

Superintendent's Update

November 2023

Dear Rye Neck Families,

November is here and the Daylight Saving change brings darkness much earlier. There was a proposed change last year to end the twice-annual shift and make the measure permanent (darker in the morning, lighter in the evening), but although it passed in the U.S. Senate it was not voted on by the House.



Pros and cons of DST depend on where you live and what you do. For schools, the primary effect is that there is more afterschool daylight for athletics and recreation. However, the period of November to March and the earlier darkness it brings is a good time to remember safe commuting habits. For our students who attend late extracurricular activities and may be going home on foot, by bicycle, or driving a car, and for our staff and parents who drive to and from campus, now is the time to reaffirm our attention to rules of the road.

Rye Neck Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Planning initiative is well underway. Students and staff members have had opportunities to weigh in via survey and our parent surveys were sent out earlier. For your convenience they are listed here: we encourage all parents to participate in this important process that asks about school climate, communication, academic program, social emotional skills, and also provides for open-ended answers. If you have not had the chance to complete the survey sent last week, please do so by November 19th.

- [Daniel Warren Parent Survey](#)
- [F.E. Bellows Parent Survey](#)
- [MS Parent Survey](#)
- [HS Parent Survey](#)

In addition to the surveys, Judith Wilson, our Strategic Plan facilitator, will host virtual forums as another opportunity for parent input. No debates or decision-making will take place in the forums and neither administrator nor board trustees will attend. Parents can choose to participate in whichever

forum works best for their schedule:

- [Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 10:30 AM](#)
- [Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 7:00 PM](#)

Our district planning group will meet on November 29th and 30th to analyze our survey data and forum feedback. We will update our district community on our progress throughout the process. Please visit our website for more information on Rye Neck's Strategic Planning initiative, under Our District, Strategic Plan.

Advisory Teams

Our two advisory teams have been formed and will begin activity this month. The Facilities Planning Advisory Team will help with activities such as reviewing maintenance projects as proposed by the district architect based on the 2022 Building Condition Survey, identifying designs that enhance student learning, and crafting recommendations to the Board of Education for project work and a corresponding five year capital project plan. More information about the FPAT may be found on our website under *Our District, Facilities*.

The Technology Planning Advisory Team will similarly help with a review of our new website template and enhanced Rye Neck app, help with prioritization of our equipment buying cycle, make recommendations on technology infrastructure upgrades, and review technology security enhancements. More information about the TPAT may be found on our website under *Departments, Technology*.

Student Spotlight

In each monthly message, we spotlight high school students who are doing interesting things in or out of school. Based on the relationships our staff members forge with their students and their knowledge of what's going on in their lives, our teachers suggest students for consideration. Mary Lanza, our Director of Technology and Communications, then interviews the students to "get their story." Here are two students for November. **To read about the students, click on the name below their picture.**



[CHRISTINA PIRRONE](#)



[DEREK RYAN](#)

Staff Spotlight

We also highlight teachers and other staff members each month. Each shares personal reflections on how they got into education, memories from their time as students, and their favorite activities outside of school. **To read about a staff member, click on the name below their picture.**



[DEENA WINCHENBACH](#)

Daniel Warren



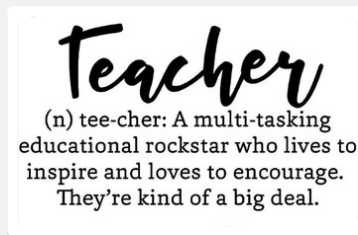
[JESSICA FINNEY-TROTTA](#)

F. E. Bellows



[JOE CARLUCCI](#)

Middle School



[ANNE PALOMBO](#)

High School

Class of 1973

17 members of the Rye Neck Class of 1973, seen in this [photo](#), toured the High School/Middle School Campus on Saturday, October 21st. Many spouses also accompanied our alumni as they viewed the changes that have taken place in the intervening 50 years, such as our Collaborative Science Center and the additions to the Athletic Center. Special thanks go to member of the Class of '73 and recent Rye Neck retiree Karen Fontecchio for being the tour leader.

Gold Card Club

Would you like to become a member of the Rye Neck Gold Card Club for seniors? The senior residents in our community have long had a supporting role in our schools. The purpose of the Gold Card Club is to create closer ties between the schools and the community, using their social and historical

knowledge of our portions of the Village of Mamaroneck and City of Rye. Members of the GCC have volunteered in our school libraries, supported our athletic and extracurricular events, and represented our schools in the community. In turn, they help represent the interests of seniors who live in our district and enjoy invitations to district events such as the annual Rye Neck High School musical. To join or learn more, please call Mrs. Mary Ellen Chiera in our district office at (914) 777-5200.

Thanksgiving

November is a somewhat typical school month. We have 17 ½ days of class and our students are off at times for very good reasons. This month, Election Day on the 7th is a staff-only day during which we will engage in various professional development activities. We have no school to observe Veterans Day on the 10th and recognize those who served the country in our armed forces during times of war. The district will also close midday (specific times will be communicated by each school) on November 22nd with a “rapid dismissal drill” to begin our long holiday weekend. I hope you enjoy your family Thanksgiving traditions, whether they be deeply rooted or newly adopted. I am thankful for being part of such a wonderful community.



Superintendent's Conference Day - Staff Only

Tuesday, November 7

School Closed - Veterans' Day

Friday, November 10

International Thespian & Tri-M Honor Society Inductions

Monday, November 13

7:00 PM

Performing Arts Center

Rye Neck International Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 14

9:15 AM

F.E. Bellows Annex

Board of Education Meeting

Wednesday, November 15

9:00 AM

F.E. Bellows Auditorium



PTSA Fall Parents Night Out

Thursday, November 16

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

K-2 Principal's Conversation

Friday, November 17

9:15 AM

DW Auditorium

4th Grade Circus

Friday, November 17

6:00 PM

HS Gymnasium

DW/PTSA Photo RETAKES

FEB/PTSA Photo RETAKES

Monday, November 20

MS PTSA Photo RETAKES

Tuesday, November 21

Early Dismissal

Wednesday, November 22

School Closed - Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24

PTSA/DW Book Fair

Tuesday, November 28 - Thursday, November 30

Activity Night - Wednesday, November 29

Board of Education Planning Session

Wednesday, November 29

6:30 PM

Collaborative Science Center

Incoming 9th Grade Orientation

Thursday, November 30

6:30 PM

Performing Arts Center




Rye Neck Schools

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