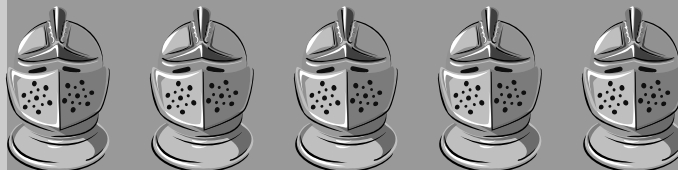


November 11th, 2011
Volume 6, Issue 1

The Towanda Primary & Elementary Knightline



Pamela Hosterman, Principal
Jennifer Farley, Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

November

11th - Report Cards Go Home
14th - Scrip Order Due
16th - 17th - Parent Teacher Conferences
23rd - Early Dismissal
24th - 29th - **NO SCHOOL**
THANKSGIVING BREAK
30th - FoodPlay Assembly @ JAM



December

5th - Scrip Order Due
8th - First Grade Music Program
9th - K-4 Keystone Theatre
12th - Scrip Order Due
(LAST BEFORE CHRISTMAS!!!)
14th - Snow Date for 1st Grade Music Program
15th - Grades 4th-6th Chorus Concert
6:30pm High School Old Aud. & Band
Concert at 7:30 in the High School New Aud.
22nd - Winter Holiday Party
23rd - Early Dismissal
26th - 30th - **NO SCHOOL**
WINTER BREAK



January

2nd - **NO SCHOOL - NEW YEARS**
11th - 5th & 6th Grade Spelling Bee
6:30pm @ Jr./Sr. High School
13th - Early Dismissal - Act 80
16th - **NO SCHOOL - IN-SERVICE**
27th - 6th Grade Ski Trip to Ski Sawmill

Find more school related articles and information at the Towanda Area School District Web Site:
www.tsd.k12.pa.us

From the Principal's Desk Mrs. Pam Hosterman & Mrs. Jen Farley

School climate data presentations were held in both buildings during Fall Open Houses. We made Adequate Yearly Progress for the 2010-2011 School Year and have set goals for continuous improvement. These tables (see tables on page 3) provide updated information for first marking period. Academic information includes proficiency results for the first AIMSweb and 4-Sight assessments for this school year. Please remember that the goals are set based on where students should be at the end of the school year and the assessments include many items students have not yet learned. Attendance is our average daily attendance for each building. Disciplinary infractions include bus conduct reports and strike forms. All members of our school community are working hard toward achieving our goals!

What's Happening at School

Many exciting things are happening in our classrooms. Our teachers have highlighted a few that may be new or different and have provided tips for supporting your child's learning at home.

Kindergarten

Making Meaning is a new program in Kindergarten and is designed to help children build reading comprehension and social skills. They have just completed the first unit about their reading lives and have learned to listen carefully to others. You can assist in developing your child's reading life by making weekly trips to the library, setting aside time to read together each day, and stopping while reading to discuss what is happening in the story.

First Grade

First graders are continuing to work in guided reading groups to develop their skills. Please encourage your child to continue to read daily and sign and return their reading log each day. We are using Foundations to teach spelling patterns to improve reading and writing. Please review the parent letter that is sent home at the beginning of each unit and help your child practice "trick words" at home. Making flashcards is a great way to encourage practice each night. A new standards-based, hands-on approach is being used in math. Students will have math homework occasionally, but not every night.

Second Grade

Second grade is also continuing to learn through guided reading groups, *Making Meaning*, and Foundations. In science, students are coming up with great questions about liquids and solids, which lead to further experimentation. Students are increasing their vocabulary in science and across the curriculum. Please continue to encourage your child to read daily and look at the text and follow along as you read to them.

Third Grade

Third grade continues to learn by using *Making Meaning* to build reading and social skills, Foundations for spelling and the Daily Five. In science, students are studying structures of life and have worked with seeds, crayfish, and Bess Beetles so far. Each of our students also has a Study Island account. Study Island uses games and worksheets to build students' math and reading skills for grades 2-6. To log on at home, go to <http://www.studyisland.com> and use your child's account username and password.

Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Grades

There are some changes that affect grades 4-6. In math, all students are receiving standards-based instruction. Some teachers will continue to use the Saxon math program and others will be teaching units that use other resources. You may notice the difference in that not all students will have the same homework or have homework every night. We are teaching spelling using the Words Their Way program. With the program, students may not have weekly spelling lists or homework. Please continue to encourage your child to read daily and work on math facts. Also, please check that homework assignments are completed each night.

Band lessons for elementary students will follow a rotating schedule. Despite our best efforts, there may be occasional conflicts. When this occurs, a student who has band and Title at the same time will attend Title and have the opportunity to make up the lesson, if possible. When the student has band and enrichment at the same time, he or she will attend the band lesson and will have the opportunity to complete enrichment work on Friday, when there is no enrichment scheduled. Many thanks to Mr. Smith, Mrs. Reilly, Title teachers and classroom teachers for working together to create a schedule that will accommodate our student's needs and talents.

New Faces at J. Andrew Morrow Primary and Towanda Area Elementary Schools



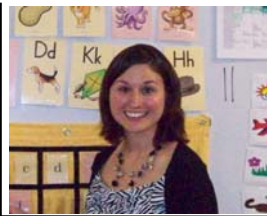
Miss Tara Allen
1st Grade Teacher

I am from Lock Haven, PA. I went to Lock Haven University. I have an undergraduate degree in elementary education with a minor in middle level mathematics. I am currently working on my Masters degree in Special Education. I worked for Williamsport Area School District as a long term substitute. I was also a substitute and 21st Century tutor for Keystone Central School District. Outside of school, I enjoy doing many outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and kayaking. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.



Mrs. Amy Belosky
5th Grade Teacher

I grew up in Big Flats, NY and graduated from Horseheads High School. I completed my undergrad degree at Cortland State University of New York in Elementary Education. I will be finished with my Masters Degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, this December from Grand Canyon University. I moved out west to Phoenix, Arizona in 2006 after graduating college. I took a job teaching 5th grade in the Phoenix Elementary School district. After 4 years in Arizona, my husband and I decided to try to get closer to home. We moved to Philadelphia where I took a job teaching the Bilingual Spanish/English Kindergarten class in Lindewold, NJ. This summer we returned to the area and that brought me to Towanda! I love decorating and being creative! I also love to be outdoors, especially at Keuka lake. After being so far away for the last 5 years, I am really just enjoying being with family at this point in my life.



Mrs. Sarah Chamberlain
Kindergarten Teacher

I am from Sayre, PA. I graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor's degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. I have taught in New Hampshire, Discover the World Learning Center in Sayre, and Long-term substituted for Athens. I enjoy walking, reading, and volleyball.



Mr. Eric Grecco
1st Grade Teacher

I am from Brockway, PA. I attended Lycoming College and earned a B.A. in Psychology Elementary Education Certificate. Before coming to Towanda I worked at Salisbury Behavioral Health- Better known as New Story. Outside of school I enjoy Coaching Wrestling and Baseball, Hunting, Fishing, Landscaping.



Miss Kimberly Janosko
4th Grade Teacher

I am from Sayre, PA. I graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in mathematics. Prior to working at Towanda Area Elementary, I worked at Tom Thumb Nursery School and Daycare (South Waverly, PA) as a school age teacher. I also worked as a head counselor and assistant supervisor at the Sayre Summer Recreation Program (Sayre, PA). Outside of school I enjoy participating in many recreational sports; primarily volleyball, softball, and golf. I also enjoy traveling and spending quality time with family and friends.



Mrs. Catherine Napp
K-4 Teacher

I am from Towanda, PA. I earned my bachelor's degrees in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Bloomsburg University. I received my Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Scranton. I taught first grade in Senioia, GA and taught K-4 in Montgomery, PA. I enjoy reading, and spending time with my family.



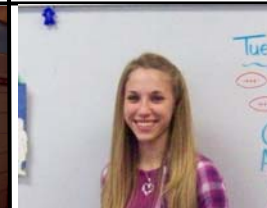
Miss Hannah Snyder
4th Grade Teacher

I am from Gillett, PA. I attended Mansfield University and obtained my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education. Previously, I have held substitute positions at Towanda School District. Throughout high school and college, I held various jobs such as a day camp counselor at the YMCA, ice cream scooper at MRJ's, tutor at W.R. Croman Elementary, and I also held cleaning positions for local businesses. I have always enjoyed ballet, reading, traveling, and spending time with family.



Miss Kelly Stockholm
Title I Teacher

I live in East Rush and attended Elk Lake High School. I attended Mansfield University from 2003-2007 where I earned my Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education. I am currently attending Mansfield University where I am working towards my Reading Specialist Certification. In August of 2007 I moved to Laurinburg, NC where I taught grades K, 2nd, and 3rd before I moved back to PA in the summer of 2010. For the 2010-2011 school year I had a long-term sub position in 3rd grade at Elk Lake and then spent the remainder of the year subbing for both Elk Lake and Wyalusing School Districts in grades K-12. I love reading, spending time with my family and friends, and during the summer playing slow pitch softball.



Miss Maria Tubby
K-4 Teacher

I am from Elmira, NY. I went to college at Mansfield University and hold degrees in both Elementary Education and Early Childhood. This is my first teaching position. Before coming to the Towanda Area School District, I substituted in Watkins Glen, NY school district and worked at the company Fastenal in Mansfield, PA and in Elmira, NY. I love to be outside whether that be hiking in the woods or going to watch a softball game. I am actively involved in my local church where I sing in both the choir and a small ensemble, teach a 2 and 3 year old Sunday school class, play with an instrumental group, and work with children in our bus ministry.



Mrs. Kacie Tuttle
6th Grade Teacher

I am from Towanda PA. I attended Towanda school district and graduated in 2006 from Towanda high school. I attended Mansfield University and received a degree in Special Education and an Elementary Education cert. I also minored in Psychology of Human Development. I am currently enrolled at Mansfield University and pursuing a Master's degree in Elementary Education with a Reading Specialist certification. Last year I worked for the Athens Area school district as a long term sub in a 6th grade learning support position. Outside of school I enjoy horseback riding, camping, and scrapbooking.

School Climate Data

Towanda Area Elementary School

Academics	2011 PSSA	4-Sight September	School Goal
Reading	67.7%	55%	81%
Math	77.3%	18%	78%
Attendance	Average Attendance 2010-2011	1 st Marking Period	School Goal
	95.57%	93.08%	97%
Disciplinary Infractions	Marking Period Avg. 2010-2011	1 st Marking Period	School Goal
Bus	17	13	9
School	55	39	28

J. Andrew Morrow

Academic Proficiency	2010-2011 Proficiency	AIMSweb September	School Goal
Kindergarten	62.3%	40%	70%
1 st Grade	63.3%	50%	70%
2 nd Grade	58%	45.5%	65%
Attendance	Average Attendance 2010-2011	1 st Marking Period	School Goal
	95.57%	90.15%	97%
Disciplinary Infractions	Marking Period Avg. 2010-2011	1 st Marking Period	School Goal
Bus	14	16	7
School	15	31	8

What's the Buzz?

Third and fourth grade students participated in their grade level spelling bees on Wednesday, November 9th. Twenty spellers from each grade competed. Family members, friends, teachers, and classmates attended the events to provide encouragement and support. We are very proud of all of our contestants, as it was evident that they worked hard to study their words and put forth their best effort. The top spellers were: **3rd Graders** - Erin Barrett 1st Place, Jaden Wise 2nd Place, Lucille Ferrulli 3rd Place **4th Graders** - Kolton Heft 1st Place, Jonnilei Abrams 2nd Place, Brianna Carlin 3rd Place



Photo on the left are 3rd Graders: Erin Barrett, Jaden Wise, Lucille Ferrulli

Photo on the right are 4th Graders: Kolton Heft, Jonnilei Abrams, Brianna Carlin



Anti Bullying Contest

In order to promote positive and respectful interactions between ALL members of our school community, we are hosting an Anti-Bullying Hall Decorating Contest at JAM and TAES. Each grade level will decorate based on our school slogan, "Treat people right if you're a Black Knight" and The 3 R's, "Respect Yourself, Respect Others, Respect Property." Judging will be held on November 14th at TAES and November 18th at JAM. The winning grade level in each building will receive popcorn & a movie. Thank you to PTO for generously agreeing to purchase a popcorn machine for this and future events! Please help support our efforts by encouraging your children to follow the school slogan and the 3 R's at home.



Attendance

Our faculty, staff, and students work hard to make every minute of the school day count. When a student is absent, he or she misses an enormous amount of important information. We appreciate your continued efforts to make sure your child gets to school on time every day and to schedule appointments outside school hours whenever possible. As part of the Bradford County Initiative to Reduce Truancy in Schools, we will be providing information on the Family Group Decision Making process to families of students with attendance concerns who may wish to seek assistance. This information is also available in each school office. If you have questions regarding attendance, please contact your child's school.



Lost and Found

Be sure to remind your child to check the lost and found for any items they may have misplaced!

Lost and Found is located in the Cafeteria at the Elementary School and located on the bench outside the Cafeteria at J. Andrew Morrow.

SUBWAY CHIPS

\$5 each

Available in the main office of each building. \$1 from each chip sold goes to P.T.O.



Let P.T.O. Help you with your Holiday Shopping

If you are going to purchase gift cards this Holiday Season or for your everyday shopping think about purchasing them through SCRIP!

P.T.O. earns a percentage from every gift card purchased! For a complete listing of Participating Retailers go to

www.glscrip.com

Order forms are available at the school district web site www.tsd.k12.pa.us or in the school office at your child's building.