Teacher Feature

Meet Matt Vogan who is currently working at the GLP as a part-time special education teacher!

Matt lives in South Buffalo with his wife of one year Amanda.

He holds a B.S. in Inclusive Childhood Education from Houghton College, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in ESL from Buffalo State.

Matt became interested in Eden after hearing about the position from friends at Eden. Matt says he heard about the community and teachers here and thought it would be a great fit.

Outside of school Matt has many interests that include soccer (both watching and playing), music, and cheering on the Bills and Sabres. For the last three summers, Matt has traveled to Zambia, Africa with an organization called Poetice.

If you see Matt please say hello and extend a great big Eden welcome to him!
General Meetings & Events 2015 - 2016
General meetings are Mondays -3:45 - 5:00 pm

January 11th - General Meeting HS Room 124
January 30th - ETA Family Movie Night
February - General Meeting EE / Room 208
March 4th/5th - Winter Leadership Conference
          Hyatt Regency Buffalo
March 7th - General Meeting GLP /Room 29
April 11th - General Meeting HS Room 124
May 9th - General Meeting EE /Room 208
May TBA - NYSUT Awards Dinner
          at Salvatore's
June 6th - General Meeting - TBA
June 9th - Awards & Retirement Dinner
          Pearl Street Grill
          5:00 cocktails

Next Dress Down Days

- January 8th - Eden Volunteer Fire Department
- February 5th - East Eden Volunteer Fire Department
- March 4th - Eden Emergency Squad
- April 1st - Eden Library
- May 6th - Meals on Wheels
- June 3rd - Eden Community Foundation

The ETA Annual Movie Night will be held on Saturday, January 30th. Crafts and activities will take place in the cafeteria from 5-6:15 p.m. The movie start time is at 6:30. Volunteers and support from our members would greatly be appreciated. Please contact Colleen Kot if you can help out.
Retirement Planning

Retirement planning doesn't have to be complicated. NYSTRS provides a variety of tools and services to help you.

- Benefits Consultations -
  Consultations enable you to ask questions about your specific situation. You can meet with a NYSTRS representative either in person or via video-conference. You learn about your NYSTRS benefits; see the impact of reaching key service milestones; review your benefit payment options at retirement; and, receive personalized benefit estimates.

  Contact NYSTRS (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6100
  communit@nystrs.org

Erie 1 BOCES on Harlem Road holds video consultations year-round; call NYSTRS for details.

Submitted by Lorry
Thank You From Honor Flight

Our sincere thank you to all of our Veterans and their Guardians for allowing Honor Flight Buffalo the privilege to escort you on its' 18th Flight on October 24, 2015.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to all of you who helped make this flight and future flights possible in providing a trip of a lifetime for our Veterans. To those of you who have supported Honor Flight Buffalo, your unselfish generosity enables our Veterans to visit their memorials built in their honor and allowing Honor Flight Buffalo to “Keep Our Veterans Flying!” Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Wylie ~ Co-Founder, President, Jo-Anne Wylie ~ Co-Founder, Vice-President,
Dorothy Wylie Keough, Deborah D. Watkins, James R. Watkins
The Honor Flight Buffalo Board Of Directors

and Charles D. Dunkle ~ Co-Founder

Community Board
Laurie Marien, David Stellar and Deborah Zielinski

Thank you for your continued support.
Happy Holidays!
Lorry’s Links

NASA – HIAD App

Your students can develop an inflatable spacecraft for NASA with this exciting activity. Design a HIAD (Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator) to bring cargo back from space. Begin with HIAD Boot Camp and work your way up to advanced level using knowledge learned in stages along the way. Be careful, if the design is not strong enough, your spacecraft will burn up, and your mission is a failure.

http://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/game_changing_technology/game_changing_development/HIAD/hiad-app.html

Wizer Me

Wizer.me would be an excellent tool to use to integrate technology into lessons. Look through worksheets others have created to get an idea of what you can do. The possibilities for using this tool in the classroom are limited only by your imagination! Any subject area teacher will find a use for this tool, and it's free! Use worksheets (lessons) you have created in learning centers, with small groups (the possibilities for differentiating abounds), or as homework. Since these "worksheets" can include video, using wizer.me would be a terrific tool to use to "flip" your classroom.

http://www.wizer.me/

Hip Hughes Videos

This YouTube channel offers over 300 videos for U.S. and World History, current events, political science, and American Government. Other videos teach test taking and essay writing skills.

https://www.youtube.com/user/hughesDV

Radio Rookies

Radio Rookies offers programming created by teens for teens to help in coping with the challenges of teen life. Scroll down the home page to browse through recent episodes and articles featuring difficult topics such as abuse, dating, and dealing with peers. Become a part of Radio Rookies by downloading the DIY Radio Rookies Toolkit featuring ideas and information for sharing your own story. Be sure to check out the Educators portion of the site containing ideas for using Radio Rookies as a teaching tool.

http://www.wnyc.org/shows/rookies/

These links and many more are available on the union’s website – www.etaunion.org

Have a great holiday break!

Lorry
Resolution for Our Schools

Whereas the adoption of the Common Core Standards addresses a vital and longstanding need to better prepare all students to graduate from high school ready for college and careers, a laudable goal that groups on all sides of education reform can agree;

Whereas the anxiety and confusion that surrounds the educational reform movement in NYS is not caused by the Common Core Standards, but in the New York State Education Department’s implementation of the Standards;

Whereas the introduction of the Common Core Standards fostered a new approach to teaching and learning that promoted higher expectations and increased academic rigor, creating a steep learning curve, resulting in strained relationships between students, parents, teachers and school districts, as evidenced by the growing Opt-Out Movement;

Whereas the most recent efforts by the New York State Education Department to change, alter and improve the assessment process (i.e. duration of assessments, age appropriateness, etc.) should be recognized, ongoing focus and improvement in this area must continue;

Whereas the New York State legislature has imposed an unreasonable timeline on school districts in the implementation of the Annual Professional Performance Review, thus potentially forcing school districts to put into place two evaluation systems simultaneously, which is unduly burdensome, costly, and counterproductive to instructional improvement and increased student achievement;

Whereas the Governor and New York State legislature have grossly underfunded the public education system, causing disruption to programs and negatively impacting the performance and opportunities of students throughout New York State;

Be it Hereby Resolved, the Eden Board of Education and the Eden Teachers Association calls on all elected State Legislators to,

Retain and return important elements of local control to our schools, and to fully fund all school districts with proper State Aid, so that, with sufficient resources, schools can proactively plan for and meet the expectations of the Common Core Learning Standards.

Enact a moratorium on the new teacher evaluation system to allow for the construction of valid and reliable assessments, thereby regaining the trust of the parents and communities school districts serve. This will provide the educational community the necessary time to ensure that any teacher evaluation system tied to these assessments is properly and meaningfully constructed, resulting in improved teacher and student performance for years to come.
The Value of NYSUT Membership

You may not be aware that your NYSUT membership allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Member Benefits strives to provide the highest-quality programs for NYSUT members and closely scrutinizes all proposals from reputable vendors before any endorsements are given.

While we work continuously to maintain quality benefit programs at competitive prices, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.

Are you ready to answer these questions?

What would happen if you suddenly died? Have you ever considered what would happen to your spouse and/or children? Take a few moments and answer these questions now:

1) Would your loved ones be able to afford their current home?

2) Could your loved ones continue to pay regular bills and maintain their medical coverage?

3) Would your loved ones be able to plan for your final funeral expenses?

If your answer to the above questions is “No” or “I don’t know,” consider enrolling in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans. Both of these plans allow you to select the plan and benefit amount that best meets your specific needs.

Visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101 for specific details about these plans.

The issuance of a Certificate of Insurance or payment of benefits will depend upon the answers given in the application and the truthfulness of those answers. Additional underwriting requirements may be needed.

Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement with its endorsed insurance provider of 7.61% of earned premiums for these programs. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. The Insurer pools the premiums of Member Benefits participants who are insured for the purposes of determining premium rates and accounting. Coverage outside of these plans may have rates and terms that are not the same as those obtainable through Member Benefits. The insurer or Member Benefits may hold premium reserves that may be used to offset rate increases and/or fund such other expenses related to the plan as determined appropriate by Member Benefits. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.

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.
Two major breakthroughs have recently occurred in public education. This is due, in part, to the dedicated, non-stop activism of NYSUT members (rallies, forums, letters, etc.).

The signing of legislation by President Obama on December 10, that bars the federal government from mandating the use of student test scores to evaluate teachers. Students will still take standardized tests, but it could make them less important—and maybe less frequent. For a complete summary, go to: http://www.voxcom/2015/12/11/9889350/every-students succeeds-act-schools

The release of the state’s Common Core Task Force—appointed by the governor—is calling for: Empowering NYS teachers to create developmentally appropriate NYS standards for NYS students; immediately reducing the time allotted to state test, and making future reductions in both test duration and the number of testing days; modifying the new state standards and tests for our students with disabilities and English language learners, and eliminating double testing for our English language learners; and banning for a minimum of four years the use of Common Core state test scores in teacher evaluations. It also calls for the new standards and curriculum resources to be developed and implemented gradually, with educator involvement every step of the way, and full transparency to parents.

At the December 12th Board of Education meeting, the board will be voting on whether to adopt the Resolution for Our Schools, written in collaboration with Sandra Anzalone. A copy of this resolution can be found on the ETA website.

The ETA leadership would like to thank the following members for attending a membership engagement training on November 24th. Tamm Orcutt, Linda Schwanz, Paula Farrell, Annette Bahun Lorry Malkowski, Kathy DeGroat, Beth Levakoff, Karen Inman, Phil Archabald, Chris Archabald, Morgan Theophilus, Amy Steger, Susan Gianiodis, and Laura Feasley

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 Kot