

January 30, 2023

Dear Rye Neck Families,

## Student Achievements

We have more students to recognize for their achievements early in the new year!

- Rye Neck seniors [James Fall and Eduardo Ruigomez](#)
- Rye Neck junior [Laura Chillemi](#)
- Rye Neck junior [Caroline Johansen](#)

## Kindergarten Registration

Children born on or before December 1, 2018 who live in the Rye Neck District are eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2023. Registration for Kindergarten 2023 will take place at the Daniel Warren School the week of **January 30, 2023**. For more information, please visit [www.ryeneck.org/kindergartenregistration](http://www.ryeneck.org/kindergartenregistration) and use the [SignUpGenius link](#) for an appointment.

*Kindergarten* is directly translated as “children's garden” because the term was coined by Friedrich Froebel, a German educator in the late 1830s. The outdoor portion of his school inspired him to think that the children educated there should be cultivated like young plants and learn both individually and communally. Daniel Warren has a garden...

During the 2008-09 school year Connie Levin and Jane Schumer's kindergarten classes embarked on a joint year-long peace project that included learning about the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Dr. Wangari Maathai. A parent, Steven O'Rourke, introduced this remarkable peacemaker through a shared reading of [Wangari's Trees of Peace](#) by Jeanette Winter. The DW 'acorn to oak tree' project was renamed the “Wee Trees for Peace Project” and a dream for our own Peace Garden was presented by the two kindergarten teachers to Principal Joan Babcock. Mrs. Babcock embraced the idea and began working with parents for donations and wrote grants to make the dream happen.

The DW Peace Garden was constructed in the summer of 2009. Several peace features were included in the garden - a metal Japanese Peace Crane made by a Rye Neck grandfather, a peace pole donated by DW families, and a Wangari Nursery for the little oak saplings. Also, raised beds were established in the garden to allow for kids planting and growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers. That was meant to enhance the K-2 curriculum. In the spring of 2010, the Peace Mandala, which is the central feature of the garden, was completed.

Today, the Daniel Warren community continues to "grow" and care for the garden. The DW Garden Club will be meeting Tuesday, February 7th at 2:00 p.m. in the DW Library to further enhance the Peace Garden and garden programming.

Best regards,

Dr. Eric Lutinski  
Superintendent of Schools