

VALUE Education

December 2022

Superintendent's Notebook

Eric Lutinski, Ed.D.

Dear Rye Neck families,

I extend a happy greeting to the entire Rye Neck community. The Board of Education and I are grateful that our schools are operating on a high level in the wake of the challenges of the past few years.

One easy means for our community members to be a part of Rye Neck is through our website, social media, and district communications. Whether you want to participate in any of our events or just see what's going on, there are a variety of ways to stay connected.

First, our website is better than ever. When you visit ryeneck.org or any of the four school pages, you will find things you need or items of interest. Each page is carefully organized to provide easy access to our school board, academic departments and grade level teams, extracurriculars, family and community information, and several types of calendars. Replacing most of the scattered, multicolored sheets of paper that used to be sent home throughout the year are links to important forms that we can update in a timely manner. The content available in each subcategory of the dropdown menus gives you most of what you need from a single step, or points you in the right direction if you have to contact someone in the district. Replacing the sterile look of "old fashioned" webpages are colorful photographs that convey the vibrant imagery of life in our schools.

Second, we are constantly upgrading our social media. Our new website can connect you to a more accessible Facebook page and Twitter feed, each with news of student activity, accomplishments, and events. Our most recent addition is [@ryeneckschools](https://www.instagram.com/ryeneckschools) -- the only official district Instagram.

Continued on page 2



An Update from the Board of Education

Gloria Golle, President

It is hard to believe that we are already one quarter in and on the precipice of 2023! In that short time, our school district has had much to celebrate! It feels like we are "back to normal" as events and activities that have had to be postponed or cancelled in the last two years are now returning without restriction.

We saw the school year begin with the fall sports season in full swing, including our intramural, modified, JV and Varsity teams. Our students shined as the seasons went on and our Panther Pride was at its peak as we were gifted a magnificent weekend for Homecoming! This year the Booster Club had more Homecoming activities and events for all the students of Rye Neck than ever before. The way that we come together as a community is one of the things that makes Rye Neck so special.

Ceremonies were held throughout September and October to recognize many of our students' achievements, including inductions to the National Honor Society, the World Language Honor Societies, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Thespian and Music Honor Societies.

Our fall high school play, "Puffs", was a huge success with packed houses for all shows. Our thespians demonstrated their talents in witty and heartwarming performances that everyone enjoyed!

In other "firsts," Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows weren't the only ones who enjoyed Halloween this year. For the first time in 20 years, the Middle School and High School participated in Halloween celebrations with costumes at



Continued on page 2

Superintendent's Notebook

Continued from page 1

Finally, we are still in the business of actively communicating through email. Each of our principals transmits a regular newsletter with things of interest from their schools-- menus and calendars being the most popular items! Every Monday, I send a Weekly Message from the Superintendent that can be a celebration of students or staff, an announcement of health or safety information, or simply a reinforcement of what our principals or schools send. Our Mass Notifications blast email system is used regularly for emergency or time-sensitive messages. Of course, we still mail out each edition of *Value Education*.

An important part of any school district's service to its residents lies in its physical accessibility. Rye Neck's Board of Education far exceeds the minimum required when it comes to hosting public meetings. Our Board holds two public meetings per month: one regular meeting and one a working session. The regular meetings are televised through LMC Media, but all are open to in-person public presence.

With the return of safe gathering in-person, we have restarted our practice of holding meeting presentations during the school year. These are a means of sharing specific information with our community. The Board kicked off the year with a new presentation on the requirements, structure, and role of the Board of Education itself. We followed with academic presentations on test data, elementary reading, and HS science in our new Collaborative Science Center. That series will continue with a presentation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in January. Our presentations in the late winter and spring will focus on sharing budget information. Each is an excellent opportunity to learn a little bit more about how our schools, with community support, can maintain a steady course of improvement for the benefit of our students.

I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.



An Update from the Board of Education

Continued from page 1

school. From kindergarten through 12th grade, there were cowboys and girls, superheroes, skeletons, and many, many more walking the halls of all campuses. All the kids got to be kids that day and everyone had a great time!

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our administrators and staff who have worked (and continue to work) tirelessly to ensure that our students have the tools they need to be successful both inside and outside of our hallways. We know that because of you and all the effort that you put in every day, our students continue to rise and achieve. We appreciate and value you. Thank you for all that you do!

On behalf of the Board of Education, we wish you a restful and peaceful holiday season and a bright and joyous New Year!



Watch our Board of Education Meetings

Our monthly meetings are televised through LMC-TV and can be found on these channels (as well as online):

- Cablevision Channel 76
- Verizon Channel 35

Previous meetings can be viewed by visiting LMC-TV's website (lmcmedia.org) and selecting Watch & Listen and then selecting School Board Meetings. All Board meeting agendas are available on BoardDocs and minutes are posted on www.ryeneck.org/boemeetinginformation.

PTSA News

Megan McFarland, PTSA President

Thank you to our Rye Neck community who once again made the PTSA Ribbon Fundraiser a great success! It was incredible to see all the families and local businesses support the PTSA. We raised over \$38,000 and all funds raised go directly to support PTSA programming.

Speaking of programming, because of your support, we have already had several amazing programs this year. One of the highlights was when Tony Hoffman spoke with Middle and High School students about his journey from addiction and homelessness to the Rio Olympics.

Your support also helped bring in multiple STEAM programs for our students including the “Path to Rhythm” assembly for 3rd graders, where they learned about the rhythms of Brazil, as well as a presentation about extreme weather from ABC News Meteorologist (and Rye Neck Parent) Rob Marciano for 8th, 9th, and 10th graders.



Other programs included a presentation from a Holocaust survivor for our 9th and 11th-grade students and a virtual planetarium presentation from The National Air and Space Museum for our 6th graders. Finally, another Rye Neck parent, Dr. Jason Carmel, spoke to high school students about “Brain Function: What Injuries Teach Us.”

We also had outstanding health and wellness programs at the elementary schools. We continued the 4th Grade Circus tradition. Students learned circus skills, including stilt walking, juggling, and plate spinning during a week of lessons, culminating with a Friday night performance for families. The Rye Y Recess Program has also been in full swing since September. This program provides a Rye YMCA instructor at recess each day to lead games and activities.

The Environmental Committees at the elementary schools also organized many events. These included a walk, bike, and scoot to school week, the candy drive (where students donated Halloween candy to our troops), and the Coat Drive.

We also held many social events to bring the community together. The Rye Neck International Committee hosted a potluck dinner. The Middle School Spooktacular provided a fun night of food, dancing, and other activities for the 200 students in attendance. Finally, thank you to those parents and community members who supported the PTSA at Casino Royale in November.

We could not accomplish any of the above-mentioned programming without your support. We have many ongoing fundraisers and there are many ways to support the PTSA. To find out more, visit our website www.ryneckpta.org.

Thank you for your continued support of the Rye Neck PTSA! Best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season!

Updates from the Booster Club

Patrick West, Booster Club President

The Booster Club has been busy with a packed fall calendar! The incredibly positive reception we’ve gotten from the community in response to our initiatives has been amazing. With an emphasis on fostering community spirit and Rye Neck pride across all of the schools, the Booster Club welcomes all parents to get involved and be a part of our organization.

Some highlights from Fall 2022:

- Fall Festival, our biggest annual fundraiser, set new marks for attendance and funds raised. Staged at Whitby Castle, the community turned out for a night of socializing and fundraising. Major thanks to those who donated items and attended!
- Homecoming was a smash hit, with massive crowds of students, families and alums of all ages turning out for the weekend. With glorious weather, the sidelines were packed for all of the varsity games. The Booster Club’s annual Tailgate and Spirit Wear Tents were big draws, as were the countless activities staged for students of all ages.
- Holiday Spirit Wear Partnership with the PTSA is a new endeavor staged with our friends at the PTSA that makes it easy for the RN community to shop for Rye Neck gear. With more options than ever before, we know people will be rocking their Rye Neck gear in style!
- Team & School Liaison programs have made it easy for parents to get involved and to support school programs and teams on all levels.
- *Puffs*, the play produced by the RN Theatre program, packed in the crowds and had the auditorium howling with laughter. The Booster Club was happy to support the cast and crew during rehearsals and the shows.
- The 1st Annual Rye Neck Boys Basketball Invitational Tournament was a weekend of games and activities that tipped off the season for the Panthers, while packing the gym with fans of all ages!



CONNECT WITH THE RYE NECK BOOSTER CLUB!

- Booster Club website: www.ryneckboosterclub
- Facebook: Rye Neck Booster Club
- Instagram: @Rye_Neck_Booster_Club
- Any of our Twitter handles for teams: “Rye Neck” and look for “official booster club” accounts

Latest News from the Rye Neck Athletic Department

Joe Ceglia, Athletics Director

Homecoming Weekend 2022 was a successful community and school event. Thousands of people flocked to campus to show their Rye Neck Panther pride. Community, family and faculty members attended contests and cheered the teams, coaches, and athletes on. The Student Senate and Student Athlete Cabinet organized and coordinated a spirit filled Pep Rally. Once again, our Rye Neck athletes, teams, and coaches represented Rye Neck well in their hard fought contests and thrilling victories. The Booster Club once again hosted their annual tailgating party at the Athletic Center in cooperation with food trucks and other family friendly activities.

Athletic Highlights from the Fall Athletic Season Include:

🏆 350 athletes in grades 7-12 participated in our fall interscholastic athletic program at the Varsity, JV and modified levels.

🎾 The following Varsity Girls Tennis players qualified for Section 1's Championship Tournament:

- Dylan White - Singles Draw
- Olivia Tobin & Shelby Preisser - Doubles Draw
- Carolina Doherty and Lucie Paumier - Doubles Draw
- Caleigh Nason and Hillary Kramer - Double Draw

🎾 The Varsity Girls Tennis Team earned the #5 seed in the Section 1 Girls 3/2 Team Tennis Tournament and advanced to the finals against #1 Byram Hills.

⚽ The Varsity Boys Soccer team earned the #7 seed in Section 1's Class B Boys Soccer Tournament and advanced to the quarterfinals.

🏒 The Varsity Field Hockey team earned the #9 seed in Section 1's Class C Field Hockey Tournament, upset the #1 seed in the quarterfinals and made it all the way to the Section 1 semifinals.

⚽ The Varsity Girls Soccer team earned the #7 seed in Section 1's Class B Girls Soccer Tournament and advanced to the quarter finals.

🏐 The Varsity Volleyball team earned the #7 seed in Section 1's Class B Volleyball Tournament and advanced to the quarter finals.

🏊 Swimmers Ayana Ite and Grayson Finlay qualified for the Section 1 Swimming Championships. Ayana in the 200 Free, 500 Free, and 200 Free Relay and Grayson in the 200 Free Relay. The 200 Free Relay team advanced to the finals.

🏃 The following Cross Country team members qualified for the Section 1 Class C Cross Country Championships:

- **Boys** - Joe Lavelle, Micah Taffet, Alex Favre, Kimichika Irie, David Magill, Matthias Lauvau, Killian Aubry, Sorahisa Irie, Aidan Kenny, Harrison Simon, & Ryan Baio
- **Girls** - Camila Anderson, Phoebe Carmel, Valentine Casciano, Ainara Schube, Julia Steeves, Katie Sykes, & Linda Vasquez

🏃 Joe Lavelle captured the Class C Section 1 Cross Country Championship.

🏃 Joe Lavelle and Ainara Schube qualified for the state championships in Verona, NY.

- Joe placed 2nd out of 131 runners in the Class C Championship race! Joe was also a member of the Section 1 team that captured the combined team State Championship! The team State Championship is awarded to the Section whose top 7 runners have the combined lowest times. Section 1 took home the title with Joe's outstanding performance!
- Ainara placed 17th out of 129 runners in the Class C Girls Championship race, earning her a medal for finishing in the top 20!



🏃 Joe Lavelle qualified for the NYS Federation Race at Bowdoin Park on November 19th. The Federation Race includes ALL public and private high school runners in the state. Runners from the NYSPHSAA, PSAL, CHSAA and AIS. Joe placed 65 out of 274 runners.

🏆 The Athletic Department held a Hall of Fame induction ceremony for retired Coach Nick Ianello at halftime of the Homecoming football game.

👥 The 6th grade intramural program hosted 150 students across 7 sports offerings and will continue to run through the school year.

College Athletic Commitments:

To date, the following senior athletes have made commitments to continue their athletic careers in college.

- 🏅 Joe Lavelle, Cross Country/Track - Elon University
- 🏅 Katie Blanche, Softball - Williams College
- 🏅 Colin Stone, Track - Williams College
- 🏅 Luke West, Boys Lacrosse - Muhlenberg College
- 🏅 Ronan West, Boys Lacrosse - Haverford College
- 🏅 Jaden Snow, Track & Field - Muhlenberg College





Mark Your Calendar!

- January 3, 2023 | Schools Reopen
- January 16, 2023 | Dr. MLK Jr. Day (schools closed)
- January 30, 2023 | Kindergarten Registration Begins
- February 20-24, 2023 | Winter Recess (schools closed)
- March 2-4, 2023 | RNHS Musical Performances
- March 16, 2023 | FEB Science Expo
- March 23, 2023 | RNMS Science & Technology Fair
- April 3-7, 2023 | Spring Recess (schools closed)
- April 13, 2023 | DW Wake Up the Garden
- April 29, 2023 | PTSA Spring Celebration
- May 9-11, 2023 | DW/FEB Art Show
- May 25, 2023 | Prom
- May 29, 2023 | Memorial Day (schools closed)
- June 1, 2023 | RNMS Theatre Production
- June 19, 2023 | Juneteenth (schools closed)
- June 22, 2023 | Last Day of School

Follow Rye Neck on Social Media

 @RyeNeckSchools

 @RNHSathletics

 @RyeNeckUFSD

 @RyeNeckSchools

College Counseling Update as of 11/29/22

99 of 137 seniors applied to 290 colleges - 72.3%
Counselors processed 741 transcript requests

31 students applied Early Decision to 23 schools - 22.6%

A large percentage of Early Decision, Early Action and Rolling application decisions come out from mid-December to the end of January.

A link to the most updated list of acceptances can be found on the School Counseling website.

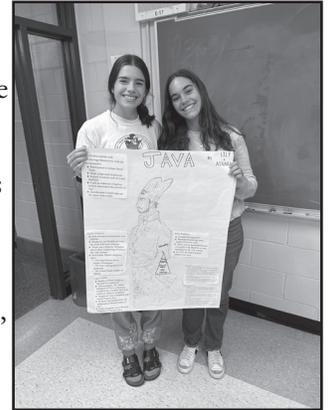
College Acceptances (as of 11/29/2022)

Mercy College
Muhlenberg College
Pace University, Westchester Campus
Roger Williams University
Siena College
SUNY at Purchase College
SUNY College of Technology at Alfred
Thomas College
University at Albany, SUNY
University College Dublin
University of Delaware
University of Georgia
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
West Virginia University Institute of Technology



A Message to Members of our Community

Attention Rye Neck residents who do not have children in our schools: if you are a community member who either no longer has students attending our schools, or if you simply live within the borders of the Rye Neck district, you may still receive district communications about events, the budget and elections, and other important information. If you wish to receive email notifications from the school and the Board of Education, please visit our website at www.ryeneck.org, use the Community dropdown menu, and choose "Rye Neck Resident". This will give you access to a simple form for signing up for those important messages.



Get Involved with the Gold Card Club

The mission and goal of our Gold Card Club is to create strong and meaningful connections between our four schools and the local community, as well as our neighbors, building upon existing ties and historical knowledge of the Village of Mamaroneck and City of Rye. Members of the Gold Card Club enjoy volunteer opportunities at each of our school libraries, help support our athletics program, contribute to extracurricular events, and have the opportunity to make an impact with our students, families, teachers, staff, and the community at large. In turn, members of this important group help represent the interests of senior citizens and older adults who live in our district, and gain exclusive access and invitations to other district events. For more information, please contact Mary Ellen Chiera by phone at 914-777-5200 or by email (mchiera@ryeneck.org). Additional information can be found at www.ryeneck.org/goldcardclub.



RNHS class of '72 painted the rock to celebrate their 50th reunion

Rye Neck Public Schools
Administration Building
310 Hornidge Road
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
White Plains, N.Y.
Permit No. 4374

Board of Education

Gloria Golle, President
Rebecca Mansell, Vice President
Patty Nashelsky, Trustee
Jennifer Rubin, Trustee
Devina O'Reilly, Trustee
Elizabeth Yong, Trustee

Dear Rye Neck Resident

Administration: 914-777-5252

Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent
Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance
Corinne Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Happy Holidays!

