

# TOGETHER

## Eden Teacher's Association - January/February



**Mr. Peter  
Griesinger**

NEW TO THE  
MUSIC  
DEPARTMENT!



**Mrs. Karen  
Bosiacki**

This Fall Eden Elementary welcomed **Karen Bosiacki** as general music and 5th and 6th grade chorus teacher. Karen received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from SUNY Fredonia. Prior to coming to Eden, she taught K-5 music from 1998-2008 in the Frontier Central School District. She resigned from her position after her second child was born to stay at home and raise her children. During her time at home, she taught privately, maintaining a piano studio of approximately twenty-five students. The 2015-2016 school year found Karen back at Frontier as a long-term substitute at Blasdell Elementary, teaching general music and chorus. Karen resides in Hamburg with her husband Kevin, and their two children, Jack and Lily. She has felt very welcomed by our staff and really enjoys our Eden students.

Also joining the music staff this year is **Peter Griesinger** as grades 6-12 strings teacher. Peter comes to Eden having previously taught grades 4-12 strings in the Springville CSD for the past 10 years. His teaching experience also includes the Williamsville CSD, and at the college level, The Hartt School of Music and the University of Rochester. Outside of school, Peter is active as a composer. His pieces have been played by professional, college, and secondary groups in WNY. On October 8th his latest composition was premiered at the Eastman School of Music. He has also released a CD "Winter Dream: Pieces for Strings" in 2011. Peter has played in a variety of musical settings including on string bass with the BPO and 3 seasons with the Erie Philharmonic. Within the first few months at Eden, Peter has found his students to be very receptive, and says..."I'm so happy to have found my new musical home here in Eden". Peter resides in Orchard Park with his wife Anne and their three daughters, Caitlin(13), Diana(8) and the newest addition to the family, Frances Juliet.



## LORRY'S LINKS

### **The Mystery of Matter**

If you teach chemistry, you will want to bookmark this valuable resource. View the videos and explore the site information together or flip your classroom and have students view the videos as an introduction to the material. Discover the human story behind the periodic table of elements, and explore how discoveries about atoms changed the scientific world forever. Be sure to go to the section for teachers featuring a teacher's guide, additional videos, and hands-on classroom activities.

<http://www.mysteryofmatter.net/>

### **Design Challenge Learning**

Design Challenge Learning offers several lesson plans correlated to Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards based on STEM concepts. Begin your search by choosing the length of lesson from under an hour, one to two hours, or lessons that cover multiple sessions. Another option provides a five-lesson unit on Seismic Engineering. Each lesson includes questioning prompts, vocabulary, and information on core concepts.

<https://www.thetech.org/educators/design-challenge-learning>

### **Write Reader**

WriteReader is so simple very young students can use it successfully after a demonstration using a whiteboard or projector. While creating their books students will be able to add images, multiple pages and delete pages, include voice-over, use color on the pages, view one page at a time or the entire book, and toggle between letters' names/sounds or no audio. Teachers have their own space on the page to write comments and make corrections. Register with email or your Google account and find a downloadable Teachers Guide, a Parent Letter, and a Lesson Plan online to get kids started with WriteReader. Teachers can Click *Add a Class* and enter students manually, or students can join the class with a class code.

<https://writereader.com/>

### **Edore**

Edore offers Common Core based lessons that connect learning to real life concepts and interests. Sign up to collect and organize lessons, customize materials for your needs, create content, and assign activities. Search by grade level or keyword to find activities based on popular movies, T.V. shows, and sports figures.

<http://edore.org/>

## WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral found in many parts of the world, mined primarily in Canada, South Africa and the United States. Asbestos is literally everywhere!

According to the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), more than 40% of the land area and much of the drinking water of the US contains some level of naturally occurring asbestos.

It has been used since the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans and was prized for its heat resistant properties. There are several types of asbestos fibers. In the past, asbestos was added to a variety of products to strengthen them and to provide heat insulation and fire resistance. Asbestos as a building material made sense before it was discovered to cause health problems. Asbestos is a carcinogen that was used extensively in building materials prior to the 1970s. It's commonly found as duct and pipe insulation, vermiculite attic insulation, ceiling and wall acoustical tiles, cement asbestos siding, and floor tiles (and floor tile adhesives). There are a number of potentially fatal diseases related to inhalation of asbestos fibers including mesothelioma, asbestosis, interstitial fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and lung cancer. Thankfully, asbestos has been banned in the US.

Asbestos is not a single, easily categorized substance such as carbon monoxide or radon. It occurs in a number of different forms and the risks posed by them vary considerably... from minimal to severe. Crocidolite and amosite asbestos, known as amphibole asbestos, are the most dangerous forms. Their fibers cling tenaciously to lung tissue while resisting the body's natural self-cleaning processes. This long term irritation to body tissue can lead to disease and death. Fortunately, these forms of asbestos have been banned for years though some may still exist in older homes.

Chrysotile asbestos, a less toxic form, comprises over 90% of all the asbestos used in the US. This form of asbestos is not nearly as persistent in lung tissue and low level intermittent exposure is not considered to be a health risk to a healthy person.

**In fact, both OSHA and the EPA concur that asbestos is not dangerous unless airborne.**

Even if airborne, many studies of asbestos workers indicate that it takes more than a casual exposure to asbestos dust to cause disease... even over periods as long as 15 to 30 years! Asbestos doesn't "radiate" danger and its mere existence in low levels in your environment is not automatically cause for alarm.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Retirement Dinner

#### WHEN

**Thursday, June 8th, 5pm**

#### WHERE

**76 Pearl Street  
Buffalo, NY**



[Get Directions](#)

## Adopt-A-Highway

### WHEN

Wednesday, May 10th, 3:30pm

### WHERE

8557 North Main Street  
Eden, NY



[Get Directions](#)

### MORE INFORMATION

Consider joining your fellow union members to clean our NEW 2-mile section of Route 62.

## POLITICAL ACTION

There certainly has been a plethora of news about public education these past few weeks (months and years, too!). Since most of us bury our heads, souls, and hearts into our classrooms, staying abreast on the most important information is hard to do. Below is an attempt to highlight some of these headlines:

"President-elect Trump is going to be the best thing that ever happened for school choice and the charter school movement." –former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani

**November 7, 2017**—yes, 10 months from now—you will find a question on your ballot regarding a New York State Constitutional Convention:

- *"Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?"* (NY Const. Art. XIX, Sec. 2). Every 20 years, this question is placed on our ballots. Nine times have New York residents voted to open up a convention. If the masses vote "No", then the issue halts there. If New Yorkers vote "Yes," then begins the potentially lengthy process.
- **November 7, 2017**—Initial vote. If "YES," then...
- November 6, 2018—We, the People, vote for the delegates (*Who do you want to send to the convention?*). These delegates have been campaigning in the months leading up to Nov. 2018
- April 2, 2019—Delegates attend the convention and begin discussions/debates.
- *As early as* November 5, 2019—All registered NYS voters will be asked to ratify (or not) the newly drafted New York State Constitution (reject or amend the amendments).

NYSUT is encouraging its members to mobilize in 2017 to block the opening of a convention. Why?

- The constitution safeguards the right to a free public education, guarantees pension benefits, and the right to unionize/organize
- Estimated cost of a convention: \$300 million (according to the League of Women Voters)
- "The Blaine Amendment"- Article XI: Education -Establishes a Board of Regents
- Article V: NYS employee pensions are a contractual relationship

## POLITICAL ACTION CONT'D

There are a number of *Friedrichs* look-a-like cases heading to the Supreme Court in the near future. The President-Elect will most certainly nominate a conservative nominee (Senator Schumer says he will attempt to oppose *any* Supreme Court nominee for the next 4 years...) that will tip the court into a conservative era

- “Agency fees” will be cut if a *Friedrichs*-type case is overruled, severely crippling the legal and lobbying power of ANY union, including NYSUT, AFT, and NEA—to name a few.
- The Buffalo BOE is retaining lawyer to remove Paladino; BOE cites Paladino violated DASA
- NYS Assembly Speaker, Carl Heastie, called for increased funding for high-needs schools. While this will largely benefit NYC (30% of the NYC school funding relies on this), many are praising Heastie for highlighting the need to fund public schools (rather than focusing solely on SUNY schools). High-needs schools throughout WNY will likely benefit if the so-called “Foundation Aid” becomes reality.

As always, our students, communities, and careers need strong advocates to hold people in power accountable. While it may be difficult to attend a Niagara Square rally or organize peaceful march-in, you do have the power to communicate. Share these notes though conversation, Facebook, Twitter (Trump does!), online petitions, and NYSUT’s own MAC.



**ETA Trivia Night Team – Benefited the Boys & Girls Club of Eden**

# You asked for it... and you got it!

**Third Annual Member Appreciation Month set for February 2017**



## Don't miss out... join MAP!

NYSUT Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers will once again be teaming up for the Third Annual Member Appreciation Month set for February 2017 in recognition of all you do to make *NYSUT union strong*.

To be eligible for these drawings, you simply need to be a member of the voluntary MAP Alert email service or sign up before January 31, 2017.

MAP Alerts are a convenient way to learn about new endorsed programs; updates to current programs; and special offers unique to MAP Alert participants -- without being inundated with emails.

Prize drawings will be held each day, with the winners announced exclusively on the Member Benefits website throughout the month of February.



Win prizes such as Best Buy, Amazon or American Express gift cards; car rental certificates; wireless speakers; an i-Pad Mini; and many more.

**Last's year Grand Prize winner received a free vacation to Orlando, FL!**

We encourage you to spread the word to your colleagues about this special event. **So if you see a phone call or email from us, make sure you answer it!!!**

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.

Jan./Feb. '17

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The budget process is upon us once again. The state continues to put school districts in a position by imposing the tax cap, limiting additional aid, and now giving tax payers a break if the district stays at or below the tax cap and combines services with other districts.

The lines of communication between the ETA and the administrators are better now, than they have been in the past. We have a representative on the budget advisory committee and building principals have solicited our input.

During the next couple of months, it is extremely important that we stand united and act in solidarity.

Remember the strength of a union comes from working together and speaking with a collective voice. An area of concern to all of us is the voting for a Constitutional Convention on November 7, 2017. It is important to realize that a yes vote could alter working conditions, retirement security and our members' ability to provide a sound and basic education. You can stay informed on these two topics by logging into your [nysut.org](http://nysut.org) account, reading the NYSUAT United publication and checking out the ETA website.

Thanks to all of our members for supporting VOTECOPE. We average \$100.00/member. This speaks volumes of our members understanding the importance of political action and the vital role it plays in our professional life. As demands continue to be placed on our profession and the never ending attacks on unions, your voluntary contributions helps advocate for the issues and legislation that are crucial to our profession.

NYSUT continues to hold Albany accountable. They have filed suit saying that the State Education Department's actions on Teacher Improvement Plans violates the state's Taylor Law and teachers' collective bargaining rights. They are encouraging our members to take action NOW at the NYSUAT Member Action Center to tell lawmakers to amend and fix the tax cap. They have been successful in restoring school aid and will continue to work on modifications to the property tax cap.

Please stay informed & Happy Spring!

Colleen Kot

