

Together

EDEN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION - SEPT/OCT 2016

MEET SOME OF OUR NEW TEACHERS!



GABRIELLE
RODRIGUEZ AND BRAD
AGEN



MADISON WEBER



HEATHER RADDER

NEW TO EDEN ELEMENTARY...

We are delighted to welcome our newest reading teacher, **Madison Weber**, to Eden Elementary! A resident of Orchard Park, Madison has been teaching for five years and came to Eden from West Buffalo Charter School where she taught first and third grade. She attended Buffalo State College and earned her master's degree in literacy. She also holds special/childhood education certificates. She recently got married, has a dog named Lucy, and a cat named Tink. She enjoys hiking, walking her dog, and cooking. She is a great addition to our school and we couldn't be more excited to welcome her here!

Heather Radder is the new addition to 6th grade at Eden Elementary. She comes to us from Amherst where she taught 8th grade English. Rochester was originally home to Heather. She attended Nazareth Academy and played basketball and volleyball which she continued to play in college. At Medaille, Heather received her Bachelors in Education with a minor in English, and Masters in Education with Literacy. Currently, Heather lives in Cheektowaga with her husband Dave. This time of year it will be hard to track her down as she continues to assistant coach basketball in Amherst.

JSHS SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Gabrielle Rodriguez comes to us from Olean High School where she taught Math and Special Education. She is thrilled to continue her career at Eden and enthusiastically puts her best foot forward daily. She completed her undergraduate studies in Math Education at Fredonia and completed her Master of Science in Education specializing in Students with Disabilities at Buffalo State. Gabbie is a Hamburg native and is happy to be working close to home. She is a huge Bills fan and also plays and coaches Rugby for the Hamburg Club. She enjoys the outdoors and spends time hiking and kayaking. Gabbie is a wonderful addition to the Special Education Department at the Jr. Sr. High School.

The Special Education Department welcomes **Brad Agen** to the Eden Junior Senior High School. He earned his Bachelor Degree in History and Special Education from Brockport, and his Master Degree in Economics from Buffalo State. Brad began his teaching career working part-time at Alden High School where he taught Resource and Study Skills classes. More recently, he was a teacher at Lafayette High School for three years where he was the Jack of many trades. He taught anywhere from Math, Algebra, Resource, Social Studies as well as co-taught in a Social Studies class. Brad is also the Program Coordinator for the Cheektowaga Conservation Core. This group is for youth ages 16-23 and they are responsible as stated from Brad for "building decks in the forest." They also clean nature trails and have an Environment Science Program. He enjoys sports and is a Bills fan. He loves to spend time with his family and helping with his niece and nephew.

ERIE CATT TEACHER CENTER

It's course time again at the Teacher Center! Courses run from 3 hours to 15 hours, you can use pre-approved courses towards your stipend, and they are **FREE!**

Are you using iPads with students with disabilities and not sure how to effectively incorporate the technology? Now that we are transitioning to Google classroom, would you like to get some additional training? Are you a K-5 math teacher looking for addition/subtraction strategies and how to incorporate problem solving? Would you like to find out what maker spaces are all about?

Take a look to see what classes aren't full yet and see if there is something of interest to you. <http://www.e2ccb.org/webpages/ectc/catalog.cfm?subpage=1991403>

Based on teacher responses to the end of year survey, the policy board rejects some course submissions to have enough room for the topics of interest. The instructors are paid and there is a minimum number of participants required for a class to occur. Please consider your schedule carefully when you register for a class so that those that want to take the class are included and that the minimum requirement is met.

We are lucky to have these **FREE** courses :)

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Thirteen ETA members participated in our Adopt-A-Highway on October 17! This is an increase from the past few years, and made the clean-up much faster.

We have moved our 2-mile stretch closer to Eden Elementary. We now have mile markers 1126-1146. We are hoping this makes it easier to clean-up and more appealing to members.

Please keep an eye out for the Spring date!

ELECTION DAY!

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 is Election Day In the United States. Please make sure that you and your family/friends are registered to vote.

As many of you know, the races that are happening all over the country are all very important. Decision 2016 is not only about filling a presidential vacancy, it is about so many issues that will influence our future as a nation and our future as educators. Here are some reasons as to why you need to vote in November:

- 1/3 of all U.S. Senators are up for reelection this year, including NY's Charles Schumer. NYSUT publicly backs Senator Schumer.
- All 435 seats of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for grabs (Quick Civics Lesson: U.S. Reps serve 2-year terms). NYSUT is publicly backing Rep. Brian Higgins (26th District) and Diana Kastenbaum (27th District). ETA members live across various congressional districts.
- *We still have a split Supreme Court.* For more than 200 days now, Congress has refused to accept President Obama's nominee for U.S. Supreme Court, leaving the American public with four conservative justices and four liberal justices. The next president (NYSUT backs Hillary Clinton) will fill this vacancy. Choose wisely.

At this point, every registered voter should have received (or will be receiving) information from your registered county. Information includes polling location and party affiliation. Please note: If you have recently changed your political party enrollment, this will not become effective until after November 8. There are a lot of educational issues/questions that lie ahead of us. If these issues fall into the hands of candidates who should not even be around children, then we are establishing a future which will be incredibly difficult to reverse or fix in the future. Choose wisely.



LORRY'S LINKS

Where in the World?

It's a great activity to play together on your interactive whiteboard when you have a few extra minutes of class time. Guess the secret location? Explore landmarks from all over the world and try to guess the country where you are located. Begin by choosing your interests from categories such as history or entertainment. Begin play, but think quickly! Choose the correct location of each image within 12 seconds before it is marked wrong. As you select an answer, information is provided about the location of the correct response.

<http://www.superbreak.com/inspiration/where-in-the-world#>

Does Your Vote Count? The Electoral College explained.

Share this video on an interactive whiteboard (or projector) as part of any election unit. Many students (and adults) don't fully understand the role of the Electoral College in presidential elections. Does Your Vote Count? is a YouTube video providing a clear explanation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9H3gynN468&feature=youtu.be>

Kiddle

Kiddle is a search engine for kids powered by Google Custom Search, and it provides results oriented for kids. Results appear with larger thumbnails and large font to make reading the results easier. Search options include web, image, video, and news options. Inappropriate searches result with an "Oops, try again!" message.

<http://www.kiddle.co/>

Random Name Picker

The obvious use for this tool is for selecting students to answer a question or do an activity. Other uses could include forming groups/pairs or creating seating charts. Allow students to use it when it's time to choose the next student. Instead of names, enter activities for P.E., rainy day recess activities, the next book your class will read together, or anything where you need to make a choice. You may want to save one wheel as a template when you know you'll be selecting several students. That way you can remove names from the list on the wheel you are using, but will have the original for the next time.

<http://www.classtools.net/random-name-picker/>

These and many more resources are avail on the union's website -

www.etaunion.org

THE NYSTRS RETIREE



Statistical Highlights

Statistics provide historical perspective, context and detail. When considered alongside financial statements, an accurate assessment of NYSTRS' economic condition is revealed.

For more robust statistical analysis, refer to NYSTRS' full Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) at NYSTRS.org.

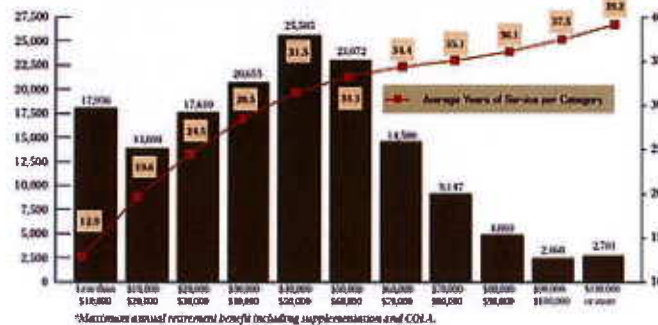
Statistics show that NYSTRS members work long and hard to earn their pensions. About 54% of those receiving a retirement benefit work an average of 31 years or more to earn it. More than 70,000 of our retirees, or about 46%, earn less than \$40,000 a year. Another 30% earn pensions ranging between \$40,000 and \$60,000 annually.

As the chart below illustrates, less than 2.0% of the approximately 158,000 people receiving a NYSTRS pension earn more than \$100,000 a year. Most importantly, those individuals worked an average of almost 40 years to earn their pensions.

Some additional statistical highlights:

- The average benefit for all service retirees is \$40,689, representing about 56% of a member's final average salary at retirement.
- 50% of active members have 10 years or less of service.

Distribution of the Annual Benefit* of All Retired Members — as of June 30, 2015



SAVE THE DATE!!

ETA CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHEN

MONDAY, DEC. 5TH, 3:45PM

WHERE

1986 LAKEVIEW ROAD
LAKE VIEW, NY

MORE INFORMATION

As with last year, the monthly ETA meeting will precede appetizers, cash bar, a bottle gift exchange, and holiday cheer! Come out and celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with your colleagues!



[Get Directions](#)

ETA MOVIE NIGHT

WHEN

SATURDAY, JAN. 28TH 2017 AT 5PM

WHERE

8289 NORTH MAIN STREET
EDEN, NY



[Get Directions](#)

MORE INFORMATION

There will once again be a basket raffle for grade levels and departments to organize. Movie offering, time and more information is to come.

DISTRICT RETIREMENT DINNER

WHEN

THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH 2017 AT 5PM

WHERE

76 PEARL STREET
BUFFALO, NY



[Get Directions](#)

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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

DONOR'S CHOOSE

No one likes asking for money, especially from family and friends, so you may have never considered creating a Donor's Choose project.

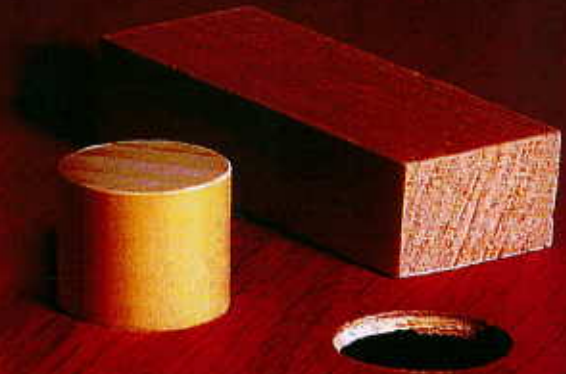
Did you know that companies and organizations fund Donor's Choose projects?

Many teachers across the district received funding from Target this summer to support flexible seating and healthy eating options in their classrooms. There are many Facebook groups that inform you of projects currently being funded by organizations. *Caring Classrooms* is one of the best! Start following them and be open to the possibilities :)

Financial advice shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all approach!

Are you looking for unbiased, objective advice *specifically designed* for you and your family? With the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program, you've found it.

Stacey Braun Associates -- the program provider -- understands our members' benefits & retirement options and can work with you to address your specific financial needs.



Learn more by calling 800-626-8101
or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Get expert legal assistance today!

You can get legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters ranging from dealing with a traffic violation to handling real estate transactions with the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan.

Easy Online
Enrollment!

The program offers:

- Low annual cost of just \$85 (\$55 for retirees)
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
- Includes Simple Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy & Living Will
- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney

Learn more by calling 800-626-8101
or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG UNION

In 1967, the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act "Taylor Law" was passed. This law gave educators the right to organize and bargain for the teachers in their union, but prohibits them from striking. In 1982- Triborough was added to the Taylor Law, which allows the terms of an expired agreement (contract) to remain in full force. Governor Cuomo would like to see this go away. Without a union, there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of the press, and you are guilty until proven innocent. We cannot allow tenure (which guarantees us due process before being fired) to be abolished.

The strength of the ETA will be as strong as our members make it. An informed member knows the role of the union and what it can do for its members. It is never too late to get involved. Don't wait until you need the union, the union **NEEDS YOU!** You are the eyes and ears of the union. If something doesn't seem or sound right, check it out to prevent it from becoming a possible problem.

It is the duty of the union to represent its members and that means **ALL** of its members. Concerns should be brought to your building rep. If it appears that it is a contractual issue (possible grievance), please familiarize yourself with the timelines for filing. If your building rep has questions, please share your concerns with the head building rep, who will decide where it should go from there. It is **YOUR** responsibility to keep track of your appointment date and that you are teaching at least .40 in your tenure area (HS teachers only). Take the time to attend a BOE meeting or check the minutes that are posted on the district web page.

Please contact your head building rep if you are interested in being on the MS Programming Committee. Also looking for an ETA representative for the BAT team. Kathy Klopp is willing to hand over the position if anyone is interested! Thank you to Linda Schwanz for volunteering to run our annual ETA movie night!

Have a great school year!

Colleen Kot