

DRESS DOWN RECIPIENTS

- September—Mercy Flight
- October— Honor Flight Buffalo
- November—Food Pantry
- December —Warm the Children
- January—Eden Volunteer Fire Department
- February—East Eden Volunteer Fire Department
- March—Eden Emergency Squad
- April—Eden Library
- May—Meals on Wheels
- June—Eden Community Foundation

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New Teacher Feature

Mr. Eric Schultz, Science Teacher

By: Keith Kwas

Please welcome Eric Shultz. Eric comes to us with a wealth of experience; 11 years at Frontier, 2 years at West Seneca West, and 4 years at Lancaster. He has taught a variety of courses but his main focus is Earth Science. Eric earned his Bachelor Degree at SUNY Plattsburg majoring in Geology and completed his Master's degree at UB in Glacial Geology. Eric has been married for 15 years and has 3 little ones that

keep him busy; Lucas-6, Liam-2, and Lily-2. He is also in the process of building his own new house. On top of all of that he is also finishing up his administrative degree. Talk about busy! When he finds the time Eric likes to be



outdoors, hiking, kayaking, camping, hunting, fishing, and trapping. Another interesting fact about Eric is he enjoys making his own wooden longbows to hunt with, from cutting down the tree all the way through to the finished product. When asked what he likes about Eden – “The students are great here! They are very interested, enthusiastic, and want to do well. All of the faculty, staff, and administration have been very welcoming and helpful too. I really enjoy teaching here.” ✨

Mr. Steve Clancy

By: Colleen Griffin

GLP would like to welcome the newest member to our team! We are so fortunate to have Steve Clancy as our new librarian. Mr. Clancy graduated with a BA in journalism and filmmaking and a Masters in Library Science. He has a wealth of experience as a school librarian including 16 years in Niagara/Wheatfield CSD and a year

at Pinnacle Charter in Buffalo. Presently, he also works as Children's Librarian for the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. In a “previous life”, he was a writer and editor! In his spare time, Steve enjoys



hiking, playing guitar and reading. He shares his life with his wife Paula, and his children Alison and Matthew.

Steve loves teaching in Eden! He feels that the staff and kids are awesome. His passion in life is getting students excited about books and reading. This brings him great joy! We welcome Steve with open arms to our GLP family! ✨

ETA Officers 2013-14



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

GLP Reps

General Meetings & Events

March 6/7- Winter Leadership Conference @ Hyatt Regency

Linda Schwanz, Head Rep, 2015

Colleen Griffin, 2016

Linda Schwanz, 2015

March 9—General Meeting @ GLP, Room 29

Main Street Reps

Kevin Witman, Head Rep, 2015

April 13 - General Meeting @ High School, Room 124

Lorry Malkowski, 2016

Amy Witman, 2015

May 4 - General Meeting @ EE, Room 208

Judy Maynard, 2015

Jr./Sr. High Reps

MAY TBA - NYSUT Awards Dinner

Paula Farrell, Head Rep, 2016

June 1- General Meeting @ JPs

Susan Gianiodis, 2015

June 11- Awards & Retirement Dinner at Pearl Street

Olivia Doctor, 2016

Steve Jones, 2015

Keith Kwas, 2015

Lynn Morgan, 2015

Phil Archabald, 2015

Committee Reps 2014-15

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

www.etaunion.org

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

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

In-service Credit Reimbursement: Teachers are encouraged to take in-service courses during non-duty hours. For each block of 5 accumulated approved hours of instruction time, the teacher will be paid a one-time stipend. How much is the stipend for 5 accumulated hours?

Email your answer to JRamaekers@edencsd.wnyric.org by Tuesday, March 3 at noon. All correct entries will be in a drawing for two free movie tickets sponsored by the ETA. One submission per person.

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

TOGETHER

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

Make your dental & vision care a priority!

Well, another year has passed us by and the New Year is upon us! As you take stock of the various resolutions you've made for this year, now is the time to make your dental & vision care a top priority.

Dental Care



The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Dental Plan features the MetLife PDP Plus Network.

The Plan offers easy to understand dental coverage that allows you to:

- Protect you and your family by providing competitively-priced dental coverage for most preventive and routine services that help promote long-term oral health.
- Choose the dentist of your choice at the time of treatment. You do not have to select a primary dentist and there is no ID card to show or referrals needed for specialty care.
- Save on out-of-pocket expenses by receiving services from thousands of participating dentist locations nationwide that agree to charge fees typically 15% to 45% lower than the average charges in your area.

With the MetLife Dental Plan featuring the PDP Plus Network, you'll receive a wide range of benefits that provide choice, savings and convenience to help make your dental health a priority.

Vision Care

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Vision Plan provided by Davis Vision ensures that you are able to obtain proper eye care.



The plan offers a variety of benefits, including:

- One complete eye exam (including glaucoma testing, and when professionally indicated, dilation).
- One pair of eyeglasses (lenses & frames) or contact lenses per benefit period – paid in full according to plan specifications from participating providers.

Once you've enrolled in the plan and you're confirmed, simply call an in-network provider, identify yourself with your name or NYSUT ID number (available on your NYSUT membership card), make an appointment, and use all of the plan benefits at that visit (exam & glasses cannot be split into two appointments).

The provider's office will contact Davis Vision and verify your eligibility for benefits. There are no claim forms or ID cards needed to use the plan.

February is Member Appreciation Month!

Don't forget that NYSUT Member Benefits is teaming up with its endorsed program providers for a special month-long event in **February 2015**.

Member Appreciation Month will feature a special prize drawing each day of the month in February, including a Bose Wave Radio, iPad Mini, several



Amazon Kindles, and a variety of gift cards. The winners of the daily prize drawings will be announced exclusively on the Member Benefits website throughout the month of February.

You **MUST** be a member of the voluntary Member Benefits MAP Alert email service to be eligible for these drawings!

For more details about these endorsed programs or Member Appreciation Month, visit the Member Benefits website at 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.



Lorry's Links

goReact

goREACT offers an addicting interactive that combines elements from the Periodic Table to create virtual reactions. Click any element and drag it to the Reaction Area. Add another element (or a few) and watch what happens! The reactor offers advice for elements to add or you can choose on your own. Click on an element and a small screen provides a short description and its general uses. Use icons on the top right-hand side of the screen to view standard, atomic, ionic, or Lewis Dot versions of the periodic table.

<http://www.msichicago.org/play/goreact/>

The Knotted Line

The Knotted Line is a dynamic, interactive, multilayered timeline that examines the issues of freedom and confinement in U.S. history and into the future. You need to think about the question "How is freedom measured?" while exploring the 50 embedded paintings. The paintings depict historical (and future) moments from 1495-2025. Hover your mouse over images on the timeline to find the red dot. Click to see more information. Each of these links takes you to a short article including links to more information and discussion questions. Be sure to view the link on the home page with Educator Resources. This page contains a PDF download of the curriculum correlated to Common Core Standards and two videos introducing the site.

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

Maptia

Maptia is a bold, beautiful world of thoughtful and inspiring stories told through photographs by photographers, adventurers, and writers. Explore stories categorized by places, themes, and storytellers. Stories focus on portraying an individual perspective of the location and why it matters on a personal level. Find a collection of inspiring stories by people and organizations that are making a difference in many corners of the world. When browsing through offerings, information includes a short synopsis along with the location featured and an estimate of time to read the story. The photos are amazing!

<https://maptia.com/home>

Matific

Matific uses hands-on and interactive mini-games, called episodes, to teach K-6 math. Choose activities by grade level, curriculum, or textbook. Try the activities on a web browser, iOS app, or Android app. Most activities include a teacher's guide providing background information, other activities, and discussion questions.

<https://www.matific.com/us/en-us>

Lorry Malkowski

Raider Recognition



- ✍ Ashly Martella was guest orchestra director for Niagara County Junior High Festival which was held on February 7.

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 any pertinent information to JRamaekers@edencsd.wnyric.org

Social Committee

By Michelle Berne

The ETA Social Committee met recently to discuss ways of uniting our members through out of school events and activities. Besides our big event, the Annual Retirement and Awards Dinner, we would like to offer more social opportunities throughout the school year. In the future, the group would like to establish a calendar, given out at the beginning of the school year, with monthly activities including some that are family-friendly. Listen and watch in your faculty rooms for information on upcoming events and fun dress-down day themes. You may even be rewarded for your participation!

Here's some of the events we are working on in the upcoming months:

- March (TBD)- Happy Hour at Hamburg Brewery
- April 25- Buffalo Bandits Game
- June 11- Retirement and Awards Dinner at Pearl Street Grill
- June 25- Corporate Challenge (Same as graduation)

Committee members include Michelle Berne, Shana Cole, Courtney Hanania, Amy Porter, Matt Saramak, and Sherri Stoneberg from the Jr/Sr High School. Names were gathered from an ETA interest survey earlier this year but we are always looking for more ideas, especially from the GLP and EE! If interested in the Social Committee, please contact Michelle Berne.

Political Action

By Amy McConeghy-Witman

Myth vs. Reality: Please visit this website regarding the 11 myths in Gov. Cuomo's anti-public education propaganda. <http://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/all-kids-need/myth-vs-reality>

Health & Safety

By Tammy Orcutt

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

| DISEASES and the VACCINES THAT PREVENT THEM |

Measles and the Vaccine (Shot) to Prevent It

Last updated July 2014

The best way to protect against measles is to get the measles-mumps-rubella shot (called the MMR shot). Doctors recommend that all children get the MMR shot.

Why should my child get the MMR shot?

The MMR shot:

- Protects your child from measles, a potentially serious disease (and also protects against mumps and rubella)
- Prevents your child from getting an uncomfortable rash and high fever from measles
- Keeps your child from missing school or childcare (and keeps you from missing work to care for your sick child)

Is the MMR shot safe?

Yes. The MMR shot is very safe, and it is effective at preventing measles (as well as mumps and rubella). Vaccines, like any medicine, can have side effects. But most children who get the MMR shot have no side effects.

What are the side effects?

Most children do not have any side effects from the shot. The side effects that do occur are usually very mild, such as a fever or rash. More serious side effects are rare. These may include high fever that could cause a seizure (in about 1 person out of every 3,000 who get the shot) and temporary pain and stiffness in joints (mostly in teens and adults).

Is there a link between the MMR shot and autism?

No. Scientists in the United States and other countries have carefully studied the MMR shot. None has found a link between autism and the MMR shot.

What is measles?

Measles is a serious respiratory disease (in the lungs and breathing tubes) that causes a rash and fever. It is very contagious. In rare cases, it can be deadly.

What are the symptoms of measles?

Measles starts with a fever that can get very high. Some of the other symptoms that may occur are:

- Cough, runny nose, and red eyes
- Rash of tiny, red spots that start at the head and spread to the rest of the body
- Diarrhea
- Ear infection



Doctors recommend that your child get 2 doses of the MMR shot for best protection. Your child will need one dose at each of the following ages:

- 12 through 15 months
- 4 through 6 years

Infants 6 months to 11 months old should have 1 dose of MMR shot before traveling abroad.



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Teacher Center News

By Kathy DeGroat

Coming: Literacy Ed Camp (FREE dinner provided)

Come to the center from 4:30 to 8:00 pm on April 21 to share your knowledge of literacy as well as any other challenges. You will have the opportunity to meet with other professionals and hopefully, leave with new strategies or solutions. There will be door prizes as well. Go to <http://www.e2ccb.org> and click on the <forms> link to register for the day. The password is ectc.

New Equipment: iScribe smartpens

The center has recently purchased a set of smartpens for reservation. These pens can create pencasts (audio from notes), record lessons or thoughts and play back while reviewing the notes later, and have built in calculator options with the specialized paper included. This is just a short list of what you can do with them. The first training class has taken place and a few Eden teachers participated. Look for upcoming classes to learn more and have the ability to try one out in your classroom.

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-questions-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. One developing or ineffective rating starts the process over again!!! 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 and 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

