

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume — 57 Issue — 6

Eden Central School District

Summer 2020

Dear Eden Families:

This school year has been filled with compassion, talent, innovation and dedication by everyone involved with Eden Central School District! See highlights in this edition. Your children, our staff, your families and this community have made all the difference in our journey upward and beyond. I congratulate our seniors, our Kindergarten students, and our retiring staff on their next journey. Always know that you have made a difference and that YOU ARE EDEN.



Sincerely,

Sandra Anzalone
Superintendent

Welcome to Our New Superintendent, Jeffrey Sortisio!

On May 15, 2020, the Eden Board of Education announced the appointment of Jeffrey A. Sortisio as the new Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2020.

Mr. Sortisio was most recently the Superintendent at Fredonia Central School. His professional career is rooted in school counseling. After receiving his Master's Degree in counselor education from Canisius College in 1996, Mr. Sortisio worked as a School Counselor for the West Seneca Central School District from 1997 to 2004.

In 2007, he earned his Master's in administration from Canisius College and became Assistant Principal for West Seneca West Senior High School from 2004-2008. He served as Frontier Central High School Principal from 2008 to 2017 prior to joining Fredonia Central School District.



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New York State Education Dept. Honors GLP as a "Recognition School"

For the second year in a row, GLP was honored as a Recognition School.

Congratulations to GLP Principal, Loran Carter, all GLP teachers and students for achieving this honor.

Keep up the great work!



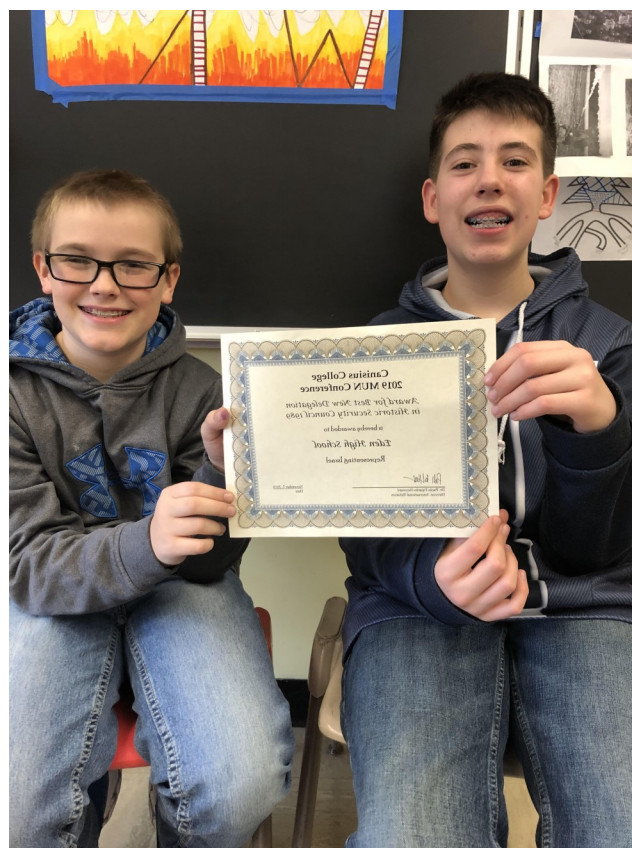
Eden Model UN Conference Awards

By Linda Pace

David McCart (on the left) and Jake Kohlmeier (on the right) won "Best New Delegation" Award at the Canisius College Model UN Conference. They were both in 8th grade and were competing against high school aged teams. Canisius permitted them to attend as they were well researched and prepared. The team is very proud of them.

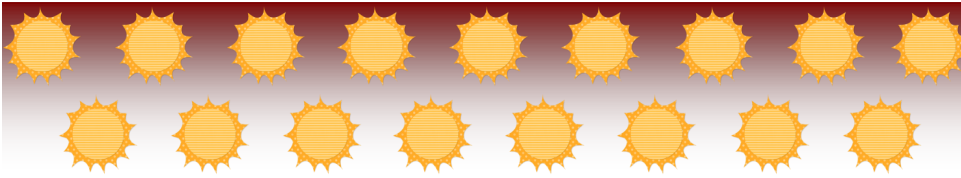
Our team practices debating and they choose their own topics. In December, Jake Kohlmeier represented China. Before the Christmas break, he convinced the other "nations" to support discussing the issue of the brand new virus in his country due to its possible spread and disruption of the global economy. After much debate, the "nations" agreed to discuss it after break. In January, Jake as China, and the other "nations" began discussing measures the United Nations could take to prevent its spread. Thailand, represented by Becky Nytrai, presented the idea of testing and quarantining those who showed positive for the virus. They were working on developing a resolution (a solution)

when we went on our February Midwinter Break, and the rest, as they say, is history. I am extremely proud of this team that they could think globally and predict, long before adults and politicians, what this virus would mean to the world.



One advantage of talking to yourself is that you know at least somebody's listening.

Franklin P. Jones



2020 Scholarship Awards

Eden Alumni Association	Alaina James, Aislyn Jerome, Aidan Johnson, Alex Overhoff, Rachel Wach, Megan Walsh
Aaron Matthew Waldeck Memorial	Jennifer Panaro
Amy Tomlinson Banks Memorial Scholarship	Isabella Carlson, Kate Heffernan, Alaina James, Alex Overhoff, Abby Puckhaber, Megan Walsh
Equitable Nick Ludwa/Kevin Caffery Schol.	Sabrina Battleson
Captain John Levulis Memorial	Faith Federowicz
Eden All Sports Booster Club	Zach Hickok, Alex Overhoff, Lainey Overhoff
Eden Athletic Association-Jeremy Gorcica Memorial Scholarship	Robert Grunder, Tyler Krempa, Alex Overhoff, Emma Tambacas
Eden Chamber of Commerce	Brianna Johnson, Rachel Wach
Eden EMS & Rescue Squad	Savannah Battleson, Emma Tambacas
Eden Little Loop Football & Cheerleading	Claire Baker, Martin Barnack, Gavin Hill, Alex Overhoff, Lainey Overhoff, Amanda Preischel
Eden Music & Arts Boosters	Haley Cavarello, Megan Walsh
Eden Police Club	Giovanni Schifano
Eden PTA	Robert Grunder, Jessica Hall
Eden Teachers' Association	Megan Walsh
Edward Sturm Memorial Scholarship	Lainey Overhoff
Garra Lester Memorial Scholarship	Corbin Maggs
Gerald Franz Sr. Memorial Scholarship	Clayton Blaszc
Jack Robbins Memorial Scholarship	Camryn Klawon
James Burdick Memorial Scholarship	Justin Reed
John Maguda Music Scholarship	Megan Walsh
Kathleen Box-Krycia Memorial Scholarship	Emily Krawczyk
Kim Korhummel Memorial Scholarship	Courtney Woodring
Kranz and VanNote Memorial Scholarship	Anna Braymiller
Mike Waring Memorial Scholarship	Faith Federowicz
Rueben Potter Memorial Scholarship	Boaz Schrecengost
Ruth Szalaszny Memorial Scholarship	Katie Zimmerman
Southern Erie County Counselors'	Gavin Hill
Tom Mroz Jr. Memorial Scholarship	Emma Tambacas, Rachel Wach
Joseph Sullivan Family Memorial Scholarship	Carrie Edwards, Emma Gunnar, Samantha Schultz, Courtney Woodring



Eden Student Wins Second Place in Allentown Art Festival Poster Contest in the Professional Division

Eden Senior, Haley Cavarello won second place in the Allentown Art Festival Poster Contest in the PROFESSIONAL division, not the student division. Haley is an exceptional student and this is a very prestigious honor.

To view more of the artwork created by Eden students, go to www.edencsd.org — Look under Headlines —> More —> then click on the link “Eden Virtual Art Gallery”.

Congratulations to Senior Artists Haley Cavarello, Sabrina Battleson, Baylee Hauser, Karlie Metros, and Rachel Wach.



Eden Elementary Students in the Spotlight

By Lisa Postle

February:

Grade 3: Colin Singleton, Aiden Wierzba, Edward Carias, Clayton Taylor, Trinity Norman, Charlie Dzubella

Grade 4: Zander Walczak, Garrett Smith, Matthew Lucachik, Peyton Schuler

Grade 5: Amy McMillan, Alaina Sims, Madison Russillo, Garrett Walczyk



Retirements 2020

This year, we wish a very Happy Retirement to eleven faculty and staff members.

Sandi Ploetz was hired in November of 1997 to cover the GLP Library. She worked part-time at GLP and Eden Elementary for 16 years. Mrs. Ploetz worked part-time as both Eden Elementary and GLP Librarian for one year and has been the Eden Elementary part-time Librarian for the past six years for a total of 23 years at Eden Central.

Mrs. Ploetz has been in the education field since 1982 and has taught at one point or another, every class except Metal Shop and Boys Physical Education and every grade level ages 2-49. Before coming to Eden, she taught French at Walter Panas High School in Peekskill, New York, Franklinville Central, Forestville Central and eight semesters as an adjunct at SUNY Fredonia. She has degrees in Reading K-12 and Library-Information Science K-12.



Mrs. Ploetz has been recognized twice with building leadership awards from ETA. She was also recognized twice as Eden's employee of the month, and this Fall, she received the District Excellence Award. She published an article in Library Connections magazine.

Her fondest memories are of helping start the Honor Breakfasts as part of the Character Education Program at GLP. The Character Ed program was kicked off with a sketch she wrote called, "The Not Right Zone." She would dress up as different characters each month and would read stories to the kids during their Honor Breakfast and Cathy Jeffers would roll with whatever she came up with. Other than that, all the Cross-Curricular programs she worked on; an Art-Music-Library Collaboration on Africa that was featured in a Board presentation; the International Food Day at Eden Elementary, all the collaboration with each year's second grade musical, and her beloved annual Super Library Quiz. She capped all this off with the culmination of a five year dream: the opening of the Eden Elementary MakerSpace; just a week before Covid shut everything down.

Mrs. Ploetz had hoped to get the Maker Space in place before retiring, and her biggest regret is never getting to watch a class of students use it. She hopes that despite the challenging times ahead, Eden will make these spaces a priority. There is no bigger thrill than sitting in the audience at a regional inventing competition and hearing the names of three Eden students called.

Mrs. Ploetz's plans for the future:

- They just brought home an eight-week-old beagle puppy named Bernie to keep her company in retirement.
- She hopes to return to writing and playing clarinet; both things she enjoys but had to put on a back-burner.
- She will continue to work with her church drama group, writing, acting and directing, and once it is safe to do so, make some trips to watch a Mets game at Citifield and to see friends and family in Florida, Texas and Ohio and to camp at Letchworth.

She has had the pleasure of being the teacher of the following Eden Teachers: Amy Porter, Lori Kohl, Josh Walker, Jamie Peterson, and Adriana Jimenez.

She is proud to have been able to teach in Eden for the past 23 years and have all three of her daughters be Eden honor graduates. She would like to publicly thank Kathy Saab, former GLP Principal, for taking a chance on her, her colleagues for their support, both professionally and personally, and the families of Eden for entrusting her with their children. Most of all though, she wants to thank Eden students for making this journey, filled with triumph and tragedy, laughter and tears, an experience she will treasure for the rest of her life. It's been an honor and a privilege.

Ray Neil has been teaching Spanish here for 31 years. In addition to teaching, Mr. Neil (a.k.a. Don Ramon) took on the role of Technology Integrator, where he has assisted the Technology Department by helping with technology needs in the District. In 2019, Mr. Neil received the Eden Teacher of the Year Award. Some of his fondest memories include: (continued on next page)





2020 Retirements (continued)

The year he did a tap dance number for a talent show in the high school auditorium with one of his Spanish students who taught him to tap dance; The year he played a two piano piece for a talent show in the high school with one of his Spanish students; Playing piano with student musicians for talent shows in the high school; The 27 years that he played piano for many chorus concerts, some orchestra concerts, some band and jazz band concerts and for the high school musicals; Four years that he was the musical Pit Orchestra Director; The trips he used to take his students on to Spain and the ones he chaperoned for French and German teachers to France, Germany and Switzerland; Last, but certainly, not least, the 31 years of working with incredible colleagues, administrators, secretaries, support staff, and many others in a great community.

Mr. Neil's plans for the future include: Not setting an alarm for September and October 2020; Subbing at Eden and other schools; Continuing as Eden's musical Pit Orchestra Director for at least one more year; Playing for some Eden concerts when he is available; Traveling, reading, playing music, spending time with his family; He added that he will miss everyone, but not too much since he will be subbing and doing other things at Eden.

Joe Weis has been a School Psychologist for Eden Central Schools for the past 23 years. He was awarded the Niagara University Counselor of the Year in 2010.

Mr. Weis' fondest memories are of the lifelong friendships he has made. His plans for the future include traveling, working part-time doing something slightly different in the mental health profession, cooking healthy foods, and golfing.

Mr. Weis added that he couldn't imagine working for 23 years anywhere but Eden. He has been so lucky to work with such outstanding students, families, and school staff and faculty. Where has the time gone?

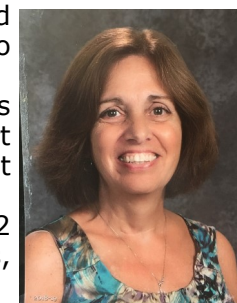
Joan Brechtel taught Kindergarten in Eden for 22 years. It has been such a privilege for her to be part of Eden Central School District. She is, and will be, forever grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated teachers and administrators. Mrs. Brechtel will never forget the kindness and compassion shown to her over the past 22 years.

Mrs. Brechtel said it has also been an honor to meet some of the best parents around; many, of whom today, she has the opportunity to call friends. Their support and trust was never taken for granted. She could never have done this job without them.

Finally, the students she has had the opportunity to work with over the past 22 years have left an indelible mark on her heart. She will miss their hugs, smiles, stories, and laughter. Being a part of their lives has been an honor and a joy!

Mrs. Brechtel's plans for the future include visiting as many National Parks as possible with her husband! They also hope to get out of the snow, for a time, this winter. They will spend time with their eldest daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, who are local, and will now have time to visit their youngest daughter, who is in her OB/GYN residency in Tennessee.

Kim Castiglia came to Eden for the first time as a Student Teacher in 1991. After graduating from SUNY Fredonia, she taught first grade in the Fredonia School District. In 1993, she was hired as a third grade teacher at Eden Elementary. After one year in third grade, she was back at GLP. She spent seven years co-teaching a multi-age classroom. From there, she taught a single multi-age classroom, a first grade classroom, one session of summer school and then she returned to Kindergarten for the remainder of her time at GLP. She has taught over 500 of Eden's children throughout her teaching career. The thing Mrs. Castiglia enjoyed the most about teaching was the children. They came into her class bright eyed and ready to learn. She tried her best to help each child learn in whatever avenue suited their needs. She loved them, nurtured them and sent them on to the next grade level. She loved watching her students develop through the years. Many of her former students would stop by her classroom, stick their head in the door and say, "Hi Mrs. Castiglia! Do you remember me?" Most of them with the same baby faces they had in Kindergarten - just a little more grown up! It was always great to visit with a former student.





2020 Retirements (continued)

Mrs. Castiglia's three fondest memories from teaching at GLP are teaching an Under the Sea Unit with a culminating activity of forming a huge blue whale out on the soccer field with her class and their families. Her husband flew over and took a picture of the whale they had formed. Next, all those Polar Express Party Days; she had so much fun with the parents that came in to help complete a full day of fun learning activities and crafts. Last, all the Kindergarten Celebration programs. The time spent singing songs and celebrating with families will warm her heart for years to come. It is bittersweet that this year, her last year, there will not be a Kindergarten Celebration.

Now, it's time to retire and spend time enjoying her husband, Jim, and her children, Jim and Karrissa and their families. But you know the best part will be spending time with her three grandchildren; Nicholas who is now 13, Aleah 5, and Santino who is 2. We have fun times ahead of us on Chautauqua Lake and special places to go and visit in Michigan. She feels so proud to have been part of the Eden School District. She has enjoyed working with everyone, and she expressed her thanks for making this journey a beautiful part of her life. She will take memories from everyone with her.

Judy Marie Maynard started out teaching at Springville Griffith Institute in a first grade position. She then taught a fourth/fifth grade combination at Colden Elementary. She has been at Eden for over 28 years, first substitute teaching and then teaching fifth grade.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Maynard has received the Eden Teachers' Association Leadership Award in 2004 and 2009, and the Eden Teachers' Association Appreciation Award in 2005.

Mrs. Maynard's fondest memories are of working with many of her fellow teachers on the musicals at Eden Elementary, which brought so much joy to her over the years. She also loved working on the School Newspaper "Expressions of Eden". The PARP Plays were fun for her, as the teachers acted out the importance of reading to their students.

It has been an extraordinary ride working with such professionals with whom she considers her very close friends. She loved teaching Math and Science. When working with kids, every day creates a memory. She loved seeing so many of her students become wonderful parents, and she gets a kick out of how many of her former students became colleagues.

Carol Stumpf is happy to say she has spent all 30 years of her career at Eden teaching Kindergarten. Her fondest memories / reflections are since she was a little girl, her dream job was to be a kindergarten teacher! Her dream came true when she was hired by Eden Central School District in 1990.

She has been so fortunate to do what she loves for 30 years. GLP has been her second home. There is nothing like starting the day with smiles, hugs and "Good Morning Mrs. Stumpf!" She is so grateful for all the wonderful children, families and colleagues who have touched her life over all these years. She has learned so much from everyone and expressed her thanks! Mrs. Stumpf will miss everyone at GLP, it truly is a Great Little Place!

Shawn Johnson was hired as the Director of Pupil Personnel Services for Eden in January 1, 2005. Over the years, she has had many new titles added to her position due to new State regulated/mandated positions.

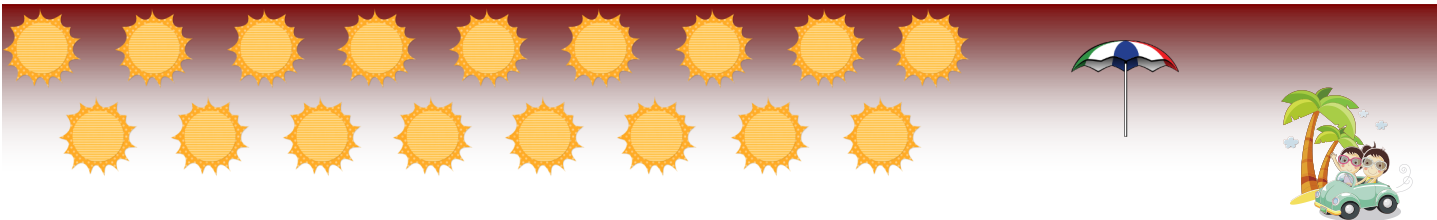
Mrs. Johnson received the "Award for Excellence" from the Western New York Educational Service Council in 2008.

Her fondest memories are of two successful Autism walks that provided the means to create sensory rooms in all three Eden school buildings, and working with the Athletic Department to start the unified basketball and bowling teams. She is so proud of the Eden Pupil Personnel staff, who diligently and professionally created programs that five other districts sent their students to participate in. The best memories are of working with the students and staff throughout her years at Eden.

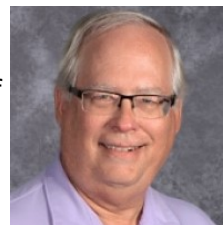
Mrs. Johnson's plans for the future include being an instructor at Buffalo State College, supervising graduate students in the area of Special Education, helping her husband with his business, and spending time in Florida.

Mrs. Johnson would also like to thank the Eden community for all the support they have given to her.





David Martin spent the last 23 years as the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds/Director of Facilities. Mr. Martin said that every position is what you make of it. He wanted to make a difference every day. Long gone are the days of directing cleaning, helping to maintain the campus and spending time with the staff. Now it's regulations, safety procedures and processes, budgeting, purchasing, interviews, discipline, designing for the future, equipment review, goals, justifying everything, collaborating with everyone, training staff, looking at the big picture all the time and trying to please as many as possible with limited resources.



In 1994, Mr. Martin was the only State Certified Director of Facilities in Western New York. In 2016, he received Dr. Richard Mills' Educational Scholarship. In 2017, he received the SFA President's award, and he has numerous certificates and accolades from multiple professional organizations, both school related, as well as personal.

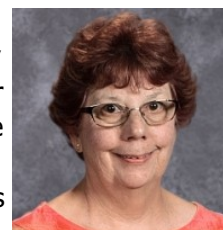
Mr. Martin's fondest memories include receiving numerous pieces of recognition from organizations and political organizations throughout New York State for rescuing a child from her parents' burning home in 2005. None was as rewarding as the 2019 rekindling the connection of that little girl, who is now a parent of children at Eden Elementary School. He also will fondly remember all the renovation projects and the response received by staff, students, parents and the community.

Mr. Martin's plans for the future include consulting, golfing, traveling, spending time in Chautauqua, working on his classic car, and enjoying his family and friends.

Mr. Martin would like to share these words of wisdom:

- Like a good pot of stew or spaghetti sauce, the longer the flavors have to blend, the better the taste. The same is true with most issues. Sometimes if you let things ruminate a bit, the results are far better. Timing is key.
- Don't just follow the trend, think out of the box all the time. Challenge people, they are not always considering all the aspects, and sometimes some great things will follow your thought process.
- Own your words, or don't say them.

Donna Zwack has worked in every school building; GLP, Eden Elementary and Eden Jr./Sr. High School throughout her career, as a Special Education Teacher Aide, a Teacher Aide in the resource room, copy room and a Clerk Typist in the Guidance Office and Main Office of the Jr./Sr. High School.



Mrs. Zwack was the recipient of The Eden Teachers Association "President's Award".

Her fondest memories include what a joy it was to be Jeremy Gorcica's aide. He was a bright student with a wonderful sense of humor. He always put a smile on her face. She had so many good conversations and stories with teachers and staff while she worked in the Jr./Sr. High Copy Room and made many friendships there. Mrs. Zwack would like to give a shout out to Mr. Yale for introducing her to Track and Field. She had the best time assisting all the track coaches over the years and spending time with the athletes at meets. She won't forget the times when tents were being blown down by the wind and rain or the meets in the snow! The Main Office in the Jr./Sr. High School was a busy place, but Dottie and she still found time to pull a few pranks. She enjoyed participating in Sprit Week at the High School and especially seeing students and faculty dressed up in the daily themes. Christmas Buffet was a fun day, seeing faculty and staff all day long at the fest, and she enjoyed Friday Lunches.

Mrs. Zwack's plans for the future include spending time with family and friends, especially visiting her three grandchildren; Mason, Alanna and Wyatt in Charlotte, North Carolina, taking trips around the country, gardening, scrapbooking and volunteer work.



Eden Central School has a special place in her heart where she made many close friends over the years. It was a place she looked forward to coming to work and spending time with students and co-workers.

Sandy Anzalone will retired June 30th from her position as Superintendent of Schools. Under her guidance, Eden has been able to lower class sizes at the elementary level, make improvements to buildings and grounds, improve academic standings K-12, including being top 20 as a District and top 10 in athletics, add Advanced Placement courses at the High School, and create a Middle School.



Mrs. Anzalone was awarded the WNYWEL Women’s Administrator of the Year in 2009 and the PTA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

Her fondest memories include Raiders’ Respond Days, musicals and concerts, working with an amazing administrative team, the enthusiasm of our teachers, amazing students and supportive parents and a dedicated school board.

For the future, she hopes to do some bicycling, scuba diving, hiking, golfing, woodworking, gardening, and getting to know her grandchildren, spending time with family and turning off her phone. Mrs. Anzalone would like to add that Eden is an amazing place to raise children. She will always be grateful to the District and community for supporting our most precious treasure—our children.

Earlier in the 2019-2020 school year, the following support staff members retired: Debbie Kolasa, Cleaner and Mark Clark, Auto Mechanic Crew Chief.

Congratulations Class of 2020 Top Students

Congratulations go out to 2020’s Valedictorian, Aislyn Jerome, with a 99.176 average and Salutatorian, Megan Walsh, with a 98.902 average.

Aislyn is the daughter of Ryan and Courtney Jerome of Jennings Road.

Megan is the daughter of Glenn and Michelle Walsh of Hillbrook Drive. Rounding out the top ten for 2019-2020 are:

Rank	Name	GPA
3	Wach, Rachel	98.765
4	Braymiller, Anna	97.993
5	Reed, Justin	97.787
6	James, Alaina	97.638
7	Tambacas, Emma	97.439
8	Hill, Gavin J	97.065
9	Overhoff, Lainey	96.970
10	Krawczyk, Emily	96.910

Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2020!



Have a great  SUMMER!

Eden Central School District
8289 N. Main St.
Eden, NY 14057
Phone: 716-992-3630
Fax: 716-992-3656

Eden Central School – Embrace, educate, empower

MISSION:

In collaboration with the community, the Eden Central School District pursues our tradition of excellence in personal and academic achievement. We provide a positive and respectful learning environment that places students at the heart of all activities. Students are afforded the tools and opportunity to realize their potential within our global society, while cultivating the understanding necessary to fully appreciate their journey.

VISION:

ECSD is a collaborative learning community that embraces the individuality of each student, educating and empowering them to become productive citizens in an ever-changing and diverse society.

Eden's Top Three Seniors Honored by Erie Niagara School Superintendents' Association



EDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Aislyn Jerome, Megan Walsh, and Rachel Wach were honored by the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents' Association as Eden's top three seniors for 2019-2020.

Normally, the top three students from all Western New York area High Schools are honored at a dinner attended by the students, the school Principal, Superintendent and Board President each May, along with other prominent community members. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the dinner had to be cancelled this year.

At the annual dinner, each student receives a beautiful crystal bison and a certificate congratulating them on their academic success. Dinner is followed by a guest speaker.

Congratulations to this year's recipients who were awarded their Bison by Mrs. Anzalone.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Mr. Donald Sutfin, President | 2022 |
| Mrs. Jennifer Horschel, VP | 2021 |
| Miss Cheryl Carpenter | 2023 |
| Mr. Jack Cuddihy | 2021 |
| Mrs. Marlene Grunder | 2022 |
| Mrs. Ellen Kindley | 2023 |
| Mr. Allan Silver | 2022 |

Mrs. Sandy Anzalone, Superintendent through June 30, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey A. Sortisio, Superintendent, effective July 1, 2020

Barbara Thomasulo & Cathy Dobson, Co-Editors June 2020

Eden Central School
8289 N. Main Street
Eden, New York 14057

