



YOUR SCHOOLS

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Sweet Home Central School District

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

To My Favorite Teacher



Students from Mr. Schleicher's technology classes at the middle school completed a class project honoring their favorite Sweet Home teacher. Each student made something for his or her favorite teacher and presented it to them late in the month of May. Projects included easels and wall clocks. Pictured here are students presenting to Glendale teachers Miss Collins, Mrs. Boles and Mrs. Heslin.

Congratulations Class of 2008!

Their time at Sweet Home High School ended for the 310 graduates of the Class of 2008 that walked across the stage at the University of Buffalo's Center for the Arts on June 27. The 49th commencement exercises of Sweet Home Central School District showcases a class that was extremely hard working and very well prepared to meet the challenges of the future. Over 260 graduates will be attending college in the fall.

Senior class president Feren Johnson opened the ceremony by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. After a welcome by Principal Joleen Reinholz, class representatives Christina Connolly, Dillon Multerer, Nathan James and Ryan Wolf addressed the audience.

Following Wolf, Superintendent of Schools Geoffrey M. Hicks took the stage. He thanked the graduating seniors for making Sweet Home one of the very best school districts in Western New York. He also pronounced the Class of 2008 as a group that could accomplish anything as evident by their hard work and preparedness they received while at Sweet Home and stressed to each of the graduates to dream big and work hard to achieve those dreams.

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 caps.



Ebaa Abdelfadeel receives her diploma from principal Joleen Reinholz during commencement ceremonies June 27.

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Harvard Bound...

Congratulations to **Krista Keiser**, high school English teacher, on being selected for study in Harvard Summer School and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The program offers high school teachers of English language arts and related fields a varied and interesting literary experience through a three-week poetry seminar. The seminar's aim is to deepen and enlarge the participants' sense of how poetry might be discussed in the classroom. Krista was one of only 15 teachers selected nationwide.



A Message from the Superintendent of Schools...



*Superintendent of
Schools
Geoffrey M. Hicks*

Graduation

Of all the events that make up a school year, none quite compare to Graduation. There is an intensity of emotion and a celebratory excitement that exceeds any other school event. The Class of 2008 was an outstanding group of students whose accomplishments speak volumes about the rewards that follow persistent hard work and commitment.

The numbers tell the story of this senior class. Consider that 185 scholarships were bestowed at the Senior Awards night prior to graduation, for a combined total of \$3.3 million in grants, \$43,600 of which was money raised by our local Dollars for Scholars Foundation. Consider also that eighty-five percent of the graduating class will be attending either a 2-year or 4-year college. Fifty percent of the graduating class earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Distinction, and 50 students earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Distinction with Honors. The advanced degrees signify additional academic rigor, over and above the normally high standards set by New York State. Fifty-eight percent of the graduating class finished their academic career at Sweet Home with an overall average of 85% or higher, twenty-six percent with an overall average of 93% or

higher, and eight students finished with overall averages of 100% or better. Included in the numbers is the fact that 24 of 28 sports teams at Sweet Home received Scholar Athlete designation this year, denoting high academic and athletic achievement.

Those are the kind of statistics that define a high performing school district in an age of standards and accountability. The Class of 2008 met the challenge of higher standards and their achievements speak extraordinarily well of the faculty at Sweet Home and the core programs that prepared them for success at the next level.

The Year Ahead

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for supporting the 2008-2009 school district budget. The Board of Education never takes the support of our community for granted. We feel that trust with the community is something that must be earned, and that the school district has to be accountable for the academic performance of students as well as being fiscally responsible when spending taxpayer dollars. We believe that providing full disclosure of all relevant facts regarding the budget and Excel Aid project, along with communicating a clear rationale for the numbers is the best way to earn that trust. The Sweet Home Board of Education is fully committed to maintaining the priority of open and honest interaction with the community.

This year we will continue to evolve our district continuous improvement process, which is based on the concept of developing a professional learning community. The two key elements in our continuous improvement efforts are a commitment to collaboration and a strong belief that we, the schools and teachers, make the difference in student learning. We believe that every child can meet high standards and we know that it's our job to do whatever it takes to make sure that they do. We believe the best way to attack learning gaps is for teams of teachers to work collaboratively analyzing student learning results, setting goals, and developing action plans. There is enormous strength in systematically harnessing the power of the collective intelligence that already exists in our schools to solve problems. We plan on continuing to look "in the mirror" instead of "out the window" to make Sweet Home one of the very best school districts in Western New York.

An additional focus for the district in the 2008-09 school year is the integration of technology at all levels. We have significantly upgraded our technology infrastructure and over the past year we have purchased an additional 500 student computers. Last year our elementary librarians successfully facilitated technology projects with students in Kindergarten - Grade 5. This year, we will infuse interactive whiteboard technology at the elementary and middle level, and we will increase the integration of technology into high school courses.

This summer we will begin work on our most recent capital project, which is entirely funded by grants from the state, and which will include improvements to the exterior of all our buildings as well as the installation of a camera-based security system. The total project, which we call the "Excel Aid Project", should be completed in approximately 18 months.

Finally, we have completed discussion with the Amherst Police Department and we fully expect to have a school resource officer (SRO) assigned to the high school for the 2008-09 school year. The SRO will work with students, teachers, and the high school administration, and will serve as a valuable link to the Amherst Police.

News Briefs...

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 as follows:

Sweet Home High School

Wed., September 17, 7:00pm

Sweet Home Middle School

Thurs., September 25, 7:00pm

Glendale Elementary

Fri., September 19, 6:30pm

Heritage Heights Elementary
Grades PreK-2

Wed., September 10, 6:30pm

Grades 3-5

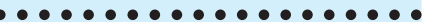
Tues., September 9, 6:30pm

Maplemere Elementary

Thurs., September 18, 6:30pm

Willow Ridge Elementary

Tues., September 23, 7:00pm



SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING SEPT. 20

One of the highlights of the 2008-09 school year at Sweet Home High School is homecoming weekend which is set for Saturday, September 20. Plans for the weekend have been finalized and include games, food and fun for the entire family.

All Sweet Home sports teams will take to the field Friday and Saturday and the community is welcome to attend the varsity football game free of charge at 2:00pm on Saturday. Prior to the game, the district will host a Community Day with games, attractions and food for the entire family from noon - 2pm. Sweet Home fans will be able to enjoy free popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones all day long. The district rock climbing wall and a new craft tent will also be open from noon - 2pm.

Save the date for what will be sure to be an enjoyable weekend for the entire family.

Central Registration Information...

New to Sweet Home? Here is all the information you need to get your child (ren) registered for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Sweet Home District has a centralized registration process for your convenience. Our Central Registration Office is located at our Family Support Center, 1901 Sweet Home Road, adjacent to Sweet Home High School. You need to obtain a registration packet from us for each child you are registering. Registration packets are located at our office or in each Elementary School's Main office, Middle School Student Services and High School Student Services.

In addition to the registration packet, you must provide the following information: original birth certificate, up to date immunization record, proof of physical within 12 months of September 3, 2008, academic record/transcript from previous school, picture ID of parent and proof of residency in the district.

You must call the Central Registration Office to make an appointment to turn in your child's registration paperwork. Our summer hours are limited. Our number is 250-1600.

In order to register a child for school, the biological parent or court-appointed legal guardian **must** have legal residence in the Sweet Home District. It is illegal for children to attend school where the parent or legal guardian does not reside.

The following proofs of residency are necessary:

1.) Proof of the parent/guardian's residence. The accepted documentation is as follows:

For Homeowners:

- A mortgage statement or
- School, Town or County Tax Bill or
- Homeowner's insurance statement or
- Purchase papers for a home

For those renting or leasing a house/duplex/apartment:

- Current lease or rental agreement. This must be in effect at the time of registration.
- If you are on month to month or have no current lease then you must provide the following:
 - A notarized statement from the landlord that the parent/guardian and the children are residing at the property, including landlord's phone number AND
 - Proof of homeownership from the landlord

If you are not the primary owner or renter of the property:

- Request from the landlord that your name be put on a new lease or
- Obtain a notarized statement from the landlord acknowledging that he/she is aware you are living at that property AND the current lease of the primary renter AND provide a car insurance bill, pay stub or bank statement addressed to you at that address.
- Obtain a notarized statement from the homeowner that you are living with them and then the homeowner must produce proof of ownership of the house. You must then provide your own proof that this is your legal residence in the form of car registration, car insurance, and bank statement or pay stub.

2.) Second proof of residence is a utility bill. If renting a property, the utility bill must be in the renter's name.

- Landline phone bill (No cell phone bills)
- Electric
- Heat
- Cable
- Water

District Residents Approve 2008-09 Budget...

Residents of the Sweet Home Central School District **approved** the 2008-2009 district budget, Tuesday, May 20, by a vote of 643 “yes” to 173 “no”. Of the 816 voters, 79% voted to pass the budget.

Voters also approved Proposition No. 1 to spend \$442,000 to purchase six (6) buses by a vote of 597 “yes” to 198 “no”.

The \$62,599,511 budget represents an increase of 3.79% over the previous year.

District officials expect the district to benefit from a projected 1 percent increase in property tax assessments. The district will also receive an additional \$200,000 in BOCES aid that was not initially funded in the governor’s initial budget proposal. Under this scenario, the average tax bill for an Amherst home assessed at \$100,000 and STAR exemption would decrease \$8.40 from the current year. A similar home in the Town of Tonawanda under the same scenario would see a tax bill increase of \$12.20.

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

New Board Members Elected; 2008-09 Officers Appointed

In this year’s school board election, Scott M. Johnson won election receiving 410 votes. Johnson ran against Debbie Adams and Irene A. Bailey. Adams received 305 votes, while Bailey received 88 votes. Mr. Johnson’s term will expire June 30, 2013.

At its reorganization meeting in July, the Board of Education appointed Douglas J. Galli president, while Carol Nowak will serve as vice president.



*Board Member
Scott M. Johnson*



*Board President
Douglas J. Galli*



*Board Vice President
Carol A. Nowak*

Health & Safety Programs Make Rounds at Sweet Home...

Thanks to a \$10,000 grant all of the Sweet Home schools have received numerous child abduction prevention programs throughout the 2007-08 school year. Included in these programs is the Yellow Dyno program which visited all of the district’s elementary schools this year. The mission of the Yellow Dyno program is to prepare, empower and protect children against the dangers of child abduction. To enforce their message, school children get to play a game show to learn the importance of being safe.

National spokesperson Rick Stoddard visited the Middle School in May and spoke to the children about the dangers of tobacco and smoking. Mr. Stoddard lost his wife to cancer as a result of smoking and has spoken to several student audiences across the country.



*Anti-tobacco
spokesperson Rick
Stoddard visited the
Middle School in
May.*



*The Yellow Dyno
Child Abduction
Safety Program
visited all four district
elementary schools in
2007-08.*

Board Sets 2008-2009 Meeting Dates

The Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District is pleased to announce its schedule of meetings for the 2008-09 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 2008-2009 Board of Education meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, August 26, 2008	Study Session & Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2008	Study Session
Tuesday, September 16, 2008	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 14, 2008	Study Session
Tuesday, October 21, 2008	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 4, 2008	Study Session
Tuesday, November 18, 2008	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2008	Study Session
Tuesday, December 16, 2008	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2009	Study Session
Tuesday, January 20, 2009	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2009	Study Session
Tuesday, February 10, 2009	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2009	Study Session
Tuesday, March 17, 2009	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2009	Study Session & Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2009	Annual Budget Hearing
	"Meet the Candidates Night"
	Study Session
Tuesday, May 12, 2009	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2009	Annual District Budget Vote
Tuesday, June 9, 2009	Study Session
Tuesday, June 16, 2009	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2009	Reorganization & Special Voting Meeting



UNIVERSAL PRE-K

The Sweet Home District offers a free Universal Pre-Kindergarten program to all district residents whose children will be 4 years old by December 1, 2008. The Universal Pre-Kindergarten program is based in each of our four elementary schools. We contract with Four Seasons Pre-School/Child care to run the program. Two sessions are offered at each site. Each session is 2 ½ hours long. The morning session runs from 8:30-11:00am and the PM sessions runs from 11:30-2pm.

Transportation is not provided. An extended program option is available at the Willow Ridge Elementary site. Students would attend the morning session and then be transported by Four Seasons for the remainder of the day to their N. French Road location for parent pick up. The registration process and requirements are the same as our K-12 students.

Glendale & Maplemere Playground Drives Receive Boost...

The playground committees at Glendale and Maplemere Elementary Schools recently received some very good news courtesy of our local law makers. Each playground drive received a \$35,000 grant from the New York State Senate through the office of Senator Mary Lou Rath. Senator Rath took time out of her busy schedule to pose for a picture with each playground committee on Monday, June 30.

In addition, Glendale received \$7,500 from a New York State Assembly Local Initiative through the office of Assemblyman Robin Schimminger. The Glendale Playground Committee is also selling 4" x 8" bricks for \$50 as a fundraiser for the school's new playground. The bricks will be part of the new playground's construction. Order forms are available in the school's main office. Questions can be directed to Tammy Sempert at 694-3062.



Maplemere Elementary Playground Committee with Senator Rath.



Glendale Elementary Playground Committee with Senator Rath.

High Schoolers Learn the Dangers of Driving Drunk

As part of Senior Day 2008, 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.



This actor shown is put through a DWI check with an Amherst Police officer.



The Getzville Fire Department tend to a student actor at the scene of the staged accident.

Stella Signs to Wrestle at King



The month of May saw another student athlete from Sweet Home High School sign a National Letter of Intent to play sports at the collegiate level. Senior Nic Stella signed on May 20 to wrestle for King College in Tennessee.

Congratulations to Nic on his accomplishments.

Oberacker, Heart Awards Announced

Two district events were the settings for the announcement of the 2008 winners of the Leon



Lorraine Beaudet accepts the Oberacker Award.



Craig Allwes is the 2008 recipient of the Teri Gamin Heart Award.

“Sid” Oberacker Award and Teri Gamin Heart Awards. Lorraine Beaudet, a member of the Middle School PTO and several district committees was named winner of the Oberacker Award at the Superintendent’s Forum and Dinner on May 7. The award, named in honor of former Sweet Home administrator Sid Oberacker, is given each year to an individual with exceptional dedication to school-community efforts.

The Heart Award was presented at the district retirement reception on Wednesday, May 21. The 2008 recipient is Craig Allwes, retiring Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Planning. The award is given annually to someone who goes “beyond the call of duty” in dealing with staff and students.

8th Grade Dance Party



The 8th Grade Dance Party was held Friday, June 13 at the Middle School. All indication is that everyone in attendance had a great time. Music was provided by 7th grade social studies teacher Jeff Miller and 8th grade council advisors are Danielle Michlin and Lori Wyman.

Battles of the Books

Every April and May, Glendale and Maplemere third, fourth and fifth grade students 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. The top two teams from each grade level compete in a grand finale in front of all students from both grades. Congratulations to all the fourth and fifth graders at Glendale and Maplemere for taking up the challenge and reading so many books.



(L to R): Glendale runners-up: Alexandra Stasio, Shubhangi Mehra, Maggie Ward; Glendale BOB Champions: Joey Lepertine, Joey Gerlach and Charles Jones



(clockwise): Maplemere 3rd grade winners: Jonathon Chambers, Cooper Heck, Amber Palka; 4th grade winners: Jacob Marynowski, Taylor Camelo, Maya Reid; 5th grade winners/champions: Michael Melluz, Chloe Thai, Amine Zerouki. Missing from photo is Alexis Wright.

Arbor Day at Sweet Home



Willow Ridge Arbor Day ceremony

Thanks to a donation from Amherst North Rotary and Schichtel's Nursery, all of the schools in the Sweet Home Central School District were able to celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 25. Throughout the day, each of the schools had small ceremonies and assemblies honoring Arbor Day and to plant their tree. This year represents the sixteenth year in a row that Amherst North Rotary has sponsored Arbor Day at Sweet Home.

Tenure Given to 8 Teachers, 2 Administrators



Sweet Home Central School District is pleased to announce that it has granted tenure to 8 teachers and 2 administrators. The Board of Education hosted a small reception in honor of the newly tenured staff on Tuesday, June 17, 2008. The list of tenured teachers and administrators appears below. Please congratulate them the next time you see them on their accomplishments.

Melissa Ames
High School
Mathematics Teacher

Julie Ceccato
Middle School
Mathematics Teacher

Kristen Davide
High School Art
Teacher

Stephen Dimitroff
High School Assistant
Principal

Ann Marie Duquin
High School Business
Teacher

David Lovering
Willow Ridge Elementary Principal

Jeffrey Miller
Middle School Social Studies Teacher

Danielle Powell
Glendale Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher

Christopher Tackett
Middle School Technology Teacher

Melissa Udy
Maplemere Elementary Music Teacher



High School Administration congratulate mathematics teacher Melissa Ames on her tenure appointment.

Lending a Helping Hand...



Students from Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Miles' Home & Career classes at the Middle School pose with homemade diapers set to be shipped to Nicaragua. The diapers were made as part of a class project to help out a needy community.

The 2008 Sweet Home High School Graduates...



Shaimaa Aakil
 Ebaa Abdelfadeel
 Sladjana Abramovic
 Anthony X. Aguilar
 Natalie S. Akhtar
 Anthony G. Alfonso
 Jessica L. Alventosa
 Megan Y. Andriatch
 David M. Annas
 Timothy R. Arnold
 Nicole M. Arter
 Michael D. Ayler
 Yina Bae
 Michael G. Bakowski
 Brian D. Barnas
 Aaron C. Barone
 Maris L. Bateman
 Richard T. Beaudet
 Derek R. Bechmann
 Emilee L. Benson
 Sara A. Benson
 Alexander B. Blake
 Ryan D. Bluestein
 Eric D. Borics
 Joelle E. Breidenstein
 Cody M. Bridge
 Jason Brittain
 Jasmin N. Brooks
 Jenna M. Bugman
 Megan L. Burge
 Angela M. Buscaglia
 Matthew B. Buscarino
 Michael P. Campise
 Katelyn J. Canfield
 Amanda L. Cannizzo
 Cody J. Capaccio
 James M. Cardinale, Jr.
 Lauren M. Caso
 Robert F. Castiglia
 Daryn T. Cavalier
 Salvatore J. Cavalleri
 Andrew P. Ceniccola
 Pu-Yao Chang
Exchange student
 Samantha M. Chapman
 Nicholas S. Christman

Christina M. Connolly
 Jacqueline A. Cook
 Rebecca S. Corner
 Matthew J. Costa
 Elyse D. Cramer
 Adrienne E. Cross
 Lauren R. Cross
 Sondra L. Cummings
 Brittany L. Czamara-
 Kessler
 Eric A. Danheiser
 Matthew V. Danwin
 Mikhail Dashkevich
 Coretta S. Davis
 Heather T. Dean
 Melissa S. Deck
 Sydney E. Dedline
 Rachel A. Dejac
 Allyson M. Delprino
 Sarah M. DelSignore
 Travis C. Denman
 Alexandria D. Dewey
 Amanda C. DiBernardo
 Jennifer L. Diminuco
 Tara L. Disorbo
 Peter J. Dunn
 Nadia Durno
 Leann T. Eggleston
 John H. Elliott
 Andrew J. Elsie
 Michelle M. Fecio
 Richard A. Fedele
 Allison M. Feger
 Zachariah I. Fierle
 Alex J. Fineberg
 Daniel C. Flynn
 Larissa T. Fonville
 Derrek J. Ford
 Andrew C. Forrestel
 Elizabeth K. Forster

Jessica P. Fortini
 Isabel J. Friedman
 Jordan D. Friedman
 Joshua C. Fritz
 Danyelle N. Gaines
 Kaytland R. Gambles

Danielle M. Gangi
 Steven J. Gangloff
 Christian J. Gannon
 Emily L. Gawron
 Alexander R. Gilmour
 Nichole M. Giselman
 Alexander M. Goldstein
 Andrea M. Gollhardt
 Daniela Gonzalez
Exchange student
 Jesse S. Gonzalez
 John L. Graziano
 Chanel C. Green
 Tia M. Green
 Ariel M. Greene
 Raymond J. Grierson
 Katelyn M. Grunzweig
 Ashley M. Gryta
 Christen L. Guedesse
 Ludmila Gugkaeva
 Georgie J. Guzman
 Kelsey L. Hackney
 Eileen M. Hagerty
 Roberta A. Hall
 Matthew N. Halla
 Jonathan M. Haller
 Christopher J. Hammer
 Mamane T. Hamza
 Laura E. Hanzly
 Amanda Hartman
 Danielle M. Harvey
 Krystle D. Hayes
 John B. Henzler
 Jordan M. Herdman
 Lacey R. Hicks
 Joseph A. Hirtreiter
 Andrew M. Hopkins
 Stephanie R. Hopper
 Ryan C. Howze
 Sarah A. Hubbard

Christopher D. Johnson
 Feren A. Johnson
 Marcus A. Johnson
 Aleksandra Kajtaz
 Stephanie L. Kaufman
 Rebecca C. Kerr
 Katelyn M. Kibler
 Kevin M. King
 Aaron M. Klein
 Craig R. Knoer
 Heidi S. Knox
 Alyssa C. Koons
 Jenna M. Kozel
 Jessica L. Krauss
 Cayla C. Kreiss
 Latasha M. Lamont
 Kelly D. Lansing
 Courtney L. LaPenna
 Renee Y. LaPlante
 Portia C. Leverette
 Limin Liu
 Jonathan D. LoPresti
 Shaun A. Louis
 Patrick C. Luvender
 Matthew T. Lycett
 Samantha M. Lynch
 Kayla N. Lyons
 Rena K. Malarkey
 Danielle J. Mallare
 Anthony D. Maltbie
 Michelle C. Manzueta
 Andrew D. Maria
 Samantha A. Marinaccio
 Ryan J. Marko
 Frank M. Martinelli
 Julio Martinez III
 Manuel Martinez-
 Samper
Exchange student
 Crystal P. May
 Ashley B. Mayo
 Daniel Maysonete
 Katie L. Mazuchowski
 Sarah J. Mazuchowski
 Brian T. Mazurowski
 Tiffany T. McCoy
 Michele L. McDaniel
 Allyson E. McMahon
 Brittany R. Meland
 Howard J. Merrill
 Anne R. Mesmer
 Sarah E. Miller
 Amanda J. Mineo
 Daniel Miranda
 James P. Mitri
 Kelsey G. Mogensen
 Derek A. Mohny
 Carmen J. Morreale
 Emily K. Morrow
 Dillon T. Multerer
 Jenna K. Murray
 Jillian A. Nasisi
 Laura A. Nerber
 Dina P. Nezhovorova



Nathan James is all smiles as he heads into the Performing Arts Center.

Shannon C. Huebert
 Courtney M. Hughes
 Rebecca A. Humbert
 Gleniesha L. Hunt
 Hayley K. Jackson
 Nathan E. James

Congrats to the Class of 2008...



These seniors anxiously await their diplomas.

Jesse B. Nola
 Jeffrey L. Noltee, Jr.
 Zachary J. Norton
 Brandon R. Null
 Rachel A. O'Connor
 Caitlin E. Oliver
 Kayla M. Ormerod
 Gabriel S. Ostroff
 Daniel J. Ottaviano
 Amanda L. Page
 Brian A. Pappagallo
 Matthew J. Pasternak
 Vincent P. Paterno
 Samantha L. Patterson
 Hillary A. Payne
 Rachel L. Peters
 Joshua A. Petruso
 Jennifer E. Pettapiece
 Matthew O. Phillips
 Justin I. Pierce
 Marissa M. Pinkowski
 Matthew C. Poblete
 Alissa K. Powers
 Megan E. Press
 Megan E. Preston
 Christina M. Preziuso
 Bethany M. Rarick
 Jasmine M. Reed
 Amanda P. Reese
 Justin A. Reich
 Kory D. Reid
 Leeanne M. Retzer
 David M. Rhodes
 Paul N. Richards
 Germaine Rivera-Lopez
 Tariq B. Rizek
 Joseph D. Rizzo
 Mason E. Roalsvig
 Staffan T. Roalsvig
 Devron L. Robertson
 Michael J. Robinson
 Jessica N. Rosiek
 Lauryn D. Rost
 Lori L. Rowe
 Steven J. Royer
 Richard R. Rush
 Jason F. Salhab

Vanessa L. Salvato
 Kayla M. Sansone
 Alicia M. Saunders
 Erika Y. Saunders
 Michelle L. Scaglione
 Peter J. Schaefer
 Christopher J. Schultz
 Adam D. Seitz
 Andrew J. Serio
 Robert J. Setter
 Stephanie A. Shaffer
 Stephen P. Shapero
 Daniel L. Sigurdson
 Carol A. Skoney
 Ashley N. Smith
 Christopher J. Smith
 Courtney L. Smith
 Crystal D. Smith
 Michael A. Smith
 Darryl H. Smith-Walker
 Eileen E. Spadinger
 Christopher J. Sperrazza
 Craig S. Stallard
 Matthew R. Steinagle
 Mark M. Steinkirchner
 Nicholas P. Stella
 Jonathan A. Stephenson
 Jeffrey A. Stone
 Tiffany L. Stough
 Eric B. Streebel
 Melissa A. Stroka
 Christina L. Strom
 Quincey S. Stumptner
Exchange student
 Alexander M. Sudduth
 Andrew Sullivan
 Thomas M. Summers
 Allison M. Szafarski
 Amanda M. Tagg
 Victoria M. Terhaar
 James L. Thompson III
 Sabrina J. Todaro
 Emily C. Tolnay
 David J. Tornabene
 Brianna M. Tyno
 Jacob M. Ulmer
 Justin D. Vega
 Gabriel A. Villanueva
 Brian M. Vitello
 Ashley L. Vizzini
 Richard A. VonLangen
 Veronika J. Wade
 Derek J. Walters
 Daniel E. Wantuck
 Paul W. Webb
 Keith T. Weigand
 Daniel R. Weiss
 Jennifer L. Welt
 Lauren N. West
 Kimberly S. Whelan
 Martha A. Wilmore
 Ryan S. Wolf
 Stephanie J. Zogrephos

Senior Awards Night

The following awards were presented:

Heidi D. Schmidtke "Rosebud" Award
 Andrea Gollhardt

Linda L. Edwards Memorial Scholarship
 Allison Feger

Red Kidman Memorial Scholarship
 Aaron Klein
 Katie Mazuchowski

Philip D. Russell Memorial Scholarship
 Ariel Greene

David R. Ebert Scholarship Grants
 Nathan James
 Christina Strom

Kurt R. Langlotz Memorial Award
 Lauren West

Robert Mesch Memorial Award
 Elizabeth Forster

Dr. Elizabeth Summers Social Studies Achievement Award
 Joelle Breidenstein

Murray Bourdan Memorial Award
 Michele McDaniel

Patricia Orlando Memorial Scholarship Award
 Allison Feger

Judith B. Cross Memorial Scholarship
 Danielle Mallare
 Lauren West
 Christina Connolly

William S. Hein Wrestling Scholarship
 Nicholas Stella

Detective Wasyl Potienki Memorial Foundation Scholarship
 Andrea Gollhardt

Williow Ridge Community Scholarships
 Ryan Wolf
 Michelle Scaglione
 Aaron Klein
 Samantha Chapman

Kathleen Sherry Memorial Award
 Lauren West

James G. Crawford Memorial Scholarship
 Daniel Miranda

Thomas P. Cauley III Memorial Scholarship
 Brian Mazurowski

Fatman's Pizza Scholarship Awards
 Danielle Gangi
 Aaron Klein

Wegman's Scholarship Award
 Rena Malarkey
 Brittany Meland
 Jeffrey Stone
 Ashley Vizzini

Sweet Home Federal Credit Union Scholarship
 Ryan Wolf

Ethan Allen Home Interiors Scholarship
 Brianna Tyno

Greater Amherst Welcome Wagon Club Award
 Renee LaPlante

FBLA Active Participant
 Larissa Fonville

Music Dept. Scholarship Award Grant
 Andrea Gollhardt
 Ashley Gryta
 Bethany Rarick
 Jessica Rosiek
 Michelle Scaglione

Sweet Home Band Parents Organization Awards:
John Philip Sousa Award
 Michelle Scaglione
Louis Armstrong Award
 Peter Schaefer
Directors Award
 Ashley Gryta
Unsung Hero Award
 Jonathan Haller

National Honor Society Scholarship Grants
 Aaron Klein
 Renee LaPlante

2008 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
 Christina Connolly

Alumni Association Scholarship Award
 Eric Danheiser

Alumni Association Neal Gafter Math Scholarship
 Laura Hanzly

Alumni Association Scholarship for Son/Daughter of SH Grad
 Jenna Murray

Alumni Association Scholarship Memory of Rachel Gordon
 Jillian Nasisi

Alumni Association Scholarship Memory of Vincent LaDuca
 Salvatore Cavalleri

2008 Senior Awards Night June 26, 2008

The following awards were presented:

Sweet Home Education Association Scholarship

Andrew Forrestel
Kelly Lansing
Michele McDaniel

All Class Leadership Council Scholarship Grant

Hillary Payne

PTA Council Scholarship Grants

David Ebert Award
Renee LaPlante
Dr. James Finch Award
Eric Streebel
John L. Walsh Awards
Christina Connolly
Alyssa Koons

1-year Scholarships

Maris Bateman
Nathan James
Aaron Klein
Courtney LaPenna
Jillian Nasisi
Michelle Scaglione
Stephen Shapero
Jennifer Welt

Elementary/Middle School Scholarship Awards

Maplemere Elementary

Brittany Meland

Willow Ridge Elementary

Jenna Murray

Craig Allwes Heritage Heights

Scholarship Award Grant

Jillian Nasisi

Richard McBride Glendale Sterling

Scholarship Award

Daniel Sigurdson

Middle School

Ashley Gryta
Christina Preziuso

Sweet Home High School PTSA Educational Grant Awards:

Jillian Nasisi
Joelle Breidenstein
Eric Danheiser
Ariel Greene
Laura Hanzly

Sweet Home Board of Education Scholarship

Aaron Klein

English Department Awards

Outstanding Achievement in AP & Honors English

Renee LaPlante

Outstanding Achievement in English Electives

Dina Nezgovorova
Over-all Outstanding English Student
Ryan Wolf

Science Department Awards

Excellence in Biology

Joelle Breidenstein

Excellence in Earth Science

Renee LaPlante

Excellence in Chemistry

Andrew Forrestel

Excellence in Physics

Danielle Mallare
Over-all Academic Achievement in Science
Ebba Abdelfadeel

Business Education

Jonathan Stephenson

Fine Arts

Emily Tolnay
Jenna Murray

Languages-Spanish

Christina Connolly

Languages-French

Dina Nezgovorova

Languages-German

Renee LaPlante

Languages - Latin

Crystal May
Elizabeth Forster
Lauryn Rost
Samantha Marinaccio

Mathematics

Laura Hanzly

Music

Michelle Scaglione

Physical Education Male

Kory Reid

Physical Education Female

Kaytland Gambles

Social Studies

Joelle Breidenstein

Outstanding Student in Tech Ed.

Steven Royer

Outstanding Student in Networking

Shaun Louis

Amherst Central Lions Club Comm. Service Award

Alyssa Koons
Christina Preziuso

Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizens Award

Renee LaPlante

District Union Local One United Food & Commercial Workers Benefit Funds

Martha Wilmore

Independent Health Community All-Star Scholarship

Michelle Scaglione

Kaplan Scholarship Award

Michele McDaniel
Christina Preziuso
Martha Wilmore

Amherst North Rotary Clubs Community Involvement Awards

Michele McDaniel
Christina Preziuso

National Achievement Scholarship Program

Ebba Abdelfadeel

NYS Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association Inc.

David Tornabene

Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship

Renee LaPlante

Triple C Award

Megan Andriatch



Principal's Athletic Award Winners Kelly Lansing and Andrew Hopkins.



Thomas P. Cauley III Memorial Scholarship winner Brian Mazurowski.

Principal's Perfect Attendance Award

Jonathan Haller
Heidi Knox
Limin Liu
Jonathan LoPresti
Danielle Mallare
Anthony Maltbie

Principal's Scholastic Award

Andrew Forrestel
Renee LaPlante
Sarah Mazuchowski

Principal's Athletic Award

Andrew Hopkins
Kelly Lansing

Craig Allwes "Going that Extra Mile" Award

Nadia Durno
Tiffany Stough

Dollars for Scholars Awards

Megan Andriatch	Anthony Maltbie
Timothy Arnold	Katie Mazuchowski
Michael Bakowski	Michele McDaniel
Brian Barnas	Allyson McMahon
Joelle Breidenstein	Sarah Miller
Megan Burge	Kelsey Mogensen
Lauren Caso	Daniel Ottaviano
Samantha Chapman	Hillary Payne
Adrienne Cross	Justin Pierce
Lauren Cross	Marissa Pinkowski
Sondra Cummings	Christina Preziuso
Eric Danheiser	Bethany Rarick
Alexandria Dewey	Jessica Rosiek
Steven Gangloff	Vanessa Salvato
Andrea Gollhardt	Michelle Scaglione
Ryan Howze	Peter Schaefer
Nathan James	Stephen Shapero
Feren Johnson	Daniel Sigurdson
Heidi Knox	Eileen Spadinger
Alyssa Koons	Melissa Stroka
Jenna Kozel	Christina Strom
Kelly Lansing	James Thompson
Renee LaPlante	Emily Tolnay
Shaun Louis	Lauren West
Rena Malarkey	Martha Wilmore

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 11 and 12.



Danielle Dispenza receives the Joyce Odien Award at Maplemere Elementary on June 24.

Middle School Awards

Norman C. Vergils Award

Annie Zhu

Virginia Crahen Award

Leyla Mamedova

Joseph Marien Award

David Olson

Peggy Smock Award

Annie Zhu

Joan Stoll Award

Emily Lambe

Glendale Elementary Awards

Good Citizens Award

Noah Schroeder
Cameron McCutcheon
Isha Sathe
Leolya Kazhdan
Sheyla Santini
Alex Gauld
Madisyn Lizak
Jonathan Harnanto
Josephine Villanuevo
Jack Neupert
Emma Ward
Grace Neupert
Sam Terranova
Emma Kinz
Marie Spektor
Sarah Herrmann
Ryan McLean
Jonathan Mason
Jessica Sutton
DJ Richael
Emily Battaglia
Brandon Smiley
Richard Baker
Christopher Poreda
Alyssa Mings
Joey Gerlach
Alex Stauffiger
Renee Lauer
Jasmine Geis
Anastasia Dixon
Jade Glinski
McKenna Johnson
MacKenzie Bluman
Sarah Torres

Superior Achievement on NYS Math Assessment 2008

Maria Abbott
Ian Andrews
Victoria Bastian
Mackenzie Bluman

Megan Cochi
Mia DiNatale
Maria DiSorbo
Brandyn Doherty
Sruthi Gangisetty
Talia Hesselrode
Dylan Holmes
Cameron Jackson
Samuel Kaplansky
Emma Kinz
Lukas Knight
Madison O'Brien
Pter Pehman
Marie Spektor
Samuel Terranova
Alexander Wagner
McKenzie Austin

Giulia Buscaglia
Cameron Carpenter
Andrew Carter
Kyle Ciehowski
Tyler Ciesielski
Amanda Daniele
Zachary Farkas
Madison Jones
Rodion Khasbatov
David Lauer
Michael Lepertine
Robert Majdanik
Jonathan Mason
Corinne McCrossan
Ryan McLean
Shubhangi Mehra
Matthew Meloon
Samantha Nawrocki
Joseph Nowak
Jillian O'Keefe
Rishi Sangamreddy
Madelyn schreiner
Stephanie Senefelder
Sha-Tikqua Shine
Alexandra Stasio
Jessica Sutton
Terrance Thorton
Emily Battaglia
Nyamekyi Daniels
Madison Gellerson
Joseph Gerlach
Tigran Grigoryan
Elizabeth Hudson
Joseph Lovering
Emma McKie
Alyssa Mings
Donald Oehman
Jordan Roeder
Keyshawn Sherrod
Megan Shoemaker
Quinn Sorrentino
Julia Stoll
Matthew Wood

Superior Achievement on NYS ELA Assessment 2008

Maria Abbott
Mackenzie Bluman
Santina Boncore
La'Nard Charles
Eric Chorni
Megan Cochi
Mia DiNatale
Brandyn Doherty
Matthew Gademske
Cameron Gates

Dylan Holmes
Samuel Kaplansky
Emma Kinz
Madison O'Brien
Pter Oehman
Sophia Sedki
Baylei SMith
Marie Spektor
Samuel Terranova
McKenzie Austin
Giulia Buscaglia
Kyle Ciehowski
Amanda Daniele
Alexander Lebron
Michale Lepertine
Samantha Nawrocki
Stephan Senefelder
Joseph Gerlach

Heritage Heights Awards

Project Wisdom “Golden Rule” Award

Nolan Phillips
Michael Territo
Susan Belous
Ilona Lukina
Matthew Goodman
Rebecca Thompson
Partharthi Mishra
Jenelle Ranallo
Mustafa Abdelfadeel
Paige Wyzykowski
Aubrey Swarouth
Jessica Ratinski
Megan Beal
Olivia Tober
Conor Jackson
Emily Ackendorf
Julia Partsch, Lindsay Moran

Presidential Award for Educational Excellence

Vineetha Bheemarasetty
Jillian Stenzel
Jack Cooper
Nicole Merrifield
Josh Conlan
Melissa Goodman
Collin Mullins
Abrar Abdelfadeel
Maham Alamgir
Tyler Benderson
Mitchell Boehnke
John Connelly
Courtney Dobson
Bryan Giammichele
Dana Hodges
Elizaveta Khenner
Gabrielle Ortega
Mariah Reinard
Joseph Stack
Lindsay Moran
Alexandria Ortega
Magan Phillips
Helen Toledo
Kevin Terragnoli

Presidential Award for Educational Achievement

Deiona Brant
Kaitlyn Fitzpatrick
Taylor White
Emily Ackendorf
Wesley Caligiuri
Devin Miller
Dmitry Belous
Sean McNutt
Adrian Drake
Julia Partsch
Kaylea Wyzykowski
Devon Brant
Tammi Muff
Quincy Majerowicz
Cassie Mazzone
Tonia Maxwell
Justin Barr

Middle & Elementary School Awards Continued....

Triple "C" Award
Kaitlyn Fitzpatrick
Kaylea Wyzkowski

Matthew Klaister Triumph Award
Jaekob Robertson

Grace A. Gegenfurtner Prosperity Award
Tammi Muff
Melissa Pennacchio

Anna Wittenzellner Triumph Award
Justin Barr

Fitness Gram Award Student Athlete
Helen Toledo
Adrian Drake

Citizenship Award
John Connelly
Jillian Stenzel

Maplemere Elementary Awards
Zoerb Award for Citizenship
Alexandra Birner

Switzer Award for Scholarship
Chloe Thai

Crooks Award for Humanitarianism & Special Achievement
Julia Routhier

Joyce S. Odien Memorial Science Award
Danielle Dispenza

Triple "C" Award
Brittany Moore

Comptroller Award for Community Service
Mark Olson

Presidential Award for Educational Excellence
Kaleigh Abbarno
Alexandra Birner
Alec Chambers
Danielle Dispenza
Aileen Doyle
Taylor Falzone
Hannah Feldman
Matthew Fildes
Lovika Goswin
Hannah Hamilton
Hussain Hamoudi
Katie Hatzipetros
Emily Heim
Kayla Huff
Gabriella Kobti
Katelyn Mattison
Thomas McKirchy
Mark Olson
Matthew Ostrye
Alexandra Parisi
Maria Pedini
Meagan Reger
Julia Routhier
Emily Sacco
Megan Sardina
Taylor Sinclair
Carly Stockton
Courtney Schweitzer
Chloe Thai
John Paul Vance
Gabriella Vrenna
Ethan Webster
David Wojtkowski
Adam Wonch
Alexis Wright

Presidential Award for Educational Achievement
Duy Bui
Stephen Heinzmann
Jimmy Lei
Brittany Moore
Brianna Nagele
Yuliya Pushechnikova
Sanja Stanar
Alexander Woodford

Willow Ridge Elementary Awards
Charles R. Carle Excellence in Education Award
Mitchell Daddario
Wesley Lewis

Presidential Academic Excellence Award
Alexa Archaumbault
Joseph Bennett
Emma Burke
Luke Ciminelli
Owen Collins
Mitchell Daddario
Ashley Decker
Emma Hubert
Melanie Izard
Wesley Lewis
Michayla Pane
Matthew Penberthy
Christian Peth
Jesse Rieman
Ezana Tefera
Sabrina Thaler
Makayla Wilson
Bradley Zaffram

McLaughlin Award Nominees
Emma Burke
Katerina Gogos
Melaine Izard
Delaney Jones
Sarah Raimondi
Mitchell Daddario
Bryce Donovan
Wesley Lewis
Michael Panzarella
Matthew Penberthy
Christian Peth

McLaughlin Award Winners
Emma Burke
Christian Peth

Schroeder Honor Grade 5
Nova Fire
Daniel Freiert
Kristine Hafner
Tyler Herrle
Kyle Murphy
David Romans
Emily Stefano
Jessica Strauss
Alissa Virges

Grade 4
Danielle Bona
Ariana Bridges
Olivia DeLuca
Adam Simonson
Austin Wilson



Matthew Mogensen performs a solo at Glendale's Moving Up Day on June 23.



Heritage Heights Principal Scott Wolf presents the school's Volunteer Award to Joan Fishburn of the Amherst Symphony.



Emma Humbert receives recognition as part of Willow Ridge's Moving Up Day on June 24.



Asst. Superintendent for
Instruction
Anthony J. Day

An Update from The Office of Instruction...

Every June, as another cadre of graduates sets off on the next journey in their lives, the Sweet Home community takes time to reflect upon the year completed and contemplate where we will head to in the year ahead.

2007-08 was a busy year at Sweet Home. Once again, the teachers, support personnel and administrators worked diligently to try to improve learning for each and every child in our district. At the elementary, we developed and administered three common literacy tasks to help gauge our students' progress in key literacy skills. A new version of Everyday Math was successfully implemented that included more focus on mathematical reasoning and explanation. An updated Science curriculum was rolled out and work began on revising our Social Studies curriculum.

At the middle level, common literacy tasks were also developed and efforts to effectively intervene with and track the progress of at-risk readers continued. The middle level Science curriculum was updated and over 40 teachers participated in our Thoughtful Education professional development program. Throughout the year, the middle school staff discussed different scheduling models. While the bells will not ring differently next year, sixth grade will feature four teams instead of three and the "extended core" period will be redefined to allow differentiated instruction- grouping students in supplemental instruction by readiness to help students make even more gains in their learning.

The high school began work to prepare students for the first administration of the new Algebra I Regents exam. 45 teachers participated in the Thoughtful Education program and a focus/ task group began to study a process for updating the vision and mission of the high school to prepare students for a new, dynamic world. The high school faculty identified core "learning truths" and is set to discuss a mission statement and vision for the kinds of products- beyond Regents exams- that graduates should have to produce in order to be deemed "ready" for the world beyond school.

At the end of the year, the results were in! Here's some highlights from the results our kids have produced:

- 83% of all elementary students passed the NYS ELA Assessment. 90% passed the NYS Math assessment.
- In grades 3-7, only 14 (of close to 1500 students) tested at the lowest level on both the ELA and Mathematics assessments.
- Grade Six results were up significantly- 79% passing the ELA assessment (up from 62% two years ago) and 93% on the Mathematics assessment.
- Grade Seven results were up significantly as well. 77% passed the ELA assessment (up from 64% the year before) and 89% passed the Math assessment (up from 77% in 2007)
- 82% of all ninth grade students enrolled in the new Algebra I course passed the inaugural Regents exam.
- 98% passed the US History and Government Regents exam- over 75% at mastery.
- 92% passed the ELA Regents with close to 50% at mastery.

Some areas emerged for further analysis and focus:

- While level one rates were down, we'd like to bolster our mastery rates on the 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments.
- Continue to improve the number of students passing the NYS ELA assessment.
- Bolster our elementary math results- both for proficiency and performance at Level one.
- Improving learning and achievement in both elementary Social Studies and Science.

In the year ahead, teachers at every level will be focusing on "critical" elements to improve our comprehensive learning program. **Critical content**- essential knowledge and skill needed for success not only on NYS assessments but for success at the next level and in life. **Critical thinking**- helping all kids learn how to apply strong analytic skills to help them make connections between content and allow them to apply it to new situations. **Critical product**- focusing on helping the kids produce original student work- more of it and more complex. We'll be investing heavily in our small teams to help them get better at planning strong units and making sound instructional decisions that will result in greater "criticalness."

Middle school teachers will be continuing their work to bring more differentiated learning to their classrooms. Not only by implementing "second instruction" but to help plan and deliver lessons and unit that tailor the content and learning process based upon students' existing knowledge and how they learn best. Over 30 teachers will be participating in a "differentiation institute" this month to lay the groundwork that will continue throughout the year.

The high school will continue to develop and implement its mission and vision for the future. Teams will design strong units with an eye towards "cornerstone" tasks for students to complete in every department. The honors program will take a new look with an "International Academy" for ninth and tenth graders and prepare for a new program for Juniors and Seniors in 2009-10.

One of the most important "big ideas" adopted by our district in the past six years remains the ethos of "continuous improvement." We will never rest in striving to offer the highest levels of learning for all our students. That tradition was evident this past year and will continue again in the year ahead.

Health & Wellness Corner...



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

Immunization Changes For September 2008-09 Enrollment

Tdap is required for those born on or after January 1, 1994 and **entering grades 6 & 7** or a comparable age-level special education school or program in the 2008-09 school year. This requirement is in addition to any previous booster for kindergarten entrance.

Varicella- All children need one dose of varicella (chickenpox) for pre-k entry. Students born on or after January 1, 1998 need one dose for K-12 entry. Students born on or after January 1, 1994, and **who enroll in grades 6, 7, 8, & 9** at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year must be immunized against varicella. Varicella should be given no more than four days prior to the first birthday. (It is recommended persons 13 years and older receive two doses of Varicella for full immunity.)

What is Body Mass Index or BMI?

'Body Mass Index (BMI) is a number calculated from a person's weight and height. BMI provides a reliable indicator of body fatness for most people and is used to screen for weight categories that may lead to health problems.' See the CDC website for further info and to use the BMI calculator. <http://www.cdc.gov/>

nccdphp/dnpa/bmi/

'Childhood overweight and obesity are significant health issues in New York State as well as across the nation. The prevalence of childhood overweight and the consequences, both medical and psychological, are impacting our students. School nurses are on "the front line" in health management and play a vital role in addressing important issues related to the emerging health risks for New York's children and youth.' New York Statewide School Health Services Center
<http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/files/news/BMI%20Final%20Brochure%2Epdf>

Parents- New BMI Legislation for Schools

Education Law 903 and 904 was amended and states 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. Schools will be chosen as part of an appropriate sampling methodology and 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.
<http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/uploads/BMI%20statute,%20final%20copy.pdf>

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.

School Nurses Participating in BMI Training

The New York Statewide School Health Services Center is partnering with the New York State Department of Health to provide a series of trainings aimed at preparing school health professionals for the mandated reporting of Body Mass Index and Weight Status Categories in New York State.

Eye Opener...Where Was Your Purse Last?

Track your purse for an entire day and think about all the places it 'sat' before you placed it back on your kitchen table or counter where you prepare and serve food.

What We Don't Know About Smoke Alarms

Our Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Department Chief reports... When you have a minute, view this news report on smoke detector effectiveness with sleeping children. It has been found that although the detector technically works by emitting a high pitch sound, the irritating sound is not enough to wake children. A new product is to be released that will change that problem soon by incorporating a voice activation of the parents calling out to their children and directing them to get out of bed. Well worth watching for those who have any youth/child in their home below 18 years of age. It is recommended that all parents practice safety fire drills at home, and not only during daylight.
http://www.vigilanthose.org/fire_prevention/FireAlarms.wmv

Continued on Page 15...

Health & Wellness Corner...

Continued from Page 14...

Save This Date: Community Influenza [Flu] Vaccine Clinic

Our annual Influenza Vaccine Clinic sponsored by Independent Nursing Care is scheduled for **Friday, October 3, 2008 from 2PM - 6PM** in our Norman C. Vergils Community Center. Adults and children 9 years and up are welcome for flu vaccination. Adults also can receive **Pneumococcal Vaccine** and the recommended one time adult booster for **Tdap**. Please check with your Health Care Provider if you have any questions or concerns of vaccination. Flu and pneumococcal are insurance billable. Tdap is cash, check or charge only. [Flu (\$30), Pneumococcal (\$45), Tdap (\$40).]

Swimming: Summer Fun or Tragedy...What All Parents Should Know

Water safety tips to stay safe in, on, and around the water- learn how to swim, supervise children at all times, have safety pool tools available, know dangers, feet first in shallow water, no alcohol, and learn CPR and first aid. And, it is never too early to teach children how to swim or float on their back. See video clip below.

<http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/tips/healthtips/safetywater.html#general>
<http://www.childdrowningprevention.com/index.html>

Cell Phones and Danger of Driving

'New research shows that people have greater difficulty maintaining a fixed speed, or keeping their car safe in a single lane when performing tasks that simulated conversing on a mobile phone, than if they were driving without the distraction. Contrary to expectation, the speaking and listening were equally distracting. The research was conducted at the University of Illinois and will be published in the next edition of Applied Cognitive Psychology.' <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/29773.php>

Sun Protection in Early Years Reduces Risk of Skin Cancer

Sunburns at an early age increase the risk of skin cancer. Wear sun protection clothing (including a wide brim hat), UV-blocking sunglasses, and apply SPF lotion daily 30 minutes before going outside. [Sunscreens should be used on babies over the age of six months.] Reapply as needed. Seek the shade, especially between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M.

<http://www.skincancer.org/prevention>

http://www.revolutionhealth.com/conditions/skin/skin-care/sun-exposure/?s_kwcid=sun%20safety|1001056824

Sun protection clothing: <http://www.solumbra.com>, <http://www.sunsafe.com>

Sun 'Spots'- Signs of Aging and Damaged skin

'The warm golden cast of the sun is very alluring. And many people can't resist spending hours beneath its glow. But not all of the sun's rays are pleasing. Ultraviolet (UV) light, the invisible but intense rays of the sun, damages your skin. Some of those harmful effects - such as suntan or sunburn - are visible right away. But other skin changes, including liver spots or deep wrinkles, appear and worsen over time. With repeated sun exposure, the skin damage can even progress into cancerous tumors.'

Read how skin undergoes a change to the development of cancer and how the sun damages your skin and what you can do about it.

<http://www.revolutionhealth.com/conditions/skin/skin-care/sun-exposure/sunburn/sun-damage>

What is Elastography?

'Elastography is an experimental, non-invasive method [ultrasound technique] in which stiffness or strain images of soft tissue are used to detect or classify tumors. A tumor or a suspicious cancerous growth is normally 5-28 times stiffer than the background of normal soft tissue'. This technique will be used to detect breast lumps and offers us an additional method of breast evaluation for suspicious tissue along with traditional methods of detection, i.e. self-exams, mammograms and biopsies.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elastography>; <http://www.diagnosticimaging.com/AdvancedUS/breast.jhtml>

Fun and Educational Websites for Kids

'From growing up to getting braces, popping pimples to catching some ZZZs, this section gives you the basics on your changing body - from head to toe.'

http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_body

NetSmartz- Online resource with interactive activities and games teaching children, teens, parents & educators safety on the Internet.

<http://www.netsmartzkids.org/games/index.htm>

Your District



These youngsters enjoy some time in the bounce house at Heritage Heights picnic on June 23.



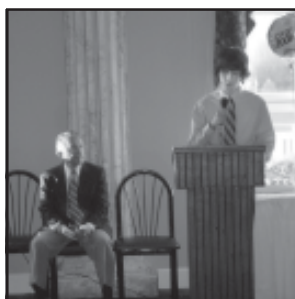
These Willow Ridge kindergartner shows her stuff at the Bike Rodeo on June 11.



Friends and family enjoy the Middle School Art Show on Friday, June 6.



Senior Amanda Cannizzo accepts congratulations from Superintendent Hicks at the annual Senior Scholars breakfast.



Senior Ryan Wolf delivers an address at the annual Honors Banquet on May 27 at Banchetti's Restaurant.



Above: Bikers stop to say hello to Glendale Elementary on their Ride for a Cure on May 16. Below: Maplemere Principal Ann Laudisio is freed from lockup after her student met the PARP reading challenge this spring.



These middle school students are all smiles at the annual Breakfast of Champions on May 30.



Mentors and new teachers take time out for a group picture at the mentor appreciation in May.



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOLS OF AMHERST & TONAWANDA

1901 Sweet Home Road • Amherst, NY 14228

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