Thank you to the members of the Eden Teacher’s Association for your ongoing generosity and support from Warm the Children!

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Welcome New Hires!

Abby Guzzino

The Eden MS/HS welcomes Abby Guzzino to our building. Abby grew up in Orchard Park, graduated from OPHS in 2012, attended Buffalo State for her Undergraduate Degree in Health and Wellness, and got her Master’s Degree in December in Physical Education from Canisius College.

Both of Abby’s parents are teachers at Frontier, so education was always valued in her home. She saw how much her parents enjoyed their jobs and the relationships they built with students throughout the years. She chose Physical Education because she believes it is important for kids to learn to love being active at a young age. “In a world where kids are given a screen to look at from birth, I think it is so important to learn how great it can be to get moving and active, both physically and mentally”.

Growing up Abby played soccer, basketball and lacrosse. From a young age, throughout college, and even now, Abby has always been involved in sports. In the past she has coached basketball, soccer and lacrosse at different schools. Here at Eden, she was the varsity field hockey head coach last fall, and will be coaching modified lacrosse in the spring.

In her spare time, Abby belongs to the YMCA where she continues to teach spinning, TRX and boot camp classes. She also enjoys cooking, spending time outdoors (during the warmer months of course) and playing soccer in adult leagues. Welcome Abby, Eden is lucky to have you.

Cindy Zelasko

Cindy is “super excited” to be working here at Eden. She was hired in the fall and is currently the Music Teacher at GLP.

Cindy earned her Bachelor of Music from the University of Michigan, and her Master’s in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Cindy worked for the Gibraltar School District in Michigan for 23 years preceding her time in Eden. While at Gibraltar, she taught K-12 General Music, Middle School band and chorus, and was a 3rd grade classroom teacher as well. She put on several musicals, concerts, and performances, developed the beginning band program, and taught the High School marching band.

Outside of school, Cindy teaches private lessons and has been an accompanist and church choir director. Her daughter remains in Michigan and attends the University of Toledo.

“It is a pleasure to be hired into the Eden School District as I have family that lives here, and a niece that attends Eden High School. The community is absolutely fantastic, and the support the teachers have extended has been wonderful. It truly makes me feel right at home after such a big move in my career.”

We are glad you are here as well Cindy!
Congratulations Retirees!

Kathy Klopp

"Klopp" alias Mrs. Klopp was hired in 1991. The formal "Mrs." was dropped by the friendly casual 1991 Administrators. The students, staff and community followed suit. Klopp's January 31, 2020 retirement was accepted this past fall. During the early years Klopp taught both Health and Physical Education. She is grateful and honored to have taught two generations of Eden CSD graduates. Klopp has been vocal and proactive in her approach to Health Education at Eden CSD. The K-12 Health Curriculum includes lessons on DASA, the respect and tolerance of all students, positive Mental Health Skills, Suicide Prevention, Abstinence, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Addiction Prevention, Abuse Prevention, LGBTQ Education, Nutrition and Fitness.

She thanks the Eden Teacher Association for all of the contracts, benefits and support she could count on through the years. Her wish to all is "Namaste." We should anticipate an "Irish Goodbye."

Sandi Laedke

After seeing a small ad in a local newspaper in her hometown of Brooklyn, NY, Sandi Laedke's interests were peaked when she volunteered at a lunch program at a center for children and adults with developmental challenges. It was there that her interest in teaching students with special needs began. One summer Sandi worked as a summer camp counselor for six weeks on a cross country tour, traveling with a bus load of teenagers, and camping at many beautiful places across the country, followed by two eventful summers at the Easter Seals Society of Colorado. It was these experiences while working with children and adults with physical and developmental challenges, that Sandi was assured that the field of Special Education was the career for her.

She earned both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Elementary and Special Education degrees at Buffalo State College, before beginning her career teaching children with multi-handicapping conditions in both private and public sectors. After a few years, she also became interested in teaching students with learning disabilities and other health impairments. In 1992, Sandi landed her dream job at Eden Elementary School. She enjoyed every challenge she faced, along with the rewards of working with students with special needs at multiple grade levels.

She loves living in Eden and is happy to end her career at Eden Middle-High School. She is grateful for the opportunity to live and work in a small-town district, for the colleagues she worked with, and for the opportunities she has had to help campers, students and their families. Upon retirement, Sandi will be enjoying her new-found freedom staying active with volunteerism, spending time with family, playing music with her friends, traveling, reading, learning, hiking, and discovering new adventures. Sandi will be missed by Eden CSD, and we wish her much peace and happiness in her retirement!
How Wireless Devices Can Be Dangerous For Our Children

An article published in Parents magazine on January 7, 2020 stated that new research has shown that radio-frequency (RF) energy given off from cell towers may pose health hazards. The article discussed a recent Swedish study that found that using cell phones before the age of 20 raised the risk of certain types of brain tumors over time. The biggest wireless danger are cell phones because people tend to hold them up to their ear, which is close to the brain. Children are the most vulnerable to RF energy’s effects because their bodies are still developing and their skulls are thinner, so the radiation penetrates deeper than in an adult. When a child holds a cell phone against his/her ear, they can absorb up to ten times more RF energy than an adult can.

The article suggests that parents take precautions before letting their child use a cell phone.

**Switch to airplane mode**
Activate airplane mode so your device isn't connected to the Internet. Otherwise, the antenna will communicate with the nearest cell tower or Wi-Fi hot spot and receive pulses of RF every 0.9 seconds!

**Discourage your child from using their lap**
Placing a laptop on a desk or table is much safer than placing it on your lap, especially if it's connected to Wi-Fi.

**Don’t buy your child a cell phone (yet)**
Since a child's skull isn't as thick as an adult's until the age of 15, limiting their use will reduce radiation risk in the critical early years. Avoid letting your child keep a cell phone in their pocket because this can increase exposure to radiation.

**Relocate your router**
Place your router at least 8 inches from where you and your family spend time.

**Practice safe phoning**
Use earphones, speaker features, or corded phones.
Let NYSUT Member Benefits assist with all your financial needs throughout your life

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President's Message

There is no better example of the way our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA/contract) protects us than the recent move we have dealt with our insurance carrier. I opened our informational meeting about Health Insurance by stating, “We are not losing a single benefit, related to our health insurance, as a result of the insurance carrier change.”

Past negotiation teams had the foresight to spell out our health insurance benefits within our CBA. Our language specifies the primary plan and it’s copay structure. Any plan written for us needs to adhere to that language, which inevitably leaves us with a top tier plan by any standard. Our Association successfully retained language that says the District contribution needs to be based on the primary (most expensive) plan during our last negotiation. The other bargaining units let go of this language. We are the only unit that retained the right to have a higher percentage of our plans funded by the District if a lower cost option is chosen by our members. Our benefits are intact, the carrier is simply the means in which our benefits are delivered. The carrier does not influence our benefits unless they are unable to fulfill them. Should this occur, we would take appropriate action.

Aside from formal negotiations concerning our CBA, the last eight months of discussions around Health Insurance were the most important the current leadership has faced. When it was clear the District was moving toward another carrier, our approach to the process had to shift to protecting our benefits. Although an emotional and reactive approach may have been better received by some, it would have accomplished nothing aside from damaging our credibility and reputation. We cannot expect to be taken seriously, on any matter, if we proceed in a way that is ignorant of our rights, protections or limitations. Throwing accusations and demands around that cannot be backed up by facts or legal action makes us look uninformed and irresponsible. We cannot allow ourselves to become so emotionally attached to an issue, that we end up being weakened by it.

I sincerely thank all of you for your patience as we worked through this difficult time. We need to move forward, however. The next big issue probably isn’t far away and we will need to face it together.

In solidarity,
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