

OCTOBER 2021

## Exceptional Employees Honored After an Extraordinary Year

In a year that stood out for so many of the wrong reasons, three East Irondequoit employees stood out for all of the right ones.

For the first time the district selected three employees of the year. Dave Savine, the instrumental music teacher at Laurelton Pardee, was chosen as Elementary Educator of the Year, Melissa Hutto, a science teacher at the Middle School, was Secondary Educator of the Year, and Doug Streit, from the Information Technology Department, was named Staff Member of the Year.

"These three individuals are great examples of the commitment and effort that our entire staff puts forth every day, and especially last year when so much had changed so quickly," said Mary Grow, Superintendent of Schools. "It was difficult to pick only three winners, but I think we definitely made the right choice."

Each one approached the year with the same attitude: to do whatever was needed to get the job done.

"It was kind of like building the



plane while you were flying it," Savine recalls. "We had to be very aware of safety precautions and the well-being of our students was the number one priority. It was a challenge but it just showed that it could be done. There was no option—we were going to have kids playing music because we felt it was important."

Making her students feel important is one of the big reasons that Melissa was the recipient of her award. It's amazing how, in tough times, what might seem like a small gesture can have a big impact.

"I tried to make the kids feel like they belonged and that it wasn't

as crazy of a year as it really was. I got in the habit of sending little postcards out, just to give them a little encouragement, let them know they are doing an awesome job, I am here for them and they are loved."

With the increased demand on technology due to remote learning, Doug saw the need for his services increase immensely. However, more work didn't change his approach.

"I'm really just doing my job. I've been doing this type of work for so long now, it really just comes naturally to me. I'm just glad to be able to help everyone out."

East Irondequoit's Employee of the Year Award is selected annually from nominations submitted by employees and community members. Nomination forms are available in the spring, both online and in each of the district's six schools. Winners are announced at the opening day ceremony for the staff prior to the start of school.







# LANCER PRIDE

## A Warm Welcome and Congratulations



At the October fifth board meeting the district introduced the newly hired teaching staff as well as recognized those who received tenure. This picture represents the largest group of new hires in East Irondequoit history as well as the most diverse group of educators we have ever welcomed.

It was also a memorable day for the 15 people who received tenure. Congratulations to: Roxana Alexander, Heather Aprile, George Barberi, Christina Cook, Sean Costello, Lindsay Falzano, Megan Howe, Erin Korn, Cole Lachance-Tofany, Taylor O'Leary, Taylor Rivera, Tim Roach, Dan Roser, Randi Vengelen, and Gretchen Vandemortel.



### Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

Eastridge High School students got a chance to sample a little bit of Hispanic Culture without leaving the school. The after school event was part of Hispanic Heritage Month and featured food, arts and crafts and even Salsa dancing lessons.



## A Golden Reunion

The district was excited to welcome back members of the Eastridge High School Class of 1971 to the school as part of their 50th reunion on October 9th. The group was amazed to see how much the building has changed since they have left and how much opportunity the school offers the current students.

A lot of things might have changed over the last five decades, but one thing has remained the same, they are proud to be Lancers!





## Homecoming Happenings at Eastridge

Homecoming was back and it was as great as ever. From Spirit Week to the pep rally to the parade, carnival, and football game, it was a great time for not only the students, but for the families and the community. It was great to have everyone back together to enjoy the festivities and we look forward to seeing even more of you next year.



### Dates to Remember in November

November 11-Veterans Day-No School  
November 12- Helendale Road PTA Family Activity Night  
Durand Eastman Fall Book Fair  
November 15- Varsity/Junior Varsity Winter Sports Begin  
November 22-Parent/Teacher Conferences, K-8 Half Day  
November 22- Modified Winter Sports Begin  
Varsity/Junior Varsity Meet the Coaches Night  
November 23- Parent/Teacher Conferences, No School UPK-8  
November 24- Thanksgiving Recess Begins, No School



### Honoring a Legend

Prior to their game on October 13, the Eastridge and Webster Thomas field hockey teams paid tribute to Linda Adams who has coached in East Irondequoit for more than 50 years. The Lancers even broke out their throwback plaid skirts for the contest.

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## LANCER PRIDE

### East Irondequoit Board Corner

In each edition of this newsletter we will profile a member of the East Irondequoit Board of Education. The Board is comprised of nine district residents who volunteer their time to serve three year terms. In this issue we meet School Board Vice President Carol Watt.

**Q. What are some of the most significant changes you've seen in your time on the board?**



A. I sincerely believe that a public education gives our

children the best preparation to become citizens who positively contribute to our society and who have individual success, no matter the field they choose to pursue. Schools need to mimic society and EI does that in so many ways. I am proud

that we have both expanded and fine-tuned what we offer and teach. We have diverse community and we celebrate that diversity, teaching students that our differences make us unique and strengthen us.

**Q. What do you gain from being on the board?**

A. No matter how much I give, I get so much back in return. I have met and made friends, gotten to know my community better, enjoyed meeting students, staff and parents and watch as we all learn and grow together. That is the one piece I appreciate most, it has allowed me to

learn and appreciate a field outside my own profession.

**Q. Why has securing funding been such a focal point for you?**

A. The gap in state aid was being filled with local tax dollars. I saw it as both my job as a board member and my concern as a local tax payer to do all I could to rectify the situation. I was thrilled with our success getting full funding of foundation aid. And, I will be happy to be a part of advocating for what both I and the rest of the board believe will help families in this district, full funding of pre-k transportation.

**Q. What makes East Irondequoit so special to you?**

A. What I see and feel most is a small town feeling inside a city, a sense of comfort in our schools. Our community truly cares for one another and pitches in where, and when, help is needed. As a lifelong resident with both my daughter and me being Eastridge graduates, I am proud to be part of our life here.

### *Thank You Board of Education*

Our district is truly fortunate to have a School Board with members who care so deeply about our staff, students and community.

October 18-22 was School Board Recognition week and we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our dedicated board.

