

October 24, 2022

Dear Rye Neck Families,

Congratulations!

We have more student achievements to recognize. This month, we feature four students who have been engaged in a very broad variety of activities.

- Rye Neck senior [Gabriel Tan](#)
- Rye Neck junior [Sophia Muller](#)
- Rye Neck freshmen [Julia and Sarah Steeves](#)

Bike Safety

The benefits of having a small district in which our schools are within walking and biking distance from home include environmental advantages, good health, independent children, and a strong sense of community. However, it also brings added responsibilities to be safe commuters. Speed, awareness of others, and adherence to rules are important for all.

There are many rules for bicycle use that are often not adhered to. For example:

- By law, all children *ages 13 and under* must wear a helmet while riding a bike.
- In Mamaroneck, bicycle riders must consider the safety of pedestrians on sidewalks (and must dismount and walk their bikes on Mamaroneck Avenue).
- Unlike joggers, bicyclists should ride in the same direction as auto traffic while on the road.

Here is a New York State resource on [Bike Safety](#) to review with your children. All Rye Neck students receive bike safety guidance while at F. E. Bellows. We will review bike rules with our middle and high school students.

I do want to stress that this is a group effort. I live in a state that does not require helmets for motorcycles, which puts even more stress on attentive car drivers. Consider that the average walking speed is 2.5 to 4 miles per hour and consider walking straight into a brick wall. *That* would hurt, but a bicycle might be going 5-15 mph. Helmets are important. All of us who use the roads, whether on foot, on a bike, or in a car, have to pay attention to each other to prevent physical injury.

Best regards,

Dr. Eric Lutinski
Superintendent of Schools