

CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA



ARTHUR G. PAPPAS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mayor Pappas Expresses his Support  
for North Tonawanda School District's  
Observance of National Red Ribbon Week  
From October 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>**

NORTH TONAWANDA—City of North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur G. Pappas is lending his support and hopes to bring additional awareness to the residents and students of North Tonawanda, for the National Red Ribbon Campaign, observed since the unfortunate loss of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena, at the hands of drug cartel members in 1985. The red satin ribbon came to memorialize the fallen agent.

With sponsorship by the National Family Partnership, Red Ribbon Week gained national recognition in 1988 with the support of President Ronald and Mrs. Nancy Reagan, which furthered the cause to mobilize communities in educating youth and encouraging participation in drug prevention activities.

This year, the national theme for Red Ribbon Week is "YOLO BE DRUG FREE", #YOUONLYLIVEONCE and will see North Tonawanda school social workers teaming up with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) for the week long observance recognized with several activities and events including:

A Penny Drive to benefit Kids Escaping Drugs; a *Be Smart Don't Start* assembly for all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students; *Tar Wars* presented to all 4<sup>th</sup> graders; creation of YOLO banners; a viewing of "The Red Ribbon: A Story of Hope" by John Lasne; signing of drug-free pledge cards and dressing to theme related choices.

"It's no secret and anyone can tell you, whether it's alcohol, illegal or even prescription drugs, there is a real problem that needs to be addressed," said Mayor Pappas. "There are people dedicating their lives to educate the youth of our communities about the very real danger drugs pose to them and we should be proud of their work. As a former educator, I recognize how important it is to reach out to boys and girls at an early age and to let them know, life can be tough and drugs can only make it a lot tougher, not easier. I commend the efforts of all involved within our school district, as well as outside organizations in their continued efforts in drug prevention and awareness, for our Cities residents and elsewhere."

Dawn Lowry, one of many social workers within the North Tonawanda School District adds, "As school social workers, it's great to be working with the Mayor's office who emphasizes drug education and prevention, as a matter of building bridges between the schools and community."

It is important to note, drug and alcohol awareness will continue throughout the school year, with 6<sup>th</sup> graders participating in Project Alert and older students participating in The Great American Smoke Out.

For more information on Red Ribbon Week events in North Tonawanda, contact your local school.

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