



**NAUSET
YOUTH
ALLIANCE**

Positively Guiding Today's Youth
Into Tomorrow's World

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021



For many, the new year starts in the dead of winter with the celebration of New Year's Eve on January 1st. People declare New Year's resolutions and determine that the upcoming year will be different from the past ones holding out great promise for the year ahead. Our celebration of New Year's Day on January 1st is a human-made creation, not fixed by any natural or seasonal marker. It's a civil event, not one defined by nature. With days again getting longer after the winter solstice it seems like a rebirth. The concept of New Year's Day stems from an ancient Roman custom, the feast of the Roman god Janus, who was the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames, and endings.

After 17 years as a student and twice as many as an educator, the new year for me descends upon me at the end of the summer, not in December, as we transition from summer to life back at school. As Jordan tells Daisy in the seminal American novel, *The Great Gatsby*, "Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall." September for students is a time of beginnings with a new teacher, new classmates, and new lessons. It is a time of transition as well. For those of us on the Cape it is a transition from flip-flops to shoes and from the sand under foot to linoleum and carpet. Time takes on a different meaning from the summer as our activities are bracketed by a beginning and ending bell. Students look at the classroom clock and are either amazed how quickly time has passed or wonder how it can drag by so slowly. I remember the ornate wood sign under the clock in my high school English classroom stating "Time Passes, Will You?".

For many in this country the return to school this year marks the first time in 18 months that children have been in an actual school building due to COVID. While this is the case for some of our students, the majority have been fortunate to have had the ability to choose in-person learning last year and this one. In any case, this is a new year unlike any other. There's some anxiety and fear on the part of students, families



Important Dates

Friday, Oct 29th
Trunk or Treat
5:45-7 pm
Stony Brook
Parking Lot

**Come dressed
in Costume**



Early Release

Friday, Oct 29th

**Not a typo. Same day as
Trunk or Treat**

**NYA begins at 11 AM
following early dismissal. If
your child is attending
NYA on that day, please be
sure to send a lunch as food
services will be closed.**



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and educators paired with a great deal of optimism. There are no regrets at the beginning of the school year. It's all new. It's all opportunity. It's filled with promise and excitement.

At NYA we are excited by the start of the year. We have record enrollment and our returning staff serve as a solid core for our new teachers to learn from and add to. We look forward to providing structured opportunities for our students to learn and hone their social-emotional skills. We reiterated the first couple of weeks our three overarching expectations: "Listen to the teacher the first time", "Keep hands and body to oneself", and to "Use kind words and actions." These concepts provide the scaffolding that the rest of the school year is built on.

Each student returned to their own storage bin that was empty except for a Ziploc bag of art supplies. The bins are slowly filling up with their creations serving as a metaphor of the knowledge, memories, and experiences they will fill themselves up with this year. Our resolution at NYA is to help each child live up to their potential, to thrive and to grow. I look forward to another change in season when the buds on the trees spring forth with new leaves as an opportunity to look back on this new year celebrating the growth each of us has experienced as individuals and as a collective. Happy New Year!

2021-2022 NYA STAFF

Eddy

Emma McBrearty – Site Coordinator
Bev Florance
Emily Fowler
Katherine Joyce
Maura Lyons

Stony Brook

Michelle Ehrhardt – Site Coordinator
Ronnie Brocklebank
Judy Langelier
Jenny Loomis
Crystal Mangelinkx
Barbara Mullen
Holly Pearson
Meg Thackeray
Taylor White

2021-2022 NYA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susie Barker – President
Phil Burt – Vice President
Michelle Donahue – Secretary
Pat Sylvia – Treasurer

Melissa Carter
Donna Cormier
Rebecca Harrison
Birgit Weisshuhn

Interested in becoming a NYA Board Member?

NYA was established as a parent-run organization. If you are interested in being an NYA Board Member please be in touch with David Rost. The NYA Board meets monthly to discuss and guide NYA. New Board members will be elected at the Annual Meeting in May.