

TOGETHER

Eden Teacher's Association - November/December 2017

NEW FACES AT THE GLP!



Sarah Fiorella & Kristi Heidt

Kristi Heidt is currently working with the Special Ed Department at both the GLP and Elementary Buildings. Kristi completed both her under and graduate studies at Buffalo State. She holds certifications Birth – Grade 6 in Early Childhood, Childhood, and Special Education. Kristi says she's been working with children in some capacity since she was thirteen years old. She has taught pre-school through sixth grade, primarily in special education. Kristi lives in Lakeview with her husband and three sons. She enjoys scrapbooking and baking. She says, "I am excited to join the Eden School District. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with the excellent students and families that make Eden so special."

Sarah Fiorella is currently teaching Kindergarten at GLP. Sarah attended SUNY Fredonia and left with her degree in Early Childhood/Childhood Education. Her graduate work took place at Canisius College where she completed a master degree in Differentiated Instruction with a Certification in Special Education. Sarah is no stranger to Eden. She has subbed here for the past two years, and started the year in the part-time Special Ed position. Sarah also taught in Plymouth England in the summer of 2014! Sarah is currently residing in Eden. She is a member of Buffalo Clown Alley. Maybe that's why the kids in her class always seem so happy! Sarah says, "I am so excited to be working with such amazing teachers! I pinch myself every day when I walk into my very own classroom!"

ETA HOLIDAY PARTY

Over thirty ETA members gathered on December 5th at JP's Pub in Lakeview to celebrate the holiday season. After a short monthly meeting, members enjoyed appetizers and beverages, with drinks provided by AXA Financial.

Kim Mangino was the winner of the "Ho, Ho, Ho" door prize. Many also participated in a bottle gift exchange.

Thanks to all who attended, and we hope more can join the party next year!

SAVE THE DATES!

Spring Adopt-A-Highway

WHEN

Wednesday, May 10th 2017 at 3:30pm

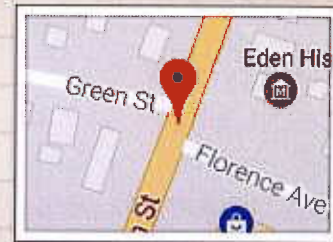
WHERE

**U.S. 62
Eden, NY**

MORE INFORMATION

Our section of Route 62 was moved closer to Eden Elementary! We will meet at the Eden Ale House @ 3:30pm. Please consider joining us for a quick highway clean-up followed by camaraderie with colleagues!

"Many hands make light work" -John Heywood



[Get Directions](#)

DISTRICT RETIREMENT DINNER

WHEN

Thursday, June 8th 2017 at 5pm

WHERE

**76 Pearl Street
Buffalo, NY**

MORE INFORMATION

This is a great evening to celebrate with our retirees, special honorees, and each other. Please watch your email and your respective faculty room for more specific information on these events as the time gets nearer. Volunteers are always welcomed! Please contact Michelle Berne for more information.



[Get Directions](#)

NYSUT MEMBER BENEFITS ANNOUNCES 4 NEW ENDORSED PROGRAMS!



Office Depot/OfficeMax

This program offers NYSUT members & their families the opportunity to save up to 80% on almost 100,000 products in all Office Depot/OfficeMax locations or online through the company's website; the average savings on items is approximately 30%. NYSUT members can save on school supplies, office supplies, ink & toner, copying & printing, and much more.

Tunstall Medical Alert

Tunstall offers a variety of medical alert products that ensure NYSUT members and/or their family members living alone can get quick assistance when they need it; the majority of Tunstall's products have a lightweight, waterproof activator that can be worn around the neck or wrist.

When pushed, the Tunstall activator signals a base unit that in turn communicates directly with the Tunstall 24/7/365 Emergency Response Center. Tunstall offers personal emergency response systems for both traditional landline and cell phone users that directly connect with the Tunstall Emergency Response Center when the activator button is pushed.

Premier World Discovery

This program offers a variety of group tour vacations designed for active adult American travelers specializing in domestic and international worldwide tours. NYSUT members & their family members who use the Premier

World Discovery program can save \$100 per person on specific tours and cruises.

Since the company's inception in 1999, Premier World Discovery has developed a lineup of more than 70 travel programs around the globe, including fully-escorted tours, unique rail tours, private-chartered European river cruises, festive holiday and New Year's getaways, and more.

Abenity Discounts

The Abenity discounts program gives NYSUT members access to approximately 290,000 exclusive member discounts across 10,000 U.S. cities, including discounted tickets for entertainment & sporting events; a variety of travel opportunities; and numerous local deals.

With the Abenity discounts program, you'll be able to enjoy substantial savings on tickets to the latest blockbuster movies or theater events, theme parks, museums & attractions, zoos, major appliances/televisions, restaurants, groceries, gym memberships, and much more!

NYSUT members can utilize their Abenity discounts program on any mobile device and gain access to exclusive local deals no matter where you are. Purchase tickets to more than 3,000 movie theaters and theme parks. There are no hidden fees and you'll receive electronic tickets immediately!

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit 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.



NYSTRS Retirement Checklist



6 Steps to Collecting Your Retirement Benefit

For Those Planning to Retire Soon

- 1 Attend a PREP Seminar.**
These free seminars, offered year-round and open to all, cover NYSTRS benefits, financial planning, Social Security, estate planning and more. MyNYSTRS account holders can make reservations online. All others call (800) 348-7298, Ext. 8180.
- 2 Schedule a Consultation.**
Meet with a NYSTRS representative, in person or by live video, to discuss your retirement questions. Run estimates for deferred retirement rates and discuss the various payment options available to you. Book an appointment through MyNYSTRS or call (800) 348-7298, Ext. 8100.
- 3 Understand Your Payment Options Before Choosing.**
Members who select the lump payment option often face difficult financial and emotional challenges later. Avoid this mistake at all costs! Read our pamphlet *Maximum or no Option? Choosing a Benefit Payment Right for You*, available in the Library at NYSTRS.org.
- 4 Apply for Retirement With NYSTRS.**
Retiring from your employer does NOT automatically trigger retirement benefit payments. You must also file an *Application for Retirement (RET-64)* with the Retirement System in order to receive your monthly pension payment.
- 5 Know When to File Your Retirement Application.**
File too early (more than 90 days before your official date of retirement) and the application will not be valid. File on your date of retirement if you wish, but make sure your date of retirement is at least one day after your contract with your employer expires. File before June 10 if you want to receive your first payment in July.
- 6 Remember: You Have a Limited Window for Withdrawing or Changing the Terms of Your Retirement.**
From your date of retirement you have 34 days to withdraw your retirement application and 30 days to change your benefit payment option. NYSTRS must receive the paperwork no later than day 34 or 30. State law does not allow for exceptions.

Questions? Speak with a NYSTRS representative by calling (800) 348-7298, Ext. 8250.

10 Corporate Woods Drive • Albany, NY 12211-2395 • (800) 348-7298

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have a seat on the budget advisory committee to continue to voice our needs and concerns for the upcoming school year. This year's representative is Carrie Hamlett. Please bring any budget concerns you have to her or to me.

Your political action committee continues to keep busy. Thanks to Kevin Witman for running another successful VOTE-COPE drive and to all our members who have contributed.

Our organization continues to support the many charitable activities sponsored by the Eden Community. Thank you Amy Steger & Morgan Theophilus for organizing the fall Adopt-A-Highway clean up. Thank you to Linda Schwanz, who is organizing this year's movie night.

We need to get on board with NYSUT and be committed to defend tenure and collective bargaining rights, to stand against privatization and unaccountable charter schools, to stop excessive testing and unfair teacher evaluations, stop excessive testing and unfair teachers' evaluations. One way to do this is to sign up for NYSUT's Action Center at mac.NYSUT.org

Wishing everyone a great Winter break to spend time with family and friends.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Colleen Kot