



Positively Guiding Today's Youth  
Into Tomorrow's World

# NEWSLETTER

February 2024

## Statement From The Executive Director

I write today with mixed emotions. I informed the Nauset Youth Alliance Board of Directors at the January Board meeting that the 2023-24 school year will be my last as the Executive Director of Nauset Youth Alliance as I will be retiring at the conclusion of the school year in June.

The decision to leave NYA was not an easy decision but the timing in my personal and professional life is right. I am very proud of NYA and leave the organization in a position of strength. While one of my sayings is “no one likes change but a wet baby” change is positive and necessary for any organization to thrive and grow.

I am confident in the Board of Directors in undertaking a search for my successor. The Board has formed a Hiring Committee comprised of Melissa Oomer, Heather Sprague, and Kelsey Ellis to conduct this search and to make a recommendation of a new Executive Director to the full Board.

I am and will always be immensely grateful for NYA and the community of Brewster in welcoming me to the Cape as a full-time resident after being a part-time resident for 22 years prior to assuming this position in 2017. You made the Cape feel like home.

While I still have six months prior to my retirement I wanted to take this opportunity to give some thanks. To the Board of Directors, particularly the Presidents I partnered with (Adrienne Cormier, Susie Barker, Melissa Carter, & Heather Sprague) I am grateful for the support given to me to expand and evolve NYA as I saw fit. To the teachers I worked with thank you for making that vision a reality. To the parents who have entrusted their children to our care thank you for your trust and confidence. To Keith Gauley, Steve Guditus, Mike Gradone, and Andy Havens thank you for your partnership and collaboration. Most of all, to the students, the reason all of us have joined together, thank you for your



### Important Dates

**Early Release  
Wed, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>**

**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 that day.**



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**School Closed  
Feb 19-23<sup>rd</sup>**



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inspiration on a daily basis. Finally, thank you to my family for joining me on this journey.

Sincerely,

David M. Rost

### **Message from the President of the Board of Directors**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, please join us in congratulating David on his well-deserved retirement at the end of the 2023-24 school year and thanking him for his seven years of profoundly impactful leadership of Nauset Youth Alliance. Though we are, of course, deeply saddened by this news, we are very grateful that David has agreed to continue in a limited capacity as an advisor and mentor to the next Executive Director and to serve as the bookkeeper for the 2024-25 school year.

We cannot overstate David's transformative impact on the program since his arrival in 2017. Though his accomplishments on behalf of the program are too numerous to list here, we would highlight a few examples. David helped implement a Social-Emotional Learning curriculum and established greater structure and systems. In addition to this curriculum development, David has hired and mentored excellent teachers, staff, and enrichment providers, which has helped grow enrollment, and he has worked tirelessly to identify and apply for grants and donations, such that NYA's financial outlook has never been stronger: we have been able to increase teacher's compensation and benefits to be a leader in the marketplace, we have been able to limit tuition increases, and our cash reserves have never been healthier. We are also grateful for David's leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as his consistent efforts to serve the broader Brewster community through consistent coordination and communication with other community stakeholders. Most of all, however, we thank David for his unwavering support and care for the children who have attended NYA under his leadership.

We have already started the process of finding David's successor and will begin advertising in the next few days. While we are moving expeditiously, we are also moving intentionally. Sometimes the best candidates come to an organization through members of the community. Should you know of a candidate you would recommend, please refer them to Melissa Oomer, Kelsey Gilmore Ellis, David Ayers, or me.

Thank you, David, for your tireless efforts on behalf of NYA, a program which we all care about so deeply!

Sincerely,

Heather Sprague,  
President, NYA Board of Directors

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## Pancake Breakfast



The 21st Annual Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, February 12th from 8 – 11:30 am at the Eddy School. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$6 for those under 15 years of age. Hours are 8-11:30 am with last serving at 11 am. The door prize, donated by the Henchy Family, is two one-night stays at the Nauset Beach Inn. Raffle prizes include games, toys, gift baskets, and homemade goods. Currently, there are over 30 raffle prizes available with more to come! Brewster Rec will run a Run, Kick, Pass contest in the Eddy gym at 10 am.

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Please put your child’s name in clothing they might remove while at NYA, i.e., coats, sweatshirts, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, winter boots, etc. If there is a name in them, we can reunite the clothing with your child. Use a marker to write their name on a label, get preprinted labels and iron them in, etc. It would be a shame if a child were to lose a holiday gift from Santa, parents, grandparents... We also request that you put their name on water bottles. We would love to have a completely empty lost and found basket. Thank you!

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## Dressing for The Weather



With the weather turning colder this is a reminder to please send your child to NYA with a coat, hat, and gloves. We go outside in temperatures as low as 30 degrees, but we won’t allow someone to do so if they are not dressed appropriately. Thanks for your help in making NYA a fun and safe place for your child.

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