

TOGETHER

Eden Teachers Association - Sept./Oct. 2017



Danae LaMarca

MEET TWO
OF OUR NEW
ETA MEMBERS!



**Shannon
Fitzgerald**

Welcome to Eden!

Danae LaMarca is the newest first grade teacher at GLP. She attended Buffalo State College for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Danae is dually certified in elementary and special education. Before coming to Eden, she worked at the Preschool Jewish Community Center in Buffalo, and worked in the Buffalo Public Schools for four years. Danae currently lives in West Seneca, with her husband Joe and Jack Russel PitBull, Teddy. They are expecting identical twin girls in March! In her spare time, she enjoys CrossFit. She is very happy to be teaching in Eden. She stated, "It's just a great place to be! It's such a pleasant environment. Everyone here is so encouraging and supportive, including the families!"

Shannon Fitzgerald is the new school counselor at Eden Elementary and GLP. She is a graduate of Eden and was a member of the state champion volleyball team! Shannon comes to us from Erie 2 BOCES where she worked at the Carrier Center for 5 years as a school counselor. She went to SUNY Oswego for undergrad and has a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and got her Master's in school counseling from Canisius College. Shannon was recently married and went to Ireland on her honeymoon! She and her husband live in Eden with their cat named Scott, who has a dog's personality :) Shannon enjoys hiking, kayaking, cooking, tea, essential oils, and reading!

Back to School 5K



A big thank you goes out to the following ETA members and their families for supporting the 5K I love Public Education run and agreeing to pose in "I'm voting NO on the Constitutional Convention" photo Frame! Shana Cole, Christine McTigue, Lynn Morgan, Terri Blaszc, Beth Levakoff and Colleen Kot. YOU GUYS ROCK!

Adopt-A-Highway



On October 17, ten teachers from EE and GLP cleaned up our NEW stretch of highway on Route 62.

Teachers from the Jr./Sr. High School will clean in the Spring!

Lorry's Links

A Year of Picture Prompts

Do you need some ideas for writing projects? The New York Times offers an archive of 160 images published during the 2016-2017 school year as inspiration for writing across many genres. Scroll through the site to find categories for images based on the form of writing encouraged for students. Also, a lesson idea bank inspires using pictures and writing in the classroom.

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/01/learning/lesson-plans/a-year-of-picture-prompts-over-160-images-to-inspire-writing.html?em_pos=small&emc=edit_in_20170601&nl=learning-network&nl_art=0&nid=49980457&ref=headline&te=1

This is Chemistry

Reactions is a YouTube Channel from the American Chemical Society exploring chemistry in our everyday lives. Watch these short videos and learn answers to questions such as why onions make us cry and the chemistry of poison ivy. Be sure to check out the various playlists offered with topics including superhero science and hair chemistry.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ACSReactions/>

Future Smart

FutureSmart is an interactive personal finance course designed for students in grades 6-8. The three and a half hour course correlates to National Standards and covers a variety of topics including budgeting, goal-setting, and planning for the future. Enroll using your school email address to register students and access your dashboard that includes student reports and supplemental materials. Be sure to download the information sheet that includes additional details about all available features.

<http://everfi.com/k-12/future-smart/>

Math for Fun and Glory

Khan Academy's Math for Fun and Glory offers an assortment of brain teasers, videos, and puzzles to stimulate interest in math. Choose from six different topics including doodling in math and math warmups, or explore staff picks of their favorites.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/math-for-fun-and-glory/puzzles>

Direct links can be found on the union's site – www.etaunion.org

Have a great year!

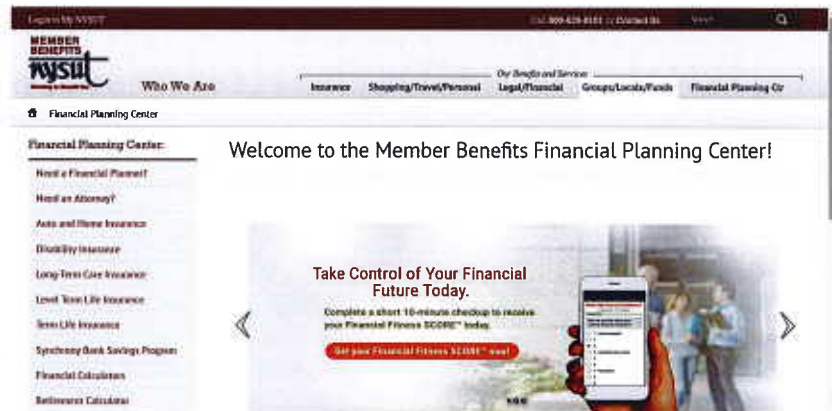
Lorry

Have you had your financial check-up lately?

NYSUT Member Benefits launches the new Financial Planning Center!

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the launch of our NEW online Financial Planning Center. This enhanced site will assist NYSUT members and their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center provides helpful tools and resources to assist members with a number of crucial decisions regarding financial wellness and retirement planning.



This new site includes more than 100 modules on different financial topics along with a financial fitness check-up to see where members stand with their financial knowledge.

Whether it's planning for retirement, saving for college for your children or considering purchasing a home, the choices we need to make on a regular basis are never easy. If you're already enjoying retirement, you may be dealing with long-term care needs, managing your investments and estate planning.

NYSUT members can get assistance with these questions and more with our NEW Financial Planning Center.

To access the Financial Planning Center (and more than 100 planning modules), visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on **“Financial Planning Center.”**

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.

President's Message

The start of the new school year is hectic time for all of us. I hope everyone has gotten themselves back into a routine and is ready to take on the challenges we face, not just in our classrooms, but outside of them as well. Several things are happening that could, or will affect the way we operate as educators and as unions.

By now, we have all heard, or should have heard, about the Constitutional Convention. It is extremely important that we remain vigilant in our efforts to educate family and friends on exactly what this is. We know it's nothing more than a money grab for politicians who would love nothing more than to stick it to the hard working public employees of NYS. But it's not just about our pensions. That's where you need to talk to friends and family and educate them on what the Con Con is really about. This shouldn't be a difficult task as educating others is what we do best! Once you familiarize yourself with all the issues regarding the Con Con, you will have no problem getting the message out. We will not however, convince everyone. But if we can swing a vote here and there from YES to NO, it's a step in the right direction.

Janus is another Supreme Court case NYSUT is watching closely. Unfortunately, we don't think this will turn out well for us. It will ultimately change how we go about collecting our union dues and how we sign members up. More on this to follow.

Lastly, I want to thank Colleen Kot and Mark Vona for all the help and guidance they have given me over the years. Without great predecessors, I would be lost. A big shout out to the rest of the Exec board and ETA leadership as well, both past and present. I will always try to get the answers to the questions that you, the membership have. That may not always be possible and in some cases, those answers may not be what we want to hear. Nevertheless, I will always listen and do what I can for you, the membership. I know it's cliché, but we are only as strong as our weakest link. In the upcoming months we cannot afford to have any weak links. We need to come together as a membership team and not just as individuals. We've all heard the saying, there is no "I" in team. I look forward to another great year and I hope you will join me and the rest of the ETA leadership team in continuing to carry on our tradition of strength and unity.

Yours in Solidarity,

Kevin Witman