



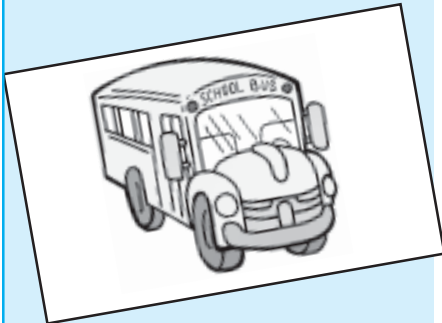
YOUR SCHOOLS

www.sweethomeschools.com

Sweet Home Central School District

July 2009 Your Schools - The Newsletter for the Residents of the Sweet Home Central School District

Transportation Requests



While summer may have just begun, the Sweet Home Transportation Department is already busy thinking about September. The department asks that parents notify the department of transportation requests as early as possible. Requests and questions about transportation can be made by calling 250-1435.

Congratulations Class of 2009!

Their time at Sweet Home High School ended for the 298 graduates of the Class of 2009 that walked across the stage at the University of Buffalo's Center for the Arts on Friday, June 26. The 50th commencement exercises of Sweet Home Central School District showcased a class full of passion, dreams, memories and a keen sense of friendship and family.

Senior class president Emily Olmstead opened the ceremony by leading the pledge of allegiance. After a welcome by principal Joleen Reinholz, class representatives Kelsey Maving, Andrea Finley and Taylor Heald addressed the audience. Each shared many memories of the Class of 2009 and all spoke of how well prepared they are for the future because of their four years at Sweet Home High School.



Shannon Connor receives her diploma from Superintendent Geoffrey Hicks during commencement ceremonies June 26.

Following Heald, Superintendent Geoffrey M. Hicks 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 85 percent of the graduating class that will attend a 2 or 4 year college next year and that the class earned a whopping \$4.5 million in scholarship grants. He urged the graduating class to dream big and to continue to work hard to achieve those dreams.

Senior Matt Leffler closed the evening with an extremely emotional speech stressing to his classmates that while the next chapter in life is here to never forget the Sweet Home chapter because it was simply the best.

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.

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*Superintendent of
Schools
Geoffrey M. Hicks*

A Message from the Superintendent of Schools...

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. This year emotions ran even higher when senior Matt Leffler delivered a powerful address to the class. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when Matt was finished and it was one of the most moving scenes I have ever experienced at a graduation ceremony.

The Class of 2009 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 213 scholarships were bestowed at the Senior Awards night prior to graduation, for a combined total of \$4.5 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-six percent of the graduating class earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Distinction, and 51 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-two percent of the graduating class finished their academic career at Sweet Home with an overall average of 85% or higher and twenty-nine percent with an overall average of 90% or higher. Included in the numbers is the fact

that 26 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 2009 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 2009-2010 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. This budget cycle was one of the most difficult in recent history and the recession that grips the nation will cause the District to even more carefully examine all revenue expenditure lines in the next budget cycle which begins in October.

We believe that providing full disclosure of all relevant facts regarding the budget, along with communicating a clear rationale for the numbers is the best way to earn the communities trust. The Sweet Home Board of Education is committed to maintaining the priority of open and honest interaction with the community, especially in the uncertain economic climate that is upon us.

The 2009-10 school year will see some changes, the most significant of which is the starting and ending times at each of our buildings. We have added 30 minutes to the elementary school day that will be used primarily to increase the amount of literacy instruction we provide in grades K-5. The start time of the elementary day remains the same at 8:20 am, however dismissal time is moved up to 2:50 pm. The high school will begin 10 minutes earlier next year at 7:35 am. High school dismissal will be at 2:18 pm. The middle school start time is 8:57 am and dismissal moves to 3:37 pm.

As part of our emphasis on literacy, the District will implement the new Scott-Foresman reading series in grades 2-5 next year. The series provides us with a tremendous set of resources for reading and writing, which will be taught in a 120-minute block.

At the high school level, we will implement a new seminar course for all incoming freshman that seeks to build skills and ease the transition to ninth grade. We will also offer a larger slate of college-credit courses in the English Department and honors students will be involved in a senior honors project pilot that is an opportunity for students to participate in a college-level research process and extend what they have learned at Sweet Home.

The District will continue to evolve our improvement process in the year ahead. 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. All teachers will collaboratively develop rigorous units with their learning teams and share those units with other learning teams across buildings. Our teachers will also participate in a "teacher round", whereby a learning team collaborates on a lesson, teaches the lesson with other members of the team, and participates in a debriefing session after the lesson to reflect on what was learned. 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.

District Residents Approve 2009-10 Budget...

Residents of the Sweet Home Central School District **approved** the 2009-2010 district budget, Tuesday, May 19, by a vote of 410 “yes” to 133 “no”. Of the 556 voters, 74% voted to pass the budget.

Voters also approved Proposition No. 1 to spend \$442,000 to purchase five (5) buses by a vote of 402 “yes” to 136 “no”.

The \$63,842,057 budget represents an increase of 1.98% over the previous year.

With the passing of the federal stimulus package which restored \$1.8 million in state aid, the Board of Education decided to restore \$694,000 of planned reductions. District officials also anticipate that the assessed values of all properties on the Amherst side of the district will rise between 10 and 12 percent while the equalization rate on the Tonawanda side will decrease by 5 to 6 percent. Under this scenario, the average tax bill for an Amherst home assessed at \$100,000 with the STAR exemption would decrease \$88 from the current year. A similar home in the Town of Tonawanda with the change in equalization rate would see a tax bill increase of \$36.

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

New Board Members Elected; 2009-10 Officers Appointed

In this year’s school board election, Dirk D. Rabenold won re-election receiving 458 votes. Mr. Rabenold ran unopposed. His term will expire on June 30, 2014.

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



*Board Member
Dirk D. Rabenold*



*Board President
Carol A. Nowak*



*Board Vice President
XXX*

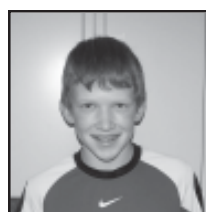
Middle School Art Show...

The Middle School held its annual Art Show on Friday, June 5 in the school’s multi-purpose room. Projects were voted on by faculty judges and the winners are pictured below. Congratulations to all!



Left picture (l to r): Gabriella Vrenna, Megan Gugliuzza, Sydney Hohl, Faith Hodges and Amanda Pembleton.

Top row (l to r): Chloe Thai and Kendyll Joerger



Bottom row (l to r): Olivia Stroud and Joshua Hammer.

Not pictured: Stephen Gagnon, James Abbott and Stephanie Antonov.

Board Sets 2009-2010 Meeting Dates

The Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District is pleased to announce its schedule of meetings for the 2009-10 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 2009-2010 Board of Education meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, August 25, 2009	Study Session & Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2009	Study Session
Tuesday, September 15, 2009	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2009	Study Session
Tuesday, October 20, 2009	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2009	Study Session
Tuesday, November 17, 2009	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2009	Study Session
Tuesday, December 15, 2009	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2010	Study Session
Tuesday, January 19, 2010	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2010	Study Session
Tuesday, February 9, 2010	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 2010	Study Session
Tuesday, March 16, 2010	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 6, 2010	Study Session & Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 27, 2010	Special Voting Meeting
Tuesday, May 4, 2010	Annual Budget Hearing
	"Meet the Candidates Night"
	Study Session
Tuesday, May 11, 2010	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2010	Annual District Budget Vote
Tuesday, June 8, 2010	Study Session
Tuesday, June 15, 2010	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 6, 2010	Reorganization & Special Voting Meeting



BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTING MEETINGS ON TIME WARNER 22

The Sweet Home Board of Education is pleased to announce that its regular monthly voting meetings are currently airing on Time Warner Public Access channel 22. The meetings will air every Monday from 8-10pm and Wednesday from 2:30-4:30pm.

The Board of Education meets the second and third Tuesday of every month in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center of Sweet Home High School at 7pm. The public is welcome to attend any Sweet Home Board of Education meeting.



Glendale Donates to Boys & Girls Club...

On Friday, June 5, Bob O'Brocta from the Boys and Girls Club of the Tonawandas appeared on Glendale News Daily to receive donations from Glendale students. Our donation included school supplies, books, and \$200 raised at the Glendale School Store. All items will be used at the Club's Camp Spirit this summer. Thank you to the kids who organized this program, and to the families who donated.



High Schoolers Learn the Dangers of Driving Drunk

As part of Senior Day 2009, 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.

Oberacker, Heart Awards Announced

Two district events were the settings for the announcement of the 2009 winners of the Leon



2009 Teri Gamin Heart Award Winners: Linda VanDette (above) and Doug Fronczek (right).



“Sid” Oberacker Award and Teri Gamin Heart Awards. Sally McMahon, a member of the PTA/PTO Council and Dollars for Scholars committee was named winner of the Oberacker Award at the Superintendent’s Forum and Dinner on May 6. 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 20. The 2008 recipients are Heritage Heights School Nurse Linda VanDette and district Music Coordinator Dough Fronczek. The award is given annually to someone who goes “beyond the call of duty” in dealing with staff and students.



Sally McMahon accepts the Leon “Sid” Oberacker Award at the Superintendent’s Forum and Dinner on May 6 at Classics V Restaurant.

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 events took place at Sweet Home High School on May 30th.

Thank you to all the staff, students and community members who volunteered their time to help with the training and events of the day!

Congratulations to High School students Andy, Sean, Linsay, Joey Lynn, Sierra, Sarah, Isaiah, Eryn and Middle School students Daniel, Michelle, Ally and Scott!

Congratulations to David from Willow Ridge, Christina from Heritage Heights, Zachary from Maplemere and Chris, Ian and Jack from Glendale!

All of you are winners!



The 2009 Sweet Home Special Olympic Team

1st Day of School is September 9th

The first day of school for grades K-12 is Wednesday, September 9. All new students, including those entering kindergarten in fall 2008, should register with Central Registration at 250-1600 as soon as possible.

The District Calendar and Handbook will be mailed home to residents the week of August 10, 2009. Kepp an eye out for this valuable district publication.

Tenure Given to 10 Teachers, 2 Administrators



Sweet Home Central School District is pleased to announce that it has granted tenure to 10 teachers and 2 administrators. The Board of Education hosted a small reception in honor of the newly tenured staff on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. The list of tenured teachers and administrators appears below. Please congratulate them the

next time you see them on their accomplishments.

Crystal Barnes
High School Health & Physical Education Teacher
Amanda Breidenstein
Glendale Elementary 5th Grade Teacher
Jodie Bully-Crawford
High School Special Education Teacher
Lisa Feyes
High School English Teacher
Joshua Hicks
High School Science Teacher
Nicholas Newman
High School Science Teacher
Patrick O'Donnell
Elementary Music Teacher
Danielle Papero
Glendale Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher
Joleen Reinholz
High School Principal
Martin Scholl
Heritage Heights Special Education Teacher
Gregory Smorol
Middle School Principal
Kerry Steinagle
Middle School Special Education Teacher



Scott Wolf (left) principal of Heritage Heights congratulates Martin Scholl on receiving his tenure appointment.

43rd Girls Athletic Association Banquet

The Girls Athletic Association held its 43rd annual banquet at Samuel's Grande Manor on June 3rd. Female athletes, along with their coaches and parents, were honored for their accomplishments on and off the field. A variety of awards and scholarships were presented to the girls. Camp scholarships were awarded to Stephanie IZARD, Katie Niblock and Charlene Cinelli. Monetary scholarship awards were presented to Debra Conti, Natalie Vasquez and Leann Stiver. Kelsey Maving received the Tim Simard Award for her academic accomplishments while Leann Stiver received the Swartzman Award for the top female athlete at Sweet Home. Each senior athlete was presented with a bear wearing a GAA sweater and a video yearbook of this past year. Best Wishes to all of the graduating seniors.



The Girls Athletic Association of Sweet Home High School.

Allen Signs to Play Basketball at Daemen College

Sweet Home senior Ellie Allen recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball next season at Daemen College in Amherst. Allen was a 2nd-team All-Western New York and 8th-team Class A All-State selection after averaging 21.2 points, 10.2 rebounds, 4.0 assists, and 3.4 steals per game this season. She shot 50% from three-point range and nearly had a 2 to 1 assist-to-turnover ratio. Last year, Allen was a 3rd-team All-Western New York selection, and named 1st-team All-ECIC. She was also named the Amherst Bee's 'Player-of-the-Year'. Allen scored 1,443 points during her career and set a team record this year for most points in a season (467). She is a five-year starter and has been team captain the past three years. She has also been named the team's MVP since her sophomore year when she was an ECIC Division I 1st-team All-Star.



School & Community Partnership Continues at Heritage Heights...

The 2008-09 school year marked another strong year of community partnerships at Heritage Heights Elementary School. This year the school partnered with the Weinberg Campus' Total Aging in Place Program. Heritage Heights students visited the program several times throughout the year to perform concerts, work on crafts and provide holiday greetings to the residents. The students enjoyed their time at Weinberg very much as did the residents.

The school presented Weinberg Campus with its school and community partnership award in June. The award is pictured on page 14 of this edition of the **Your Schools** newsletter.



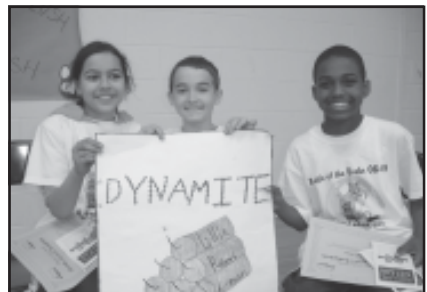
One of Heritage Heights' projects with Weinberg Campus was an inter-generational art class.

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 in all three grades. Congratulations to all the third, fourth and fifth graders at Glendale and Maplemere for taking up the challenge and reading so many books.



Glendale Elementary School's Battle of the Books grade level champions



Maplemere Elementary School's Battle of the Books grade level champions

Mission Complete!! Glendale and Maplemere Install New Playgrounds...

Thanks to the hard work of many parent volunteers students at Glendale and Maplemere Elementary schools will have a wonderful new playground to play on for years to come. Each of the schools did a number of fundraisers and raised thousands of dollars to build the much need playgrounds.

Glendale officially opened its new playground on May 29 with a picnic and barbeque celebration. Retired Senator Mary Lou Rath and Assemblyman Robin Schimminger were on hand to take part in the ribbon cutting ceremonies.

Maplemere installed the majority of their playground in one day - June 6th - thanks to the many volunteers. The playground was officially opened on Field Day, June 19th.

Be sure to stop and enjoy the new playgrounds at both schools this summer.



(L to R): Paul Yacono, Renee Yacono, Tammy Sempert, Marc Sempert of the Glendale Playground Committee cut the ribbon on the school's new playground May 29.

The 2009 Sweet Home High School Graduates...



Lyla R. Abdallah
 Dragana Abramovic
 Kevin N. Ackerman
 Matthew L. Adams
 Michael S. Agro
 Adeel Ahmad
 Christopher W. Akromas
 Irim Alamgir
 Annamaria F. Alfonso
 Ellie M. Allen
 Adrianna N. Ammerman
 Christian A. Anaya
 Kenneth Anaya
 Leonard J. Anzalone
 Jason K. Armstrong
 Emily A. Arnold
 David M. Ayler
 Allison M. Balcerzak
 Emily L. Bartkowski
 Ross Baumler
 Sara K. Becker
 Lindsay R. Bender
 John E. Benzel
 Bethanie N. Bevell
 Abdullah J. Bitar
 Joshua D. Blango
 Dane G. Bostwick
 Tiara D. Boyette
 Richard N. Bradt
 Joshua W. Brass
 Richard G. Brooks
 Louis T. Brown III
 Victoria L. Bryndle
 Ryan E. Buelens
 Morgan E. Cabana
 Joseph A. Calamita
 Jerry A. Campbell
 Salvatore R. Capizzi
 Colin C. Cardinale
 Ryann V. Carroll
 Nicholas G. Cavalieri
 Rachel A. Cimerman
 Kevin P. Cleary
 Shannon M. Connor
 Debra A. Conti

Tyler H. Cook
 James L. Cornelius
 Brianna K. Corner
 Christopher T. Covell
 Matthew M. Cross
 Matthew R. Cuddihy
 Frank N. Cuomo
 Eric D. Daigler
 Donald J. Daniels
 Steven B. Daniels-Robinson
 Elizabeth E. Danwin
 Nicholas J. Danwin
 Nicholas A. Darrow
 Maria M. DeMartinis
 Kelly A. Deabold
 Hayden R. Denesha
 Kristin M. Derby
 Jyotsna Dixit
 Christopher P. Donovan
 Thomas E. Ehrmann
 Shawna K. Enders
 Henry R.D. Falkner
 LaShree Y. Finch
 Andrea M. Finley
 Nicholas F. Fiorello
 Jesse J. Fix
 Lauren S. Ford
 Jessica L. Forti
 James E. Foye
 Jean M. Franklin
 Alexander F. Frase
 Andrew J. Frontera
 Louis S. Galbo
 Eric A. Galdys
 Elaf Z. Gasmalla
 Kaitlyn B. Gault
 Kathryn S. Geib
 Richard D. Gerst
 Antrica N. Gibson

Ryan T. Gilinger
 Katherine A. Goetz
 Steven L. Goblewski
 Devin M. Gonzalez
 David A. Goranson

Trinier L. Gray
 Tania A. Green
 Brian M. Grogan
 Michael R. Guarino
 Ryan J. Gutt
 Brett P. Guynn
 Katelyn E. Hafner
 Isaac J. Hagen
 Kristy S. Hakes
 Michael R. Halter
 Kerrina K. Hardick
 Jericah A. Harris
 Andrew J. Hawkins
 Anthony J. Hayden
 Brittany K. Heagerty
 Taylor M. Heald
 Megan R. Hicks
 Melissa L. Hill
 Steven C. Hinterberger
 Stephen J. Hoechst
 Gabriel M. Hoffman
 Christine M. Hojczyk
 Cameron J. Hollander
 Andrea C. Holloway
 Ryan P. Hoock
 Jennae E. Howard
 Samantha L. Hoy
 Brandon M. Hudson
 Erin K. Hutchinson
 Reta Jabar
 Jesse R. Jackiewicz
 Faith E. James
 Kelly J. Jasinowski
 Ashlee M. Jones
 Casey J. Kacz
 Ryan M. Kaminski
 Solomon D. Karchefsky
 Mandeep Kaur
 Kellyn S. Kautz
 Matthew J. Keitz



Andrea Finley celebrates receiving her diploma.

Lynn F. Keohane
 Zachary J. Kindron
 Andrew R. Kinnaid
 Raina S. Kirby-Jones
 Ashley R. Kliber

Kristen M. Koch
 Jesse T. Koester
 Heather L. Kolbas
 Jessica M. Koprowski
 Lauren N. Korniczky
 Colleen E. Kozlowski
 Daniel D. Kozlowski
 Ashley A. Krafft
 Dimitriy Krivonovskly
 Matthew M. Kubiak
 Michael C. LaTorre
 Megan M. Land
 Kathryn L. Landel
 Grace D. Lauria
 Michael W. Lawandus
 Kimberly Lazarz
 LaViana C. Lee
 Matthew S. Leffler
 Jamie E. Levin
 Jesse R. Lewandowski
 Mackenzie A. Lewandowski
 Alex D. Lindner
 Elizabeth D. Link
 Christine E. Logan
 Mariya V. Lokshin
 Emmanuel M. Lollis
 Paul D. Lowecey
 Syed P. Lyon
 Syed D. Mahmood
 Peter C. Maier
 Sanja Majdandzic
 Joseph S. Manzella
 Kayla E. Martineck
 Kelsey L. Maving
 Brittany D. May
 Cameron M. McDonald
 Kelsey E. McGinty
 Jared R. McHenry
 Kaitlin M. Mergler
 Mariah A. Mergler
 Meaghan K. Milbrand
 Jeremy R. Miller
 Daniel R. Ministero
 Nathaniel T. Moore
 Lindsey A. Morrison
 Monica A. Moses
 Laquanna L. Munn
 Gregory A. Nagy
 John D. Naples
 Phong T. Nguyen
 Michelle M. Notaro
 Kristin M. Nowark
 David J. Nowatzki
 Noah I. Nwachukwu
 Corey J. O'Brien
 Alexander M. Olear
 Emily J. Olmstead
 Mark J. Orlovski
 Sarah C. Orrico
 Jennifer A. Osei
 Vefa Ozturk
Exchange Student

Congrats to the Class of 2009...



These seniors anxiously await their diplomas.

Danielle M. Panaro
 Nicole R. Panaro
 Amandeep S. Parmar
 Alexander J. Pason
 Amanda M. Patrick
 Dylan A. Patterson
 Nicole A. Penz
 Stephen J. Phillips
 Tracy A. Phillips
 Jessica F. Pierson
 Michael G. Pietka
 Nicholas R. Plewniak
 Alexander J. Polanski
 Ashley Porter
 Lauren E. Prentice
 Bryan E. Price
 Dominic M. Puntillo
 Alyssa L. Quarles
 Marc A. Rait
 Vadim Ratinskiy
 Emanuel X. Reed
 William R. Reese
 Jillian M. Reeser
 Joshua D. Rennemann
 Brunilda M. Reyes
 Phillip Rhodes
 Rochelle A. Ricchiazzi
 Briana L. Ridge
 Kaitlyn E. Riley
 Angela C. Rizzi
 Danyea C. Rodgers
 Angel Rosa
 Crystal L. Royer
 Anna Rozansky
 Nathan P. Ruda
 Juliana R. Ruiz
 Collin J. Sabers
 Sean P. Sanders
 Robert J. Sartini
 Justin B. Schrembs
 Caitlin M. Schwinge
 Anthony A. Sciandra
 Michael M. Scott
 Sean M. Seaman
 Jennifer A. Semonian
 Alyssa M. Serba

Eric J. Sharpe
 Lauren E. Siegler
 Amber D. Sikes
 Anthony M. Silveri
 Amanda J. Skinner
 Kathleen E. Smith
 Brian M. Smyth
 Jeffrey A. Souter
 Adam J. Speier
 Daniel J. Spell
 Kylea S. Stewart
 Philip D. Stewart
 Leann M. Stiver
 Meghan E. Stout
 Lauren E. Stuck
 David J. Sykes
 Nicholas S. Syposs
 Danielle R. Szafranski
 Nicholas W. Terhaar
 Sara M. Texido
 Donald Thagard
 Jasmine D. Thomas
 Otis C. Tillman II
 Vilona C. Trachtenberg
 John A. Valkwitch
 Marijke A. VanLeeuwen
 Tricia M. Vargas
 Robert D. Vasile
 Natalie D. Vazquez
 Sergy Vityk
 Margaret A. Wahl
 David E. Wantuck
 Donald R. Watkins
 Emmanuel J. Watts
 Trae H. Watts
 Kelly L. Weber
 Zinette M. Webster
 Emily K. Weinheimer
 Bryan M. Wherry
 London A. White
 Paulena I. White
 Matthew N. Wiczorek
 Amanda S. Wilczek
 Cortney I. Wilkins
 Ashlee N. Williams
 Emanuel J. Williams
 Sarah M. Williams
 Ryan P. Wilson
 Michael J. Wolcott
 Jonathan C. Wolf
 Thomas M. Woodford
 Christopher M. Woodward
 Joel B. Yli-Seppala
Exchange Student
 Craig P. Young
 Nadine Zerouki
 Jordan A. Zidanich
 Matthew P. Zon

Senior Awards Night

The following awards were presented:

Heidi D. Schmidtke "Rosebud" Award
 Natalie Vazquez

Linda L. Edwards Memorial Scholarship
 Katherine Goetz
 David Wantuck

Phillip D. Russell Memorial Scholarship
 Vilona Trachtenberg

David R. Ebert Scholarship Grants
 Jesse Lewandowski
 Michael Pietka

Kurt R. Langlotz Memorial Award
 Colleen Kozlowski

Robert Mesch Memorial Award
 Kevin Lyon

Dr. Elizabeth Summers Social Studies Achievement Award
 Jillian Reeser

Patricia Orlando Memorial Scholarship Award
 Hayden Denesha

Williow Ridge Community Scholarships
 Alexander Olear
 Amanda Skinner

Judith B. Cross Memorial Scholarship
 Lindsay Bender
 Kevin Cleary
 Jesse Lewandowski
 Natalie Vazquez

Kathleen Sherry Memorial Award
 Natalie Vazquez
 David Wantuck

Thomas P. Cauley III Memorial Scholarship
 Meaghan Milbrand

Fatman's Pizza Scholarship Award
 Eric Galdys

Wegman's Scholarship Award
 Amber Sikes
 Anthony Silveri
 Katherine Goetz
 Jericah Harris
 Alexander Polanski

Sweet Home Federal Credit Union Scholarship
 Peter Maier
 Cameron McDonald

Music Dept. Scholarship Award Grant

Eric Daigler
 Hayden Denesha
 Kelsey McGinty
 Michelle Notaro
 Tracy Phillips
 Amanda Skinner
 Emily Weinheimer

Sweet Home Band Parents Organization Awards:

John Philip Sousa Award
 Jesse Lewandowski
Louis Armstrong Award
 Amanda Skinner
Directors Award
 Marijke VanLeeuwen
Unsung Hero Award
 Vilona Trachtenberg

National School Orchestra Award
 Emily Weinheimer

Choral Directors Award
 Annamaria Alfonso

National Honor Society Scholarship Grants
 Allison Balcerzak
 Kevin Lyon

Alumni Association Neal Gafter '77 Scholarship
 Andrea Finley

Alumni Association Pat Mergenhagen Alumni Son/Daughter Scholarship
 Daniel Kozlowski

Alumni Association Scholarship Award
 Adrianna Ammerman

Alumni Association Robert Kinneberg '66 Scholarship
 Hayden Denesha

Sweet Home Education Association Scholarship
 Hayden Denesha
 Daniel Kozlowski
 Kevin Lyon

All Class Leadership Council Scholarship Grant
 Allison Balcerzak

PTA Council Scholarship Grants

Lindsay Bender
 Dragana Abramovic
 Shannon Connor
 Katelyn Hafner
 Michael Halter
 Jericah Harris
 Megan Land
 Jared McHenry
 Lauren Prentice
 Angela Rizzi
 Alyssa Serba
 Vilona Trachtenberg

2009 Senior Awards Night June 25, 2009

The following awards were presented:

Elementary/Middle School Scholarship Awards

Maplere Scholarship Award Grant
Colleen Kozlowski

Willow Ridge Scholarship Award Grant
Megan Land
Jillian Reeser

Heritage Heights Scholarship Award Grant
Natalie Vazquez

Richard McBride Glendale Sterling Scholarship Award
Emily Bartkowski

Middle School Scholarship Award Grants
Megan Hicks
Jesse Lewandowski

Sweet Home High School PTSA Educational Grant Awards:
Allison Balcerzak
Emily Bartkowski
Lindsay Bender
Frank Cuomo
Lauren Prentice

Sweet Home Retirees Scholarship
Hayden Denesha

All 60's Reunion Scholarship
Margaret Wahl

Sweet Home Board of Education Scholarship
Emily Olmstead

English Department Awards

Over-all English Award
Emily Olmstead
Outstanding Achievement in English Electives
Natalie Vazquez

Achievement Awards

Business Education

Jean Franklin

Fine Arts

Taylor Heald

Languages-Spanish

Lindsay Bender

Languages-French

Emily Bartkowski

Languages-German

Dane Bostwick

Mathematics

Alexander Olear

Music

Emily Weinheimer

Physical Education Male

Alexander Frase

Physical Education Female

Alyssa Serba

Science

Alexander Olear

Social Studies

Jillian Reeser

Outstanding Student in Tech Ed.

Richard Gerst

Outstanding Student in Networking

Kevin Ackerman

Amherst Central Lions Club Comm. Service Award

Vilona Trachtenberg
Emily Weinheimer

District Union Local One United Food & Commercial Workers Scholarship
Daniel Kozlowski

NYS Comptroller Achievement Award
Andrea Finley

NYS Academic Excellence Award

Leonard Anzalone
Allison Balcerzak
Faith James
Solomon Karchefsky
Daniel Kozlowski
Jesse Lewandowski
Kevin Lyon
Alexander Olear
Emily Olmstead
Juliana Ruiz
Emily Weinheimer

Western NY Volunteer Firemans' Assoc Scholarship
David Sykes

American Red Cross Scholarship
Corey O'Brien

Independent Health Community All-Star Scholarship
Faith James

Kaplan Scholarship Award
Anna Rozansky
Alyssa Serba

Jolly Boys Community Service Scholarship
Emily Weinheimer

Amherst North Rotary Clubs Community Involvement Awards
Daniel Kozlowski
Anna Rozansky

Lancaster Elks Lodge 1478 Scholarship
Angela Rizzi

Grand Lodge Education Assistance Award
Collin Sabers

Army ROTC Scholarship
Matthew Kubiak

Model "A" Restores Club Award
Matthew Wiczorek

Williamsville Art Society Award
Kristin Derby

NYS Lottery's Leaders of Tomorrow Award
Jennifer Osei

Triple C Award
Matthew Leffler
David Wantuck



Patricia Orlando Memorial Scholarship winner Hayden Denesha.



Principal's Perfect Attendance Award winner Joshua Rennemann.

Principal's Perfect Attendance Award
Joshua Rennemann

Principal's Award for Citizenship
Taylor Heald
Lauren Siegler
Andrea Finley
David Wantuck
Eric Daigler

Principal's Athletic Award
Angel Rosa
Ryan Wilson
Megan Land
Kelsey Maving

Dollars for Scholars Awards

Irim Alamgir	Alexander Olear
Annamaria Alfonso	Jennifer Osei
Adrianna Ammerman	Tracy Phillips
Allison Balcerzak	Michael Pietka
Emily Bartkowski	Alexander Polanski
Lindsay Bender	Lauren Prentice
Dane Bostwick	Dominic Puntillo
Ryann Carroll	Brunilda Reyes
Debra Conti	Juliana Ruiz
Eric Daigler	Sean Sanders
Hayden Denesha	Justin Schrems
Andrea Finley	Alyssa Serba
James Foye	Amanda Skinner
Kathryn Geib	Philip Stewart
Katherine Goetz	Lauren Stuck
Jericah Harris	David Sykes
Megan Hicks	Donald Thagard
Lynn Keohane	Vilona Trachtenberg
Jesse Koester	John Valkwitch
Jamie Levin	Marijke VanLeeuwen
Mackenzie	Natalie Vazquez
Lewandowski	David Wantuck
Elizabeth Link	Emily Weinheimer
Kevin Lyon	Ashlee Williams
Cameron McDonald	Matthew Zon
Meaghan Milbrand	

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

Heike Jacob

Joseph Marien Award

Michael Butler

Peggy Smock Award

Robert Puchalski

Joan Stoll Award

Kevin Murray

Glendale Elementary Awards

Good Citizens Award

Kelsey Wagner

N'Kya Boone

Madelyn Arcara

Fiona Comstock

Isabella Markarian

Blake Smith

Grace Cornwell

Nicholas Lisman

Jadyn Wagner

Julia Galante

Jodie Amato

Ciara Johnson

Grace Neupert

Michael McKeehan

Colin Gerlach

Christy May

Julia Mings

Cameron Jackson

Stacey Smith

Alexandria Leggions

Rachel Buchner

Lawrence Charles

Matthew Meloon

Stephanie Senefelder

Collin Polyachyk

Durshawn Sanders

Ariyanna Myers

Superior Achievement on NYS Math Assessment 2009

Brianna Baker

Emery Comstock

James Daniele

Miranda Dibble

Tyler Edholm

Alex Farkas

Colin Gerlach

Lindsey Grochowski

Jason Holmstrom

Renee Lauer

Brian Lovering

Julia McLean

Jack Neupert

Joshua Pantera
Jillian Serrano

Jackson Steinbroner

Avi Tombak

Maria Abbott

Ian Andrews

Mackenzie Bluman

Megan Cochi

Dominic Crouse

Wyatt Cullen

Mia DiNatale

Maria Disorbo

Brandyn Doherty

Amaya Escobar

Cameron Gates

Sarah Herrmann

Cameron Jackson

Samuel Kaplansky

Lukas Knight

Camryn McCrossan

Dominic Miceli

Peter Oehman

Tae Won Song

Marie Spektor

Nathan Stawasz

Samuel Terranova

Alexander Wagner

McKenzie Austin

Dwayne Brice

Rachel Buchner

Giulia Buscaglia

Jahaira Caminero

Cameron Carpenter

Andrew Carter

Crystal Chan

Kyle Ciehomski

Tyler Ciesielski

Amanda Daniele

Zachary Farkas

Madison Jones

David Lauer

Alexander Lebron

Alexandria Leggions

Michael Lepertine

Robert Majdanik

Jonathan Mason

Corinne McCrossan

Ryan McLean

Shubhangi Mehra

Mathew Meloon

Samantha Nawrocki

Joseph Nowak

Jillian O'Keefe

Dhiral Patel

Daniel Richeal

Rishi Sangamreddy

Madelyn Schreiner

Stephanie Senefelder

Sha-Tikqua Shine

Alexandra Stasio

Alexander Weinreich

Christopher Weinreich

Julia Young

Superior Achievement on NYS ELA Assessment 2009

Emery Comstock

Nathaniel Davis

Miranda Dibble

Tyler Edholm

Colin Gerlach

Giovanni Gilchrist

Collin McCabe

Adrianna Merlino
Joshua Pantera
Jillian Serrano
Avi Tombak
Josephine Villanueva
Emma Ward
Nicole Warner
Maria Abbott
Brandyn Doherty
McKenzie Austin
Andrew Carter
Amy Feldman
Michael Lepertine
Robert Majdanik
Jonathan Mason
Ryan McLean
Shubhangi Mehra
Matthew Meloon
Joseph Nowak
Madelyn Schreiner
Stephanie Senefelder

Heritage Heights Awards

Project Wisdom “Golden Rule” Award

Amelia Fink

Madelyn Maggione

Larissa Battaglia

Arielle Barbopoulos

Jordyn May

Annabella Bogart

Kailynn Weisbeck

Matthew Goodman

Stephanie Denman

Shayla Reed

Chris Meinhold

Christie Ackendorf

Lisa Thompson

Aubrey Swarhout

Michael Goodman

Jessica Muff

Summer Salem

Rachel Reusch

Presidential Award for Educational Excellence

Conor Jackson

Rachel Reusch

Aloyna Denisovich

Austin D'Angelo

Anna Belous

Yusufhan Ergul

Jonathan Phillips

Peter Thompson

Ashley Szurlej

Jasmine Nguyen

Presidential Award for Educational Achievement

Timothy McNutt

Alexandra Nowak

Camille DeMacedo

Christina Granbois

Remeeza Ashrafally

Beth Moran

Kayla Mancuso

Kathryn Baron

Summer Salem

Frank Greico

Madeline Bell

Annalise Hoffman

Jacob Bitterman

Megan Beal

Jessica Muff

Kalie Peel

Triple “C” Award

Zachary Shotwell

Matthew Klaister Spirit Award

Katie Baron

Middle & Elementary School Awards Continued....

State Comptroller Achievement Award

Conor Jackson

Ellen Erdmann Triumph Award

Christina Granbois
Annalise Hoffman

Maplemere Elementary Awards

Zoerb Award for Citizenship

Taylor Camelo

Switzer Award for Scholarship

Ryan Hayter

Crooks Award for Humanitarianism & Special Achievement

Braxton Tillery

Joyce S. Odien Memorial

Science Award

Benjamin Graham

Triple "C" Award

Gabriella Naples

Comptroller Award for Community Service

Joshua Knauf

Presidential Award for Educational Excellence

Stephanie Brown
Ryan Hayter
Claire Hiwiler
Madeline Meyers
Danielle Parisi
Zoe Walters
Joshua Knauf
Sai Jayaprakash
Kylie Knibloe
Joseph Janish
Kyle Tirone
Gabriella Naples
Hannah Sigurdson
Joanna Chen
Jeremy Steiger
Danielle Bona
Chance Buzanski
Taylor Camelo
Robert Carnevale
Kyle Grossi
Samuel Kremer
Maya Reid
Meghan Rodgers
Lillie Shallowhorn
Elana Smith
Braxton Tillery
Haley Tolsma
Nicole Zvorsky
Manaal Ali
James Andler
Joseph Armenia
Benjamin Graham
Andrew Groeger
Ryle Quagliano
Hannah Sanders
Stephanie Zawadski

Presidential Award for Educational Achievement

Hayley Freiheit
Sawyer Lewandowski
Tung Nguyen
Laura Toth
Robia Vedhanayakam
Robina Vedhanayakam

Willow Ridge Elementary Awards

Charles R. Carle Excellence

in Education Award
William Schultz
Brandon Miller
Sara Bennett
Anthony Grucello

Presidential Academic Excellence Award

Sara Bennett
Jacob Collins
Hayley Foster
Anthony Grucello
Alexandra House
Davor Majdandzic
Brandon Miller
Leslie Murphy
Kaitlin Okun
Andrew Rappleye
William Schultz
Clare Valkwitch
Jalen Wallace
Austin Wilson
Connor Zak

McLaughlin Award Nominees

Katelyn Aylor
Sara Bennett
Ariana Bridges
Kaitlin Gengo
Simone Jones
Makenna Weissenburg
Jacob Collins
Anthony Grucello
Brandon Miller
Adam Simonson
Austin Wilson
Connor Zak

McLaughlin Award Winners

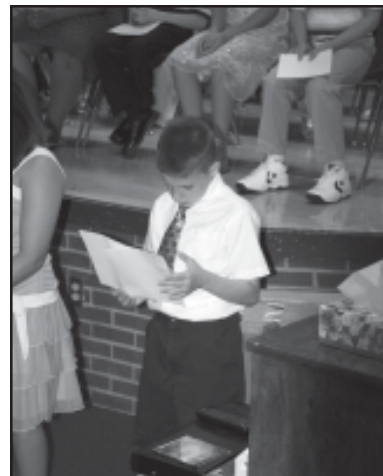
Kaitlin Gengo
Austin Wilson

Schroeder Honor Grade 5

Shamira Banks
Cassidy Bogacz
Olivia DeLuca
Jessica Espinoza
Kody Gailie
Rafa Gasmalla
Joey Keem
Sandra Notaro
Kayla Petrus

Grade 4

Samantha Himes
Jayla Myree
Alex Leitten
Kayle Pistner
Dylan Taylor



Heritage's Timothy McNutt examines his Presidential Award for Academic Achievement.



Heritage Heights Principal Scott Wolf presents the school's Volunteer Award to Lori Gondeck of the Weinberg Campus.



Some of the members of Willow Ridge's 5th grade graduating class.

An Update from The Office of Instruction...



Asst. Superintendent for
Instruction
Anthony J. Day

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.

2008-09 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 2009-10 Enrollment

Tdap: Required for those born on or after January 1, 1994 and **entering grades 6, 7 & 8** or a comparable age-level special education school or program in the 2009-10 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 & 10 the 6th, 7th** at the beginning of the 2009-10 school year must be immunized against varicella.

Health Care Notebook Workshop

Mrs. Sue Arnesen, Sweet Home Central Special Education Teacher, is coordinating a workshop in the fall sponsored by *Parent to Parent of NYS, Western Office* that would include reviewing a Health Care Notebook, and possibly incorporating other issues that might impact health impaired children. Please contact Mrs. Arnesen at sarnesen@shs.k12.ny.us for interest in attending this one night workshop. Further information can be addressed if a need is identified.

A Health Care Notebook is an organizational tool for families who have children with special health care needs. Using a Health Care Notebook can help you keep track of important information about your child's health, providers and health history.

What Kids Need: 40 Developmental Assets- What Are They?

The Developmental Assets are 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.

Grounded in extensive research in youth development, resiliency, and prevention, the Developmental Assets represent the relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive. Because of its basis in research and its proven effectiveness, the Developmental Assets framework has become the single most widely used approach to positive youth development in the United States.
<http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets>

Read the list of assets

<http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets-tools>

Asset Lists

40 Developmental Assets for Early Childhood (ages 3-5)
NEW! 40 Developmental Assets for Grades K-3 (ages 5-9)
40 Developmental Assets for Middle Childhood (ages 8-12)
40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents (ages 12-18)
<http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets-tools>

How Do I Know a Movie is Suited for my Child?

There are many sites that can provide reviews and/or summary information of movies aside from the Motion Picture Association of America [MPAA] industry ratings [G, PG, PG-13, R, NC-17]. And now, we have information on previews and DVDs. The purpose of the sites below is to provide parents with relevant and objective information of media content so parents can make a decision based on their faith and value system to watch or not, with or without their children. [Of course, just Google 'movie trailers' for sites to preview movie clips. E.g. <http://www.apple.com/trailers>]

A few sites are listed below- choose one that suits your purpose.

- http://www.mpa.org/FlmRat_Ratings.asp
- http://www.hollywoodvideo.com/movies/parents_guide.aspx
- <http://kids.yahoo.com/movies>
- <http://blog.beliefnet.com/moviemom>

Drug Information Site

'Drug Infonet provides drug and disease information for your healthcare needs. Visit the FAQ page to find answers to common health questions. Look on the Manufacturer Info page to link to pharmaceutical company pages. Click to Health Info and Health News for the latest in healthcare developments. ... a free resource to you so that you become a more informed consumer of healthcare.' <http://www.druginfonet.com>

Summer Health

- Wear SPF sun block/lotion sun protective clothing and during peak hours of 10 AM-3 PM.
- Keep hands clean and away from mucous membranes on face.
- Keep heat sensitive foods cold.
- Know what your children are doing and whom they are with at all times.
- Provide supervision and water safety skills for all swimmers.
- Get your 8-10 hours of sleep for a healthy immune system.
- Eat more fruits and vegetables, and high fiber foods.
- And, go for that walk!

Continued on Page 15...

Health & Wellness Corner...

Continued from Page 14...

Increase Brain Performance

Surprisingly, 'regular consumption of dark chocolate, wine and tea has been shown to enhance brain performance.

- Researchers have reported from Oxford University in England 'that those who habitually consumed chocolate, wine or tea, scored significantly higher on tests of cognitive performance than those who did not,
 - Italian researchers recently reported that older adults with mild cognitive impairment who drank one glass of wine daily developed dementia at an 85% slower rate compared to those who never imbibed.
 - Researchers at the University of North Dakota reported that a daily jolt of java can enhance brain function and help protect against Alzheimer's Disease. Compared to women who didn't drink coffee, female coffee drinkers were nearly 70% less likely to have memory decline at age 80 or older.
 - If you do not enjoy wine, tea, or coffee, pomegranate juice may be the ideal 'brain boosting' beverage for you. Scientists at Loma Linda University in California found that drinking a glass of juice each day helps slow the development and progression and development of Alzheimer's Disease.'
- Buffalo News April 7, 2009 Page C3 Reduce Alzheimer's Risk by Dr. Rallie McAllister

Allergy & Asthma

'Asthma and allergies are the most common chronic childhood diseases. Asthma affects nearly five million American children, while allergies affect about 50 million. Many children with asthma miss out on school, sports, and other childhood activities. It is important for family members to learn how to identify and avoid asthma and allergen triggers; recognize and present asthma attacks, understand medications, and help manage symptoms.' <http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/asthma.cfm>

Ask a Nurse Site- 'Every day patients and families call *Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics* [AANMA] looking for answers to allergy and asthma questions. You may have some of the same questions. Check our FAQ section for some commonly asked questions.' Or call Patient Support Center, staffed by Carol Jones, a registered nurse and certified asthma educator with many years of helping patients and families. Call toll-free: 1-800-315-8056 Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 8 AM-5 PM or Fridays 9 AM-12N. <http://www.aanma.org>

Speak with your child's health care provider for any breathing difficulty or other changes:

- Evidence of infection, sore throat or swollen, painful neck glands.
- A fever above 100° F; face hot and flushed.
- Peak flow meter readings that are not near his target number after medication.
- Wheezing that continues to be labored 30 minutes after medication.
- Weakness or tiredness that makes it hard to take part in usual daily activities.

Summer Safety and Danger Zones in the Home

Check out Parents.com for summer safety information along with what you should know about medications in your home, play dates and pools. We are learning that much of the prescription and over-the-counter drugs our youth are experimenting with are available from their homes for the taking. <http://www.parents.com/big-kids/health/other-safety-issues/6-summer-safety-rules/?page=2>

Kidica Information Site

'This website is an independent information guide that is written, edited and maintained by Mezi Media in partnership with Moxy Media, a leading publisher of online consumer information guides. Our goal is to provide factual, up-to-date information and shopping advice to online consumers. This site does not sell products directly and is not affiliated with any individual manufacturer.' <http://www.kidica.com/about.aspx>

* Checkout Internet Safety at <http://www.kidica.com/raising-children/child-safety/child-internet-safety.aspx>.

Sun Basics: Slip, Slop, Slap [slip on shirt, slop on sunscreen, slap on a hat]

Having fun in the sun means protect your skin and cover up until the sun goes down. The sun's rays are very strong and research has shown skin cancer as an adult correlates to sunburns in childhood.

Read a quip when it is OK to be like a lobster, why a turtle doesn't need to slip, slop and slap, and why a tiger is a cool cat! <http://www.ok.gov/health/documents/Sun%20Basics%20for%20Kids.pdf>

Fun and Educational Websites for Kids

Arcademic Skill Builders

Delightful- 'Arcademic Skill Builders are research-based and standards-aligned educational games that offer an innovative approach to teaching basic academic skills. We incorporate features of arcade games and educational practices into fun online games that will engage, motivate, and teach your students.' 'Arcademic Skill Builders are online educational video games that offer a powerful approach to learning basic math, language arts, vocabulary, and thinking skills.' www.arcademicskillbuilders.com

Gamequarium

This is a portal to 2000+ free online learning games and activities for prekindergarten through grade 6. Readquarium, a section of Gamequarium, will help your child with reading skills. Click on 'Changes to Gamequarium' for an update on what this site offers. <http://gamequarium.com>.

Tobacco Free Healthy Schools...

Many good things have happened at Sweet Home Central School District this past year and a half resultant of a Tobacco Free Healthy Schools Grant totaling close to \$10,000.

Four Middle School students have attended a four day *Challenge Camp* in Summer 2008 and four more will participate this July 2009, tobacco free grounds signage at each of our buildings has been placed, employees have quit smoking, and our tobacco policy has been updated and revised to reflect state regulations and district commitments to healthier lives, with an additional edit to appear in Fall 2009.



Sweet Home Central Schools began partnering with the **Tobacco-free Healthy Schools Program** in 2007. Through a partnership with Erie 1 BOCES and the New York State Department of Health, the district is working to raise awareness about the hazards of tobacco use in both youth and adults; to expose the truth behind the tobacco industries' illegal marketing and advertising towards young people; and to positively enforce a tobacco-free school environment.

Research shows that tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke are directly related to poor academic performance and negatively impacts students' physical and mental health. In New York State, studies approximate that over 16.8% of high school students smoke. The Center for Disease Control reports that school-based efforts are one of the essential elements that have helped reduce tobacco use among youth.

Our Program used a multi-faceted approach that focused on several outcomes, which included:

- Partnering with the community, students and staff in supporting tobacco-free policies
- Engaging students, employees and administration in tobacco-free policy implementation
- Promoting alternatives to suspension and cessation
- Involving youth in educating their peers and adults of the dangers of tobacco

Positive Outcome of this Tobacco Free Healthy Schools Initiative include:

- HS student who quit chewing tobacco
- Several Service Center personnel quit smoking on their own prior to the Quit & Win start
- Collaboration and full support of Mel Ott (including the elimination of Big League Chew and other candy "tobacco starter products" from their concession stands)
- 3 out of 5 district employees who entered the Quit & Win Program stopped smoking
- Interested and excited youth in practicing and promoting tobacco free lifestyles
- Employees not smoking on school grounds
- Community awareness of school districts being tobacco free sites
- Materials and resources are available for students and employees who want to quit tobacco use

District-wide Worksite Initiative: Quit & Win \$1000 Initiative April 23 - May 22, 2009

The Quit & Win initiative has motivated several district employees to quit smoking. Five employees officially registered for the Quit & Win April program and were successful at no smoking for the one month. All three passed their Roswell Park Cancer Institute breathalyzer test for carbon monoxide Friday, May 22, 2009. Each were awarded a check with an even split by Normal Communications, sponsors of the program- a savings to the district of a calculated minimum of at least \$3,300 per person per year in addition to longer and healthier life span and better work productivity. Successful Entry registrants are Donald Stephans, MS Science, Karen Brodfuehrer Sub Monitor, and Laura Maloney District Mail Courier, pictured to the right.

Two of five employees made it to the 3rd week mark and were given incentives and further resources to try again to be successful. We are delighted to learn that they have vowed to start over with quitting tobacco products. Several other district employees took a personal challenge in the beginning of this school year and were successful at quitting smoking. Kudos to all of these employees who have accomplished a wonderful feat!



The Tobacco Free Healthy Schools Grant and Worksite Quit & Win Wellness Initiative was coordinated by Mrs. Shipe in partnership with Kate Huber, Coordinator Tobacco Free Healthy Schools Program Erie 1 BOCES. Committee personnel included Dawn Kauderer-Kromer, Kristina Pinkowski, Bob Weselak and Keith Langlotz. Acknowledgements to Superintendent Geoff Hicks for leadership, and Mike Baumann, Gregory Smorol and Joleen Reinholz for initiative support.

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.



*The Gold with Distinction Award Winning
Middle School Boys 7-8 Chorus*

Fantasy Island Music Festival

The Elementary District Gold Band received an Outstanding Performance Plaque.

The Elementary District Gold Orchestra received an Outstanding Performance Plaque.

The Heritage Heights Chorus sang six songs from the Spring Concert under the theme of Heroes and were awarded an "Outstanding Performance" plaque.

Dixie Classic Music Festival Chicago, Illinois

Symphony Orchestra: Level VI-Superior

Concert Orchestra: Level IV - Excellent

Symphony Orchestra 1st Violin Section:

Outstanding String Section Award

New York State School Music Association Major Organization Festivals Results

Festivals occurred at various times and places

HS Symphony Orchestra - Gold Rating

HS Concert Orchestra - Silver Rating

HS Jazz Ensemble - Gold Rating

HS Concert Chorale - Silver Rating

HS Women's Chorus - Silver Rating

MS Boys Chorus 7-8 - Gold with Distinction Rating

MS Girls Chorus 8 - Silver Rating

MS Girls Chorus 7 - Silver Rating

MS Orchestra 8 - Gold with Distinction Rating

MS 6th Grade Band - Silver Rating

MS 7th Grade Band - Silver Rating

MS 8th Grade Band - Silver Rating

Darien Lake Music Festival

Glendale's Hand Chimes ensemble group

"Glendale's Chimin' In" Scored a Gold Rating, received First Place and Grand Champion in their division.

8th Grade Orchestra performed and received 1st place in the AA division and "Grand Champion" (overall highest score for orchestra).

Sixth Grade Band received a first place rating in the AA Jazz Division.

Eighth Grade Band - Class AA, Superior Rating Second Place

8th Grade Girls Chorus received First Place with Distinction in the Middle School Choral Division.

7th Grade Girls Chorus received First Place in the Chamber Choral Division.

High School Select Chorus receive a Third Place rating in the High School Choral Division.

Safety Programs Make Rounds at Sweet Home...

Child Abduction Prevention and Internet Safety Programs were again scheduled throughout our past school year for our K-8 students. Child Abduction Prevention grant monies were used to provide safety programs sponsored by The National Center for Missing Children and Yello Dyno Child Protection Programs. Willow Ridge Elementary students Daeshawn McCreary, Kayla Petrus, Jessica Espinoza and Clare Valkwitch pose with Yello Dyno 'Play It Safe on the Internet' safety educator Judy Vanderwerf.



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOLS OF AMHERST & TONAWANDA

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Thanks to a donation by the Amherst North Rotary the district planted four trees at the elementary schools in celebration of Arbor Day. Pictured here are Willow Ridge students Kody Gailie, Ariana Bridges and Evan Hawkins with Rotarians Edla Collora and Shelly Schratz.

Your District



High school students Ellie Allen, Andrea Finley, Taylor Heald, Matthew Leffler, Jamie Levin, Kari Moley, Angel Rosa, Ashley Schalberg and David Wantuck were recently recognized by Congressman Chris Lee as Students of the Month.



This Willow Ridge student takes a turn on the course at the school's annual bike rodeo in May.



UB Dental School students visit Heritage Heights Elementary in the month of April for Dental Health month.



Left: The International Academy at the high school hosted a night of African Drum and Dance to benefit a new school building in Tanzania. Below: These 8th graders find a quiet place to sign yearbooks at the class picnic on Friday, June 12.

The annual Sweet Home Strongman Competition took place May 30. The events included a school bus pull pictured here.

