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## PTA Presidents Message

### Dana Durso & Meaghan Wrona

Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

The second half of the school year flew by and we have officially made it through all the challenges this year brought our way. We can proudly say we got through it together and still had a successful year as a PTA and school community.

We have been very busy since the start of the New Year! We had a very successful PARP program again this year, with the PARP committee encouraging reading through their theme, "Reading Through the Seasons", showing students that reading can be fun in any season of the year, no matter the condition. Further, in an effort to promote literacy and a general love for reading, the East Lake PTA had an exciting way to continue the momentum of the PARP program and foster the enjoyment of reading at home all year long through the purchase of East Lake's very own book vending machine. Every student had the opportunity to visit the vending machine this year and pick out a book of their own!

Even with some of the hurdles we faced this year, we still were able to bring our students a virtual book fair, plant sale and virtual Father's Day sale. We are so thankful to the hard working committee chairs that creatively modified some of our long standing traditions. Further, our Reflections committee did not skip a beat and received so many amazing submissions from our very talented students at East Lake, with several students moving on to county finals.

We rounded out the school year with some much needed and long awaited events where we were finally able to come back together! We had an amazing Spring Family Fun Night at Adventureland, sharing many laughs, smiles and the connectivity that we all had greatly missed. The excitement and energy continued as we moved into June and were able to host Field Day at East Lake once again. While it may have been modified, there was no shortage of fun and enjoyment at Field Day! We are so thankful to the Field Day Committee and administration for working together to bring a favorite tradition back to our school.

We would like to thank all the committee members and volunteers for all your continued efforts to help make this year a success. We had the privilege of working with so many incredible parents, teachers and especially students over the past two years while serving as co-presidents. While it may not have been the traditional experience, we are thankful that we had the support of our East Lake families to help keep the PTA moving forward through a global pandemic. Together we were able to quickly adapt and still provide so many wonderful programs and activities for our children. Thank you for all your support during our tenure and we look forward to all the great ideas and collaborative efforts that next year's new executive board will bring to East Lake!

Thank you, Meaghan Wrona and Dana Durso,  
Co-Presidents



*everychild.one voice.*

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



## A Message from Principal McKillop



Dear Parents:

It is incredibly hard to believe that the school year is almost finished, and we are only days away from summer vacation. This has absolutely been a year to remember, even though many of us would like to forget what we all had to endure during the pandemic.

Despite the obstacles that we were all presented with, the entire East Lake Community persevered and I am incredibly proud of the efforts of the staff, parents, and most of all the students. Even with the challenges and struggles, this school year was filled with many positive and exciting experiences for our students and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their support.

Thanks to a very flexible, dedicated, and extremely creative PTA we were able to deliver many of the wonderful aspects that the students of East Lake have come to enjoy over the years. I would like to thank Mrs. Durso and Mrs. Wrona along with their executive board for their extraordinary efforts. Their ability to adapt and modify was superb and I thank them for their commitment to providing the best for our students.

As the school year comes 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

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## Please Welcome the 2021-22 East Lake PTA Board!

Erika Conti - Co-President  
Danielle Ocuto - Co-President  
Luz Bove - 1st Vice President  
Stacie Tranchina- 2nd Vice President

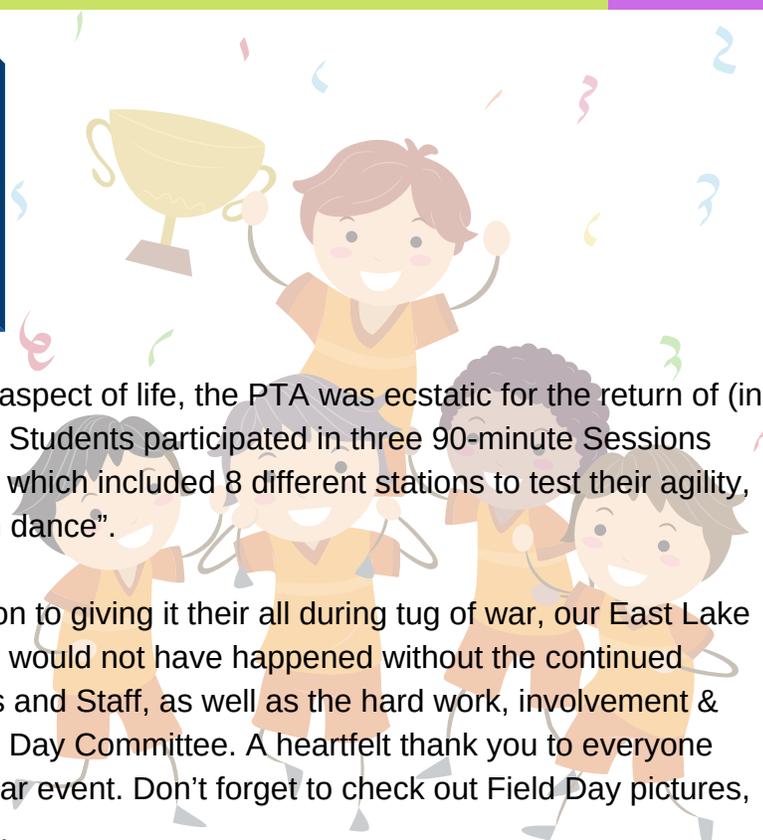
Christina Vitucci - Treasurer  
Meaghan Wrona- Corresponding Secretary  
Ashley Ianotta -Recording Secretary

# Adventureland

For the first in-person event of the 2020-2021 school year, students and parents had a fun-filled night out at Adventureland! More than 700 excited people from East Lake and McKenna spent the evening riding rides, playing games and enjoying the company of friends.



# Field Day



After a year of unprecedented changes to every aspect of life, the PTA was ecstatic for the return of (in person) Field Day at East Lake on June 8, 2021! Students participated in three 90-minute Sessions throughout the day (K & 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 4 & 5th), which included 8 different stations to test their agility, determination and ability to conquer the “chicken dance”.

From taking pictures and dancing at the DJ station to giving it their all during tug of war, our East Lake students had a (giant beach) ball! This Field Day would not have happened without the continued support of our amazing East Lake Administrators and Staff, as well as the hard work, involvement & energy of the East Lake Class Parents and Field Day Committee. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and/or supported this spectacular event. Don't forget to check out Field Day pictures, which are posted on the East Lake PTA Website.



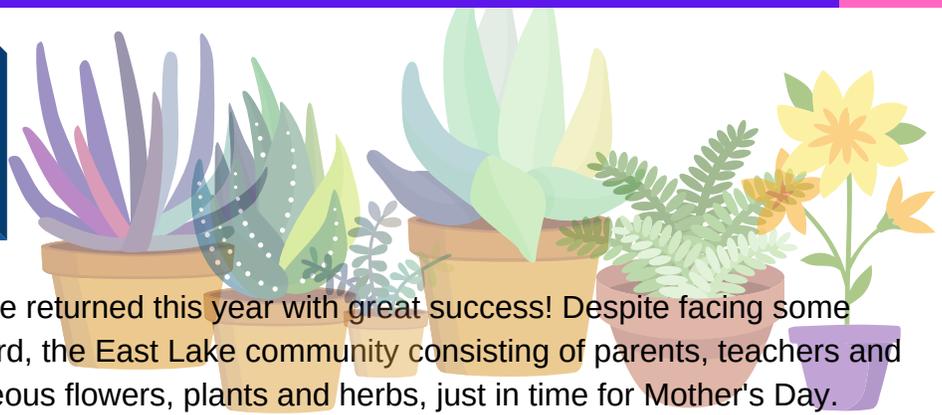


6<sup>th</sup> Congratulations 5th grade class of 2021





# Plant Sale



The ever popular East Lake Plant sale returned this year with great success! Despite facing some obstacles with this event going forward, the East Lake community consisting of parents, teachers and staff were still able to purchase gorgeous flowers, plants and herbs, just in time for Mother's Day.

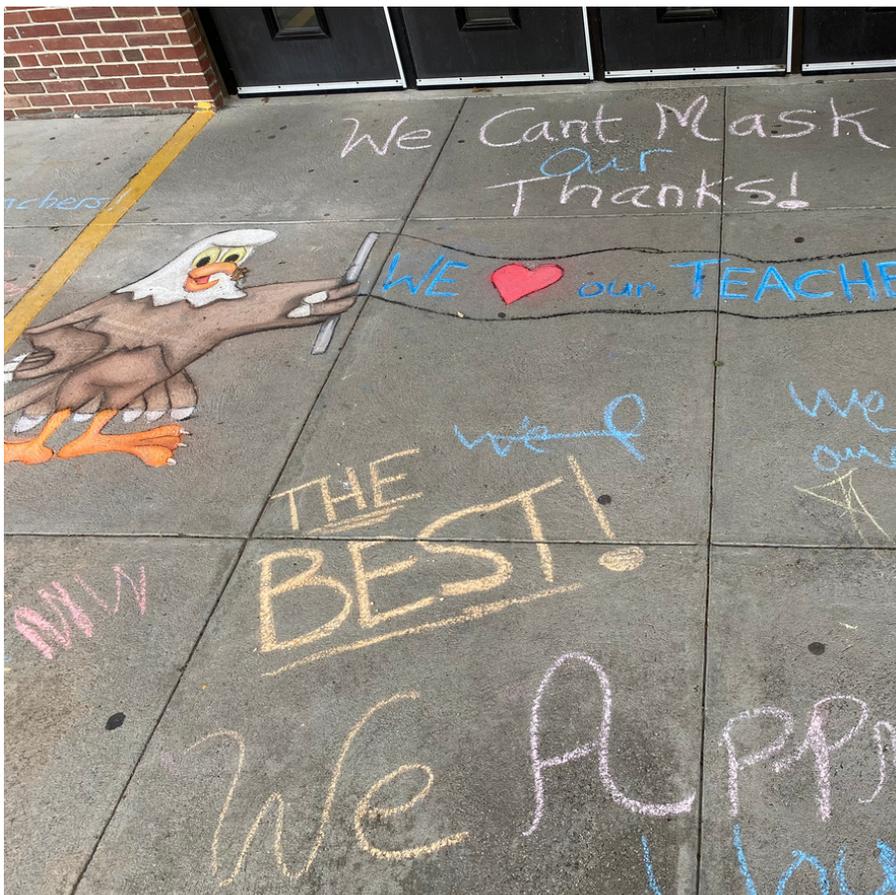
Since we were unable to have the sale at East Lake this year, due to COVID restrictions, Co-Chair Megan Kelly, hosted the event at her home, and this resulted in a great alternative that provided safe and easy pick up. We thank everyone who volunteered and participated in this year's sale. We look forward to an even more successful event next year!



# Staff Appreciation

East Lake Teachers and Staff were honored in May during Staff Appreciation week. They were greeted with 'Chalk the Walk' messages of thanks from students to kick off the week, and then enjoyed Philly Pretzel Factory snacks, catered lunch from Zona, and many donated raffle baskets.

Thank you East Lake teachers and staff for helping our students soar!



# PARP

This year's PARP theme was "Reading Through the Seasons", which showcased that reading can be done in any season! For two weeks students were asked to read for 15 minutes a day with their reading partner for five days a week. Interesting and fun virtual events were rolled out in addition to some cool dress up days.

This year's program was well received, especially by all the raffle and bookmark prize winners. PARP's finale consisted of grand prize raffles and the unveiling of a book vending machine, gifted to the school by the PTA. To say this made for an exciting PARP is an understatement. Thanks to all who helped and participated!



## PTA Awards

This year, the East Lake PTA applied for consideration for a handful of New York State PTA Awards, recognizing the hard work, dedication and commitment that our membership displays.

We are proud to announce that we won the Early Bird Award for membership (September 2020), and the Male Engagement Membership Award (April 2021).

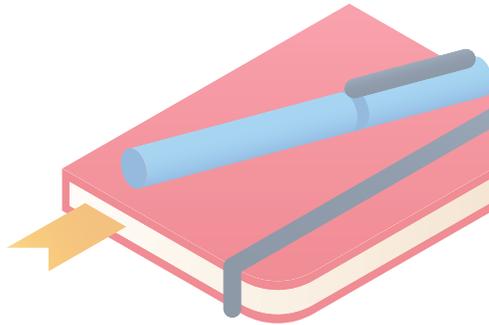
The results for the NYS PTA PARP Award and National School of Excellence / Hearst Award will be released in August 2021.



## Newsletter Committee:

Co-Chairs:  
Mallory Kerley &  
Danielle Ocuto

Committee:  
Jennifer Azzariti  
Hope Wygand



## Student Editorial

Thank you to all the participants. We loved reading your fantastic work! The question posted to students was "What is one thing you want to learn this summer and why?"

### Parker Kennedy Ms. Hall, 2nd Grade



I want to learn how to kick the crossbar of a goal this summer with a soccer ball. At soccer there are a couple of players that are really good and I think I can be as good as they are. This summer I want to challenge myself to be better than them and have FUN doing it! Another reason I want to practice soccer is because my brother is really good at being a soccer goalie and I want to be able to kick the ball around him and score a goal for the first time. I know if I want to reach that goal I have to train hard and work hard. Part of my training will include dribbling, shooting with both feet and practicing juggling. These skills will help me get better at the sport and help me to help my team in the fall. I also think it would be fun to try something new this summer like basketball.

### Jaden Maione Mr. Sollazzo, 5th Grade



This summer, I want to learn about investing. I want to get into investing because it seems interesting and I could make money. Some things I could invest in are companies like Microsoft or cryptocurrency like Bitcoin. People are making lots of money with Bitcoin. I want to start investing using apps like Robinhood or Acorns. I could use the money I get from investing to invest more, buy things I want, or save it for bigger things like college. I am really looking forward to investing this summer to see how much I can learn."

## 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

