

Dear Colts Neck Community,

Welcome back, everyone! I'd like to begin by thanking our incredible administration team, teachers, and staff for a wonderful 2024–25 school year. We are so excited to start the 2025–26 school year together.

As we begin this year, I want to take a moment to look back. Last year, four of our executive board members timed out of their service: Samanta Amato, former Vice President; Joanne Passalacqua, former Fundraising Chair; January Nicoletta, former Secretary; and Monika Kozicz, former Treasurer. We are so thankful for the 2–6 years each of them dedicated to the PTO and for the many ways they enriched our school community.

I am also excited to share that we have welcomed several new board members, as well as familiar faces taking on new roles. Kara Brick, who previously served as Membership Chair, is now our Vice President. Jessica Dudek is our new Treasurer, Sereena Gill is our new Secretary, and Alana Ventrice has joined us as Fundraising Director. We also welcome Jennifer Mulé as Membership Chair, Penelope El-Dalati as Student Activities Director, Linda Kraszewski as Assistant Treasurer, Amy Linquito as Communications Director, and Kristen Denora as Digital Media Director. I am so grateful for their time, talents, and commitment to the PTO.

Looking back at the year, we had some pretty amazing events. We started off with the Harlem Wizards game, which raised a little over \$12,000 and gave our students the thrill of seeing teachers and staff members play on the court. In February, we held our annual Book Swap and Read-A-Thon. Over 1,000 books were donated, and thanks to our families and teachers who logged minutes and supported our readers, we raised more than \$25,000—our best year yet. In March, we celebrated our 41st Annual Ladies' Spring Gala with an Enchanted Forest theme. Thanks to our attendees, advertisers, and sponsors, that event raised \$56,000. We also enjoyed special traditions like the 8th grade pancake breakfast, ice cream social, dance, graduation ads, and lawn signs. A huge thank you goes to the 8th grade parents who made those events possible for their students, now high school freshmen. We are also grateful for all the parent volunteers who dedicated their time to various grade level events as well as Bingo, Flower Sale, and last but not least Frosty's Holiday Shop.

As we look ahead, I'd like to invite everyone to join the PTO if you haven't already. Becoming a member does not mean you are automatically expected to volunteer. Rather, it ensures that you stay informed about events like the Gala, Read-A-Thon, Book Swap, and Trunk or Treat, and it gives you the option to volunteer if you wish. Please note that volunteering at PTO events is limited to PTO members only.

I also encourage you to save the date for our 42nd Annual Ladies' Spring Gala, which will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at South Gate Manor. We'll be sharing the theme in November, and as always, it will be one to remember.

A few final notes: our Vineyard Vines spirit wear is almost gone, with mainly Youth 14/16 long-sleeve shirts remaining. We will not be ordering more in the near future. For those who would like to support the school through Box Tops, the process is easier than ever—you simply scan your receipts using the Box Tops app, no cutting required. And of course, we hope you'll join us for Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 25 at 1 PM. Prizes will be awarded for the best trunk, and if you would like to sign up to create one, please contact Joanne Passalacqua at Joannepassalacqua@gmail.com. Don't forget to save the date for Frosty's Holiday Shop which is scheduled for Saturday, December 6th. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for being such an important part of our PTO and our school community. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together this year.

With gratitude,

Kim Kaufman

President, Colts Neck PTO