

VALUE Education

December 2023

Superintendent's Notebook

Eric Lutinski, Ed.D.

Dear Rye Neck families,

We have some exciting things to share as we wish the Rye Neck Community a prospective Happy New Year.

I thank the various volunteers who helped get our strategic planning process started. Members of our Board of Education, parent and community members, students, teachers, and administrators spent two days with our consultant, Judy Wilson. This critical initial work on mission and goals was student-centered, but also focused on our community, faculty and staff. Internal work will now turn to developing the action steps necessary to achieve each of the proposed goals. Our upcoming budget development will take our strategic planning, as well as the survey feedback we received from our community, into consideration, allowing the action steps to begin at the end of this school year and take us through the end of 2025.

A significant aspect of the strategic planning work was to define our vision of a Rye Neck learner. Our students, as well as the adults in our organization, should appreciate and value the "journey" in addition to reaching the "destination." In other words, Rye Neck Panthers of all types will not only be goal-oriented, but should be engaged in the learning process at all stages for knowledge and growth. As they develop critical thinking and collaborative skills, they should be curious, flexible, and have an awareness of the people they work with and environments they work in. Our learners will act with both head and heart.

Complimenting long-range plans to refresh our district mission, our two advisory groups have also engaged in important work. The Facilities Planning Advisory Team has been analyzing the Building Condition Survey prepared by our architect to prioritize maintenance and long-term projects. A key element of this process is a walkthrough of each building on our three campuses to inform eventual recommendations to the Board of Education. The goal is a schedule for project work and a five-year capital project plan for potential bond referendums, as well as use of the

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An Update from the Board of Education

Rebecca Mansell, President

It's hard to believe 2023 is coming to a close. Special thanks to all our administrators, teachers, and staff for their dedication to our students.

While our students and teachers are hard at work wrapping up their studies before the holidays, the district is hard at work on our strategic plan. In late November, twenty-seven members of the Rye Neck community met for two full days to align on plans for our children's future, engaging in conversation, data analysis, and goal setting. We started by recognizing our many strengths as a district, including our tight-knit community, small class sizes, caring teachers and staff, and exceptional students and families. Then, we reviewed the results of parent surveys, staff surveys, student surveys and stakeholder interviews. We took stock of what our community values most so we can map out plans for Rye Neck's future that prioritize the evolving needs and desires of our students. We feel energized about the next steps we will take together as a school district and look forward to sharing the details of the plan in the coming weeks.

The Board of Education has also been focusing on improving communication with the community. In the interest of keeping families informed and aware of our work, we've begun recording our monthly planning sessions, which can be found, along with recordings of our monthly Board meetings, on the district website. We are making a concerted effort to provide information to the public in advance of our meetings, emailing direct links to our agendas and attachments on Board Docs. Monthly Superintendent's reports and president's reports can also be accessed on our website. As always, we welcome community feedback and participation.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I wish you all peace, health, and happiness this holiday season.



Superintendent's Notebook

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2022 Capital Reserve Fund.

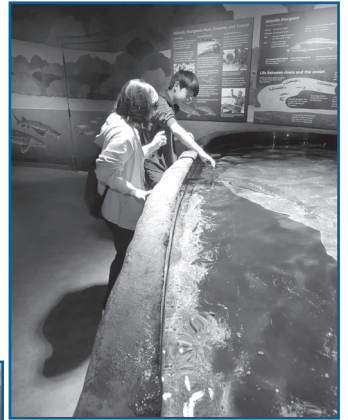
The Technology Planning Advisory Team will delve into our infrastructure, including security technology, and the general buying cycle for maintenance and upgrades. Although much groundwork had been done in 2021 when the district underwent a major transition from its last-generation website, the team's first order of business has been to explore changes to our website brought on by the acquisition of our previous vendor by a new company. To prepare for a new "face of the district" for the 2024-25 school year, the team conducted a survey to gather feedback from the community.

Early data from that survey indicates the community prefers information via email as opposed to the Rye Neck app or by visiting the website, although many were not aware of our app and would like to use it more; the top reasons people visit our website is for the calendars, for staff contact information, and for food service information; and most suggestions for the improvement of our website have to do with user-friendliness and simplicity. The survey also asked about social media preferences. This effort to make changes to our district communications coincides with our efforts to expand opportunities to access Board of Education material and meetings.

I wish you a joyful holiday season with family and friends and I look forward to a rewarding 2024.



Learning at Rye Neck



Watch our Board of Education Meetings

Our monthly regular 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. Meeting recordings, including monthly planning sessions, can also be found on our website by selecting "Board Meeting Information" under the Board of Education channel. All Board meeting agendas are available on BoardDocs and minutes are posted on our website.



PTSA Updates From Ruth Homberg, PTSA President

Happy holidays, Rye Neck!

Did you know that every December, the Executive Board of the PTSA is tasked with baking (or buying) cookies to give to the teachers? We gather just before the winter break to build a tray for the faculty and administration at each building. This was a tradition I was unaware of until recently. It made me reflect on other initiatives of the PTSA that might fly under the radar. Here are 3 fun facts about the PTSA that you might not know:

- There are currently 62 Committee Heads volunteering for the PTSA. These parent volunteers give their time in various ways. Some help with environmental/recycling initiatives, others work to organize after-school clubs, bring in authors, or organize Head Class Parents. Things would be a lot less organized without them! We currently have 4 positions open if you are interested in helping out.
- The Rye Neck PTSA is a non-profit organization. This year, we aim to raise \$100,000 during the course of the school year to give back and reinvest in the kids in various ways. Every ticket to a social or purchase of Rye Neck spiritwear benefits our district.
- We provide an online directory for the school. Your \$15 PTSA membership allows you to search for a list of your child's classmates and connect with other parents.

In this time of giving, I'd like to thank everyone in the community who donated to the Ribbons for Rye Neck fundraiser. We raised over \$38,000 to give back to the students of our district. We hope you'll continue to support our cause and our kids.

In addition to our fundraising efforts, here are just a few highlights from our fall initiatives: we've helped Daniel Warren students learn to compost, hosted after-school play dates, a middle school Spooktacular and parent socials. We've also brought in various enrichment programs. On the elementary level, Daniel Warren students were treated to performances by the Tanglewood Marionettes, as well as Animal Embassies. 3rd graders drummed along with Path to Rhythm and the 4th graders had the opportunity to take circus classes and put on their very own performance.

High schoolers were privy to an assembly about extreme weather from journalist and meteorologist Rob Marciano, and Historian Sheila Arnold brought historical figures to life for the middle and high school students. We have lots more lined up in 2024!

I hope you'll join us for these upcoming events:

- 1/16: General Membership Meeting - MS/HS Community Room
- 2/10: Parents Night Out - Mamaroneck Beach & Yacht Club
- 4/27: Fun Run and Panther Party

Watch your email for details. In the meantime, you can see our calendar, and find out more by visiting our website: www.ryneckpta.org or by following us on social media @ryneckpta.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season!



Latest News from the Rye Neck Athletic Department

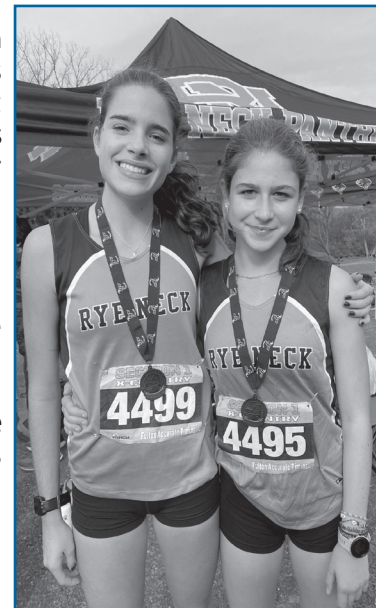
Joe Ceglia, Athletics Director

Homecoming Weekend 2023 was a successful community and school event. Though Saturday's weather was wet and soggy, the excitement and energy at the games was positive, festive and fun. On Friday, the Student Senate and Student Athlete Cabinet organized and coordinated a spirit-filled pep rally. Our 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.

Athletic Highlights from the Fall Season Include:

- 🏆 450 athletes in grades 7-12 participated in our fall interscholastic athletic program at the Varsity, JV and modified levels.
- 🎾 Varsity Girls Tennis players Hillary Kramer, Alexis Dubowsky, Shelby Preisser, Sophie Tansley-Jervis, Lucie Paumier and Maddie Rubenstein qualified for the Section 1 Girls Tennis Sectional Singles and Doubles Tournament.
- 🎾 The Varsity Girls Tennis team earned the #10 seed in the Section 1 team tournament and advanced all the way to the finals.
- ⚽ Congratulations to the Varsity Boys Soccer team and coaches Iacovelli and Martinez for earning the #5 seed in the Section 1 tournament and advancing to the semifinals.
- 🏒 The Varsity Field Hockey team earned the #7 seed in Section 1's Class C Field Hockey Tournament.
- ⚽ The Varsity Girls Soccer team earned the #6 seed in Section 1's Class B Girls Soccer Tournament and advanced to the quarterfinals.
- 🏐 Congratulations to the Varsity Volleyball team and coaches Reynolds and Cardona for earning the #7 seed in Section 1's Class B Volleyball Tournament and advancing to the quarterfinals.
- 🏊 Swimmers Ayana Ite and Grayson Findlay qualified for the Section 1 Swimming Championships in the following events:
 - 🏊 200 Free- Ayana Ite
 - 🏊 50 Free- Grayson Findlay
 - 🏊 100 Free- Grayson Findlay
 - 🏊 500 Free- Ayana Ite
 - 🏊 200 Free Relay (Grayson Findlay & Ayana Ite)
 - 🏊 400 Free Relay (Grayson Findlay & Ayana Ite)

🏊 Ayana and Grayson are members of the 200 Free Relay that qualified for the NYS Swimming Championships in Rochester, where they finished 15th.
- 🏃 Congratulations to the following Cross Country runners who qualified for the Section 1 Championships:
 - 🏃 Girls- Phoebe Carmel, Amiya Eboli, Katie Harvey, Lizzy Mitchell, Ainara Schube
 - 🏃 Boys- Alex Favre, Zachary Harrison, Sorahisa Irie, Aidan Kenny, Kai Konno, Carlos Miranda, Kotaro Nanri, John Sykes, Micah Taffet, Rintaro Takahashi
- 🏃 Congratulations to Ainara and Phoebe for qualifying for the NYS Championships. Ainara placed 25th and Phoebe placed 29th out of 131 runners.
- 🏃 Congratulations to Ainara for posting a time at States that qualified her for the NYS Federation meet.



🏀 The 6th grade intramural program hosted 130 students across 7 sports offerings and will continue to run through the school year.

🏀 The Athletic Department held a Hall of Fame induction ceremony for Robbie Hutt, Sr ('92) during halftime of the Booster Club's second annual basketball tournament. He was joined by members of his family and former teammates.



College Athletic Commitments:

Congratulations to the latest student athletes who have made commitments to continue their athletic careers in college.

- 🏀 Clare Picone, Softball - Monmouth University
- 🏀 Ariana Hammer, Softball - Springfield College
- 🏀 Brian Chin, Track & Field - University of Chicago





Updates from the Booster Club

Jocelyn Donat, Booster Club President



Greetings!

The Booster Club has been busy since the start of the school year. The holiday season has quickly arrived and it is hard to believe that it is already December.

We are pleased about the progress we have made since September. The membership campaign and our fundraising efforts from the annual Fall Fest auction and selling of Rye Neck Panther gear at Homecoming have the Booster Club well positioned to deliver support, programming and scholarships for the 2023 - 2024 school year. (Details on these efforts below in the Updates section)

For those who are new to the community or not aware, the Booster Club's mission is to build school spirit by supporting athletics, theatre and other initiatives at Rye Neck. The organization at its core is about fostering community spirit.

What better way to foster community spirit than to invite everyone out for a night of fun on Friday, January 26 at 7 pm. Come watch our Bellows, Daniel Warren, Middle School, High School teachers and administrators take on the famous Harlem Wizards in a basketball game to remember! It won't be easy to beat the Harlem Wizards, but it sure will be fun watching them try! Tickets went on sale on December 1st. Don't wait until the last minute. Buy your tickets now. Details with the link are included in our Wednesday email blasts or via RyeNeckBoosterClub.com, which can also be accessed from the RyeNeck.org homepage.

Updates from the last few months:

MEMBERSHIP

It's not too late to join and be part of our Panther community and support our efforts. Membership fees are for the 2023-2024 school year. These fees go towards supporting our programs, events and spirit efforts. The Booster Club membership fee is \$15 for a single membership, \$25 for a family, \$50 includes membership and a Rye Neck Lawn Sign and \$125 includes membership and lawn decorations for two days (blow-up panther, Rye Neck feather flag and lawn signs). Join online through one of our Wednesday email blasts or via our website, which can also be accessed from the RyeNeck.org homepage.

FALL FEST FUNDRAISER

We had another successful parent's night out held at Rye Grill & Bar this fall. Many members of the community contributed products and services to our silent auction, which was online for the first time. A huge call out to thank our Athletic Director Joe Ceglia and all of his coaches who generously donated experiences for younger students to be part of a Varsity sport game. Some were ball girls/boys and others were coaches for the day. We were very fortunate to have these experiences and donations from parents and businesses in the community contribute to a successful event. A huge thank you to you all.



HOMECOMING

The weather didn't fully cooperate with us on the Saturday of Homecoming. It rained and rained and rained, but we were able to watch our Varsity teams win their games while selling concessions and Rye Neck Panther branded merchandise. The Junior class raised funds by selling concessions to contribute to the Junior/Senior prom. Students at Bellows and Daniel Warren were ever present despite the weather. Our efforts to get the younger students more

involved in supporting the high school sports and theatre programs are working! The Panther visit to both schools helped generate enthusiasm and spirit. The poster decorations created by each class were well protected against the rain and put on display for all to see out by the playing fields! The raffle tickets were popular again this year and we had two winners of the cute stuffed panthers!

CONNECT WITH THE RYE NECK BOOSTER CLUB

Email Blasts: Receive Booster Club news, event information and sport updates.

Twitter: Follow your favorite Rye Neck varsity sport teams on their official Rye Neck Booster Club Twitter account for the latest game stats, highlights and team specific news.

Facebook & Instagram: Follow Rye Neck Booster Club on our Facebook Community page.

Ryeneckboosterclub.com: Bookmark our website to stay up-to-date on all our happenings.

RNBoosterclub@ryeneck.org: Email the Booster Club with any questions



The Booster Club officers and our extended leadership team are looking forward to seeing you at a sporting or theatre event sometime soon!

- President – Jocelyn Donat
- Vice President - Rachel Felenstein
- Secretary - Tanya Preisser
- Treasurer - Laura Evangelista



Mark Your Calendar!

- January 3, 2024 | Schools Reopen
- January 15, 2024 | Dr. MLK Jr. Day (schools closed)
- Feb. 5, 2024 | Kindergarten Registration Begins
- Feb. 19-23, 2024 | Winter Recess (schools closed)
- Feb. 29 - Mar. 2, 2024 | RNHS Musical Performances
- March 8, 2024 | Superintendent's Conf. Day (staff only)
- March 20, 2024 | FEB Science Expo
- March 25-29, 2024 | Spring Recess (schools closed)
- April 18, 2024 | DW Wake Up the Garden
- April 22-23, 2024 | Holiday Recess (schools closed)
- April 27, 2024 | PTSA Panther Party and Fun Run
- May 14-16, 2024 | DW/FEB Art Show
- May 23, 2024 | Prom
- May 27, 2024 | Memorial Day (schools closed)
- June 6-7, 2024 | RNMS Theatre Production
- June 19, 2024 | Juneteenth (schools closed)
- June 25, 2024 | Last Day of School



Follow Rye Neck on Social Media

 @RyeNeckSchools

 @RNHSathletics

 @RyeNeckSchools

 @RyeNeckSchools

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 to sign 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 in 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 '73 came back for a tour of the campus to mark their 50th reunion.

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

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Board of Education

Rebecca Mansell, President
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Gloria Golle, Trustee
Elizabeth Yong, Trustee
Jason Carmel, 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!

