

**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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TOGETHER

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2014

New Teacher Feature

Ms. Erin Farley, Special Education

By: Christine Polek

The Special Education and Social Studies Department members welcomed Erin Farley to the faculty at the Eden Jr./Sr. High School. Erin splits her teaching day between 7 Grade Special Education and High School Global Studies classes. She also teaches a section of Geography and helps students in the learning lab. Erin

taught 7th and 11th Grade Social Studies in the Newfane District and was a teaching assistant at Stanley G. Falk School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music with a concentration in history from Buffalo State. She continued her studies at D'Youville College and Medaille College earning her Master of Science in



Education and certification in Special Education. Erin travels from Lockport and is often the first teacher in the building. Her love of teaching and passion is shown daily in her dedication to her students. Erin is newly married and looks forward to her weekends with her husband who works in Binghamton and commutes home on weekends. They have a three year old beagle named Gidget. In her spare time, Erin loves to read and is a die hard Bills fan. Erin is fortunate to have such a passionate and talented teacher. ❀

Ms. Corinne Nelsen

By: Darlene Noecker

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome new teacher Corinne Nelsen to Eden Jr/Sr High. Corinne was hired over the summer as a Special Education Teacher. She has over ten years of teaching experience in a variety of settings and has many great stories to share. She is currently working as an 11 Grade US History Teacher, 7/8 Grade Social Studies

Teacher, 10 Grade Global Studies Regents Review, 8 Grade Science and 11 Grade Resource Room Teacher. Corinne is from the Town of Tonawanda and currently resides there. Corinne received her Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education with a concentration in Social Studies and her Master of Science in Special Education from Niagara University. Corinne enjoys rooting

for the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres, gardening and serving as a member of the Erie County Youth Board. Each day Corinne brings a smile and her love of teaching to the classroom! ❀



ETA Movie Night-Saturday, January 31

By: Tom Wall

This year for the ETA Family Movie Night we will be showing Disney's Frozen. We will again be holding a basket raffle before the movie and I'll be counting on departments and grade levels joining forces to donate some great baskets to help make the night another big success for Eden's Boys and Girls Club. In place of the spaghetti dinner this year, the Boys and Girls club will be leading some crafts and games for the kids before

the movie (some early ideas: making a princess crown/Sven antlers, pin the nose on Olaf – any other crafty people out there with ideas, please let me know). We are also going to invite the kids to come dressed up as their favorite movie character and we're looking to get some high school students/B&G club employees to lead the crowd in singing some of their favorite songs during the movie.

The early crafts and games will run from 5 – 6:15 in the HS cafeteria and the movie will begin at 6:30 in the HS Aud. If anyone is able to help during the night, please contact Tom Wall. Thank you for your continued support of this event. ❀

ETA Officers 2013-14



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

General Meetings & Events

November 3 - General Meeting
@ GLP, Room 29

December 8 - General Meeting
@JPs

January 5 - General Meeting @
High School, Room 124

January 31—Movie Night, HS

February 2 - General Meeting @
EE, Room 208

March TBA - Winter Leadership
Conference @ Hyatt Regency

March 9—General Meeting @
GLP, Room 29

April 13 - General Meeting @
High School, Room 124

May 4 - General Meeting @ EE,
Room 208

MAY TBA - NYSUT Awards
Dinner

June 1- General Meeting @ JPs

June TBA- Awards & Retirement
Dinner at Templeton Landing

GLP Reps

Carol King, Head Rep, 2015

Colleen Griffin, 2016

Linda Schwanz, 2015

Main Street Reps

Kevin Witman, Head Rep, 2015

Lorry Malkowski, 2016

Amy Witman, 2015

Judy Maynard, 2015

Jr./Sr. High Reps

Paula Farrell, Head Rep, 2016

Susan Gianiodis, 2015

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**

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

Protecting your family for the future



It's important that your family members are financially protected throughout their lives. Have you stopped to consider what would happen to your spouse and/or children if you were to suddenly pass away?

Would your loved ones be able to continue to live in their home, pay regular bills and maintain a comfortable lifestyle? What about your final medical, burial or funeral expenses?

And it's not a question of just having a life insurance policy... make sure you have *enough* coverage to provide for your family. Find a plan that's right for you and your specific financial situation.

Plans designed specifically for NYSUT members

As NYSUT members, it makes prudent sense to look into the Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. Both of these plans offer specific terms and rates designed exclusively with NYSUT members and their families in mind.

The **Term Life Plan** is available for NYSUT members and their spouses/domestic partners under age 85. If you are under age 65, you can apply for coverage from \$25,000 up to \$1 million at premiums negotiated specifically for NYSUT members.

Meanwhile, the **Level Term Life Plan** offers terms for 10, 15 or 20-year periods. The premium that you start with is projected to remain the same and the benefit amount will not decrease throughout the term – regardless of your age or health condition.

You can enjoy an **additional savings of 15%** on published rates if your local association has approved automatic deductions from your paycheck or pension check and you sign up for that benefit.

To learn more about the Member Benefits-endorsed Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans, call **800-626-8101** or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Member Appreciation Month is coming!

NYSUT Member Benefits wants to start the New Year off right with a celebration of the entire NYSUT membership.

These offers will continue into February 2015, which has been designated as Member Appreciation Month!

It's the strength of the more than 600,000 NYSUT members that makes it possible for Member Benefits to offer approximately 50 endorsed programs & services designed with you in mind.

This special celebration will be kicking off in January 2015 with the arrival of your new membership cards. This mailing will include a variety of special offers only available to NYSUT members.



This will be a month filled with a series of special prize drawings for items donated by our endorsed program providers. To be eligible for these drawings, all you need to do is be a participant in our voluntary MAP Alert email service.

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

For more details about this exciting event, 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

Fake Ticket Generator

Create your own novelty tickets. Choose from two different ticket styles and enter information such as row and seat numbers, event title and place, and date of the event. After entering information, click "Make My Ticket!" to view and save your ticket in JPEG format. Ask your students to use the Fake Ticket Generator to create excitement for class presentations. Have them create tickets and hand them out to other students to use to be admitted to class for their presentation. Create tickets to hand out to students at the beginning of any unit to create interest and excitement. Make tickets to give to parents as invitation to Meet the Teacher night, Science and Book Fairs, PTO meetings, and more.

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

Above the Influence

This site is operated by the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign and mixes a bit of teen entertainment news with plenty of information on the destructive and dangerous effects of using drugs. Uses stories from real teens along with star-power and hip graphics to address not only teen drug use, but other issues relevant to today's adolescents.

<http://abovetheinfluence.com/>

Have Fun with History

Have Fun with History offers a large selection of history videos on American History topics. These videos are a MUST see! Browse through videos coinciding with monthly topics or sort by people and events. Search using the timelines (People Timeline and Events Timeline). Use the search bar to locate content by specific topic. Videos include links to similar topics and related activities.

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

Innovative Classroom

Find "ready to use" lessons, thematic units, classroom management ideas, and much more at this one-stop resource for elementary teachers. Explore the reproducibles section to find templates for science observation, an excellent Problems with Dice activity, and an Internet usage survey. After choosing a reproducible, be sure to look on the right side of the page for other reproducibles not listed on the main page. The Innovative Classroom also contains an extensive list of center activity ideas, class certificates, and bulletin board suggestions.

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

Have a great Christmas break!!!

Lorry

Raider Recognition



- ✍ Amy Stegar— Achieved the highest honor of National Board Certification.
- ✍ Joann Ramaekers— Award from ECC Advanced Studies Program for outstanding dedication.

This feature is dedicated to recognize teachers for awards, accomplishments, etc. In order to make this feature successful, please email any pertinent information to JRamaekers@edencsd.wnyric.org

Health & Safety

By Kevin Witman & Tammy Orcutt

FLU: This years strain of the flu virus has mutated and that has scientists concerned. This season could be more severe than previous seasons, which could lead to more hospitalizations and deaths. Although the vaccine is not as protective, the CDC is still recommending getting it. Here are two links to facts and info about the virus and about flu season.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2014-2015.htm>

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

Any teacher or teaching assistant who has submitted in writing his/her resignation for retirement under the NYSTRS to the BOE before December 31 to be effective July 1 may convert the teacher's or teaching assistant's accrued sick days at what rate of pay per day?

Email your answer to JRamaekers@edencsd.wnyric.org by Tuesday, December 23 at noon. All correct entries will be in a drawing for two free movie tickets sponsored by the ETA. One submission per person.

FLU.GOV Know what to do about the flu.

Flu Season Is Here Get Vaccinated Today

Who should get the vaccine?

- EVERYONE 6 MONTHS OF AGE AND OLDER** should get the flu vaccine. Seasonal flu vaccines have a very good safety track record.
- PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK** It is especially IMPORTANT TO GET THE VACCINE IF YOU, SOMEONE YOU LIVE WITH, OR SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR IS AT HIGH RISK of complications from the flu.
 - Children & Infants
 - Pregnant Women
 - Seniors
 - People with Disabilities
 - People with Health Conditions
 - Travelers & People Living Abroad

Can I get the flu from the vaccine?

- NO, YOU CAN'T GET THE FLU** from the flu vaccine. The flu vaccine protects you from the flu, not the common cold. But you may experience some side effects.
- MILD REACTIONS** such as soreness, headaches, and fever are common side effects of the flu vaccine.

How should I get the vaccine?

There are **TWO TYPES** of vaccine, the flu shot and the nasal spray. Both protect against the same virus strains.

- FLU SHOT**: Made with inactivated (killed) flu virus. Given by needle. Approved for use in healthy people older than 6 months and people with chronic health conditions.
- NASAL SPRAY**: Made with weakened live flu virus. Given with a mist sprayed in your nose. Approved for healthy people between the ages of 2 and 49, except pregnant women.

When should I get the vaccine?

Get your flu shot or spray **TODAY**. Flu season usually peaks in January or February, but it can occur as late as May. **EARLY IMMUNIZATION IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE**, but it is not too late to get the vaccine in December, January or beyond.

Where can I get the vaccine?

Visit **FLU.GOV** and use the **FLU VACCINE FINDER**.
 Flu Vaccine Finder: Enter Zip Code, Community HealthMap.

FLU.GOV A federal government website managed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. - Washington, D.C. 20201

Adopt-A-Highway

By Nicole Lauer



Pictured above from left to right: Katherine LaVerdi, Judy Maynard, Amy Steger, Morgan Theophilus, Christine McTigue, Nicole Lauer, Susan Engle, Chrissy Polek, Linda Pace, Jason Kuczkowski, Larry Millson and Katie Mathis. Absent from photo is Vanessa Zoll

For over five years the Eden Teachers' Association (ETA) has been part of the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Retired Eden Social Studies Teacher, Pete Vanderburgh and 2nd grade teacher, Sandy Wess-Rishel, started this effort. Though retired, Mr. Vanderburgh continues to be active in the district by volunteering his time at the Eden Grover L. Preiss Primary Building. After managing this project for several years, Mrs. Wess-Rishel recently turned over the reins to teachers Amy Steger and Nicole Lauer.

The ETA is responsible for cleaning up trash and debris for a two-mile stretch along Route 62 between Eden and North Collins. The ETA conducts their trash pick-up every fall and spring, with approximately 15 teachers working together to get the job done.

When you see the orange bags of trash along Route 62 in Eden, know that your Eden Central School District teachers have been hard at work making the town a beautiful place. ✨

Sick Bank

By Joann Ramaekers

The 2014-2015 school year began on a positive note for the Eden Sick Bank members. In addition to five new memberships, existing members did not have to donate time into the sick bank. We currently have 103 members and we will exceed the 300 day requirement by the district. Remember as a member of the sick bank, withdrawals may be made in connection with a long-term illness or catastrophic injury. For more information regarding sick bank withdrawals, please refer to the contract Section 6.2



Reminder: ETA Movie Night on Saturday, January 31 at Eden High School

Movie—Frozen

Crafts and Games—5 to 6:15

Movie Begins—6:30

Facts *about* **Ebola** in the U.S.

You **CAN'T** get Ebola
through **AIR**



You **CAN'T** get Ebola
through **WATER**



You **CAN'T** get Ebola
through **FOOD** grown or
legally purchased in the U.S.



You can only get Ebola from

- Touching the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola.
- Touching contaminated objects, like needles.
- Touching infected fruit bats or primates (apes and monkeys).



President's Message



We have a seat on the Budget Advisory Team (BAT) Committee to continue to voice our needs and concerns for the upcoming school year. This year's representative is Kathy Klopp. Please bring any budget concerns you have to her or to me.

Your political action committee continues to keep busy. A shout goes out to Mark Vona for contacting our retirees asking them to support VOTE-COPE.

Our organization continues to support the many charitable activities sponsored by the Eden Community. Thank you Nicole Lauer and Amy Steger for organizing the fall Adopt-A-Highway clean up. A great article was placed in the Hamburg Sun. Thank you Keith Kwas.

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned the member surveys. If you checked an area of interest, your name was given to the committee chair.

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, to stop excessive testing and unfair teachers' evaluations. One way to do this is to sign up for NYSUT's Action Center at <https://mac.nysut.org/>

Also, if you haven't already, please sign the Gap Elimination Petition that Sandy Anzalone has put on the ECSD web page. This in conjunction with the tax cap continues to inadequately fund education, eliminating programs and leaving our students holding the short end of the stick.

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Colleen Kot

