

this issue

President's Message 1

Principal's Message 2

New PTA Officers 2

Journey in Arts 3

Disney on Ice 3

PARP 4

Boys Social 6

Girls Social 6

Brain Show 7

Adventureland 7

Mother's & Father's Day 8

Box Tops 8

Submerge Storytelling 9

Family Fun Ducks Game 9

Field Day 10

Class of 2023 11

Reflections Ceremony 12

PTA President's Message

Danielle Ocuto



Dear Parents, Teachers, and Friends -

This school year has flown by and I can hardly believe that I'm coming to the end of my second term as East Lake PTA's President. I have truly enjoyed the last two years with this great organization and am so grateful for all of the amazing people who I've had the pleasure of getting to know. Without you, our volunteers, the things we did this year would never have been possible. The PTA has hosted a number of wonderful events this year including assemblies, workshops, and family events, not to mention programs to enhance the educational experience for our children.

Our second half of the school year has included fun family events like the Girls Social, the Family Fun Adventureland night and Long Island Ducks game, the Reflections Ceremony recognizing student work, as well as everyone's favorite, Field Day! We also introduced some new outings this year like Disney on Ice and the Harlem Wizards for the Boys social at Berner. It's been great to see so many new chairs taking on leadership roles and bringing fresh ideas to many of our committees. I'm excited to see what's in store for next year as more East Lake parents get involved and bring new approaches and activities to our school!

I am especially proud of the accomplishments of our Box Tops Committee this year. This initiative went from only earning our school a few dollars in previous years to being able to supply East Lake with a brand new lawn sign this spring! Thank you to our amazingly dedicated Box Tops Chair and to all the parents, teachers and staff who scanned their receipts to earn money for our school.

As the school year comes to an end, I want to thank our current Executive Committee for their commitment to the East Lake Community. You all have been a source of support, mentorship and most of all, friendship! I love this current board and couldn't have served as president without them. Our time together will be missed!

In addition, I want to thank all of those who volunteered to chair, as well as participate on our many committees. All of your work has made such a profound impact on our students and their families. It has been an honor to serve our community in this capacity for the past two years, working beside each and every one of you.

As I say good-bye to my current role, I welcome a new Executive Committee led by Co-Presidents Ashley Iannotta and Adriana Lopez. They'll be supported by 1st Vice President Kate Mintz, 2nd Vice President Katie Spennato, Treasurer Megan Kelly, Recording Secretary Nicole Diakoumakis and myself as Corresponding Secretary.

In closing, I thank everyone for your commitment to East Lake. The children really appreciate all the things that East Lake School and the PTA do for them.

I hope you enjoy reading all of the great information in this newsletter!

**National
PTA**

everychild.one voice.

Please join and be a part of what makes East Lake special!



A Message from Principal McKillop



Dear Parents,

Happy Summer! By the time you are reading this edition of the East Lake Eagle, the students will have been out of school for almost a week and the 4th of July is only days away. It truly seems like just yesterday we were opening the 2022-2023 school year and now it is time to celebrate the East Lake class of 2023 and enjoy a summer filled with family, friends and hopefully some summer weather.

The 2022-2023 school year has been a year filled with so many positive and educational experiences for our students. These experiences would not have been possible if it wasn't for the support we receive from the school community. On behalf of my entire staff, I would like to thank all of the parents for their support throughout the year. It continues to be so rewarding for me working in a building that has supportive parents and a very dedicated PTA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Danielle Ocuto for her countless hours spent leading the East Lake PTA. Her dedication and extraordinary efforts for the children of East Lake were greatly appreciated and I am thankful for the opportunity I had to work with her and I'm confident she will represent East Lake and the entire Massapequa community well in her future endeavors as a member of the Massapequa Board of Education.

As Mrs. Ocuto finishes her tenure as PTA President, I'd like to also welcome our incoming PTA Co-Presidents Mrs. Ashley Iannotta and Mrs. Adriana Lopez. I'm confident that the East Lake PTA will be in good hands with these ladies as they take on this new leadership role. I hope you will join me in welcoming them both as our new PTA Co-Presidents. I look forward to working with Mrs. Iannotta and Mrs. Lopez and the East Lake PTA once again to bring about the very best for our students.

Now that the school year has officially come to a close, I would like to wish the entire East Lake community a pleasant, safe, and healthy summer vacation. I look forward to next year and working once again with you and your children.

Have a great summer!

Thomas A. McKillop III
Principal

Congratulations to the 2023-24 Incoming East Lake PTA Board

Co-Presidents: Ashley Iannotta and Adrian Lopez
1st Vice President: Kate Mintz
2nd Vice President: Katie Spennato

Treasurer: Megan Kelly
Recording Secretary: Nicole Diakoumakis
Corresponding Secretary: Danielle Ocuto

Journey Arts in Education

The Native American Cultures of the Eastern Woodlands workshop for the 4th grade took place on January 6th at East Lake Elementary School. The students engaged and responded critically in traditional music, games and stories of the Native Americans. They developed an understanding of the personal and cultural influences of the Native Americans.

During the museum part of the workshop, they were able to see and demonstrate with Native American materials and resources. This lesson is also a part of their 4th grade curriculum so the students were very excited to see what they learned come to life!



Disney on Ice

On Saturday January 7th the Family Fun Committee bundled everyone up to watch Mickey and Company put on an amazing show during Disney on Ice at UBS arena. More than 200 kids enjoyed singing along to their favorite songs and many dressed as princesses and other Disney characters! It was beautiful to see so many kids watching in absolute awe while their favorite characters sang right in front of their eyes.



This Year's PARP (Pick A Reading Partner) had East Lake students "Reading Like A Rockstar". Co chairs, Katie Spennato and Kate Mintz coordinated a rockin' two week event that kicked off on February 6th, with Author in Residence, Alan Katz.

PARP

Pick a Reading Partner

During a PTA assembly on Feb 6th, Mr. Katz met with students from East Lake and graciously autographed books from his collection. Students enjoyed listening to Mr. Katz as he shared stories and his love of reading and writing with them. Mr. Katz is the author of more than 40 highly acclaimed children's books. Some of his noted works include, Take Me Out of the Bathtub and Other Silly Dilly Songs, Don't Say That Word, The Day the Mustache Took Over and I'm Still Here in the Bathtub. Mr. Katz delighted East Lake with his humorous tales and was a wonderful addition to the PARP festivities.

During the first week of PARP, students wore backstage passes and completed reading contracts to earn points for their grade. On Friday, February 10th students "dressed for the decades" by sporting clothing and rockstar wear from their assigned decade. Students and staff had a blast dressing up for the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and 2000's. A special edition of News From the Nest featured our very own Mr. McKillop & Mrs. Velte in their rockstar best, as they encouraged students to keep reading like rockstars! During the two week event students participated in a bookmark contest, Rockin' Mad Libs, The Scholastic Book Fair, Musical Word Search, Silly Valentine's Jokes and the well loved Barnes and Noble Secret Reader Night. Students had a blast being surprised by guest readers from our amazing staff at East Lake. This awesome event really had our students reading and rocking!

The East Lake Scholastic Book Fair was held on February 8th and 9th during the first week of PARP. East Lake students had the opportunity to use an e-wallet to purchase books, erasers, pencils and other fun items during the fair. Each grade was assigned a day to attend and parent volunteers and the book fair committee made sure that every customer found the perfect book to keep them reading like a rockstar!





On April 17, the boys of East Lake and the special ladies in their lives got to spend an evening with the Harlem Wizards. The Wizards entertained the crowd with basketball stunts and audience participation, then led the boys and their guests in a fitness challenge. The kids and adults all enjoyed the photo booth as well. Afterwards, the Wizards took photos with the kids and gave autographs. It was a fun night for all in attendance!

Boys Social



Girls Social

The theme of this year's Girls Social was "Winter Wonderland". There were 420 tickets sold - the most ever! The Committee worked hard to create this winter wonderland for the girls and their special guest. The food stations consisted of pretzels, sandwiches, meatballs, pasta, and dessert which everyone enjoyed. This year, a new 360 booth added extra fun to the traditional festivities of DJ entertainment, lounge furniture, and photo booths. It was a huge hit with the girls.



Brain Show

Arts in Education

On March 10th the 2nd & 3rd grade students were excited, engaged, and had a lot of fun participating in The Brain Show. The assembly was set up in a cool game show like setting with 3 podiums and buzzers. The students broke up into teams and competed against each other answering curriculum based questions. The kids got a kick out of the teachers competing as well.



A large group of children and adults are posing for a photo in front of a colorful wall with 'THE BRAIN SHOW' logo and various educational icons.



Another fun night at Adventureland in the books! The Spring Family Fun Committee organized a great night for East Lake families at Adventureland on May 19th.

The weather was perfect and the kids had a blast. Everyone looks forward to these evenings. We don't know who had more fun - the kids or the grown-ups!

Adventureland



Mother's Day Plant Sale & Father's Day Boutique

The PTA returned with its ever-popular Spring 2023 Plant sale on May 11 just in time for Mother's Day. The students were given a wide variety of beautiful flowers to choose from and the students truly enjoyed shopping for their perfect Mother's day gift. Once again the PTA was able to offer a huge variety of plants, flowers, and herbs to parents and staff at a great cost.

On June 15th and 16th, East Lake students had the opportunity to shop at the Father's Day Boutique. Each grade was given a time slot to browse and buy items for Dad, Grandpa, Uncle or that special someone in their lives. The boutique by Little Treasures had a wonderful assortment of items such as key chains, sports gear, magnets, wallets, mugs and more!



The East Lake Box Tops Campaign paid off - just look at what we were able to donate to our school because of ALL the scanning! The East Lake PTA Executive Board joined with administration and our Box Tops Chair, Corinne Giuliani, to celebrate and take the first official photo with the brand new, weather resistant, lawn sign in April. Thanks to a strong Box Tops campaign this year, the committee, and to all the parents who scan, this new sign was possible. It is so rewarding to see this fundraising campaign positively impact East Lake.

Box Tops Campaign & Our New Sign!



Submerge Storytelling Realm

The 5th grade students cultivated their skills in reading and problem solving for the week-long Submerge Storytelling Realm program. Students did some critical thinking and discussed huge themes such as altruism, loyalty, friendship, and work ethic.



On Saturday June 10th, East Lake families met up at the ballpark to catch a Long Island Ducks game! These games are always a favorite among the kids and adults. The fans were treated to a performance by the East Lake Hand Bell Choir. The Ducks pulled off the win and the night was capped off with a spectacular fireworks show.

Family Fun Ducks Game



Field Day

The fields surrounding East Lake Elementary School were a flurry of activity on June 12, appropriately for Field Day. Students wore their "East Lake is Where the Goats Are" T-shirts, a reference to the popular GOAT acronym – "Greatest Of All Time". Each grade donned a different color, and fifth graders had their navy blue Class of 2023 shirts.

Students rotated through more than a dozen activities during the three-hour outdoor celebration. There were many traditional events like relay races, an obstacle course and the tug-of-war. Children enjoyed competing as teams to push two giant inflatable balls across the field. There were also yard games like giant Jenga, cornhole and a large Connect 4. Field Day also included lunch, snack and Italian ices, as well as a DJ station and a visit from the East Lake Eagle.



Good Luck to the East Lake Class of 2023!

To the graduating class of East Lake Elementary, class of 2023 --

It has been an honor to watch you grow from nervous, tiny Kindergarteners into the kind and wise children you are today. As you leave East Lake behind for grand new adventures, we know that you will always look back on your time here with a smile. Everything you've learned during your six years here have prepared you for the exciting years ahead. Remember to be kind, open-minded, confident and fly high like the Eagles you are!



Newsletter Committee:

Chair:
Mallory Kerley

Committee:
Catherine White
Meghan Griffin

The Reflections Award Ceremony presented recognition to all of the students who submitted entries to this year's competition. Categories included visual arts, film production, photography, dance choreography, literature, and special artist.

Reflections Ceremony

There were 71 entries this year - the most in years!



Join the PTA

The East Lake PTA has been working hard behind the scenes - and we need your help!

Scan the below QR code and become a PTA member today

