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Our voices are finally being heard. Please keep up the pressure on the legislature, keep building coalitions, and keep your members informed and involved. Thanks again for all your work you do in behalf of our members.

See link for rally photos: http://dennisstierer.zenfolio.com/p589592615

I want to thank all of you for the fine effort on turn out for the rally. The Buffalo Police told me that the crowd exceeded 1500 from their estimate. Our goal was 1000. Great job!

The 7 State Legislators that participated in the rally all said that we will see the GEA eliminated completely or in increments over the next couple of years. All of them said we will see a big increase in base education funding from what the Governor proposed in his budget. They all said we are going to see a pause in common core implementation. What form that comes in was not clear because the Senate has yet to propose legislation and the budget is supposed to be completed in a few short weeks.

There is a direct connection to all of our organizing efforts/political action and the fact that we had 2 Democrats and 5 Republicans standing in the cold, rallying around our issues. George Maziarz wasn’t pandering when he said the momentum shift against the regent’s reform agenda in our state really caught wind back in October when we (WNY) filled Kleinhans Music Hall and made the case.

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 ETA Officers 2013-14

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

General Meetings & Events

May 5 - General Meeting @
Elementary Bldg. Room 208

May 28—NYSUT Awards Dinner
at Salvatore’s Italian Garden

June 2 - General Meeting @ JPs

June 6 - Awards & Retirement
Dinner at Templeton Landing

GLP Reps
Linda Schwanz, Head Rep, 2015
Carol King, 2014
Colleen Griffin, 2014

Main Street Reps
Judy Maynard, Head Rep, 2014
Lorry Malkowski, 2014
Amy Witman, 2015
Kevin Witman, 2015

Jr./Sr. High Reps
Paula Farrell, Head Rep, 2014
Susan Gianiodis, 2015
Carrie Hamlet, 2014
Steve Jones, 2015
Keith Kwas, 2015
Lynn Morgan, 2015
Phil Archabald, 2014

Do You Know Your Contract?

If you get admitted to the hospital, do you have to pay
the $500 copay?

Answer: Section 5.1.1.d of the ETA contract states that the
hospitalization co-pay under all of the insurance programs offered
by the District shall be $0.00 to the employee. Normally, you will
receive a bill for $500. You need to submit this bill to P&A for
reimbursement.

Committee Reps 2013-14
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
Is Public Education For Sale?
By: Amy McConeghy-Witman

Follow this link to watch a 28 minute video explaining the education reform movement led by Hedgefund Money Managers and Corporate Billionaires. What is the charter school movement? Where is it going and how can it possibly affect you?

http://billmoyers.com/episode/public-schools-for-sale/

Health and Safety
By: Tammy Orcutt

According to NYSUT’s Health and Safety newsletter, experts from the Health and Safety conference confirm that school culture and support have a lot to do with preventing attacks. After reviewing cases of school shootings from 1974 through 2000, experts find not only an absence of a shooter profile and mental illness diagnosis, but no common motives. They do, however, find that these attacks were rarely impulsive and instead planned over time.

Although the motives themselves varied, the attackers tended to identify with previous attackers and suicide was at the heart of many of them.

Most were known to have difficulty coping with significant losses or personal failures.

According to Secret Service, bystanders are the key to prevention. Prior to most incidents, other people were aware of the attacker’s idea or plan, but most of the bystanders did not reach out to an adult. Schools must have a system that convinces students to come forward. It is important for bystanders to know that they are believed and information will be protected.

The first step is a school to provide a safe and trusting environment for students to feel safe in telling an adult. Students would be more likely to come forward and confide in a trusted adult if they feel it would be investigated and that appropriate action would be taken. Again, the information they provide must be protected.

The key question is, “Are school psychologists, school counselors, nurses, social workers and staff working together in building the climate and culture for students to come forward and speak up?”

Sick Leave Bank—Disability Insurance
By: Joann Ramaekers

The school year is almost over and we will soon have to make decisions regarding insurance plans.

One type of insurance you might want to consider is disability insurance. Disability insurance protects your income when a covered sickness or injury prevents you from working for a period of time. As a NYS employee, you do not have NYS disability insurance. Once your sick time is depleted, if you are not a member of the sick bank you will NOT receive a paycheck. If you are a sick bank member, you may receive a paycheck for an additional 60 days per year (please refer to ETA contract p. 32 Article 6.2.8 for further details). As part of the NYSUT Retirement system, any member with 10 years of service DOES have a Retirement Disability option if an employee cannot work again. For more information regarding this benefit, please visit http://www.nysta.org/main/benefits/disability.htm

If you feel you need additional protection, you may want to consider a disability policy offered from Aflac, NYSUT Member Benefits, or from a private insurance agent. In late May/early June, an Aflac representative will be available at each school to discuss your options. Also, you may want to research the disability insurance policy offered through NYSUT Member Benefits at http://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/insurance/disability-insurance or contact your insurance agent.

When looking at the various disability policies, remember the “sick bank” may be of assistance when considering the different grace periods. Please take the time to review your situation to ensure that you have adequate coverage for you and your family if an unfortunate situation may arise.
Lorry’s Links

My Study Life

My Study Life is a free web-based and mobile app for a student to manage classes, tasks, and assignments. Features include tracking tasks, adding exam dates, managing classes, and notification reminders of upcoming events. Enroll through email, Facebook, or Google. Once enrolled, add course schedules to set up a schedule. My Study Life shows both tasks completed and unfinished.

Share this tool with students for planning homework assignments, tasks, and exam dates. Use this site personally to keep yourself organized! If you have students aged 13 and up, encourage them to choose a consistent planning tool like this one to stay organized.

https://www.mystudylife.com/

Old Pictures

View and explore an extensive collection of vintage and historic photographs from 1850 through 1940. The photos come from American and worldwide sources. Browse through photos sorted into three categories: Defining Moments, Picture Collections, and Themed Collections. Click on thumbnails to view full size versions along with information on each picture. In addition to photographs, be sure to check out a very large collection of old maps sorted by date, state, and nation.

http://www.old-picture.com/

You Can’t Do Simple Math Under Pressure

Just as the title implies, this activity tests your ability to do simple math under pressure. Press play to begin. As you continue, the time bar moves more and more quickly. Move through levels from single digit operations to time problems and equations with multiple steps. Each level only takes about 30-60 seconds. A quick and easy review! This site seems well suited for upper elementary and secondary. However, younger elementary students would be able to do the lower (basic) levels. Turn off the (annoying?) sound using the icon at top right.

http://games.usvsth3m.com/maths/
Coming Soon:
New endorsed shopping program

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the endorsement of the member shopping program powered by PayCheck Direct for roll-out this spring 2014.

This program – part of the national retail powerhouse Bluestem Brands, Inc. family, which also includes Fingerhut and Gettington.com – allows individuals to purchase what they want now and pay interest-free over 12 months.

Through PayCheck Direct, NYSUT members & their families will have to access to more than 7,000 name-brand products such as appliances, televisions, computers, electronics, furniture, and much more.

Members would have the option of paying for any items they purchase interest-free over a 12-month period; bi-weekly payments would be made via automatic checking account withdrawals.

PayCheck Direct offers a 30-day in-home trial on many products; flexible return policy; no interest fees, credit checks, down payments, or finance charges; and toll-free customer service representatives located in the U.S.

As part of this endorsement, PayCheck Direct will mail merchandise catalogs to the NYSUT membership four times per year.

NYSUT members are encouraged to shop and compare prices before making a purchase with this program and consider it as an alternative to using their credit card.

We are excited to be launching this new program in spring 2014! Join our MAP (Member Alert Program) Alert email service to be among the first to learn more about this program (visit the Member Benefits website for sign-up instructions).

You can also visit memberbenefits.nysut.org in the coming weeks for details on how to use this service or call 800-626-8101 with any questions.

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.
Welcome Spring??!! It will arrive eventually😊

What is a union and what does the union do for you? The union is YOU!!!!! We are all in this together. Our profession and contracts are being attacked at every level. Your union dues are used to fund educational issues, fair wages, benefits, retirement pensions, working conditions, and the list goes on. Tenure, triborough and retirement benefits are at stake every year. Your Union dues help ensure we maintain these critical benefits.

For any union to be effective, the members have to be actively involved on all levels, not just when something affects them. With a strong, informed union we can battle these constant attacks being made on our profession.

What stands between us and Wisconsin? A STRONG UNION.

I HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT RELAXING SPRING BREAK.

Colleen Kot