elementary school your child will attend, please feel free to contact Central Registration at 250-1600.

Glendale Elementary:	February 2, 3, 4
Heritage Heights Elementary:	February 25, 26, 27
Maplemere Elementary:	February 12, 13, 23
Willow Ridge Elementary:	February 6, 9, 10

Appointments are necessary. Appointments are on the half-hour and run from 8:30am – 3:00pm **by calling the Central Registration Office at 250-1600.** If you are unable to attend during your child's school's designated time, please call for an alternative appointment. These will be held after March 1st but will not delay your child's registration process in any way.

Moved Within the District?

If you have recently moved within the district you will need to contact the Central Registration Office to change your student's information. You will need to fill out a change of address form and provide Central Registration with a copy of your new lease or mortgage **and** a current utility bill. Central Registration is located at 1901 Sweet Home Road (attached to the High School) and can be reached by calling 250-1600.

School Closing Information...

The winter season is upon us, which means the winter weather is here too. In the event school is closed due to bad weather, Sweet Home closing information will be reported to the following media outlets:

- WGRZ-TV (Channel 2)
- WIVB-TV (Channel 4)
- WKBW-TV (Channel 7)
- WTSS-FM (102.5 FM)
- WKSE-FM (98.5 FM)
- WJYE-FM (96.1 FM)
- WBLK-FM (93.7 FM)
- WBEN-AM (930 AM)
- **Global Connect** Phone Notification



School closing information will also be posted on the home page of the Sweet Home website at **www.sweethomeschools.com**. When schools are closed due to weather, all student extra-curricular activities and community education classes will be canceled.

106 Inducted into Foreign Language Honor Societies...

Sweet Home High School is pleased to announce that 106 juniors have been inducted into the school's foreign language honor society. In order to be inducted, students must successfully complete first and second levels of the language which they are studying and maintain an average of 90% or higher in each level.

Induction ceremonies were held October 16 in the Sweet Home High School auditorium. The 2008 inductees into the Sweet Home Foreign Language Honor Society are as follows:

German Honor Society

Timothy Anger, Angelina Bruno, Kimberly Charleson, Matthew Daddario, Christine Hojczyk, William Hyland III, Shaina Kantor, Kevin Krupp, Hanna Mesches, Kaitlyn Monda, Joshua Reich, Sean Rosney, Lydia Sigurdson, Adam Titanic and Annalies Van Leeuwen

French Honor Society

Walaal Abdelfadeel, Kyle A. Berry, Olivia Lyn Cabana, Amanda K. Cordier, Joshua Coughlin, Erica Cowan, Jessica Czeladzinski, Emanuel Green, Amy Grogan, Hannah Hagen, Fadouma Hamza, Alexandra E. Hickey, Sarah Hickey, Taylor P. Jones, Kirsten Elizabeth Kibler, Alyssa Koons, Brittany Longo, Kailey McDonald, Aime' Mukendi Jr., Stephanie Ohman, Laura Payne, Larri M. Phelps, Ashley Princess-Hash, Crrone Rabold, Sean Rosney, Emmalee Russo, Petrina Scaglione, Meagan Schreiner, Kelsey L. Stuhler and Danica Tibung

Spanish Honor Society

Adrianna Ammerman, Jacob Bluestenin, Austin Bradt, Debra Conti, Lauren Dean, Jyotsna Dixit, Kristine Ellsworth, Amber Falkner, Alex Fu, Eric Fu, Enzy Lee Guzman, Tyler Hayes, Jaclyn Healy, Christina Heim, Megan Hicks, Alana Ingala, BethAnne Jasen, Amber Januchowski, Kaylee Kaminski, Ryan Kaufman, Alina Khasbatova, Yekaterina Kukhto, Sara Lewandowski, Elizabeth Link, Mackenzie Mann, Joseph Manzella, Paigelyn Marshall, Dean May, Zachery Meloon, Katelalyn Miller, Kari Moley, Nhung T. Nguyen, Gillian Nigro, Ryan O'Connor, Connor Orrico, Matthew J. Palombo, Grace Pan, Jennifer D. Panaro, Michael M. Pankiewicz, Rinal Patel, Emily Ann Plewniak, John Reeb, Samantha Riley, Anna Rozansky, Myriah Ruiz, Faryal Sahibzada, Abigail Santiago, Keith D. Scott Jr., Ryan Scott, Kathryn M. Scrimme, Ashley Shalberg, Michael Sheridan, Elise Siegler, Keith Sieman, Erica Sitek, Thomas Spengler Jr., Julie Starr, Jennifer V. Strom, Leanne M. Stuck, Rebecca White and Bethany D. Wolf

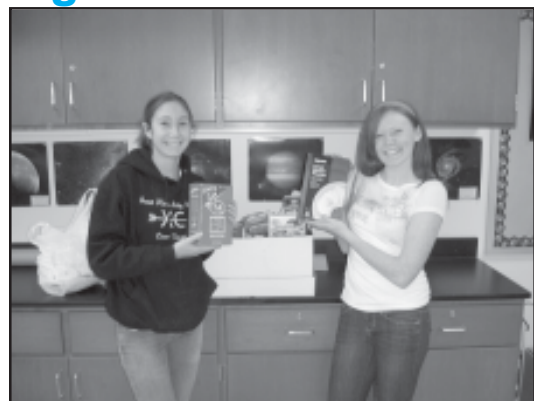


Erica Cowan accepts induction into the French Honor Society.

Lending a Helping Hand at Thanksgiving...

Members of the All-Class Leadership Council at the high school conducted a food drive for the month of November to benefit needy families residing in the Sweet Home District. Through their efforts, they collected twelve **complete** Thanksgiving dinners - turkey and all the fixings - that were distributed thanks to the Amherst Youth Board. In addition to the dinners, the students collected a number of other items that were donated to local food pantries just in time for the holiday season. Congratulations to the All-Class Leadership Council on a job very well done.

Pictured from left to right are Katie Niblock and Colleen Koslowski as they package up twelve Thanksgiving dinners.



Maving Signs to Play Volleyball at Connecticut...

Kelsey Maving, a member of Sweet Home's varsity volleyball team, signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball for the University of Connecticut Huskies on Friday, November 14.

The signing took place in the Athletics Office of Sweet Home High School and Kelsey's parents, coaches and teammates were present for the signing.

Some of Maving's volleyball accomplishments include:

- Academic All-Erie County Interscholastic Conference (ECIC) team selection, 2004-2008
- New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Athlete Award – 7 times
- All-WNY 1st Team Selection, 2006 & 2007
- Empire State Games Scholastic Volleyball Gold Medalist 2006, 2007, 2008
- Six (6) Varsity Volleyball letters
- 2005 & 2007 Varsity Volleyball MVP
- Several All-Tournament Team Selections (USA Volleyball Invitational, Eden Volleyball, Frontier Volleyball and North Tonawanda Volleyball tournaments)

In addition to her success in volleyball, Maving is also ranked first in her senior class and played basketball and softball for the Panthers, lettering in both sports.



Pictured with Kelsey are her parents Ken and Lisa Maving. Back row (l to r) Athletic Director Chirs DeMarco, Candi Werkmeister, varsity volleyball coach Breean Trapasso and Rob Werkmeister. The Werkmeisters were coaches of Kelsey's club team.

Harkness Students of the Month...

Two Sweet Home students were recently recognized by their instructors at the Harkness Career and Technical Center for their outstanding achievements. **Nick Rice** was recognized as Harkness Student of the Month for October. Nick is in the Building Maintenance program and was described as always willing to help out in the shop by his instructor.

Brady Hess was also recognized as the Harkness October Student of the Month. Brady is studying in the area of auto technician training and was described as a hard worker who is always willing to help

Congratulations to these two students on their terrific accomplishments!



Nick Rice



Brady Hess

Health & Wellness Corner...



Beverly Ann Shipe, SNT/P
District Nurse
Practitioner &
Health Teacher
250-1269

Food Allergy Update from Kathy Lundquist WNY Food Allergy Connection

Food allergies are dramatically on the rise. According to a recent publication by the CDC*, 1 in 25 children have a food allergy, an 18% increase since 1997. The FDA says: *“Each year, millions of Americans have allergic reactions to food. Although most food allergies cause relatively mild and minor symptoms, some food allergies can cause severe reactions, and may even be life-threatening. There is no cure for food allergies. Strict avoidance of food allergens — and early recognition and management of allergic reactions to food — are important measures to prevent serious health consequences.”*

* <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db10.pdf>

In WNY, families dealing with food allergies now have a local resource for their day to day questions, can share ideas, shopping tips, and get support. We also have a section called “Ask the Allergist”, your questions answered by a local board certified allergist. Our group is Food Allergy Families at

Buffalomomslikeme.com. You can access us through www.wgrz.com and click on momslikeme. Food Allergy Families - stop by and share a cup of allergy free virtual beverage!

Kathy Lundquist, Founder, WNY Food Allergy Connection
PO Box 220, Clarence, NY 14031
(T/P) 716.759.1314
(FAX) 716.759.1315
allergy@roadrunner.com
buffalomomslikeme.com - Food Allergy Families Group

TV Viewing Linked to Teen Pregnancy

A new study conducted and released by the Rand Corporation suggests that adolescents who viewed sexually explicit television programming were more likely to become pregnant. In fact, according to a Nov. 3 *Associated Press* report, teens who watched the “raciest” shows were twice as likely to become pregnant over the next three years as those who watched few such programs.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27512130>

Help For Smokers

‘Tis the season’ that most people revisit concerns about their own health. If you are a smoker, there can be no greater contribution to good health than quitting smoking!

The bottom line is this: giving up smoking is a challenge, but there is plenty of help available. For more information about how to quit—along with other helpful tips—call the New York State Smokers’ Quitline at **1-866-NY-QUITS** (1-866-697-8487). You may be eligible for a two week supply of free nicotine replacement therapy. When you’re smoke free, you, your body, and your loved ones will be proud to call you a quitter!

Research shows that when you stop smoking, your body automatically starts healing:

- Within 20 minutes, your heart rate calms down
- Within eight hours, you have more oxygen in your blood, the mucus begins to clear out of your lungs, and your breathing eases
- Within 48 hours, your sense of taste and smell will improve
- Within three months, your blood circulation improves, and your body is better able to fight off infections
- Within nine months, you have less sinus congestion, wheezing is diminished, as is shortness of breath
- After one year, your risk of dying of a heart attack is cut in half
- After five years, your chances of having a stroke is sharply diminished
- After 10 years, your likelihood of getting lung cancer is cut in half



Health & Wellness Corner Continued...

Public Access Defibrillation [PAD] in Schools Program Update

Our school district has been awarded two Automated External Defibrillation [AED] units through a nearly 4K grant from the East Hill Foundation on behalf of the Madison McCarthy Cardiac Care for Children. American Heart Association CPR/AED training is included in the grant award.

'The Madison McCarthy Cardiac Care for Children is a not for profit organization that was started in honor of 5 year old, Madison Lee McCarthy. On September 27, 2001, Madison suffered a cardiac arrest while attending kindergarten at Southtowns Catholic School in Lakeview, New York. When we suffer a cardiac arrest and the heart goes into ventricular fibrillation, the only life saving remedy is an AED.'

These two AEDs add to our current 25 AEDs that we have located throughout our district buildings. Each district building has an Emergency Response Team and an Emergency Response Team Plan that is activated throughout the school year in exercise drills to increase comfort and efficiency in providing emergency care. We have over 200 personnel trained in CPR/AED.

MyPyramid Nutrition Resource Site

'One size doesn't fit all. MyPyramid offers personalized eating plans, interactive tools to help you plan and assess your food choices, and advice to help you:

- ♦ Make smart choices from every food group
- ♦ Find your balance between food and physical activity.
- ♦ Get the most nutrition out of your calories.
- ♦ Stay within your daily calorie needs'

Offers sites for preschoolers, school age children, adults and professionals.

<http://www.mypyramid.gov>



What You Need To Know About Energy Drinks....

Adolescents are becoming addicted to the ingredients in energy drinks. Caffeine and other stimulants in the drinks are not recommended for young people. Find out more in this month in the Amherst Bee 'Healthy Community Healthy Youth' column.

Kids Will Eat Their Vegetables!

'A new study released by First 5 California found that parents don't need to sneak fruits and vegetables into their children's meals- kids say they actually like them! Interviews with more than 100 preschoolers across California revealed that kids not only know it's important to eat fruits and vegetables, they frequently prefer them to candy.'

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/127483.php>

FUN AND EDUCATIONAL FAMILY WEBSITES

Federal Bureau of Investigation

'The Kids' Page is designed for children and their parents to learn more about the FBI through age-appropriate games, tips, stories and interactives. We also introduce you to our working dogs and show how FBI special agents and analysts investigate cases.' The FBI has been around since 1908. In that time, it has changed names three times, and grown from under 40 employees to almost 30,000! An educational and fun site for all.

<http://www.fbi.gov/fbikids.htm>

Play Mahjongg

'Mahjongg is an ancient Chinese solitaire game. The object of the game is to remove all of the tiles from the board by selecting two free tiles of the same kind. A tile must have at least one side unblocked in order to be playable. There are four tiles for each character. Flowers and seasons are different and have only one of each kind - therefore you can match any flower with any flower or any season with any season.'

<http://www.primarygames.com/holidays/chinese/games/mahjongg/start.htm>

<http://www.mah-jongg.ch>

<http://www.candystand.com/play.do?id=17883>

Health Website for Parents, Kids and Teens

'Nemours, established in 1936 by philanthropist Alfred I. duPont, is dedicated to improving the health and spirit of children. Today, as part of its continuing mission, Nemours supports the operation of a number of renowned children's health facilities throughout the nation, including the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware, and the Nemours Children's Clinics throughout Florida. Nemours also supports important clinical research aimed at translating advances in science into practical ways of improving health care for infants, children, and teens.'

<http://www.nemours.org/e-service/kidshealth.html>

Family Support Center Celebrates 15 Years of Helping Families...

Did you know that our district offers a valuable program recognized throughout New York State as a leader in offering collaborative services to families and students in Sweet Home schools? The Family Support Center, located in the District offices at 1901 Sweet Home Road, provides support to students and families when needs and issues go above and beyond what the staff in the school building is able to provide. Working with 15 partner agencies in the community, the Family Support Center helps families navigate systems to find the most appropriate services as quickly as possible. Using a one stop shopping approach, we acknowledge that often there is more than one issue families need help with. We want to make asking for help as easy as possible by finding the most appropriate people, agencies, locations and times to best meet someone's needs. We also want to make sure that everyone is working together and communication is key.

Our other primary goal is to send the message that it is okay to ask for help. We never have all the answers to solve the challenges life throws at us. Often we wait until a problem becomes somewhat unmanageable and assistance is unavoidable. There are many resources available to help when you need it. Early intervention is so important and can prevent problems for children and families from getting out of hand.

The Family Support Center can help with issues such as depression, anger management, anxiety, behavior problems, parenting concerns, serious mental health issues, medication assessment, food and clothing assistance. Some services can be provided in your home or within the school district. Please call Coordinator Anne Nowak at 250-1229 for more information.



Parent Workshops offered in January

Parents, do you find yourself repeating directions to your children? Are consequences losing their effectiveness? Is communication breaking down in your home? Would you like more laughter and less yelling? Common Sense Parenting Workshops are for you!

The Family Support Center and the Amherst Youth Board are sponsoring two workshops in January that is open to all parents of children ages 3-17 years old. The workshops are for 6 consecutive weeks and offered in a morning and evening session. The program is free but a \$10 refundable book deposit is required.

Workshop #1: Tuesdays, January 6 – February 10th, 6:30pm-8:30pm, held at Sweet Home High School

Workshop#2: Wednesdays, January 7- February 11th, 9:30am-11:00am, in the District Office Norman Vergils Community Center. Call 250-1229 to register today!!!!

Help from Heritage Heights for the Troops...

Thanks to many donations of food and supplies by students' families, Heritage Heights was able to send 23 care packages to soldiers serving at Bala Murghab in Afghanistan. This group is made up of military forces from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines as well as special groups from the Afghan National Army, Afghan Police, Spain, and Italy. Along with the food and other supplies not easily come by in the deserts of Afghanistan, students wrote and sent along cards and letters to thank and encourage our troops.

Pictured from left to right are Anna Belous, Jasmine Nguyen, Mr. Frank LiCausi enrichment teacher, Jonathan Phillips, Peter Thompson and Zach Devoure as they pack up goods for the troops.



An Update from The Office of Instruction...



*Asst. Superintendent for
Instruction
Anthony J. Day*

This year, every teacher in our district is working as part of a team of teachers to “re-design” a unit that they plan to teach in the second half of the school year. “Wait a minute.” one might interject. “Don’t all teachers already plan units? What’s makes this effort different? Why is it needed?”

These are valid questions to pose. There are several critical differences that make this initiative important for our kids and our program. The first key difference is that the units are planned collaboratively. Traditionally, while some teacher teams have planned units together, many teachers plan their units individually. These units may be shared with others but do not represent grade level or true course curriculum. One crucial factor that separates great schools from good schools is a “guaranteed” curriculum for every child regardless of what classroom they work in. We have made great strides in this area over the past five years. This effort continues the work to a deeper level by including common assessments and lesson designs.

A second key shift is the depth of understanding and their sought by the units. These units are rooted in a core concept revealed by breaking down the New York State standards into their essential elements. Conceptual teaching demands that kids not only know their “stuff” but are also able to transfer the “big ideas” of the concept and use them in another setting. This is the real goal of schooling. For instance, one eighth grade unit on immigration sought student understanding of immigration as a concept. Not only did the kids learn about immigration at the turn of the 20th century. They were also asked to apply their understanding to interpret documents and information about current immigration issues as well. (The kids did a great job!)

Our unit “re-design” effort also seeks to prepare kids for the changing world we currently live in and the even greater changes that 21st century learners will face as they move closer to their own adult lives. Consider what life was like in 1997- when our current seniors were in first grade and how different the world is today. Now consider our current first graders- the class of 2020! How different will the world be at that when they graduate? More and more, we need that kids will still need core knowledge and skill in areas such as reading, writing, mathematics, social studies and science. It becomes increasingly clear that they will also need critical thinking skills and productive thinking habits to be successful.

The units that are teachers are working on make a concerted, deliberate effort to target these skills and habits. Each unit asks the teams to focus upon a thinking skill that is bigger than the unit itself. Skills that recur and are needed for success in every subject including the ability to compare and arrive at conclusions, to clearly explain ideas and thoughts, to evaluate information, to make valid decisions, to determine what is important and what is not. These skills are critical to making sense of information and deeply understand the content of school as well as the world around them.

We always want our kids to have good habits. We’ve worked hard on important attributes such as punctuality, responsibility and organization. Now, however, we seek to foster good thinking habits as well. Kids will need to habitually persist in the face of difficulty and challenge. In a world that bombards them with information, they’ll need habits that force them to ask questions and develop a critical eye for bias and “spin.” Managing impulsivity, developing empathy, working cooperatively and generating creative ideas will also be critical habits. We all know that habits are formed not in one shot but by repeated practice. In their units, teams are asked to target one of these habits and develop lessons and tasks that will help develop them over time- not just in this unit but over the entire year.

During the past five years, we have worked hard on improving our curriculum and assessment practices. We’ve tried hard to study our teaching practices and increase our use of those strategies that work best. We’ve made teamwork a cornerstone of everything we do. Our “unit re-design” effort is an important step in bringing all these efforts together. Our teachers have done great work thus far in the effort. By year’s end, we hope to see the fruits of this labor transformed into great work by our kids.

Willow Ridge Gets into the Spirit of Election Day...



Surrounding one of the most exciting Election Days in our nation's history, Willow Ridge Elementary had a little election fun themselves. This year the students took the campaign for Student Council to a whole new level. Students running for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer made political commercials that aired on the school's morning news, hung posters throughout the building and made speeches at an assembly on October 30. Grades 3-5 then voted for Student Council officers on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4. Overall, the experience was a valuable learning experience.

Congratulations to the newly elected Willow Ridge Student Council pictured with advisors Mrs. Donna Speranza and Mrs. Julie Sarnacki. They are: Kaitlin Okun -President, Austin Wilson - Vice President, Sara Bennett - Secretary and Matthew Pflazer - Treasurer. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

Glendale Elementary is Off and Running...

Rich Lowe and Amanda Martinez, Physical Education teachers at Glendale, literally get student days off to a running start. Mr. Low and Ms. Martinez have formed a running club that meets a couple of days a week before school. The students come to the gym ready to run - and do so - running laps for 15 minutes from 8am until the start of school at 8:15. As many as 25 students run each morning and log their laps with Mr. Lowe and Ms. Martinez to see how far they've run. The club has been an instant hit and the students enjoy running so much that a number of them competed and finished in the Schools Marathon Race in Niagara Falls in October.

Keep up the good work Glendale!



Victoria Bastian (l) and Madison O'Brien (r) run a few laps before school at Glendale.



Glendale's School Marathon competitors.

Safety First at Middle School...

Students in Mrs. Kelly Corcoran's 8th grade science class recently participated in a safety contest sponsored by local company Watson Bowman Acme. The students created posters about making the world cleaner, safer and more secure. The posters were hung in the lobby of Watson Bowman Acme and employees voted on each. The contest was part of a safety fair at the company and for their efforts, the students were treated to a pizza party courtesy of Watson Bowman Acme.

The winners of the poster contest pictured left to right are: Alexandra Gaulin, Anna Lei, Erin Naylor, Alicia Roehrig, Jordan Wolf, Brionna Blackmon, Mike Butler, Sean Hickey and Kevin Adams.

*(Below): Watson Bowman Acme employees vote on posters.
(Right): 8th grade winners of the poster contest.*



Maplemere Welcomes First Student Council...

The month of November welcomed the first ever Student Council to Maplemere Elementary. Thirty-eight students ran for office and students voted in the elections on Election Day.

The new officers and the rest of the council wasted little time in sponsoring their first activity. The Student Council collected Halloween candy for Winning Smiles Dentistry and for every pound collected, the school received \$1. The council collected over 100 pounds of candy and thanks to the help of West-Herr Automotive, Dr. Michael Foley of Winning Smiles presented the school with a \$500 check to be put toward the school's playground fund. The candy collected was shipped off and donated to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The council is advised by teachers Mrs. Sharrie Scully and Mrs. Kendra Herbold.



Maplemere's donation to Winning Smiles Dentistry and the 16 Student Council members who helped with the candy drive.



Your District



Fifth graders at Glendale perform an authentic African drumming and dance concert on Thursday, October 23 at the school.



Maplemere kindergartners Cecelia Nowak (left) and Angelina Finley (right) proudly display "I Voted" stickers as students learned the importance of Election Day and voting.



Kennedy Johns, third grader in Mikal Brennan's Maplemere class, reads her personal narrative to friends and family as part of the class' first ever Writing Celebration.



Dejan Karlovich serves middle school psychologist Robin Raphael at the annual ESL Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19 at the middle school.

SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOLS OF AMHERST & TONAWANDA

1901 Sweet Home Road • Amherst, NY 14228

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Geoffrey M. Hicks

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