



**NAUSET
YOUTH
ALLIANCE**

Positively Guiding Today's Youth
Into Tomorrow's World

NEWSLETTER

June 2024

Bits and Pieces

As I write this final newsletter of my career, I am filled with immense gratitude for each and every student, parent, and colleague I have met along the way. With my retirement after 40 years of teaching and educational administration, the past seven here at Nauset Youth Alliance, I thank parents for sharing their children with me. The students challenge me everyday to be a better version of myself and I hope I have done the same for them.

Looking back at these past seven years I am proud of what we have accomplished at NYA. After-school enrollment has increased 60% and summer enrollment 75%. When the students attending the after-school program, enrichment, and/or summer program are included, 85% of Stony Brook and Eddy students participate in some facet of NYA during their time in elementary school. Through grants and judicious fiscal management, we have been able to increase cash reserves while more than doubling teacher salaries and introducing ICHRA benefits to them.

All of this would not have been possible without strong leadership at the Board level and a committed team of teachers. To the Board members I have served with – thank you for your trust and confidence in my vision for the program. I want to thank the Board presidents I have worked with – Adrian Cormier, Susie Barker, Melissa Carter, and Heather Sprague.

Clearly, none of this would have been possible without an experienced and dedicated team of teachers. I thank all of you for your commitment and buy-in as well as putting up with my dated cultural references. Your passion for our kids is unmatched.

There are a few former and current colleagues I want to give a special shout-out to. The first is Peggy Admirand, who was the assistant director when I started. Peggy helped me acclimate and assimilate to a new environment while displaying patience for my desire to move things along quickly and giving sage advice on opportunities and pitfalls. I want to acknowledge Emma McBrearty, the current assistant director, who has done a fabulous job in the office and in providing structured and fun activities at Eddy. It has been very satisfying to serve as a mentor for Emma who has an unquenchable thirst for growth and development. I also want to

David Rost, Executive Director • 508-896-7900 • drost@nausetyouthalliance.org
Website: nausetyouthalliance.org • Federal Tax ID: 04-3101427

Important Dates

School Closed
Juneteenth
Wednesday
June, 19th

Final Day of NYA
2023-2024

Friday, June 21st

A reminder that the 21st is now a full day of school with students dismissed at 1:55 pm rather than the early release previously scheduled.

NYA Summer
Program
Starts June 24th

NYA Summer 2024 starts on Monday, June 24th. Hours are 8:30 am – 4 pm. A reminder that Brewster Rec starts on the 26th. If your child is typically at Rec in the morning and at NYA in the afternoon, and you need childcare on the mornings of the 24th and 25th, please be in contact.

thank Robin Huibregtse, our new Executive Director, for returning to NYA after serving the summers of 2018 and 2019 as summer site coordinator. It is easier leaving knowing that the program is in good hands with the tandem of Robin and Emma.

I also thank the Brewster community for accepting and embracing me. Despite being a part-time resident of the Cape for close to three decades, it was the parents and members of the community that welcomed me wholeheartedly and made me feel at home. I thank the teachers at Stony Brook and Eddy for their collaboration and confidence in NYA. Thank you to Keith Gauley and Steve Guditus for your partnership. Thank you to Sue Ford, Lauren Barnes, and Shannon Reeves for your help on a daily basis. And thank you to Mike Gradone and Andy Haven at Brewster Recreation for working together and always putting the children of Brewster first.

One of the dangers of singling out several people to thank is running the risk of alienating someone who feels left out. Please know, even if I didn't thank you by name, I am appreciative of your support and understanding. This extends beyond the classroom to the kitchen and custodial staff as well as partners at community organizations.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank my family. My wife Margaret has been on this ride with me for the past 36 years. She put her career on hold to further mine and to focus on our children when they were young. She has provided wise counsel over the years, and in the words of Tammy Wynette, "stood by her man." To my children Tyler and Corey, thank you for your support and understanding. You are my greatest accomplishments, my pride and joy.

People ask me what I will be doing now that I am retiring. The plan is to enjoy all the Cape has to offer including biking, Pickleball, and golf as well as reading and volunteering. I also plan to stretch out all the muscles that have tightened up after decades of being a desk jockey. And while this newsletter is an expression of gratitude, it is not farewell as I will be staying on at NYA for another year as bookkeeper and advisor to Robin and Emma.

Having been involved in education for four decades, I have gotten used to farewells saying goodbye to a class of graduates each year. I would share the following poem with students, and, in closing, I share it with you as I feel it best captures my feelings at times like this.

Bits and Pieces
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People. People important to you. People unimportant to you cross your life, touch it with love and move on. There are people who leave you, and you breathe a sigh of relief, and wonder why you ever came in contact with them. There are people who leave you and you breathe a sigh of remorse and wonder why they had to go and leave such a gaping hole.

Children leave parents. Friends leave friends. Acquaintances move on. People change homes. People grow apart. Enemies hate and move on. Friends love and move on. You think of the many who moved into your hazy memory. You look at those present and wonder.

I believe in a master plan in lives. People move in and out of each other's lives, and each leaves his mark on the other. You find you are made up of the bits and pieces of all

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who ever touched your life, and you are more because of it, and you would be less if they had not touched you.

Accept the bits and pieces in humility and wonder, and never question, and never regret.

Bits and Pieces.

Bits and Pieces.

- Author Unknown