

Superintendent's Update

June 2024

Dear Rye Neck Families,

Rye Neck passed its 2024-25 school year budget on May 21st, the 13th consecutive time we were able to propose and pass a budget that serves our students without asking to exceed the 2% tax levy cap. Our 82.6% budget passing rate and the approval of Proposition II are strong signals of support, and I want to thank our community for allowing us to continue our commitment to well-rounded instructional and extracurricular experiences for our students. Rye Neck's teachers, staff, administrative team, and Board of Education deserve commendation for creating an environment that allows each student to thrive.



Rye Neck Strategic Plan

I conclude my three-month use of children's books to frame our Strategic Plan with the final installment of the trilogy written by Kobi Yamada and illustrated by Mae Besom. Continuing their theme of inspiration is *What Do You Do With A Chance?*

Following the pattern of inspiration and personal growth in the first two books, the third features a character who passed up on a chance, but when they reached for the next one they fell flat. A feeling of failure prevented further reaching for chances for a long while. Eventually, the fear of failure was replaced by determination to be brave enough to seize the next chance because they don't come around exactly when you want them. Excitement replaced the fear and seizing a chance created a thirst for discovery and confidence for future opportunities.

To prepare for the July 1 enactment of our [Strategic Plan Goals](#), we have been exploring action steps for each. Our third goal involves transforming our staff professional learning to better enable them to help our students achieve the first two goals, to build their problem solving skills and to help them relate to the people and world around them.

As presented at our Board of Education's May Planning Session, overhauling our professional learning to support the Rye Neck Strategic Plan requires focused work, particularly in the form of

staff training. Money and time are two critical resources necessary for such an improvement. Annual professional development funds and the addition of \$30,000 in our recently passed operating budget will provide the financial foundation.

However, we also have a plan to allocate the *time* for that additional professional learning. We have always made use of our Superintendent's Conference Days, the late Wednesday meetings times in our teacher's contract, and time carved out of our school days. Similarly, some staff members engage in coursework on their own time, including during the summer.

Although Rye Neck has not previously used early dismissals or delayed openings for these reasons in the way some other districts do, we have explored this option and have been able to add 25 hours of professional time in lieu of 15 hours of student time over the course of the 2024-25 year. In other words, by scheduling [early dismissals and delayed openings](#) on certain days, we can create more staff learning time that exceeds what we lose. More importantly, the goal for the additional professional learning, like the goals of the Strategic Plan, is to make any instructional time more effective-- worth reaching to seize a chance.

To map out how to make this plan successful considering our family and work schedules, we are gathering feedback from our community. Based on input from our PACs, we will utilize parent groups such as class parents to assist with communicating the need for this professional learning. A survey will be sent out later this month so we can gauge which families may need assistance with this change to our instructional calendar. Additionally, we are exploring community resources that can be deployed to assist with student management and provide opportunities during the professional learning hours. More Information about our professional learning time will appear on our website, in weekly principal messages, and a family mailing.

Events and Activities

June is one of our busiest months, and most of the events are the kind that add joy to the conclusion of a school year. There is HS Graduation, 5th and 8th grade Moving Up, concerts, field days, the 2nd grade takes their exciting walk to FEB, *Matilda Jr.* at the MS, sports awards, and our Seniors begin a new tradition of donning their caps and gowns to "walkthrough" DW and Bellows before finishing at the HS/MS-- and plenty more. Please see our school newsletters, school social media, and our website to keep track of all the excitement.

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 the students for June. **To read about the students, click on the name below their picture.**



LUCIE PAUMIER

Class of 2024 Valedictorian



THEODORE KUSBIANTORO

Class of 2024 Salutatorian

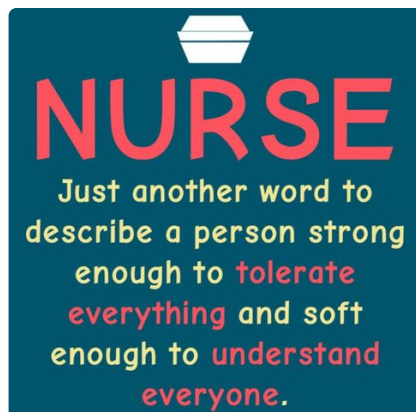
Staff Spotlight

We also like to 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. For our June spotlights, we feature our three full time nurses and our athletic trainer, four individuals who are critical to keeping our students healthy and in-school, ready to learn and participate in the activities they love. **To read about a staff member, click on the name below their picture.**



WENDY ABBATANTONO

Daniel Warren Nurse



SAMANTHA KRENCH

F.E. Bellows Nurse



ARDIJANE MAHMUD

MS/HS School Nurse



JOE DRANOFF

MS/HS Athletic Trainer

upcoming **EVENTS**

RNIC Meeting

Tuesday, June 4th

9:15 AM

F.E. Bellows Annex

Athletic Information Meeting for 7th & 8th Gr. Students & Parents

Tuesday, June 4th

6:00 PM

MS/HS Dining Hall

Board of Education Planning Session

Wednesday, June 5th

6:30 PM

Collaborative Science Center

3rd Grade Concert

Thursday, June 6th

6:00 PM

F.E. Bellows Auditorium

MS Theater Production - *Matilda Jr.*

Thursday & Friday, June 6th & 7th

6:00 PM

MS/HS Performing Arts Center

1st Grade Field Day

Friday, June 7th (*Raindate: Monday, June 10th*)

1:10 PM

Daniel Warren Field

RNIC Family Picnic

Saturday, June 8th (*Raindate: Sunday, June 9th*)

12:00 PM

Greenhaven Beach

Varsity Sports Awards Ceremony

Monday, June 10th

5:00 PM

MS/HS Dining Hall

2nd Gr. Walk Over to F.E. Bellows

Tuesday, June 11th (*Raindate: Wednesday, June 12th*)

Theater Awards Night

Tuesday, June 11th

6:00 PM

MS/HS Dining Hall

5th Grade Trip to Playland

Sophomore Class Trip

Thursday, June 13th

2nd Grade Bubble Bus Party

Thursday, June 13th

3:00 PM

Daniel Warren Courtyard

Kindergarten Flag Day Concert

Friday, June 14th

9:15 AM

Daniel Warren Auditorium

Kindergarten Field Day

Friday, June 14th (*Raindate: Monday June 17th*)

12:00 PM

HS Virtual Lunch & Learn for Junior Families Re: College Process

Friday, June 14th

12:00 PM

Friday, June 14th - Tuesday, June 25th

PTSA Elementary Theater Production

Saturday, June 15th

MS/HS Performing Arts Center

Juneteenth - NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, June 19th

Board of Education Special Runoff Election

Thursday, June 20th

7:00 AM - 9:00 PM

MS/HS Community Room

5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

Thursday, June 20th (*Raindate: Friday, June 21st*)

9:30 AM

F.E. Bellows Field

Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, June 20th

7:00 PM

MS/HS Dining Hall

8th Grade BBQ

Senior Sendoff

Friday, June 21st

2nd Grade Field Day

Friday, June 21st (*Raindate: Monday, June 24th*)

1:30 PM

Daniel Warren Field

Grades 6-8 Early Dismissal

Monday, June 24th

11:00 AM

8th Grade Moving Up Rehearsal

Monday, June 24th

10:30 AM

5th Grade Luncheon

Monday, June 24th

1:00 PM

HS Graduation

Monday, June 24th (*Raindate: Tuesday, June 25th*)

5:30 PM

8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

Tuesday, June 25th

1 PM

HS Gymnasium

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - TUESDAY, JUNE 25TH

K-2 - 11:15 AM Dismissal

3-5 - 11:30 AM Dismissal

6-8 - 11:00 AM Dismissal

Superintendent's Conference Day - Staff Only

Wednesday, June 26th

Board of Education Trustee Runoff Election

Monday, July 1st



Rye Neck Schools

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Rye Neck Schools