

**DRESS
DOWN
RECIPIENTS**

- September 6—Meals on Wheels
- October 4—Warm the Children
- November 1—Food Pantry
- December 6—Angel Wings
- January 3—EMS
- February 7—Eden Fire Department
- March 7—East Eden Fire Department
- April 4—Eden Library
- May 2—Raider Respond—Honor Flight Buffalo
- June 6—Eden Community Foundation

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Happy Retirement	1
ETA Award Recipients	1
Dress Down Recipients	1
ETA General Information	2
Food Allergy Research and Education	3
Diabetes Resource	3
Healthy Schools	3
NYSUT Benefits	4
Raider Recognition	5
President's Message	6

TOGETHER

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 5

MAY - JUNE 2014

Happy Retirement to Dianne McKale and Irene Lavin

Excerpts from the ETA Retirement Program

The ETA Retirement Dinner was held on Friday, June 6 at Templeton Landing. This event allowed the entire Eden School Community an opportunity to say good-bye to two dedicated professionals, Dianne McKale and Irene Lavin, who have given many years of their lives to the education of children.

Dianne is retiring with over twenty years of teaching experience and for the past nine years has been inspiring Eden students in the Family and Consumer Science



Department. Dianne plans on traveling during retirement and has trips to Lake Placid and Vermont already arranged for this fall.

Irene is retiring after fourteen years as Eden's Gifted and Talented teacher. Irene has provided enrichment in grades 3

through 6 and targeted instruction to advanced students that were identified through a thorough assessment process. In retirement, Irene hopes to pursue other creative possibilities in writing, cooking, and gardening. She hopes to explore new opportunities to work with children and is planning a trip to Ireland with her husband.



Best wishes to Dianne and Irene! ❁

ETA Award Recipients

Excerpts from the ETA Retirement Program

The following is the list of awards given at the Retirement & Awards Dinner on June 6, 2014.

ETA President's Awards

- ◆ Jamie O' Brien, Eden Elementary
- ◆ Mark Stephens, Eden Elementary
- ◆ Donna Zwack, Jr/Sr. High

ETA Appreciation Awards

- ◆ Annette Bahun, Eden Elementary
- ◆ Joann Ramaekers, Jr/Sr. High
- ◆ Susan Wilhelm, Jr/Sr. High School

ETA Leadership Awards

- ◆ Theresa Blaszczyk, Eden Elementary
- ◆ Nicole Janowsky, Jr/Sr. High

ETA Years of Service Awards

30 Years of Service

- ◆ Colleen Kot

25 Years of Service

- ◆ Laura Feasley
- ◆ Raymond Neil

20 Years of Service

- ◆ Lisa Nicastro
- ◆ Carrie Hamlett

- ◆ Sheila Harris

- ◆ Amy Porter
- ◆ Kevin Witman

10 years of Service

- ◆ Margaret Cuddihy
- ◆ Jennifer Ersing
- ◆ Marisa Kanick
- ◆ Tiffany Kwass
- ◆ Kelly LaRosa
- ◆ Thomas Wall

Tenure

- ◆ Katherine Musso
- ◆ Allison Pivko
- ◆ Nicole Lauer

Congratulations to all Award Recipients!

ETA Officers 2013-14



President:	Colleen Kot, 2015
Vice President:	Mark Vona, 2015
Treasurer:	Laura Feasley, 2015
Secretary:	Terri Blasz, 2015

General Meetings & Events

To Be Determined

Do You Know Your Contract?

How many sick days can be accumulated?

Answer: Section 6.1.1 of the ETA contract states that sick leave will accumulate to a maximum of 200 days for 10 month teachers or teaching assistants, 220 days for 11 month teachers or teaching assistants, and 240 days for 12 month teachers or

Sick Bank Open Enrollment begins September 2 and ends September 26, 2014.

If you are not a member of the sick bank and you have been teaching at Eden for three years, you may want to consider joining the sick bank. For detailed information, refer to Section 6.2 in the ETA Contract

GLP Reps

Linda Schwanz, Head Rep, 2015

Carol King, 2014

Colleen Griffin, 2014

Main Street Reps

Judy Maynard, Head Rep, 2014

Lorry Malkowski, 2014

Amy Witman, 2015

Kevin Witman, 2015

Jr./Sr. High Reps

Paula Farrell, Head Rep, 2014

Susan Gianiodis, 2015

Carrie Hamlet, 2014

Steve Jones, 2015

Keith Kwas, 2015

Lynn Morgan, 2015

Phil Archabald, 2014

Committee Reps 2013-14

A complete listing of committee members is available at our website:

www.etaunion.org

**ETA DRESS
DOWN IS THE
FIRST
FRIDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

TOGETHER is the official newsletter of the Eden Teacher's Association and is published bimonthly.

Submissions are subject to editorial review and may be edited for clarity and length. Submission of articles and suggestions for this publication can be transmitted through ETA building reps. or via e-mail at: JRamaekers@edencsd.wnyric.org

Any information that needs to be communicated in a more timely fashion should be featured on our Website. To place information on the website contact Webmaster Lorry Malkowski

Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) unveils New Website

By: Kevin Witman and Tammy Oreutt

FARE, formerly known as FAAN (Food Allergy Anaphylaxis Network), is the result of a merger between the FAAN and the Food Allergy Initiative. They provide evidence-based educational resources for all those affected by food allergies, as well as the programs and tools for educators, health care workers, policymakers, food industry

professionals and others. Visit www.foodallergy.org/home for more information.

Toward Healthy Schools 2015. This recent report from the National Coalition for Healthier Schools cites multiple studies documenting

the benefits of healthy indoor learning environments on attendance and achievement, then presents state-level data and policy summaries. ✨

Updated Diabetes Resource Guide for Families and Schools

By: Kevin Witman and Tammy Oreutt

Published by the state Department of Health, *Children with Diabetes: A Resource Guide for Families and Schools* provides comprehensive, up-to-date resources that help children with diabetes succeed in the school setting. It has practical tools and important information for school personnel, allowing children with diabetes to participate fully and safely in the school setting.

It provides an explanation of the difference between Type 1 diabetes and Type 2 diabetes, an explanation of 504 accommodations and the diabetes medical management plans and more. It also addresses the serious issues of childhood obesity and Type 2 diabetes in children, and provides promising strategies to reduce risk.

To find information on Diabetes Resources:

www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/a-z/index.cfm?subpage=119

NY Statewide School Health Services Center (NYSSHSC) provides technical assistance, resources and training to NYS school health professionals.

Healthy Purchasing for Healthy Schools

By: Kevin Witman and Tammy Oreutt

New York's Healthy Schools Network in coordination with the Coalition for Healthier Schools has released a guidance document to help schools and other organizations choose less toxic products, equipment and services that have reduced negative impacts on health and the environment. Many may not cost your school more money and may actually save money. Purchasing these types of environmentally preferable products will ensure healthier learning and working environments.

There are several product categories in the guide: Cleaning supplies, office equipment, interior wall and ceiling paints, office supplies, art supplies and furniture. Each category briefly outlines risks of traditional products and gives recommendations for less toxic alternatives. The guide also has a section on using cooperative purchasing programs to help save time and money. Samples of green purchasing

policies are shown to help employers create and adopt their own policies and purchasing specifications.

"This guide is an important tool to help folks screen and find safer, healthier alternatives," said Claire Barnett, executive director of the Healthy Schools Network. "This points people to resources that have already weeded out products that are 'greenwashed' — said to be 'safer' but really aren't." ✨

Who Are the Koch Brothers and What Do They Want?

By: Amy McConeghy-Witman

Article: <http://huff.to/1j6rKdW>

Programs designed specifically for NYSUT members

Get expert legal assistance today!

The NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Legal Service Plan – provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. – offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters ranging from dealing with a speeding ticket to handling estate planning.

- Low annual cost of just \$85 (\$55 for retirees)
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
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Don't wait to get the legal assistance you need. Learn more about the plan today!

***Please note that if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its benefit fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.*

**Easy
Online
Enrollment!**
See web address below

Time for an insurance check-up!

Find out what your insurance policies currently cover.

Keep your policies in a secure, fire-proof location.

Determine if you have enough coverage to meet your needs today and in the future.

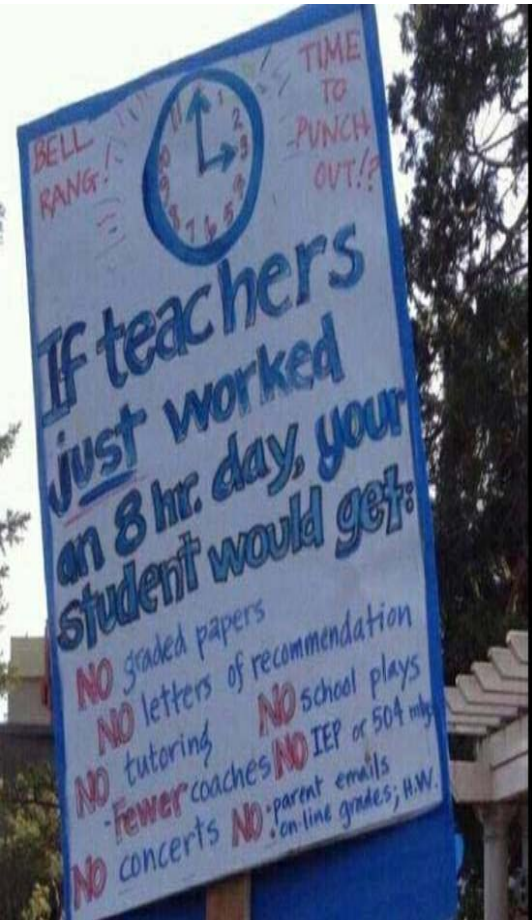
We encourage you to check out the variety of quality, competitive insurance programs endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including Term & Level Term Life Insurance; Disability Insurance; and MetLife Auto & Home Insurance, among many others.

Learn more about these endorsed programs and many others by calling 800-626-8101 or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



Raider Recognition



**2014 Eden Corporate
Challenge Team**

- ✍ Annette Bahun—American Legion Marching Band in the Tonawandas Award for 25 years
- ✍ Lorry Malkowski—Organization and contributions to Honor flight
- ✍ Michelle Berne—Thank you for hosting the Retirement and Awards Dinner on June 6 at Templeton Landing
- ✍ Kelly LaRosa and Joann Ramaekers –Received over \$17,000 in the Pathways to Financial Success Grant
- ✍ David Kean—Recognized by Business First and Senior Class Gary Gresock Memorial Teacher of the Year Award
- ✍ Olivia Doctor—Recognized by Junior High Teacher of the Year Award
- ✍ Paula Farrell—NYSUT Leadership Award
- ✍ Marie Bendlin—AP Calc students won 1st Math/Science Competition at Fredonia College
- ✍ Tom Wall, Track Coach– Student obtained 1st place claiming ECIC title in the Pentathlon
- ✍ Jen Tylock and Carol King— The Kenny Awards
- ✍ Eric Cooper, Baseball Coach,-Division Champs
- ✍ Tiffany Kwas, PTA President—Most Outstanding Unit in WNY
- ✍ Joann Ramaekers, FBLA Adviser, two students qualified for FBLA Nationals
- ✍ Paul O'Connor, Golf Coach—Coached a NYS Qualifier Golfer
- ✍ Marissa Fallacaro, Softball Coach –1st NYS Softball Champs
- ✍ Raider Respond Day—Great job to all teachers who participated in this community event A special thanks to David Kean for organizing this event.
- ✍ Corporate Challenge—Thank you Vanessa Zoll and the Eden Teachers who participated in this event (see photo below).
- ✍ Thank you to ETA Officers, Reps, and Committee Members for your hard work and dedication to the Eden Teacher's Association.
- ✍ Michelle Berne and Larry Millson—Students attended the Fredonia Science Fair

This is a new feature that is dedicated to recognize teachers for awards, accomplishments, etc. In order to make this new feature successful, please email me any pertinent information. I apologize if I overlooked an accomplishment during May and June this year for this issue. Please let me know and it will be mentioned in the next issue of TOGETHER.

Joann Ramaekers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GOOD BYE 2013-14

HELLO SUMMER



I would like to say THANK YOU to the entire faculty and staff. Through everyone's efforts and generosity, the ETA was again recognized with the NYSUT Community Service Award. A nice evening was had by all who attended the end of the year retirement/awards party held at Templeton Landing. Best wishes to Dianne McKale and Irene Lavin as they embark on their new phase in life.

As we head into the summer to reenergize ourselves for the 2014-15 school year, please also think about becoming more active in the ETA. Each person has an obligation to share equally the cost (time and dues) of supporting the organization that negotiates YOUR benefits!!! We as employees need to come together to collectively advocated for fair work place rules, job security and better benefits (wages, health care, PENSIONS).

SEE YOU IN THE FALL

Colleen Kot