ETA Annual Family Movie Night—Fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club

Tom Wall

Thanks to the support of the members of the ETA, we have raised over $5,000 to assist in the operation of the Eden Boys and Girls Club. The club is a valuable resource for our students and our community.

This year we will be showing Monster’s University in the High School Auditorium on Saturday, January 25 at 7pm. The Boys & Girls Club will be hosting a dinner in the cafeteria starting at 5pm. The movie and dinner help bring the people to the event and raise money; however, the bulk of the money has always been raised from the Chinese Auction. The basket donations from our ETA members are the key to our fundraising success.

I hope that we can, again, come through with baskets from departments in the HS and grade levels from both the GLP and EE to help make this evening another huge success.

Please email Tom Wall your grade/department basket idea to help avoid duplication of basket themes. Also, if you are able to help with the set up, clean up or operations during the movie night, please contact me via email.

Thank you for support of this event.

Sick Bank Update

Joann Ramaekers

The 2013-2014 school year started on a positive note for the sick bank members.

To begin with, the existing membership did not have to donate time to the sick bank. Every year our membership is growing. We currently have 104 members and we exceeded the minimum 300 day requirement by the district. The last time we collected sick days from the membership was in 2003.

Lastly, remember as a member of the sick bank, withdrawals may be requested in connection with a long-term illness or catastrophic injury to a member. For detailed information, regarding withdrawals, please refer to the ETA Contract 6.2.8.
General Meetings & Events

January 6 - General Meeting @ GLP Bldg. Room 9
January 25 - ETA/PTA Movie Night
February 3 - General Meeting @ JPs
March TBA - Winter Leadership Conference @ Hyatt Regency
March 3—General Meeting @ High School, Room 124
April 7 - General Meeting @ JPs
May 5 - General Meeting @ Elementary Bldg. Room 208
June 2 - General Meeting @ JPs
June TBA - NYSUT Awards Dinner
June 6 - Awards & Retirement Dinner at Templeton Landing

ETA Officers 2013-14

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

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

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: JRAMAEEKERS@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

ETA DRESS DOWN IS THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

Committee Reps 2013-14
A complete listing of committee members is available at our website:
www.etaunion.org
A financial safety net for
NYSUT members & their families

Long-term care insurance pays for services that aren’t covered by Medicare or traditional health insurance but are important when you can’t fully take care of yourself.

You may think it’s unnecessary since you have no plans of ending up in a nursing home or requiring assistance for basic daily activities. The fact remains, though, that none of us can predict what’s going to happen in the future.

This is where long-term care insurance comes into play – helping to pay the high cost of custodial care and other long-term care expenses that a long-term illness or injury can bring.

That’s why the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust is excited to be back in the long-term care business with the endorsement of New York Long-Term Care Brokers.

With this endorsed program, NYSUT members and their eligible family members have the opportunity to receive a 5% to 10% discount on various plans.

With regional representatives throughout New York state and beyond, eligible individuals have access to long-term care insurance plans from multiple highly-rated insurance companies – including the New York State Partnership for Long-Term Care.

And with Americans living longer than ever today, the need for a financial safety net has never been greater. Through this endorsed program, eligible individuals can get a long-term care insurance plan designed with their specific needs in mind.

And don’t automatically discount the cost of this type of insurance as it may be far more affordable than you may think.

If you or a loved one has been previously declined for long-term care insurance, you may still be insurable with a different company.

NYLTCB represents numerous long-term care insurance companies – all with different medical underwriting guidelines. Make sure to ask your long-term care insurance specialist for more details.

We encourage you to look into the cost of a long-term care plan tailored to your specific needs.

For more information about this endorsed offering, please contact NYLTCB toll-free at 888-884-0077. You can also contact Member Benefits with any questions at 800-626-8101 or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.

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.
RESOLUTION REGARDING OVERRELIANCE ON STANDARDIZED TESTING

CALLING UPON THE NEW YORK STATE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AND THE NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF REGENTS TO STOP THE OVERRELIANCE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS AS A MEASURE OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND PRINCIPAL/TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS.

WHEREAS, every student deserves a quality public education dedicated to preparing engaged citizens, creative and critical thinkers and lifelong learners ready for college and careers; and

WHEREAS, the decline in state support for public schools has forced our district to reduce programs and limited our ability to implement the new programs mandated by the State such as the Common Core standards creating an uneven rollout of the standards among school districts around the State; and

WHEREAS, the growing reliance on and misalignment of standardized testing is eroding student learning time, and narrowing the curriculum and jeopardizing the rich, meaningful education our students need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that research recommends the use of multiple measures to gauge student performance and teacher effectiveness, the State’s growing reliance on standardized testing is adversely affecting students across all spectrums, the morale of our educators, and is further draining already scarce resources; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act’s testing policies fail to appropriately accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities and English language learners in assessing their learning, resulting in test scores that do not accurately represent a true measure of the contributions of teachers and schools; and

WHEREAS, it is time for policymakers to recalibrate the number, duration, and appropriate use of standardized tests so that our schools can refocus our efforts on student learning;

WHEREAS, we do not oppose accountability in public schools and point with pride to stellar performance of our students and teachers, but believe that standardized tests dominate instructional time and block our ability to make progress toward a world-class education system of student-centered schools and future-ready students; now therefore be it resolved

RESOLVED, that we the members of the Eden Central School District Board of Education call upon the Commissioner of Education, the NYS Board of Regents, the NYSED Board of Regents Chancellor, and other policymakers to reduce the use of and overreliance on, standardized testing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we call upon the U.S. Congress and the Administration to reduce federal testing mandates and support the role of and focus on multiple measures of student learning and school quality in accountability systems.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ______ day of _____________, ________ during a Board of Education meeting by the following vote:

                      AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSENT: _____

Attest:

____________________  ______________________
District Clerk              Superintendent of Schools

____________________
President, Board of Education
As the school year has progressed from opening day until now, positive changes are beginning to occur. Teachers’ concerns are being addressed at the building level with productive conversations happening with Building Administrators. There has been communication between your ETA Executive Board and the Superintendent which has been productive as well. Starting with the welcome back reception, steps are finally being taken towards collaborations between our members and the BOE.

We have a seat on the budget advisory committee to continue to voice our needs and concerns for the upcoming school year. The Board has also shown their support by passing the Resolution regarding Overreliance on Standardized Testing at their November meeting. The resolution can be found on page 4 of this newsletter and it is posted on the ETA website.

The political action committee has been busy this year, encouraging our members to attend The Summit for Smarter Schools, the bus trip to Jamestown to hear Commissioner King and the “wear blue” on December 9, to support public education campaign.

Our organization continues to support the many charitable activities sponsored by the Eden Community. THANK YOU!!!

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Colleen