

Good evening, and happy Earth Day.

This is both Earth Week and the PTSA's Walk to School week. Fittingly, tomorrow evening at 6:00pm in MS/HS Dining Hall our Rye Neck Safe Routes to School Coalition will be hosting an interactive workshop. In addition to promoting environmental and personal health, this presentation emphasizes personal safety and how we can work as a community for safer streets and commutes for our students. The facilitator will be Shannon Hughes, a nationally-recognized traffic safety specialist who most recently led program efforts for the USDOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's New York office. Shannon is also a past Chair of the Village of Mamaroneck Traffic Commission.

This event has been part of the effort to make our streets and commutes safer for our students and families. In advance of the expected 2026 NYS DOT project that includes repaving State Route 1 from New Rochelle to the City of Rye, our community has become more involved with this effort to improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure and to increase awareness of safe travel habits. Safe Routes sent out a parent survey last July; our Rye Neck Board of Education passed a resolution in October to support a School Zone on our section of Route 1; and in November we attended a meeting with Senator Mayer, Assemblyman Otis, and municipal leaders to offer local perspective on the project. Here in Rye Neck we celebrated the opening of our new MS/HS parking lot with a protected walk & bike path in October. We also cooperated with the Village Police on crosswalk safety and crossing guard posts, and most recently on messaging about drop off and dismissal traffic around our elementary schools. So please join us tomorrow night-- your presence and support would be greatly appreciated.

That's tomorrow. *This* evening I look forward to the reception in the MS/HS Dining Hall at 7:00pm to meet Rye Neck's next superintendent, Michael Burke. Mr. Burke spent a busy day with us meeting members of our faculty and staff and I'd like to echo President Wagner's assessment of his qualities. I didn't get to vote on his selection, but I think our Board made a great choice.