New Teacher Feature

Ms. Erin Farley, Special Education
By: Christine Polek

The Special Education and Social Studies Department members welcomed Erin Farley to the faculty at the Eden Jr./Sr. High School. Erin splits her teaching day between 7th Grade Special Education and High School Global Studies classes. She also teaches a section of Geography and helps students in the learning lab. Erin taught 7th and 11th Grade Social Studies in the Newfane District and was a teaching assistant at Stanley G. Falk School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music with a concentration in history from Buffalo State. She continued her studies at D’Youville College and Medaille College earning her Master of Science in Education and certification in Special Education. Erin travels from Lockport and is often the first teacher in the building. Her love of teaching and passion is shown daily in her dedication to her students. Erin is newly married and looks forward to her weekends with her husband who works in Binghamton and commutes home on weekends. They have a three year old beagle named Gidget. In her spare time, Erin loves to read and is a die-hard Bills fan. Eden is fortunate to have such a passionate and talented teacher.

Ms. Corinne Nelsen
By: Darlene Noecker

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome new teacher Corinne Nelsen to Eden Jr/Sr High. Corinne was hired over the summer as a Special Education Teacher. She has over ten years of teaching experience in a variety of settings and has many great stories to share. She is currently working as an 11th Grade US History Teacher, 7th/8th Grade Social Studies Teacher, 10th Grade Global Studies Regents Review, 8th Grade Science and 11th Grade Resource Room Teacher. Corinne is from the Town of Tonawanda and currently resides there. Corinne received her Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education with a concentration in Social Studies and her Master of Science in Special Education from Niagara University. Corinne enjoys rooting for the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres, gardening and serving as a member of the Erie County Youth Board. Each day Corinne brings a smile and her love of teaching to the classroom!

ETA Movie Night-Saturday, January 31
By: Tom Wall

This year for the ETA Family Movie Night we will be showing Disney’s Frozen. We will again be holding a basket raffle before the movie and I’ll be counting on departments and grade levels joining forces to donate some great baskets to help make the night another big success for Eden’s Boys and Girls Club. In place of the spaghetti dinner this year, the Boys and Girls club will be leading some crafts and games for the kids before the movie (some early ideas: making a princess crown/Sven antlers, pin the nose on Olaf – any other crafty people out there with ideas, please let me know). We are also going to invite the kids to come dressed up as their favorite movie character and we’re looking to get some high school students/B&G club employees to lead the crowd in singing some of their favorite songs during the movie.

The early crafts and games will run from 5 – 6:15 in the HS cafeteria and the movie will begin at 6:30 in the HS Aud. If anyone is able to help during the night, please contact Tom Wall. Thank you for your continued support of this event.
General Meetings & Events

November 3 - General Meeting @ GLP, Room 29
December 8 - General Meeting @ JP's
January 5 - General Meeting @ High School, Room 124
January 31 — Movie Night, HS
February 2 - General Meeting @ EE, Room 208
March TBA - Winter Leadership Conference @ Hyatt Regency
March 9 — General Meeting @ GLP, Room 29
April 13 - General Meeting @ High School, Room 124
May 4 - General Meeting @ EE, Room 208
MAY TBA - NYSUT Awards Dinner
June 1 - General Meeting @ JP's
June TBA - Awards & Retirement Dinner at Templeton Landing

GLP Reps
Carol King, Head Rep, 2015
Colleen Griffin, 2016
Linda Schwanz, 2015

Main Street Reps
Kevin Witman, Head Rep, 2015
Lorry Malkowski, 2016
Amy Witman, 2015
Judy Maynard, 2015

Jr./Sr. High Reps
Paula Farrell, Head Rep, 2016
Susan Gianiodis, 2015
Olivia Doctor, 2016
Steve Jones, 2015
Keith Kwas, 2015
Lynn Morgan, 2015
Phil Archabald, 2015

ETA Officers 2013-14
President: Colleen Kot, 2015
Vice President: Mark Vona, 2015
Treasurer: Laura Feasley, 2015
Secretary: Terri Blasz, 2015

Committee Reps 2014-15
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
Protecting your family for the future

It’s important that your family members are financially protected throughout their lives. Have you stopped to consider what would happen to your spouse and/or children if you were to suddenly pass away?

Would your loved ones be able to continue to live in their home, pay regular bills and maintain a comfortable lifestyle? What about your final medical, burial or funeral expenses?

And it’s not a question of just having a life insurance policy... make sure you have enough coverage to provide for your family. Find a plan that’s right for you and your specific financial situation.

Plans designed specifically for NYSUT members
As NYSUT members, it makes prudent sense to look into the Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. Both of these plans offer specific terms and rates designed exclusively with NYSUT members and their families in mind.

The Term Life Plan is available for NYSUT members and their spouses/domestic partners under age 85. If you are under age 65, you can apply for coverage from $25,000 up to $1 million at premiums negotiated specifically for NYSUT members.

Meanwhile, the Level Term Life Plan offers terms for 10, 15 or 20-year periods. The premium that you start with is projected to remain the same and the benefit amount will not decrease throughout the term – regardless of your age or health condition.

You can enjoy an additional savings of 15% on published rates if your local association has approved automatic deductions from your paycheck or pension check and you sign up for that benefit.

To learn more about the Member Benefits-endorsed Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans, call 800-626-8101 or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Member Appreciation Month is coming!

NYSUT Member Benefits wants to start the New Year off right with a celebration of the entire NYSUT membership.

It’s the strength of the more than 600,000 NYSUT members that makes it possible for Member Benefits to offer approximately 50 endorsed programs & services designed with you in mind.

This special celebration will be kicking off in January 2015 with the arrival of your new membership cards. This mailing will include a variety of special offers only available to NYSUT members.

These offers will continue into February 2015, which has been designated as Member Appreciation Month!

This will be a month filled with a series of special prize drawings for items donated by our endorsed program providers. To be eligible for these drawings, all you need to do is be a participant in our voluntary MAP Alert email service.

We will announce the winners of these special prize drawings exclusively on the Member Benefits website throughout the month of February.

For more details about this exciting event, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.
Lorry’s Links

Fake Ticket Generator

Create your own novelty tickets. Choose from two different ticket styles and enter information such as row and seat numbers, event title and place, and date of the event. After entering information, click "Make My Ticket!" to view and save your ticket in JPEG format. Ask your students to use the Fake Ticket Generator to create excitement for class presentations. Have them create tickets and hand them out to other students to use to be admitted to class for their presentation. Create tickets to hand out to students at the beginning of any unit to create interest and excitement. Make tickets to give to parents as invitation to Meet the Teacher night, Science and Book Fairs, PTO meetings, and more.

http://www.faketicketgenerator.com/

Above the Influence

This site is operated by the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign and mixes a bit of teen entertainment news with plenty of information on the destructive and dangerous effects of using drugs. Uses stories from real teens along with star-power and hip graphics to address not only teen drug use, but other issues relevant to today's adolescents.

http://abovetheinfluence.com/

Have Fun with History

Have Fun with History offers a large selection of history videos on American History topics. These videos are a MUST see! Browse through videos coinciding with monthly topics or sort by people and events. Search using the timelines (People Timeline and Events Timeline). Use the search bar to locate content by specific topic. Videos include links to similar topics and related activities.

http://www.havefunwithhistory.com/

Innovative Classroom

Find "ready to use" lessons, thematic units, classroom management ideas, and much more at this one-stop resource for elementary teachers. Explore the reproducibles section to find templates for science observation, an excellent Problems with Dice activity, and an Internet usage survey. After choosing a reproducible, be sure to look on the right side of the page for other reproducibles not listed on the main page. The Innovative Classroom also contains an extensive list of center activity ideas, class certificates, and bulletin board suggestions.

http://www.innovativeclassroom.com/

Have a great Christmas break!!!

Lorry
Raider Recognition

Amy Stegar—Achieved the highest honor of National Board Certification.

Joann Ramaekers—Award from ECC Advanced Studies Program for outstanding dedication.

This feature is dedicated to recognize teachers for awards, accomplishments, etc. In order to make this feature successful, please email any pertinent information to JRamaekers@edencsd.wnyric.org

Health & Safety
By Kevin Witman & Tammy Orcutt

FLU: This year’s strain of the flu virus has mutated and that has scientists concerned. This season could be more severe than previous seasons, which could lead to more hospitalizations and deaths. Although the vaccine is not as protective, the CDC is still recommending getting it. Here are two links to facts and info about the virus and about flu season.

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm


KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

Any teacher or teaching assistant who has submitted in writing his/her resignation for retirement under the NYSTRS to the BOE before December 31 to be effective July 1 may convert the teacher’s or teaching assistant’s accrued sick days at what rate of pay per day?

Email your answer to JRamaekers@edencsd.wnyric.org by Tuesday, December 23 at noon. All correct entries will be in a drawing for two free movie tickets sponsored by the ETA. One submission per person.
For over five years the Eden Teachers’ Association (ETA) has been part of the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Retired Eden Social Studies Teacher, Pete Vanderburgh and 2nd grade teacher, Sandy Wess-Rishel, started this effort. Though retired, Mr. Vanderburgh continues to be active in the district by volunteering his time at the Eden Grover L. Preiss Primary Building. After managing this project for several years, Mrs. Wess-Rishel recently turned over the reins to teachers Amy Steger and Nicole Lauer.

The ETA is responsible for cleaning up trash and debris for a two-mile stretch along Route 62 between Eden and North Collins. The ETA conducts their trash pick-up every fall and spring, with approximately 15 teachers working together to get the job done.

When you see the orange bags of trash along Route 62 in Eden, know that your Eden Central School District teachers have been hard at work making the town a beautiful place.

The 2014-2015 school year began on a positive note for the Eden Sick Bank members. In addition to five new memberships, existing members did not have to donate time into the sick bank. We currently have 103 members and we well exceed the 300 day requirement by the district. Remember as a member of the sick bank, withdrawals may be made in connection with a long-term illness or catastrophic injury. For more information regarding sick bank withdrawals, please refer to the contract Section 6.2

Reminder: ETA Movie Night on Saturday, January 31 at Eden High School
Movie—Frozen          Crafts and Games—5 to 6:15      Movie Begins—6:30
Facts about Ebola in the U.S.

- You CAN’T get Ebola through AIR
- You CAN’T get Ebola through WATER
- You CAN’T get Ebola through FOOD grown or legally purchased in the U.S.

You can only get Ebola from:

- Touching the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola.
- Touching contaminated objects, like needles.
- Touching infected fruit bats or primates (apes and monkeys).
President’s Message

We have a seat on the Budget Advisory Team (BAT) Committee to continue to voice our needs and concerns for the upcoming school year. This year’s representative is Kathy Klopp. Please bring any budget concerns you have to her or to me.

Your political action committee continues to keep busy. A shout goes out to Mark Vona for contacting our retirees asking them to support VOTE-COPE.

Our organization continues to support the many charitable activities sponsored by the Eden Community. Thank you Nicole Lauer and Amy Steger for organizing the fall Adopt-A-Highway clean up. A great article was placed in the Hamburg Sun. Thank you Keith Kwas.

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned the member surveys. If you checked an area of interest, your name was given to the committee chair.

We need to get on board with NYSUT and be committed to defend tenure and collective bargaining rights, to stand against privatization and unaccountable charter schools, to stop excessive testing and unfair teacher evaluations, to stop excessive testing and unfair teachers’ evaluations. One way to do this is to sign up for NYSUT’s Action Center at https://mac.nysut.org/

Also, if you haven’t already, please sign the Gap Elimination Petition that Sandy Anzalone has put on the ECSD web page. This in conjunction with the tax cap continues to inadequately fund education, eliminating programs and leaving our students holding the short end of the stick.

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Colleen Kot