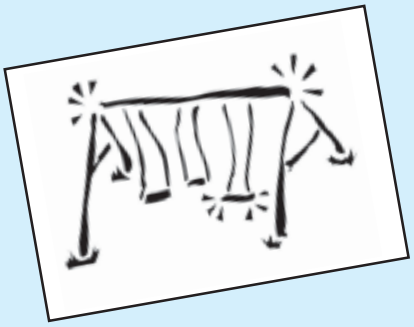
YOUR SCHOOLS

www.sweethomeschools.com

Sweet Home Central School District

July 2011 Your Schools - The Newsletter for the Residents of the Sweet Home Central School District

Town of Amherst Youth & Recreation Summer Playground Program



FREE Fun Mornings and Afternoons in YOUR area playground!

And ALL NEW — EVENING HOURS! Imagination Stations: June 27 – August 12, 2011.

This exciting seven-week program takes place at various playground sites and offers a variety of activities and theme weeks for youth ages 12 years and under, including games, arts and crafts, athletics and special events. Children 5 years and under must be supervised by someone 13 years or older at all times.

Contact: Jennifer Reed at 689-1404 or jreed@amherst.ny.us for more information.

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/sweethomeschools

Congratulations Class of 2011!

Their time at Sweet Home High School ended for the 252 graduates of the Class of 2011 that walked across the stage at the University of Buffalo's Center for the Arts on Friday, June 24. The 52nd commencement exercises of Sweet Home Central School District showcased a class full of passion, dreams, memories and a keen sense of friendship and family.

Seniors **Katelyn Monda and Joshua Reich** opened the ceremony by leading the pledge of allegiance. After a welcome by principal Joleen Reinholz, class representatives **Grace Pan, Bethany Wolf and Amie Mukendi** addressed their classmates. Each shared many memories of the Class of 2011 and all spoke of how well prepared they are for the future because of their four years at Sweet Home High School. **Angelina Bruno** took her speech in a different direction by singing to her classmates.

Student Board of Education Member Angelina Bruno sings her rendition of 'Somewhere' by Barbara Streisand at Commencement Ceremonies on Friday, June 24 at UB Center for the Arts.

Following Bruno, Superintendent Anthony J. Day took the stage. He thanked the seniors for making Sweet Home one of the very best school districts in Western New York and highlighted the hard work and determination as evident by the 88 percent of the graduating class that will attend a 2 or 4 year college next year. He urged the graduating class to find out what electrifies them, create a vision that is worthy of pursuit and to find the readiness to act and the willingness to risk.

The graduates recessed to the music of the Sweet Home Concert Wind Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Cory Morrow to Baird Point for the traditional throwing of the caps.

A Message from the Superintendent of Schools...

Superintendent of Schools
Anthony J. Day

While I have attended many graduations over the years, this was the first in which I was a participant since my own graduation too many years ago. You could see the beaming smiles on each of the 252 faces of our graduates as they strode across the stage at UB's Center for the Arts. Celebrating one of the defining moments of their lives with families and friends, graduation is an event like none other for our school district community. For each individual student, graduation is a shining moment and a time of transition- excited and joyful for completing one phase of life shortly before taking a deep breath and beginning the journey anew.

Collectively, graduation should serve as a moment of celebration for the entire school community as well. The Class of 2011 achieved many noteworthy accomplishments worthy of our pride and respect. Over half of our graduates earned the Regents diploma with advanced designation- recognition by the New York State Education Department for outstanding academic preparation. 88% of our graduates have plans to attend post-secondary education with others headed to the military or the world of work. The breadth of the talent on display amongst the Class of 2011 is impressive as well. Nationally recognized music talent, award winning orators and artists, another sectional championship in football- all exemplars of the talents on display of a special group of young people.

For me, there were some wonderful memories and stories from the school year past that paved the road to last month's shining moment. A few weeks before, I spoke with the proud mom of a graduating senior who wanted me to know how much she thought of the elementary teachers that she believed had made such a difference in her son's schooling. My heart warmed from the teachers' infectious smiles when I shared that phone call with them a few days later.

I attended a celebration of work from our Senior Honors Project late in the school year. Twenty talented scholars had written strong college level work on a diverse set of topics and themes- their talent bursting from the page and portending great things for them as they continue their move towards adulthood.

I met a young man whose Science teacher believed in him and his potential. Not normally considered a strong student and not enrolled in the accelerated living environment class, this eighth grade boy worked tirelessly to complete laboratory assignments and learn new curriculum. This June, he rewarded the dedication of his teacher and the faith he placed in himself by achieving a score of 94 on the Regents Living Environment test.

I remember the meetings with my Student Advisory Council and my efforts to harness the unbridled energy of highly engaged high school students who each month offered passionate yet insightful thoughts about topics and issues central to their school experience.

I joined with dozens of students and teachers on a Sunday night in holding candles and offering prayers for a fallen friend.

I worked alongside moms and dads to craft suggestions to improve the quantity and quality of parental involvement in the lives of children in our schools. I thanked parent volunteers who had gone far beyond the call of duty to raise money for scholarships or coordinate field days at our elementary and fun days for our middle schoolers. This year's budget process was as challenging as it ever has been. But I recall the thoughtful participation of community members and staff at our open hearings, the earnest conversations with senior citizens and the gratitude I felt towards our community for once again providing their support and an affirmative vote on the 2011-12 budget.

I admired the work ethic and commitment of an elementary teacher that continued to push students to work harder and achieve more while faithfully giving up lunch periods and staying after school with students two or more days each week. All while fighting the bittersweet tears that accompany dedicated professionals winding up the final days of a long and worthwhile teaching career.

The day after graduation, I took part in discussions with teachers and administrators deeply engaged in trying to build their own skill set so they could help their students achieve to higher levels in September. I celebrated improved results with our high school Science department after a year's diligent and focused efforts and marveled at elementary and middle school teachers who, given a model for enhanced literacy instruction, had made great shifts in their practice and whose kids were engaged in reading like never before. I thanked some exemplary teachers for demonstrating leadership and initiative by agreeing to serve as literacy coaches and to lead their colleagues in advancing their instruction.

Throughout the year, I collaborated with the dedicated members of our Board of Education whose commitment to our kids and community continues unabated.

I am so thankful to have collected such wonderful memories to help frame the school year past. However, each school year brings new trials and the inevitable pitfalls that will challenge our efforts to become the best school district we can be. Next year, we'll be asked to implement new academic standards, construct new assessments and design fair but challenging evaluation systems for our teachers and principals. We'll continue to face fiscal conditions that will challenge our ability to meet the needs of our students while continuing to honor the realities of our taxpayers. Surely, there will be other challenges that will test both our mettle and our resolve. But because of the quality of the kids that attend our schools... Because of the strength of the families that send them.... and the commitment of the staff members that nurture both their hearts and minds, I know that next school year will conclude with yet another set of shining moments that accompany the joy of graduation.

SWEET HOME STUDENTS SIGN UP TO REJECT TOBACCO

During the past two years, Sweet Home High School students have had the opportunity to participate in a federally funded research program to test the feasibility of using incentives to reward students for rejecting tobacco sponsored by Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Yale University. Students from Sweet Home High and three other high schools, including Kenmore West and two schools in Connecticut were given an opportunity to participate in the program called Rise Above. The results at all of the participating schools were pretty much the same; the majority of students signed the pledge to not use tobacco in return for the chance to win small cash prizes so long as they tested negative for tobacco use. At Sweet Home High School, nearly 7 in 10 students joined the program. This past year 48 High School students received cash prizes of up to $75 for not smoking. Students helped design and implement the marketing of the program to classmates.

In February 2011, Sweet Home Central extended the campaign to the Middle School in conjunction with an assembly program featuring Rick Stoddard. Mr. Stoddard initiated a personal crusade against smoking after his wife Marie, died from lung cancer at the age of 46. His powerful message against the use of tobacco has been delivered to hundreds of thousands of school children around the country and his story has been featured in anti-smoking commercials aired by New York State Department of Health.

Central Registration Information...

New to the district or moving within the district this summer?
If you have recently moved into the Sweet Home district and have not yet registered your children for school, you must do this soon to make your child's transition as smooth as possible.

Please note that the Central Registration Office will be on a summer schedule beginning June 30th. The office will be closed from June 30-July 25 and July 29-August 1. We will then be on a limited schedule until August 22. Students can be registered by appointment only so please call our office at 250-1600.

Please be aware of the following dates when calling to schedule an appointment:

- 6th grade Orientation is August 18th. Sessions are 10am and 7pm. In order to attend, students are asked to be registered prior to August 15th.
- 7th and 8th grade students locker set up day is Thursday, September 1st.
- 9th grade/New High School student orientation is August 24th at 7pm. Students are asked to be registered by August 17th to ensure a schedule will be ready.
- In order to ensure transportation for the 1st day of school, all children must be registered by August 31st. Otherwise, parent may be responsible for transportation until Sept.16th.

Registration packets can be obtained at our office at 1901 Sweet Home Rd, near District offices, or on line at **www.sweethomeschools.com**. For your convenience, packets are also available in the main office of each of the four elementary schools.

Universal Pre School program
The school district provides a free, 2.5 hour pre school program for any child that will be 4 years old on or before December 1. The program is run by Four Seasons Pre School and Childcare Program. We offer two sessions, 8:30am-11:00am and 11:45am-2:15pm. The programs are held in each of our four elementary buildings. Transportation is provided by the parent. There is still space available; however, some classes at certain buildings are full. The registration process is the same for grades K-12. Orientation is scheduled for August 23, 6-7pm in the Sweet Home High School Auditorium. Students must be registered in order to attend orientation.

Moving within the district this summer?
Please visit the Central Registration Office and complete a change of address form to ensure you receive important start of school information and transportation for your child. You must bring with you two proofs of your new residence: a current lease or mortgage statement AND a current utility bill. This must be taken care of prior to the start of the school year. School district mail is not forwarded and transportation arrangements cannot be changed until the process is completed.

Moving out of Sweet Home?
Education law states that a child must live in and attend school in the district that the custodial parent/legal guardian resides. If you move outside of Sweet Home, you must register your child in the district in which you will be living. Once we receive notification of this, we will forward academic records to the new school.

As always, please call 250-1600 with any questions.

District Residents Approve 2011-12 Budget...

Residents of the Sweet Home Central School District **approved** the 2011-2012 district budget, Tuesday, May 17, by a vote of 678 "yes" to 398 "no". Of the 1,076 voters, 63% voted to pass the budget.

Voters also approved Proposition No. 1 to spend $442,000 to purchase four (4) buses by a vote of 611 "yes" to 454 "no".

The $67,327,088 budget represents an increase of 2.86% over the previous year. With nearly a $1 million reduction in State Aid, the Board of Education decided to appropriate an additional $200,000 from the current year to help reduce the overall tax levy. This is the second year in a row that the adopted budget has had over $2 million in spending reductions.

Under this scenario, the average tax bill for an Amherst home assessed at $100,000 with STAR exemption would increase approximately $50 from the current year. The increase would translate to a total annual tax bill of approximately $978. A similar home in the Town of Tonawanda with the new town Equalization Rate of 46.75 would see a tax bill increase of approximately $50. The increase would translate to a total annual tax bill of $975.

Sweet Home residents have not defeated a budget since 1977, and before that since 1964.

Miranda Re-elected to School Board; Welcome Sarah

In the school board election, Joe Miranda won re-election receiving 836 votes. Mr. Miranda ran unopposed and was elected to a five (5) year term which will expire on June 30, 2016.

The Board also welcomes All-Class Leadership Council president **Sarah Fiordaliso** as its ex-officio student member for the 2011-12 school year.

Joe Miranda

Sarah Fiordaliso

Middle School Art Show...

The Middle School held its annual Art Show on Friday, June 3 in the school's multi-purpose room. Projects were voted on by faculty judges and the winners are pictured below.

Congratulations to all the winners in this year's show:

Grade 6
Julie Hazelet, Samantha Adams, Sarah Wesolowski

Grade 7
Anna Belous, Haley Tolsma, Joe Armenia

Grade 8
Taylor White, Angel Jimenez, Vineetha Bheemalasetty

Grade 8 - Digital Media
Madison Gellerson, Sam Martina, Dimitriy Belous

(left to right): Owen Collins, Dimitry Belous, Haley Tolsma, Anna Belous, Joe Armenia, Talylor Stone, and Vineetha Bheemarasetty.

Board Sets 2011-2012 Meeting Dates

The Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District is pleased to announce its schedule of meetings for the 2011-12 school year. From September through June, the Board will hold a study session on the second Tuesday of each month and a regular voting meeting the third Tuesday of each month. The only exception is in April and May, when the meetings are scheduled differently to accommodate school break and the annual district budget vote respectively. All meetings are held in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center, 1901 Sweet Home Road in Amherst. All meetings begin at 7:00pm and the public is welcome to attend and comment to the board during the meetings' open sessions.

The 2011-2012 Board of Education meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, August 23, 2011	Study Session & Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2011	Study Session
Tuesday, September 20, 2011	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 2011	Study Session
Tuesday, October 18, 2011	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 8, 2011	Study Session
Tuesday, November 15, 2011	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2011	Study Session
Tuesday, December 20, 2011	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2012	Study Session
Tuesday, January 17, 2012	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2012	Study Session
Tuesday, February 14, 2012	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2012	Study Session
Tuesday, March 20, 2012	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 3, 2012	Study Session
Tuesday, April 17, 2012	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 1, 2012	**Annual Budget Hearing** **"Meet the Candidates Night"** **Study Session**
Tuesday, May 8, 2012	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 15, 2012	**Annual District Budget Vote**
Tuesday, June 12, 2012	Study Session
Tuesday, June 19, 2012	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 10, 2012	Reorganization & Special Voting Meeting

FALL OPEN HOUSE DATES SET

Open House dates for the district schools have been set for the fall. Open Houses provide the opportunity for parents to become familiar with their children's school, administrators and teachers. Dates and times of the fall open houses are listed here:

Sweet Home High School
Wed., September 21, 7:00pm

Sweet Home Middle School
Thurs., September 22, 7:00pm

Glendale Elementary
Fri., September 16, 6:30pm

Heritage Heights Elementary
Tues., September 20, 5:30pm

Maplemere Elementary
Thurs., September 8, 6:00pm

Willow Ridge Elementary
Tues., September 20, 6:30pm

Food Bank of WNY Visits Glendale & Willow Ridge...

The Food Bank of Western New York implemented a new youth program, "Banking on Wellness" and visited Willow Ridge and Glendale Elementary Schools this semester. The program is designed to teach children about the importance of a healthy lifestyle through a brief presentation and three interactive exercise games that engage, entertain, and educate the group about the value of healthy habits.

Pictured: Glendale kindergarten students **Cal Robertson, Stephanie Lawson, Youth Nutrition Coordinator, and Cassidy Papero.**

Middle School Students Participate in Womanfocus Supper Club

Sweet Home Middle School was fortunate to receive funding from a grant to offer Womanfocus *Supper Club* to a group of seventh and eighth grade girls this past Spring 2011.

Supper Club was created and is managed by Cheryl Stevens CPP Womanfocus Supervisor. Since 1988 *Supper Club* is a special place to learn kitchen skills and safety, budgeting and planning, nutritious meal preparation using fresh produce, herbs and meats, and develop positive connections with female peers. The program also includes fun activities like movement and journal writing.

Beverly Ann Shipe, District Nurse Practitioner and Health Teacher joined Anastasia Lembitz, Womanfocus Facilitator in delivering the ten-week series [of three hours each Monday] to the earnest group of Middle School students.

The students invited their mothers and administrators to a culminating program meal on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 where the girls were able to serve their homemade, four-course meal complete with dessert and pride. Each girl received accolades, a program certificate, and most of all, an inner confidence of knowing how to navigate in a kitchen, make friends, and choose healthier choices for improved peer and family relationships.

(L to R): Zoya Razzaque, Helen Toledo, Megan Will, Kayla Kitchen, Mrs. Beverly Ann Shipe, Tammi Muff, Mrs. Anastasia Lembitz, and Renea Pierro.

High Schoolers Learn the Dangers of Driving Drunk

As part of Senior Day 2011, Sweet Home High School seniors took part in an assembly program that simulated a drunk driving accident.

The assembly program was put together through the collaborative efforts of the high school Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), high school Physical Education staff, Youth to Youth Group and the Getzville Fire Department and was designed to help seniors better understand the ramifications of drinking and driving. The events of the program were designed to be as true-to-life as possible as a number of police, fire and ambulance vehicles responded to the accident and students were cut out of the vehicle using the jaws of life.

Top: A student actor is put through an actual DWI check with an Amherst Police officer. Bottom: The Getzville Fire Department tend to a student actor at the scene of the simulated accident.

Sweet Home in the Special Olympics

"Let me win. But if I can not win, let me be brave in the attempt."

This is the motto for Special Olympic athletes around the world. The Erie County Special Olympics Track and Field Competition took place at Sweet Home High School on May 21st.

The Sweet Home athletes included: **Marissa Adams, Jalen Craion, Eryn Denesha, Michelle Dobson, Linsay Ford, Ian Gordon, Scott Gordon, Christina Granbois, Daniel Hocutt, Isaiah Johnson, Sean Nisbet, Michael Phillips, Christopher Poreda, Alex Sniezak, Terilyn Sykes, and Jack Weibel.**

The parade started at 8:30 where Glendale student, **Jalen Craion** presented the oath over the microphone! The events then ran throughout the morning and early afternoon.

As always, it was a great day and athletes were awarded many ribbons! Congratulations!

The 2011 Sweet Home Special Olympic Team

School Supply Drive

While shopping for school supplies this summer for your children, please consider taking advantage of the fantastic sales and supplies that cost under a $1 and donating extra purchases to the Family Support Center. You can drop off donations at district office, 1901 Sweet Home Rd or at any of our six school buildings' main offices.

Tenure Given to 8 Teachers, 1 Administrators

Sweet Home Central School District is pleased to announce that it has granted tenure to 8 teachers and 1 administrators. The Board of Education hosted a small reception in honor of the newly tenured staff on Tuesday, June 14, 2011. The list of tenured teachers and administrators appears below. Please congratulate them the next time you see them on their accomplishments.

Michael Baumann
Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources & Planning
Julie Bickford
High School English Teacher
Lindsey Cook
Heritage Heights Reading Teacher
Christine DiGiacomo
High School Social Studies Teacher
Michael Hiller
High School English Teacher
Kimberly Major
Maplemere Reading Teacher
Dina Mann
Middle School Reading Teacher
Katherine Moran
Middle School Mathematics Teacher
Ashley Newman
Willow Ridge Grade 1 Teacher

Joseph Zwack (left), High School assistant principal, congratulates Christine DiGiacomo on receiving her tenure appointment.

Battles of the Books...

Every April and May, several students in third, fourth and fifth grades take part in a Battle of the Books contest where the students read a number of books and compete against their classmates in a trivia contest. This year, the Middle School also started its own Battle of the Books. The top two teams from each grade level compete in a grand finale in front of all their peers. Congratulations to all the students involved in the Battle of the Books contests this year and for taking up the challenge and reading so many books.

Top and middle: The Maplemere Grade 3 Battle of Books teams and grade level champion. Bottom: Grade 6 Battle of Books champions (l to r): Javonne Bolden, Lauren Neudorf and Kaylea Toth.

Tobacco Free Students Enjoy Upscale Lunch at High School...

Eight High School students were randomly drawn for an invitation to an Upscale High School Lunch held on Friday, April 29, 2011 in our Norman C. Vergils Community Center. The students received a six-course meal of Petite Filet Mignon, Baby Shrimp, Broccoli Cheddar Risotto, Caesar Salad, French Baguette and Butter, Chocolate Celebration Cake, and Fruit Garnish Chilled Water. Food was catered by Mrs. Sandra Cocca, Food Service Manager, and served in tuxedos by Mr. Tom Roberts, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Heidi Mussachio, Librarian, Mrs. Beverly Ann Shipe, Rise Above Program Coordinator, Mr. Tony Day, Superintendent, and Mrs. Joleen Reinholz, Principal. It was a fun afternoon filled with good cheer and a commitment to drug free lifestyles.

Students pictured (standing) **Melkam Filate, Alexxis Butera, Vladimir Zhilevich, Justin Texido, Eric Newman, and Julia Musso;** (seated) **Sarah Fiordaliso and Alexandria Watts**.

Lending a Helping Hand at the Amherst Museum...

The Freshman Class of Sweet Home High School spent the day at the Amherst Museum as part of their annual Day of Caring on Friday, June 3rd. This was not a field trip - it was a community service venture to show students the importance of being involved in their community. Students planted flowers, raked leaves and grass, painted and cleaned up the grounds of the Museum before enjoying a hot dog lunch courtesy of the High School PTSA.

The Amherst Museum enjoyed the students so much that they plan on using them in different areas next year including marketing the Museum to the public.

Student Athletes Recognized by School Board...

The Sweet Home Board of Education took time out of their busy schedule in June to recognize a number of student athletes. **Charlene Cinelli** and **Adam Titanic** were recognized for being named Athletes of the Year by the Amherst Avenue of Athletes.

Also recognized were two state finalists in track and field: **Stephanie Izard** and **Wayne Gordon.**

Congratulations to all of these fine student athletes on their outstanding accomplishments and for representing Sweet Home!

Pictured from left to right: Charlene Cinelli, Adam Titanic, Staphanie Izard and Wayne Gordon.

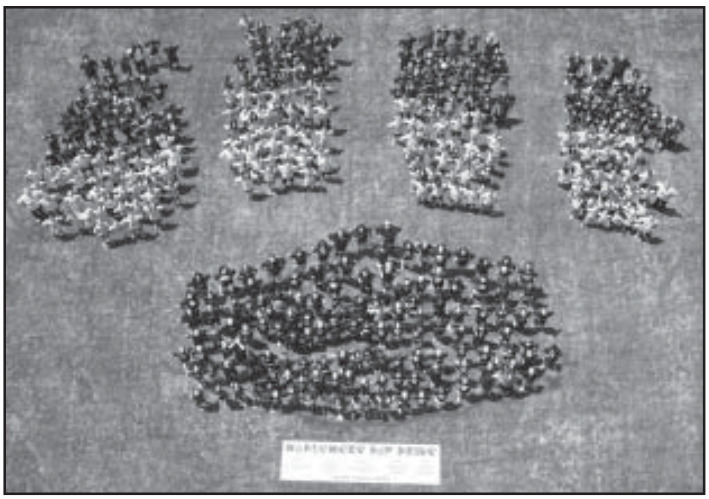
Paw Pride at Maplemere...

The end of every school year is a time for pictures - be it proms, graduation, awards assemblies or Moving Up Days.

The students at Maplemere Elementary decided the best way to celebrate the end of the year was with a picture of the entire student body in the shape of a paw. It was a culmination of the school's Paw Pride program where students are recognized for proper school behavior and completing work on time.

On June 15, with the help of the Snyder Volunteer Fire Department, the students were photographed in the shape of a panther paw.

The picture will hang in the school's main lobby for everyone to see. Congratulations Maplemere!!



The 2011 Sweet Home High School Graduates...

Maher R. Abdallah
Walaa Abdelfadeel
Sarah F. Abdul Mahdy
Brittany S. Adderley
Sarosh H. Ahmed
Reshid Alam
Timothy M. Anger
Ashley E. Arter
Mercedes E. Auman
Michael R. Barnas
Anthony J. Barone
Connor J. Barton
Timothy M. Battaglia-Hopkins
Matthew J. Beaudet
David P. Berry
Kurt A. Berry
Kyle A. Berry
Cayla M. Bezinque
Jacob E. Bluestein
Anthony J. Bonati
Julia A. Bordas
Anjelica Marie Boyce
Austin J. Bradt
Angelina F. Bruno
Seth J. Brunson
Matthew W. Burge
Maria A. Buscaglia
Olivia L. Cabana
Marisa L. Calabrese
Peter A. Certo
Kimberly A. Charleson
Gabriel A. Chen
Charlene M. Cinelli
Danielle M. Clementi
Mikal G. Coleman
Martin Comer
Kiera J. Cook McClain
Danielle R. Cook
Ronnie J. Cooper
Amanda K. Cordier
Joshua M. Coughlin
Erica G. Cowan
Matthew P. Daddario
Bryan E. Darrow
Lauren H. Dean
Joshua J. DePoint
Emily A. DiNatale
Kyle M. Doran
Jeremy A. Drake
Miroslav V. Dyachuk
Nelson J. Eagle
Kristine L. Ellsworth
George E. Eremionkhale
Obehioye Stephanie Eremionkhale
Amber Joy Falkner
Kelsey S. Faulks
Bradley F. Fedele
Zachary M. Feldman
Kristen N. Fetes
Xavier Figueroa
Adam William Flynn
Kaitlynn L. Ford
Linsay R. Ford
Jasmine S. Foye
Alex Fu
Eric Fu
Jessica L. Fugate
Henry A. Fumerelle
Katherine E. Galbo
Nicholas T. Gannon
Adam J. Garvey
Timothy B. Gigante
Stephen G. Gilmour
Amy L. Grogan
Christina M. Gugliuzza
Enzy Lee Guzman
Hannah J. Hagen
Lakia J. Harris
Tyler W. Hartline
Tyler L. Hayes
Jaclyn M. Healy
Christina N. Heim
Sarah Marie Hejna
Allison N. Herrmann
Alexandra E. Hickey
Sarah M. Hickey
Corey M. Hohl
Alexa P. Hollander
Sean T. Holtham
Taylor L. Humphrey
Alexa R. Hutchinson
Austin D. Hutchinson
William M. Hyland IV
Alana S. Ingala
Helen R. Jabar
Chelsie L. Jamieson
Brianna Jankovic
ElizabethAnne M. Jasen
Aquaisjah Johnson
Cody J. Johnson
Zedekiyah Z. Johnson
Philip A. Jones
Taylor P. Jones
Zachary M. Kamieniarz
Kaylee R. Kaminski
Shaina L. Kantor
Christon O. Kastler
Sabina Kasumova

Joshua Reich walks across the stage after receiving his diploma.

Samantha R. Gioeli
Andrew D. Glickman
Michael Z. Graziano
Jennifer L. Green
Ryan E. Kaufman
Zoe A. Kennelley
Kirsten E. Kibler
Alexandra M. Kliber
Eric P. Knox
Matthew J. Kondziela
Alyssa Lyn Koons
Pamela J. Koons
Taylor A. Kosha
Matthew M. Kozlowski
Kevin T. Krupp
Yekaterina A. Kukhto
Faben Lamb
Cristina E. Lauria
Richard K. Leshney
Garrett G. Lesswing
Stephanie E. Levin
Daniel J. Lewandowski
Sarah L. Lewandowski
Kyle D. Luchey
Andrew R. Ludwig
Nicholas R. Lund
Alexis E. Lynch
Nathan J. Madera
Mackenzee E. Mann
Paigelyn B. Marshall
Joshua J. Martina
Alec A. Martinez
Dean R. May
JaQuan L. Maye
Kailey A. McDonald
Nicholas J. McDonald
Joseph P. McGrath
Melissa L. Meenaghan
Zachery S. Meloon
Thomas J. Mendola
Andrea M. Mermigas
Gabrielle A. Mesches
Hannah K. Mesches
Amanda R. Metzger
Andrew J. Miles
Katelalyn K. Miller
Tashanique T. Miller
Anthony B. Mineo
Katelyn K. Monda
Michael F. Moyer
Aime S. Mukendi
Christopher P. Murray
Ralph B. Neasman
Gillian R. Nigro
Sean D. Nisbet
Ryan A. O'Connor
Terren V. Ogle
Stephanie E. Ohman
Kaitlynn P. Olczak
Mercedes A. Olivera
Connor J. Orrico
Stephanie M. Oswald
Majed S. Ottman
Matthew J. Palombo

Congrats to the Class of 2011...

Gabriel Chen receives his diploma.

Grace C. Pan
Jennifer D. Panaro
Jacob A. Pandolfi
Michael M. Pankiewicz
Jacquelyn G. Pason
Rinal P. Patel
Anthony J. Paterno
Laura A. Payne
Matthew D. Payne
Daniel J. Peden
Diamond L. Phillips
Emily A. Plewniak
Raymond B. Powell
Paden J. Preziotte
Michael J. Puntillo
Steven J. Raimondi
Thivakar Ranjan
Matthew J. Rao
Christina L. Rappleye
Joshua E. Rarick
Joseph E. Reed
Cody J. Regian
Joshua D. Reich
Joey L. Rhodes
Dana L. Ridge
Joseph L. Rigler
Samantha K. Riley
Jesse Daniel Robson
Gabriel I. Rodriguez
Brett A. Rowland
Myriah G. Ruiz
Jacob E. Rzepa
Faryal Sahibzada
Andy J. Salvato
Abigail Santiago
James M. Sardina
Zachary P. Schalberg
Kaylin E. Schreiner
Cameron T. Schwier
Ryan L. Scott
Brittany L. Scriven
Barrett J. Seifert
Caleaf W. Sellers
Thomas D. Serba
Jessica M. Serio
Anna P. Serweta
Rebecca L. Shoemaker
Elise Marie Siegler
Keith A. Sieman
Erica K. Sitek
Michelle M. Snodgrass
Thomas J. Spengler, Jr.
Nicholas Z. Spidell
Damonique J. Staley
Jordan N. Steward
Darius M. Storey
Jennifer V. Strom
Leanne M. Stuck
Kelsey L. Stuhler
Cameron M. Sutherland
Danielle E. Sutton
Luke J. Sweet
Kharisma A. Taylor
Yonathan Teferi
Sha'teria J. Thompson
Danica Jez Aniban Tibung
Adam N. Titanic
Jacob J. Tyno
Rachel M. Valkwitch
Jenna C. Vance
Annelies C. VanLeeuwen
Louis L. Vial
Lauren N. Vinton
Amber N. Wagstaff
Shayla S. Walker
Xavier I. Walker
Cody T. Walsh
Stephanie C. Wherry
Sarah E. Willer
Chelsee D. Williams
Christopher S. Wolcott
Bethany D. Wolf
Steve Xie
Aqsa Zafar
Sandra Grace Zajac
Kirk D. Zinermon

Senior Awards Night

The following awards were presented:

Principal's Spirit Award
Kimberly Charleson
Jordan Stewart

Memorial Scholarships & Awards
Heidi D. Schmidtke "Rosebud" Award
Stephanie Ohman

Linda L. Edwards Memorial Scholarship
Shaina Kantor

Matt Leffler Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Hickey

Philip D. Russell Memorial Scholarship
Angelina Bruno

Kurt R. Langlotz Memorial Award
Thomas Serba

Robert Mesch Memorial Grant
Connor Orrico

Dr. Elizabeth Summers Social Studies Achievement Award
Gabriel Chen

Crystal Lee Royer Memorial Scholarship
Bethany Wolf

Kathleen Sherry Memorial Award
Mackenzee Mann
Kailey McDonald
Thomas Serba

Thomas P. Cauley III Memorial Scholarship
Emily Plewniak

Matt Colpoys Memorial Scholarship
Jasmine Foye

Tim Simard Memorial Award
Connor Orrico

Business Scholarships & Awards
Wegman's Scholarship Award
Cristina Lauria

Sweet Home Federal Credit Union Scholarship
Bethany Wolf
Thomas Spengler

Service & Community Awards
Italian-American Police Association of WNY Scholarship
Anthony Bonati
Marisa Calabrese

District Union Local One United Food & Commercial Workers Scholarship
Ryan O'Connor

NYS Comptroller Achievement Award
Bethany Wolf

Kaplan Scholarship Award
Thomas Serba
Leanne Stuck

Jolly Boys Community Service Scholarship
Christina Gugliuzza
Jacob Pandolfi

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Scholarship
Amber Wagstaff

Bowling Proprietors Association of WNY Award
Kristine Ellsworth

United States Bowling Congress Scholarship
Kristine Ellsworth

David R. Ebert Scholarship Grants
Emily Plewniak
Thomas Serba

Willow Ridge Community Scholarships
Hannah Hagen
Keith Sieman

The "Semper Fidelis" Award for Musical Excellence
Joshua DePoint
Bethany Wolf

US Marines Distinguished Athlete Award
Connor Orrico
Mackenzie Mann

US Marines Scholastic Excellence
Joshua Reich
Angelina Bruno

Educational Scholarships & Awards
Music Department Scholarship Award Grants
Angelina Bruno
Joshua DePoint
Tyler Hayes
ElizabethAnne Jasen
Annelies VanLeeuwen
Sarah Willer
Bethany Wolf

Sweet Home Band Parents Organization Awards
John Philip Sousa Award
Sarah Lewandowski
Louis Armstrong Jazz Award
Joshua DePoint
Band Directors Award
Peter Certo
Band Parents Unsung Hero Award
Bethany Wolf

National School Orchestra Award
Joshua DePoint

Choral Directors Award
Kailey McDonald

2011 Senior Awards Night June 23, 2011

The following awards were presented:

National Honor Society Scholarship Grants
Grace Pan
Bethany Wolf

Alumni Neal Gafter Scholarship
Tyler Hayes

The Pat Mergenhagen Scholarship for the Child of a Sweet Home Graduate
Joshua Reich

Alumni Nutrition Scholarship
Yekaterino Kukhto

Alumni Animal Science/Vet/ Zoology Scholarship
Kirsten Kibler

Alumni Foreign Language Scholarship
Anna Serweta

Alumni Frederick T. Smith Memorial Scholarship
Walaa Abdelfadeel

Alumni Association Scholarship
Amy Grogan
Eric Knox
Taylor Kosha

All 60's Reunion Scholarship
Joshua Coughlin

Sweet Home Education Association Scholarship
Connor Orrico
Grace Pan
Bethany Wolf

All Class Leadership Council Scholarship Grant
Angelina Bruno

PTA Council Scholarship Grants
Angelina Bruno
Amber Falkner
Alex Fu
Jaclyn Healy
ElizabethAnne Jasen
Mackenzee Mann
Dean May
Kailey McDonald
Katelyn Monda
Gillian Nigro
Thomas Spengler
Bethany Wolf

Elementary/Middle School Scholarship Awards
Maplemere Scholarship Award Grant
Angelina Bruno
Willow Ridge Scholarship Award Grant
Matthew Daddario
Connor Orrico

Heritage Heights Scholarship Award Grant
Grace Pan
Thomas Spengler

Richard McBride Glendale Sterling Scholarship Award
Alex Fu

Middle School Scholarship Award Grants
Kimberly Charleson
Bethany Wolf

SHHS PTSA Educational Grant Awards
Thomas Spengler
Erica Cowan
Alexa Hutchinson
Mackenzee Mann
Gabrielle Mesches

Sweet Home Retirees Scholarship
Alexa Hutchinson
Thomas Serba

Herrmann Studio Scholarship Awards
Sarah Lewandowski
Ryan Scott

Sweet Home Board of Education Scholarship
Gabriel Chen

English Department Awards
Over-all English Award
Bethany Wolf

Outstanding Achievement in English Electives
Amber Falkner
Taylor Jones

Achievement Awards
Excellence in Arts
Alyssa Koons

Business Education
Amber Wagstaff

Languages-French
Laura Payne

Languages-German
Shaina Kantor

Mathematics
Kaylee Kaminski

Music
Bethany Wolf

Physical Education
Andrea Mermigas
Thomas Serba

Science
Connor Orrico

Social Studies
Kailey McDonald

Outstanding Student in Tech Ed.
Matthew Palombo

Technology Career Pathways Scholarship
Kristine Ellsworth

Outstanding Student in Networking
Connor Barton

Principal's Awards
Principal's Perfect Attendance Award
Kurt Berry
Kyle Berry

Principal's Academic Award
Connor Orrico
Joshua Reich

Principal's Gifted and Talented Awards
Joshua DePoint
Sarah Lewandowski

Principal's Leadership Award
Kailey McDonald

Principal's Award for Persistence
Thomas Spengler

Principal's Athletic Award
Charlene Cinelli
Kaylee Kaminski
Adam Titanic
Kirk Zinermon

Principal's Spirit Award Winners Jordan Stewart and Kimberly Charleson

Above: Matt Leffler Memorial Scholarship winner Sarah Hickey; Below: Perfect Attendance Award winners Kyle and Kurt Berry

Dollars for Scholars Awards
Angelina Bruno
Peter Certo
Kimberly Charleson
Gabriel Chen
Matthew Daddario
Kristine Ellsworth
Kelsey Faulks
Henry Fumerelle
Amy Grogan
Christina Gugliuzza
Hannah Hagen
Jaclyn Healy
Christina Heim
Alexa Hutchinson
ElizabethAnne Jasen
Shaina Kantor
Eric Knox
Taylor Kosha
Yekaterina Kukhto
Stephanie Levin
Daniel Lewandowski
Sarah Lewandowski
Mackenzee Mann
Kailey McDonald
Hannah Mesches
Katelyn Monda
Aime Mukendi
Gillian Nigro
Kaitlynn Olczak
Connor Orrico
Grace Pan
Laura Payne
Daniel Peden
Emily Plewniak
Joseph Rigler
Myriah Ruiz
Thomas Serba
Anna Serweta
Elise Siegler
Michelle Snodgrass
Thomas Spengler Jr
Jordan Steward
Jennifer Strom
Leanne Stuck
Kelsey Stuhler
Sha'teria Thompson
Adam Titanic
Amber Wagstaff
Chelsee Williams
Bethany Wolf

Middle & Elementary School Awards

At the end of the school year, the middle school and all four elementary schools hold awards ceremonies or "moving up days" to honor student achievement. Each school was asked to submit their awards to *Your Schools* for publication. Awards are listed on pages 13 and 14.

Middle School Awards

Norman C. Vergils Award
Christian Peth

Joseph Marien Award
Joseph Lovering

Peggy Smock Award
Vineetha Bheemarasetty

Joan Stoll Award
Mitchell Daddario

Crahen Award
Chloe Thai

Glendale Elementary Awards

PTA Jr. Volunteer Awards
Nathaniel Davis
James Daniele
Cierah Johnson
Grace Neupert
Emma Ward

Kelly Bluman News Award
Averi Wachowiak

Community Service Awards
Colin Gerlach
Ben McKie

Physical Education Running Club Awards - 100 Mile Club
Brian Lovering
Collin Polyachyk
Jackson Steinbroner
Jacob Cazes
Mike Bowkowski
Ryan Edholm
Blake Smith
Alex Farkas
Kayla Doherty
Cal Robertson
Billy George
Amanda Andrews
Kayla Tiedemann

Marathon Club
Connor Austin
Cameron Freidman
Jacob Steinbroner
Jacob Sempert
Tyler Edholm
Anthony Genau
Alec Sedki
Axel Andrews
Janelle Nimako
Adam Smith
Michael McKeehan
Matthew Gawron
Omer Alhamdi
Michael Jozwiak
Erik Kosha
Myles Frohling
Devonte Hearitt
Jake Dunstan
Lohith Maralla
Jesselyn Murphy
Michael Lisman
Hayden Harrington
Marlin Holmes
Ryan Parker
Daequan Hill
Jack Neupert
Zach Reinhart
Joey Serrano
Demetra Bowkowski
Tim Jones
Jordan Gary
Mike Kelley
Paige Keiffer
Jake Keiffer
Thomas Edwards
Cameron McCutcheon
Ezekiel Baldwin
Adam Laboy
Alex Biondo
Danny Lund
Jaleil McCutcheon
Elijah Cazes

Heritage Heights Awards

Project Wisdom "Golden Rule" Award
Luke Maggione
Demetriyan Emmanuel
Daniyah Farea
Kathryn Strekha
Michelle Goodman
Mackenzie Phelps
Madelyn Maggione
Emily Sawyer
Joshus Stead-Dorval
Laiba Khan
Austin Romanowski
Luke Schriver
Valen Chouinard
Allison Noonan
Kailynn Weisbeck
Kyle Terragnoli
Natasha Litostanskiy
Brianna Baker
Christie Ackendorf

Presidential Award for Educational Excellence
Caylee Mullins
Ethan Monkelbaan
Alan McDonald
Ryan Lindahl
Lauren Good
Paige Nowak
Louis Schriver
Brianna Baker
Kaili Haber
Christopher Lee
Paul Woods
Alison Bell

Zoe McLaughlin collects her diploma at Glendale's 5th Grade Moving Up Day.

Presidential Award for Educational Achievement
Christopher Meinhold
Kaltrina Trupi
Jenelle Ranallo
Jianna Pellicci
Christie Ackendorf
Jacob Haas
Natasha Litostanskiy
Brittney Kromphardt
Joseluis Pichardo
Lauren White
Stephen Hodges III
Matthew Culp
Bailey Nola

Triple "C" Award
Susan Tan

Matthew Klaister Spirit Award
Matthew Culp

State Comptroller Achievement Award
Brittney Kromphardt

Ellen Erdmann Triumph Award
Brianna Baker
Jenelle Ranallo
Lauren White

Grace Gegenfurtner School Spirit Award
Kiera Davison

Physical Education Excellence Award
Paul Woods
Jianna Pellicci

Phys. Education Sportsmanship Award
Brianna Baker
Christopher Lee

Maplemere Elementary Awards

Zoerb Award for Citizenship
Corinne Brath

Switzer Award for Scholarship
Patrick Hayter
Evan Herbold

Continued on Page 14...

Middle & Elementary School Awards Continued....

Crooks Award for Humanitarianism & Special Achievement
Abby Sigurdson

Joyce S. Odien Memorial Science Award
Jacob Stablewski

NYS Attorney General Award
Katelyn Willard

Comptroller Award for Community Service
Colette Booth

Citizenship Awards
Joseph D'Aurizio
Jack Hiwiller

Presidential Award for Educational Excellence
Erin Antos
Colette Booth
Corinne Brath
Andrew Czyz
Joseph D'Aurizio
Mackenzie Daly
Sean Doyle
Kathryn Ellsworth
Kara Fleck
Olivia Garcia
David Jack Gardner
Janae Glover
Taylor Gould
Patrick Hayter
Jason Hayward
Evan Herbold
Chereese Jones
Michella Kobti
Shannon McCarthy
Alec Michalski
Brittney Mikos
Jamie Miranda
Claire O'Brocta
Hannah Reger
Jacob Reger
Brett Sardina
Jared Schmucker
Brandon Scott
Abby Sigurdson
Isaiah Smith
Jessica Southerland
Jacob Stablewski
Alexander Stoj
Danijela Vukovic
Matthew Weber
Katelyn Willard
Lauren Yox

Presidential Award for Educational Achievement
Kelly Attea
Diana Chaburka
Priscilla Gil
Jack Hiwiller
Anthony Keene
Andrew Martina
Caleb Nickens
Robert Parson
Elijah Robinson
Ariella Sanders
Ryan Seitz
Tatiana Staniszewski
Wesley Vance

Willow Ridge Elementary Awards

Presidential Academic Excellence Award
Dillon Blowers
Jordan Chatelle
Matthew Ciminelli
Julia Cioppa
Naomi DeBerry
Lauren Grucello
Diana Hyland
Brooke Joerger
Tyler Murak
Jacob Rabold
Samuel Schultz
Phillip Shimanovich
Paul Shimanovich
Abel Tefera
Joseph Torrillo
Adham Zidan

McLaughlin Award Nominees
Jordan Chatelle
Matthew Ciminelli
Lauren Grucello
Dean Harris
Hannah Hubert
Diana Hyland
Kale Klis
Megan Pfalzer
Samuel Schultz
Julia Simonson
Damaris Sutherland
Abel Tefera

This Willow Ridge 5th grader is all smiles at the school's 5th Grade Moving Up Day.

McLaughlin Award Winners
Jordan Chatelle
Julia Simonson

Schroeder Honor
Grade 5
Tanner Auman
Skielynn Barmann
Samantha Guadagna
Winter Hein
Matthew Johnson
Samantha Martin
Tyler Murak
Helen Yalew

Grade 4
Gabrielle Giambrone
Jade McCastle
Dylan Okun
Jenna Petrus

Left: Maplemere 5th grader Evan Herbold takes a closer look at one of his awards. Right: Heritage Heights Triumph Award winners Brianna Baker, Jenelle Ranallo and Lauren White

Family Support Center Update...

Crisis can happen in a family at anytime and almost always without warning. In our current economy, more and more people are finding themselves in situations they were unprepared for. Knowing what to do is the best way to reduce the impact of an unforeseen emergency. There are many services in the community ready to help with a variety of issues.

Food Assistance

• **St. Christopher's Outreach:** Provides food and clothing assistance to needy families. Located on S. Ellicott Creek Road in the St. Edmund's School, the program is open Mondays and Thursdays 9-1pm.
• **St. Vincent De Paul:** Operated out of St. Leo's Church, 885 Sweet Home Rd. Food Pantry for Sweet Home Community. Call 835-8905.
• **Angel Food Ministries:** Amherst Church of the Nazarene 786 N. French Rd. 691-7795. Families can order low cost monthly food supply. Visit **www.angelfoodministries.com** for more information.

Financial:

• **Consumer Credit Counseling Services:** Offers assistance with reducing and paying off debt. There are locations throughout Western New York. Call 712-2060 or visit them online at http://cccsbuffalo.org
• **Free & Local Foreclosure Counseling:** Foreclosure Prevention Network of WNY offers counseling and legal assistance to help people avoid foreclosure. You can get more information by visiting stopforeclosurewny.org or by calling 856-8619.
• **Erie County Department of Social Services:** You can now apply for Food Stamps online and access information about public assistance options. Visit **www.erie.gov/depts/socialservices**.

Employment

• **Every Woman Opportunity Center:** For women that are widowed, divorced, separated, underemployed, unemployed or receiving public assistance or whose spouse/partner is unemployed, underemployed or disabled. They can help women with free career counseling, employment preparation, job search assistance, computer access, resume writing. Located at 2001 Niagara Falls Blvd, Suite 3 near the I-290. Call 837-2260 or visit them on the web at www.everywoman.org.

Mental Health

• **Crisis Services:** 24 hour emergency and mental health services will assist individuals in crisis with a variety of issues. 834-3131 or the Kids Helpline 834-7337
• **Spectrum CARES Team**: For families with a youth in crisis. Will come out to your home and provide a mental health evaluation and intervention. 882-4357
• **Haven House:** Domestic Violence Support and Hotline 884-6000 for victims who need information, support and shelter.
• **Buffalo General Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Room:** 859-7190
• **Erie County Medical Center Psychiatric Emergency Room:** 898-3465

Parent Support

• **Joan A. Male Support Center:** Parent Helpline 892-2172, 24 hour confidential help for parents overwhelmed with the stress of parenting and need someone to talk to.

Legal :

• **Legal Aid Bureau:** 853-9555, legal assistance based on financial need.

Heritage Heights Students Win PTA Recognition...

On April 29th Heritage students **Deja Williams** and **Louis Schriver** were honored with other students from the PTA Western's Region at a reception held at Union East Elementary School in Cheektowaga for their participation and accomplishments in this years PTA Reflection program. Both students received special honors at both the local and state levels in the area of musical composition. Louis' original piece, "Together We Can Travel Though the Fabulous World" received Honorable Mention at the NYS level while Deja's piece, "Family" won the top honor at the intermediate level in the entire state, receiving an award of Excellence.

Deja Williams and Louis Schriver

We recently learned Deja's song received an **Award of Merit at the National PTA level** competition. Congratuations Deja! She is our first ever National winner in this program.

Health & Wellness Corner...

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

Immunization Changes For September 2011-2012 Enrollment
Tdap is required for those born on or after January 1, 1994 and **entering grades 6-10** or a comparable age-level special education program in addition to any previous booster for kindergarten entrance.
Varicella- **All** students need one dose of varicella (chickenpox) for school entry entry.

Adults Need Vaccines Too!
Check in with your Health Care Provider to keep current with your immunizations as an adult- ask about adult vaccine recommendations for vaccine preventable diseases and new universal recommendations for flu vaccination.
http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4030.pdf
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/adult-vpd.htm
http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/tdap_questions_and_answers.htm

Friday, September 23, 2011, 2:00 – 7:00 PM: Influenza Vaccine [Flu Shot] Clinic
Norman C. Vergils Community Center, Door #6 - Influenza vaccine will be administered to adults, and children only 9 years and older, and pregnant women only with a Health Care Provider note/prescription.

* Please have insurance cards available * Co-payment/deductible may apply * Walk-in, no appointment required. For additional clinic locations and information, please call 716-805-1020 or toll free at 1-800-869-2496.

Parents to Share Emergency Information For Care of Medical Condition
Although your child's medical history and health conditions are confidential, emergency information will be shared on a need to know basis with school and transportation personnel to protect your child's health and safety while at school. In addition to informing your child's School Nurse, parents are responsible for discussing with the Transportation Supervisor [250-1435] and their child's bus driver(s) any medical condition that may require any emergency treatment during transport.

Health Appraisal and Dental Reports
Students in grades Prek, K, 2, 4, 7 and 10 require physical examinations for school attendance. Parents should submit a completed 'Health Certificate / Appraisal Form' to their child's school nurse the first week of school. Please help by checking the form before you leave your Health Care Provider's office for completion, especially the Body Mass Index/Weight Status Category area. This will avoid the school nurse contacting you and your child's Health Care Provider. Dental certificates for students in the grades listed above also are required.

BMI Legislation for Schools and Weight Status Category Survey
Education Law Sections 903 and 904 was amended and state that starting in the 2008-09 school year, all health certificates and appraisal reports for students must have a Body Mass Index [BMI] and weight status category. A selection of schools are chosen annually as part of an appropriate sampling methodology and will participate in surveys directed by the commissioner of health pursuant to the public health law in relation to students' BMI and weight status categories as reported on the school health certificate, which is subject to audit by the Commissioner of Health. Sweet Home has been chosen to participate in the 2011-2012 school year. The Department of Health will use the collected data to develop a report of child obesity and obesity related diseases, and to help provide successful programs for intervention. The data is not associated with any student names, no names are reported, and the data collected is totally anonymous. Parents have an option to not have their child's data reported. However, we trust that parents will support the initiative to provide resources for our youth. Contact Mrs. Shipe for further information.
http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/uploads/BMI%20statute,%20final%20copy.pdf

Adolescent Weight Loss Program!
The Division of Behavioral Medicine at the University at Buffalo is excited to offer a free weight control program for adolescents! This 12-week program promotes a healthy lifestyle by teaching teens how to make healthier eating and physical activity choices. For more information about this program and the other opportunities to participate in programs and research, please contact us at 829-6815 or ubbehmed@gmail.com.

Are Your Children Looking for Something To Do
YMCA Buffalo Niagara Healthy Living Family Programs:
1. Adventure Guides- for children 5-13 years old [with parent] - The goal is to strengthen relationship between children and parents by participating in activities such as games, camping trips, ceremonies, and family adventures. Call 565-6008 for next program
2. Growing Up Fit- Weight Management Program for children 7-15 years old.
Includes health assessment, 8 weeks of education and exercise, post assessment and graduation celebration for children 7-15 years old. Parent and child participation, siblings encouraged to attend. Program fees paid in full by BlueCross BlueShield of WNY and Univera, in part by Independent Health. Next program: June 15 – August 2011 on Wednesdays at 5:45 PM – 6:45 PM, and Saturdays at 10:30 AM –11:30 AM. For further info- 839-2543 or www.YMCABuffaloNiagara.org.

Fun and Educational Websites for Kids
Math is Fun! 'The idea behind the site is to offer mathematics as well as some fun bits, and to combine the two wherever possible.' The site is user friendly and shows in animation by pressing the play button how to complete a math problem, for example multiplying decimals. http://www.mathsisfun.com/index.htm

An Update from the Office of Instruction...

Asst. Superintendent for Instruction
Larry J. Leaven

It is difficult to believe that I have completed my first year at Sweet Home. It seems like only yesterday that I was unpacking boxes, visiting schools, learning the names of so many community members and realigning my thinking from that of a building principal to district administrator. My first year at Sweet Home has presented a variety of challenges yet, more importantly, has offered me many opportunities to witness the learning journeys of students, parents, teachers and administrators. It has been an amazing year; there are so many stories to tell and so many people to celebrate. Unfortunately, I cannot share them all but I do want to draw your attention to a few that have resonated with me.

As I have shared over the course of the school year, we have been studying best practice literacy instruction in the elementary and middle levels. Teachers have worked tirelessly to review the most current reading research, to collaborate with our district trainer, Ginny Lockwood, to study and practice within the workshop called "read aloud", to restructure classroom communities to enhance student learning, to open their classrooms to visitors, and to push themselves as learners to guarantee the success of our literacy program this year and into the future. I appreciate all that our teachers have done to study, research and implement new ideas and approaches to literacy instruction to ensure the engagement and success of our students.

This spring a group of teachers visited several model schools to watch reading and writing workshop in action. They took copious notes and interviewed teachers and students in an effort to gain a better understanding of the process and the work. Upon returning to Sweet Home, these teachers shared their experience with colleagues and led an initiative to reexamine how we deliver literacy instruction, supporting changes both environmentally and instructionally. The learning will continue August 2-4, as more than 150 Sweet Home teachers come together for our first *Homegrown Literacy Institute*. These three days will provide further opportunities for us to organize our best teaching efforts around the following inquiry questions:

1. Through the reading workshop model, how can we help our students become independent readers and thinkers through a wide variety of print and questioning strategies?
2. How can we ensure that all of our teachers are sharing their literacy teaching strategies and studying best practices in an environment that promotes collaboration at all levels?
3. How can we encourage parents and the larger community to support students outside the school day to extend our district's literacy vision beyond the classroom?

Improving literacy instruction was only one aspect of our curricular work this year that has had a positive impact on student learning. Members of the district Science Department met to review department data, curricular alignment and grade level instructional expectations from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Based upon our time together the team created an initial improvement plan, worked with our *Thoughtful Education* trainer Vic Klein to redesign units of instruction and shared the initial improvement plan with the Board of Education in May. Based upon our preliminary work this year, and prior to our in-depth redesign this summer, student-passing rates in all four Regents Science exams improved. There is certainly much more work to do, but I am pleased with the work teachers have done to push themselves and to propel our students forward.

While much of my work involves district-wide initiatives, the part of my job I enjoy the most is getting into schools, walking the halls, slipping into classrooms and speaking with teachers and students about their learning. Journeying through six different buildings over the course of a school year I can learn about the contributions of the Native Americans to Western New York, what allows bubbles to float and how erosion affects landforms. I can participate in school-wide virtual field trips and Flag Day celebrations that honor our Veterans. I can join our little ones on the rug for a dramatic read aloud or arrive "just in time" for cupcakes at a special birthday celebration. I can witness high school students interacting with each other through instructional blogs or navigate Senior Honors research papers that rival those of students who are freshman and sophomores at the university level.

My many visits allow me to observe teachers leading science lab experiences, math enrichment groups or Reading Recovery sessions where teachers and students tackle difficult material together. The dedication in Betsy Bowen's book *Gathering: A Northwoods Counting Book* reads, "In honor of teachers, enthusiastic and caring, in particular Miss Glixon, who taught me to measure the sun passing across the floor through the seasons of fourth grade." It is my hope that, as we continue to develop a rigorous curriculum, ongoing effective, targeted professional development, and focus on developing the leadership potential of educators from all ranks, we will be able to create lasting and meaningful learning experiences for our students to draw upon for many years to come!

There is much work to do in the weeks ahead. As always, I welcome your input to the instructional programs here in Sweet Home and encourage you to meet with your child's learning team should you have any questions about your child's school experience. I can be reached through email at **lleaven@shs.k12.ny.us** or by phone at 250-1422.

Students Participate in Art Alive...

Several Sweet Home students took part in the annual ***Art Alive*** Contest sponsored by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery on Sunday, June 5th. ***Art Alive*** is a walking, talking art contest where students reproduce famous works of art in the most creative ways. the stunning interpretations involve people, props and even music. Congratulations to all the Sweet Home students for their excellent work in participatig in the ***Art Alive*** program.

Pictured are (top right): **Danielle Bruch and Max Krouchinina** in *"The Invention of Life"* by Rene Magritte; (middle right): **Julianne Burke, Jessica Ruber, Cory Shelton, Ashley Streebel and Starr Pane** in *"The Ballet Rehearsal on Stage"* by Edgar Degas; (bottom right): **Jacqueline Stoebe, Janelle Johnson, Mrs. Johnson and Olivia Stroud** in *"Street in Meknes"* by Eugene Delacroix; (bottom middle): **Leyla Mamadova, Josh Carroll and Kaylah Warda** in a triptych of Roy Lichtenstein paintings; and (bottom left): **Lauren Schwier, Meghan Flynn and Julia Wilson** in "Depression Breadline" by George Segal.

Students for Hope Walk Raises Funds for Darfur...

The ***Students for Hope*** group at the High School organized a walk on Saturday, June 18th to raise funds for Darfur. A number of students and their families walked and the group raised over $1,100 for their efforts. The money raised from this events and past events like the Boo Benefit will go towards building a school in Darfur.

Students for Hope was created by students Bethany Wolf and Kailey McDonald and is advised by Mr. Scott Aquilino.

Students for Hope Darfur Benefit
Walk June 18, 2011

District Music Program Shines...

The months of May and June are competition time for the many musical groups in the Sweet Home Central School District. True to form, the groups did not disappoint with several groups taking top honors at their respective competitions. The award winning groups are outlined below. Congratulations to all on a job well done.

Jim Marone and the award winning high school orchestra.

Elementary District Gold Band
Fantasy Island Music Competition:
Outstanding Performance

Elementary District Gold Orchestra
Fantasy Island Music Competition:
Outstanding Performance

Heritage Heights Chorus
Fantasy Island Music Competition:
Outstanding Performance

Glendale Chorus
NYSSMA Level 2 Silver Rating

Grades 7/8 Jazz Ensemble
Darien Lake Music Competition:
First Place in Jazz Division

6th Grade Band
NYSSMA Level 2 Silver Rating

8th Grade Band
Darien Lake Music Competition:
Superior rating, 2nd Place in Band Division

8th Grade Girls Chorus
Darien Lake Music Competition:
Outstanding with Distinction and 2nd place in Choral Division

8th Grade Orchestra
NYSSMA Level 2 Silver Rating
Darien Lake Music Competition:
Gold Superior rating

High School Jazz Ensemble
NYSSMA Level 5 Gold Rating
Springville Pageant of Bands
1st Place in Division

High School Womens Chorus
NYSSMA Level 5 Silver
Darien Lake Music Competition:
Gold with Distinction

High School Concert Chorale
NYSSMA Level 5 Gold
Darien Lake Music Competition:
Gold with Distinction & Grand Champion of the Day.

High School Wind Ensemble
NYSSMA Level 6 Gold with Distinction

High School Symphonic Band
NYSSMA Level 4 Gold
Darien Lake Music Competition:
Outstanding with Distinction

High School Concert Orchestra
NYSSMA Level 4 Silver
Darien Lake Music Competition:
Outstanding with Distinction

High School Symphony Orchestra
NYSSMA Level 6 Gold
Darien Lake Music Competition:
Outstanding with Distinction

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Michael F. Morrow
Dirk D. Rabenold
Carol A. Nowak
Sarah Fiordaliso, ex-officio student member

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Anthony J. Day

Your District

Flag Day was celebrated around the district on June 14th. A number of schools sang patriotic songs and invited active and veteran service men and women to take part in the day's festivities.

Eighth grade students took their turns trying to sink their teachers in the dunk tank at the annual 8th grade picnic on June 10.

District Universal Pre-K students and their families enjoyed a year-end picnic in Ellicott Creek Park on June 3.

These Glendale students have an opportunity to talk blogs with Superintendent Day at the District Technology Fair on June 14.

Below: Superintendent Day congratulates one of the high school STARS at their annual breakfast for excellent achievement and attendance.

Slow and steady was the key for this Willow Ridge student at the school's annual bike rodeo on Friday, June 10.