

EPEA

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IMPORTANT

Next General
Membership
Meeting is
Tuesday, March 25
Location TBD

Season's Greetings,

We have had quite a beginning to our winter! Wherever you live, I hope you had warm, safe, and dry snow days. Living in the Southtowns I got to experience 3 feet of snow - twice! Snow days are always adventures.

Onto some business; NYSUT has released its APPR guidance so the EPEA APPR committee will be getting together on January 6th to begin the conversation. We will be crafting a survey to gather the opinions of our EPEA brothers and sisters regarding the perfect annual professional performance review process. Be sure to be on the lookout for that in the new year.

Also in business news, Governor Hochul signed the Heat Bill. NYSUT has been advocating for the Heat Bill for quite some time. We are thankful the governor finally signed the bill. The Heat Bill outlines requirements for school districts to ensure that our classrooms are at safe temperature levels for students and staff. While many of our buildings have air conditioning, this bill will ensure that the District forms a plan to keep the students and staff at Winchester safe, and cool, when the sun starts heating up that building!

Before I sign off, I want to again thank the Social Committee for all the effort that went into the Annual Holiday and Retirement party. Thankfully the weather cooperated and we were able to hold the event. It was a beautiful evening, with great food, prizes, and even better company. Congratulations again to our retirees - we wish you well!

Happy Holidays - we'll see you in the new year!

Donna Walters

Erie 1 Professional Education Association President

EPEA ANNUAL RETIREMENT AND HOLIDAY PARTY 2024



Wow - what an awesome night we had! Members, past retirees and family/friends honored our seven retirees, and we were blessed to have Pam Carland & Mary DiVita with us in person to applaud for their outstanding years of service. Additionally, our revered NYSUT leader, Deana Fox also joined in the celebration. We had such a fun gathering of giving folks!!

Your generosity raised \$1295.00 through our Silent Auction where 100% of the proceeds will go to Feed-More WNY to help our community & families this holiday season. \$460.00 total was raised through our 50/50 where \$230.00 will go to our Breast Cancer Walk in October 2025. Our lucky winner was Dieter Voss! Speaking of which - wow was he a lucky one as his name was pulled as the winner of the beautiful Poinsettia for the door prize AND he guessed the exact number of candy canes in the barrel winning 2 free tickets to the Jan. 6th Sabres game against the Washington Capitals!

Mark your calendar for next year's annual event- The Columns Banquets, December 11, 2025, 5-8.



EPEA NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

When: Friday, January 24th, 2025

Time: 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Door opens at 4:00pm

Where: Buffalo Riverworks

Free for EPEA Member & \$10.00 for 1 additional invite per member.

Proceeds will go to the EPEA Scholarship committee.

12/15/2024



Member Benefits can help you save during the holidays

Another holiday season full of anticipation and joy is upon us, and NYSUT Member Benefits is ready to help with gift giving. Before purchasing any items on your list, make sure to check out all that Member Benefits has to offer.



Whether you're looking for savings on gift baskets, flowers or chocolates, Bose products, clothing or shoes, movie tickets, sporting events and concerts, theme parks and attractions, restaurants, or thousands of other deals, you'll want to check out MB Discounts & Deals.

While you're on our website, take some time to explore the Buyer's Edge, Inc., ODP Business Solutions, and Purchasing Power programs for new and used vehicles; appliances, televisions, furniture, and mattresses; school and office supplies; electronics; and more.

Don't forget about making sure your family is protected during the holidays and beyond. Going back over 40 years, NYSUT members have historically counted on Member Benefits for crucial

insurance, legal, and financial offerings. Member Benefits endorses quality life, disability, auto/home/renter's, dental and vision, and pet insurance offerings – along with unbiased legal services and financial counseling options.

Learn more by scanning the QR code, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.



CLASSROOM CORNER



Celebrating great things happening in our classrooms



November 4th - Students at Erie 1 BOCES' Maryvale Academy showed their respect for military service as they completed cards to be sent to area military veterans.

This year is the third year that students have completed the service project prior to Veterans Day, and the project has grown from recognizing 12 veterans to approximately 40 veterans to this year's count of 113 veterans. Veterans were identified for the outreach effort by the school's staff as well as community members.

Students at the academy also had an opportunity to hear from Charles Fieramusca, a relative of academy teacher Melissa Diguisepe who served in the Army for three years, primarily as a tank gunner in Germany in the 1960s. Fieramusca said he thought veterans receiving the letters from the students would have a feeling of pride in their service.



HEARING RELATED SERVICES OPEN HOUSE

Cassie Haberer, Teacher of the Deaf/HH wanted to send in some picture of the Hearing Related Services Open House that we had at E1B on 10/10. Students who receive hearing services from E1B Teachers of the Deaf/HH came out to meet other students with hearing loss. They enjoyed games, ice cream, snacks and made some new friends. Fun was had by all.



Karen Austin, Cosmetology teacher at Kenton shares a fun project the seniors did with pumpkins. Only criteria was the pumpkins had to have "hair". We had a little contest and the pumpkin in the middle was the winner.



SUNSHINE CELEBRATIONS

Dayna DiVirgilio

Baby Boy

Lasagna Garden

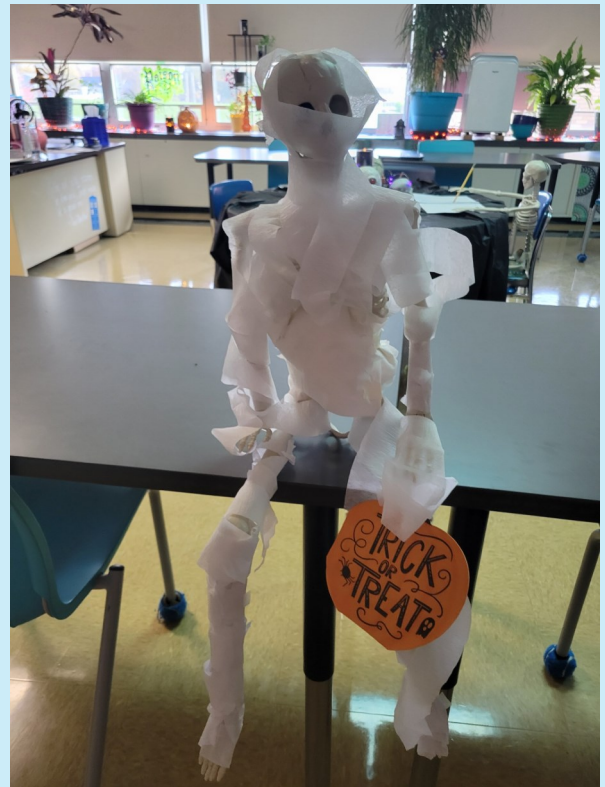
By: Jennifer Kelly & Students

To understand the significance of decomposers in an ecosystem, students created their very own composter. A recycled tank was filled with several layers of commonly discarded items from around the school including mineral rich sand, food scraps, used paper, and autumn leaves, to understand how microscopic organisms facilitate the process of breaking down scrap material into useful nutrient rich soil. Students are responsible for the addition of new materials, record keeping, and maintenance of the composter. In the spring students will utilize the nourishing soil that was created to plant flowers for our pollinators and witness the benefits of their hard work.



FRESHMAN SEMINAR

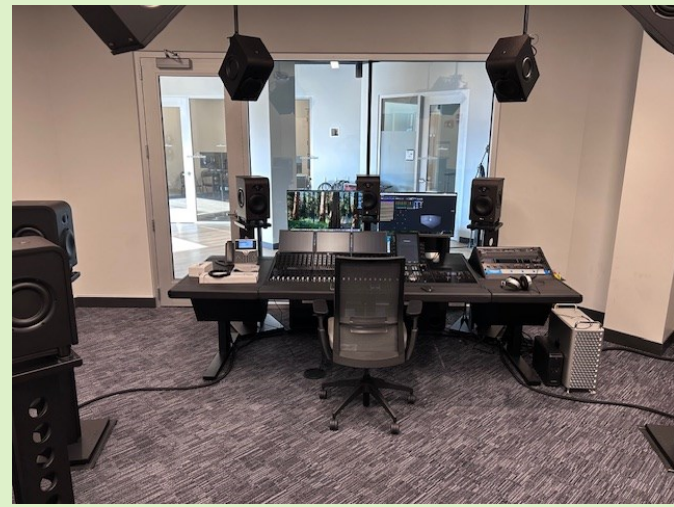
Freshman students at Maryvale Academy participate in a Freshman Seminar two days a week. The goal of the class is to ease the transition to high school academically, behaviorally, and socially by providing 9th grade students with a safe and inclusive environment that ensures a smooth transition to high school and equips them with the necessary social-emotional and academic knowledge base and skills to help them excel throughout high school and beyond. Around Halloween the students designed costumes for skeletons while focusing on following directions and working cooperatively.



STATE OF THE ART TECH



Marc Hunt shares that the studios at Calspan recently completed phase II. Phase II included updating Studio C (our demo room) with a new interface and the ability to mix in 5.1 surround, a new interface and general update for the MIDI Suite, expanding the inputs and output in Studio A and the installation of some industry-standard outboard equipment. Phase II concluded with our newest studio, Studio B, as a Dolby Atmos Mixing Suite complete with an AVID S4 Controller. The studios at Calspan continue to be cutting-edge and state-of-the-art facilities that provide our students real-world experience on the latest technology and industry trends.



Enclosed in this newsletter is information for Erie 1 Professional Education Association members pertaining to union related news and events. If you have a story idea or suggestion, please e-mail it to Brenna Towle at btowle@e1b.org.

SNOW BALL FIGHT!!!!

Maryvale Academy like to celebrate the holiday with a good ol' snowball fight. While watching the movie ELF, students and staff take a break (at the snowball fight scene) to show how it should be done. A great way to come together, blow off some steam, and

