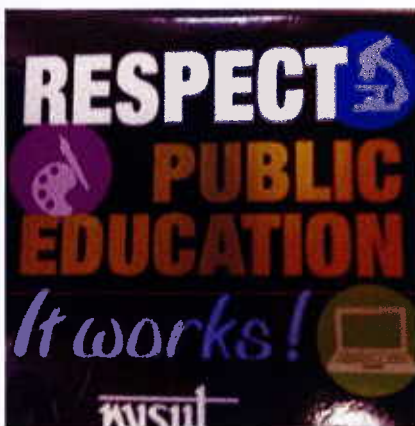


# *Together*

## *Union of Caring Professionals*

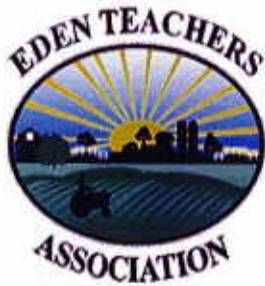
### **Minion Movie Mania**

Laughter and fun could be heard from the Eden Jr. / Sr. High School cafeteria and auditorium on Saturday night, January 30, 2016. The Eden Teachers' Association organized the annual movie night for all ages to enjoy. Crafts included clothespin Minions, face painting, Minion treat bags and glasses. Interactive games and a photo booth also kept the children busy. Delicious pizza, drinks and baked goods, donated by the PTA, filled the crowd's bellies. The adults and children alike had fun taking a chance at the 19 baskets that were raffled off that night. Finally, the lights dimmed and the laughter from the movie began. Thank you to all who attended and helped out. All proceeds benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Eden.



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# ETA Calendar

## General Meetings & Events 2015 - 2016

General meetings are Mondays -3:45 - 5:00 pm

**March 4th/5th** - Winter Leadership Conference  
Hyatt Regency Buffalo

**March 7th** - General Meeting **GLP /Room 29**

**April 11th** - General Meeting **HS Room 124**

**May 9th** - General Meeting **EE /Room 208**

**May TBA** - NYSUT Awards Dinner at Salvatore's

**June 6th** - General Meeting - **TBA**

**June 9th** - Awards & Retirement Dinner

Pearl Street Grill

5:00 cocktails

## Next Dress Down Days

- March 4th - Eden Emergency Squad
- April 1st - Eden Library
- May 6th - Meals on Wheels
- June 3rd - Eden Community Foundation

## Thank You Negotiating Team!

We wish to thank our negotiating team for their hard work and dedication.

Eric Cooper  
Collen Kot  
Kathy DeGroat  
Carrie Hamlet

Paula Farrell  
Janice O'Brien  
Chris Archabald





A BW's fish fry to benefit the **Eden Autism Walk** will take place on Friday, March 4, 2016 from 3:00-6:00PM at the High School. The cost of the fish fry is \$10 and includes fish, potato salad, coleslaw, dinner roll & butter, and tartar sauce. Pick up and drive-thru only. This event is sponsored by the Eden Girls' Athletic Association. If you would like to order a fish fry, please contact Shawn Johnson's office.



## **UPDATE: Child Abuse Mandatory Reporting Requirements for School Employees**

. Abused and neglected children may be found in any classroom in any school in any community. School personnel are in a unique position to observe children daily over periods of time and may be aware that something is not right with a child long before anyone else notices. Local leaders and members are often faced with questions and problems regarding who must report suspected child abuse to whom and under what circumstances.

This Information Bulletin provides the legal requirements for school employees and includes changes to New York State Social Services Law as amended by Chapter 193 of the Laws of 2007, effective October 2007. Chapter 193 defines the term school official, requires mandated reporters to directly report instances of suspected child abuse to the Central Register and inform the person in charge of the school, prohibits a school from retaliation against an employee for making a referral and from imposing any conditions, including approval or prior notification, upon an employee specifically required by social services law to make direct reports.

**There are two ways school employees may be involved in child abuse reporting.**

1. They have a reasonable cause to suspect a child is the victim of abuse or maltreatment by someone in parental relation to the child. (Covered by Social Services Law)
2. They witness or receive allegations of child abuse by an employee or volunteer in an educational setting. (Covered by Education Law) *NOTE:*

*This bulletin updates and replaces NYSUT Information Bulletin #200703.*

Submitted by Tammy Orcutt

# Healthy Schools Zika Virus Prevention

- No vaccine exists to prevent Zika virus disease (Zika).
- Prevent Zika by avoiding mosquito bites (see below).
- Mosquitoes that spread Zika virus bite mostly during the daytime.
- Mosquitoes that spread Zika virus also spread dengue and chikungunya viruses.



When [traveling](#) to countries where Zika virus or other viruses spread by mosquitoes are found, take the following steps:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Stay in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Sleep under a mosquito bed net if you are overseas or outside and are not able to protect yourself from bites.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents. All EPA-registered insect repellents are evaluated for effectiveness.
  - Always follow the product label instructions
  - Reapply insect repellent as directed.
  - Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.
  - If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen before applying insect repellent.
- If you have a baby or child:
  - Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months of age.
  - Dress your child in clothing that covers arms and legs, or
  - Cover crib, stroller, and baby carrier with mosquito netting.
  - Do not apply insect repellent onto a child's hands, eyes, mouth, and cut or irritated skin.
  - Adults: Spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.
- Treat clothing and gear with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated items.
  - Treated clothing remains protective after multiple washings. See product information to learn how long the protection will last.
  - If treating items yourself, follow the product instructions carefully.
  - Do NOT use permethrin products directly on skin. They are intended to treat clothing.

## **If you have Zika, protect others from getting sick**

- During the first week of infection, Zika virus can be found in the blood and passed from an infected person to another mosquito through mosquito bites. An infected mosquito can then spread the virus to other people.
- To help prevent others from getting sick, avoid mosquito bites during the first week of illness.

**Although this is not common, many of us, or our students, will be travelling during the February and Easter breaks. Know the signs and symptoms and how to prevent contacting the disease.** Submitted by Kevin Witman

# *Lorry's Links*



## **Instructables – Project Based Engineering for Kids**

Discover a collection of problem-based learning engineering lessons for building models in the areas of physics, structural, and mechanical engineering. For each topic, a video with step by step construction directions accompanies a necessary list of materials. Create your project, and let the explorations begin. Explore ideas given for basic explanations or ideas to test for some of the buildable models.

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Project-Based-Engineering-for-Kids/>

## **My Storybook**

Get into digital storytelling by creating a colorful short story with the tools offered at My Storybook. There is a basic tutorial when you click Create a Storybook. Get started using clipart from My Storybook, upload your images, or use their draw tools to create your own artwork. Click the text box and change the font, font color, and size. Add more text and pages for your book, too. Saving and sharing require an email address.

<https://www.mystorybook.com/>

## **Science4Us**

Science4Us offers a selection of free resources for K-2 science teachers. View and download entertaining songs, animated lessons, or hands-on projects. Take advantage of the free teacher resources, including 28 free teaching modules for using best practices, cross-curricular teaching strategies, and printable worksheets.

<http://www.science4us.com/free-resources/>

## **Tagxedo**

Tagxedo turns words -- famous speeches, news articles, slogans and themes, even your love letters -- into a visually stunning word cloud, words individually sized appropriately to highlight the frequencies of occurrence within the body of text.

<http://www.tagxedo.com/>



# 5

## *Benefits Of Being a NYSUT Member*



1. Higher pay & better benefits
2. A contract you can rely on
3. A strong voice at work
4. Professional learning

### **5. NYSUT Member Benefits**

**NYSUT members & their families can choose from a variety of insurance, financial, legal, and shopping & travel programs designed with the NYSUT member in mind -- including term life insurance, auto insurance, legal & financial services, car rentals, vacation packages, and much more!**

### **Member Appreciation Month is back again this February!**

Since it was such a big hit last year, we're doing it again! Member Appreciation Month is coming February 2016.

To be eligible for these drawings, all you need to do is participate in our voluntary MAP Alert email service.

This year will be even bigger because it's a leap year... that means more chances to win even more great prizes!!!

Once again, Member Appreciation Month will be filled with a series of special prize drawings for items donated by Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers. Prizes will include gift cards, Beats headphones, a Go Pro camera and more.



We will announce the winners of these special prize drawings exclusively on the Member Benefits website throughout the month of February.

It's the strength of the more than 600,000 NYSUT members that makes it possible for Member Benefits to offer more than 40 endorsed programs & services designed with you in mind.

For more details about this exciting event, visit the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101.



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.

# ***President's Message***

## **The Governor has declared war on public education**

Unfortunately the NY State Superintendents Association supports Tisch and Cuomo's reform agenda: "We welcome the Governor's actions in proposing changes in teacher tenure and dismissal procedures." "The Governor would also clarify the authority of districts to deny tenure at any time, a proposal we strongly support."

<http://blog.nyscoss.org/index.php/more-questons-than-answers-2/>

### **Governor's Proposed Changes:**

50% of teacher evaluation will be tied to growth scores. The local 20% achievement (SLO) will be eliminated, NOT just for those with a state test (math, ELA) but EVERYBODY; State will set rubric. No more scoring bands negotiated with your local building administrator; 35% of your APPR evaluation (observation portion) will be conducted by a state appointed observer. Only 15% of your APPR evaluation will come from local administrator's observations.; This will eliminate collective bargaining's impact in the areas of evaluation at the local level.; Any teacher deemed "ineffective" on the new 50% state score would be deemed ineffective overall (no matter their scores on observation 50%).; Any teacher who receives two consecutive ineffective ratings would not be allowed back into the classroom (eliminating the 3020-A hearing or due process).; Additionally, all of the current 3020-A hearing officers would be replaced with "state employees." The regents seek to replace the last gatekeepers of due process with their own appointees. No student could be scheduled to have an "ineffective" teacher two years in a row. This would likely require **PUBLIC** disclosure of which teachers are "ineffective" for scheduling purposes. Merit pay would be established and would not be collectively bargained. Districts would be empowered to "design innovative compensation models based on educator performance". According to Chancellor Tisch's letter, the ETA would not be privy to the process for how this "compensation" would be doled out and what the criteria would be for merit pay. Teachers will be required to wait five years before they could be granted tenure. Additionally, teacher certification tests will become vastly more challenging. Teachers will need 5 consecutive effective or highly effective ratings to get tenure. process over again!!!

Continued next page➔



## President's Message continued

Schools that do not meet the Governor and Chancellor Tisch's performance expectations, would be closed and replaced with "institutions that are up to the task" which would likely be for-profit charter schools. Additionally, Chancellor Tisch is effectively asking the state legislature for unfettered authority to open and close schools based on metrics (state test scores) that she controls by adjusting cut scores. The Regents and the State Education Department can raise or lower cut scores, and therefore "achievement" gains or losses, at a whim. We have seen this over the past two years as the Common Core assessments become integrated into the APPR. This is, without question, unlimited power for Tisch, the Regents, and the enemies of public education. Furthermore, Tisch seeks to uncap the limit on for-profit charter schools.

### **SO THIS IS WHY.....**

The big push from NYSUT is that all locals need to unite to FIGHT CUOMO! An event to do just that is taking place on February 26, from 6-7:30 PM at the West Seneca HS Auditorium. This is just the start, your PAC team will be sending you information about other upcoming events.

There are many other ways to stay informed and get involved in the "Fight Cuomo" campaign. 1) CHECK THE ETA WEB PAGE for the sample e-mail and contact information for your legislators to ask them to sign the bill that would end the GEA for the 2015-2016. Also on the web page you will find NYSUT's Position Statement on recommended changes to the APPR that will be discussed at the RA in May. 2) Watch the MAC- [mac.nysut.org](http://mac.nysut.org) and [www.facebook.com/nysut](http://www.facebook.com/nysut) action center for upcoming events. 3) Use the MAC's new app that generates text alerts about upcoming actions (simply text the word NYSUT to the Number 38470). 4) Sign up to help in your areas of interest/strength

SUPPORT VOTE-COPE. Our association continues to lead the way in contributions!! Keep up the good work and thanks for your continued support. Our profession is still facing attacks on tenure, voucher schemes, privately run charter schools, and funding cuts. Remember, your voluntary contributions helps advocate for the issues and legislation that are crucial to our profession.

Please stay informed and THINK SPRING!!!!

*Colleen Kot*