A note from Principal Brown ...

It is June already and I feel like I was just writing my September message to you. It has been a very successful year at TOAST. Our students have worked very hard in their efforts to become college- and career-ready!

Year-end field trips are underway, and field days for all students are approaching. If you would like to volunteer to work on Field Day (9-11 a.m. for pre-K to grade 2; noon-2 p.m. for grades 3-6), please call the main office.

Our fourth annual Peace Parade will take place on Friday, June 7 at 1 p.m. Please join us as we parade around our school grounds, on Delaware and Morton Avenues and back through the park to TOAST for a brief assembly. (Continued on page 2)

SAVE THE DATES!

JUNE

7 Birdwatching, 7 a.m.
   Peace Parade, 1 p.m.
11 Field Day (rain date, June 19)
14 PEP/PTA meeting, 6 p.m.
19 Pre-K Moving Up, 9 a.m.
24 K Moving Up, 9 a.m.
25 Grade 6 Moving Up, 9 a.m.
   Half-day for students:
   11:30 a.m. bus dismissal;
   11:45 a.m. walker and pick up dismissal
26 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
   Half-day for students:
   11:30 a.m. bus dismissal;
   11:45 a.m. walker and pick up dismissal

WELL DONE!

Mayor honors two TOAST students

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan recognized fifth-graders Faridah Mohamad (above right) and Harriet Westin at City Hall on May 8. They were noted for their accomplishments; their participation and excellence in academics, art, music, computer, science and phys ed; and their leadership in our school.
Sixth-graders explore the atmosphere and the art of skydiving

Students in grade 6 are learning about Captain Barrington Irving’s “HALO” jump, where he jumped out of a plane from 30,000 feet!

The term HALO stands for “high altitude, low opening.” In a HALO jump, the exit altitude is much higher, often around 30,000 feet. That means the jumper has farther to fall and also requires special equipment to allow him or her to breathe freely so high up.

In class and Computer Lab, students learned about the six layers of the atmosphere and explored the difference between a HALO jump and a regular skydiving jump. They also are learning about force, gravity and motion.

Students used the vocabulary from the unit and turned the words into block letters with pop-up action clouds and created posters in art class (see photo at left).

In June, students will be working in teams to create a structure to protect an egg from a 20-foot drop to simulate the effects that force and gravity have on a raw egg.

In computer class, sixth-graders also will have a question-and-answer session with a skydiver on Skype. They will explore these topics using virtual reality goggles in the upcoming weeks.

From the principal (continued from page 1)

Students in prekindergarten, kindergarten and grade 6 will participate in Promotion Ceremonies. Dates for these are listed in the calendar on page 1. We look forward to celebrating these important milestones with you.

Thank you for all of your support this year. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to continuing our work together next year. We are always looking for parents to volunteer in the many exciting events and activities at TOAST. Please call the main office at any time to express your interest.

Students currently in pre-K through grade 5 will go home with a book to read this summer. Reading with your children each day is the most important thing you can do to nurture their love for learning and improve their reading skills.

Have a peaceful and joyful summer.

Fourth-graders helped ready the TOAST garden for spring plantings on a recent sunny day.
A NEW MURAL OF THANKS

Over spring break, the Cohen Brothers painted another wonderful, eye-catching mural, this one the big gym. The mural is dedicated to St. Peter's Hospital for their generous donation of our rock-climbing wall. We held a contest for students in grades 4-6, asking them to come up with a design that included the words "St. Peter's Climbing Wall" and animals who climb. The resulting mural was inspired by TOAST students Saw Joseph, Bilal Jamakzai, Poe Reh, Sawsan Shehedah, Cri December Paw and Ma Lah Aye. Thank you again, St. Peter’s!

Free books for summer reading!

All TOAST students will receive a book to read over the summer.

Please remember to also visit one of the many Albany Public Library branches throughout the city available programs and other interesting books!

Here’s a list of the books for each grade students will be in next year.

Kindergarten — Chicken on Vacation  
Grade 1 — I Knew You Could  
Grade 2 — Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale  
Grade 3 — Pool Party from the Black Lagoon  
Grade 4 — The Lemonade War  
Grade 5 — Goosebumps Ghost Beach  
Grade 6 — Arabian Nights

WHO’S WHO at TOAST

Ms. Brown, principal  
Ms. Stalker, assistant principal  
Mr. Harrell, home school coordinator  
Ms. Verhagen, social worker  
Ms. Tello and Ms. MacFaline, nurses  
Ms. Dowdy, community school coordinator

Need to reach us? Call us at (518) 475-6875.