

## save the dates

### REFLECTIONS CEREMONY

March 16 at 7:30 PM

### BOYS' SOCIAL

March 20  
K-2 6:00-7:30 PM  
3-5 8:00-9:30 PM

### PTA GENERAL MEETING

March 24 at 7:30 PM

### FAMILY FUN YANKEE GAME

April 18

### PTA GENERAL MEETING- breakfast with the superintendent

April 24 at 8:45 AM

### KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

May 14

### LONG ISLAND DUCKS GAME

May 29

### PTA MEETING & AWARDS CEREMONY

May 19 at 7:30 PM

### FIELD DAY

June 5 (Rain Date 6/8)

### FAMILY FUN ADVENTURELAND

June 9

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Co-Chairs:

Erica Burns & Shari Stack

Jennifer Azzariti  
Deidra Maddock  
Meaghan McHugh  
Brian Wygand  
Hope Wygand

## student editorial —

Thank you to all the participants. We loved reading your fantastic work! Keep a look out for the next contest that will run in May for the June Issue of the East Lake PTA Newsletter.

Write about a person from East Lake who has made a difference in your life.



**Julianna Grasso**  
**Mrs. Cawley, Grade 3**

The person that changed my life from East Lake is my new friend Jacob from the Eagle program. Jacob is really nice and fun, and I like spending time with him. He is always happy and always fun. What I think is great about him is that he always smiles and he doesn't let things bother him even if people play a game that he doesn't want to play. He has shown me what kindness really means by always smiling and always including people in everything he does. He doesn't start a fight or get mad at anyone. He doesn't pay attention to negativity. Instead he is nice and finds positive things to do and say. I think they bring kids in my grade into have lunch with kids in the Eagle program to help them with friendships and to feel good. I think if we act more like Jacob everyday, they can help us to, and we can smile and be more kind like Jacob.



**Dom Antonelli**  
**Mrs. Dunston, Grade 5**

Mr. Steve has made a few differences in my life. One difference he made in my life is sometimes when I can't find something like a teacher's mailbox he helps me. Another thing is that everytime I pass him in the hallway he says "hi" to me and it makes my day. Another thing he does is when we play soccer most of the time we kick the ball over the fence and he opens the gate and gets the ball for us. Mr. Steve also has really good jokes about football because he likes the Dallas Cowboys and I like the New York Giants who are rivals so he always makes jokes about them. Mr. Steve at recess plays football with us and he plays quarterback. But most of all, if you don't know already Mr. Steve is the BEST SECURITY GUARD EVER AND IS THE GOAT!!!!

FEB  
2020

ISSUE  
01

# east lake eagle

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**National**  
**PTA**  
everychild. one voice.

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



## PTA Presidents' Message Dana Durso & Meaghan Wrona

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Students,

The first half of the school year has flown by and we have already had so many great events for the students!

The school year kicked off with the Boo Hoo/Yahoo Breakfast for all our new kindergarteners and their parents. Our Back to School Bash was a huge success with games, food and fun; attended by over 500 of our East Lake parents, students, and teachers. Our Fall Family Fun Committee was also hard at work, putting together our annual Bingo Night and an Islanders Game.

We got lots of great smiles from our students at both Picture Day and while they were shopping at our Holiday Fair, picking out gifts for their family!

For the first time ever, our school participated in a new fundraiser, Raise Craze, where students pledged to perform acts of kindness, for which friends and family supported our students with their kind donations. Our students collectively performed over 300 acts of kindness and surpassed our fundraising goals! The Arts In Education committee also arranged for a Cultivate Kindness Assembly for the students, bringing in a special guest to speak to the students about the importance and impact of kind-

ness.

We continued the kindness with hosting several successful drives for others in our community, including our Blood Drive, Treats for Troops, Thanksgiving food collection, and a winter coat drive.

While we have already accomplished so many wonderful events for our students, our PTA committees are still hard at work planning for the second half of the school year. We are excited for what's still to come. We have our annual Girls and Boys social events, as well as our spring family fun events which will include a Yankees game and day at Adventureland. Before we know it, it will be time for our Plant Sale, Father's Day Boutique, and of course the students' favorite- Field Day!

The PTA Executive Board Members would like to thank all the parents, teachers, and committee members for all your continued support to help make our first year on the board such a success thus far! The students certainly do enjoy all the great things our school and PTA does for them.

We hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter and have a great second half of the school year!

Thank you,  
Meaghan Wrona and Dana Durso  
Co-Presidents





## A Message from Principal McKillop

Dear Parents:  
Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday break with your families, and I wish the entire East Lake community a happy and healthy 2020. The second half of the year is a great opportunity to revisit goals set at the beginning of the school year with your child and discussing how they have progressed thus far. With the winter doldrums in full effect, this is also a good time to remind your children about his/her responsibilities as a student, helping them reestablish routines coming off an extended break from school. Encouraging them to study daily, read for enjoyment, review

math facts, and keeping homework folders organized are a few small examples of how you can help your child be successful in school. As we continue to strive for academic excellence and build upon the strong foundation that the home and school have established, it is imperative that we empower students to be responsible for their own actions so that they may develop into responsible, lifelong learners.

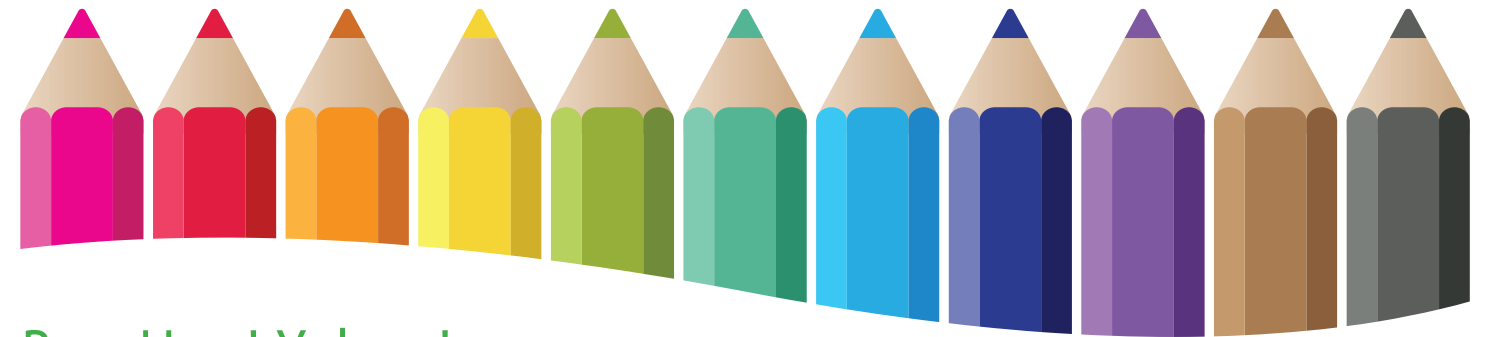
I want to take this opportunity to thank those parents who abide by the safety rules and procedures that we have established over the years regarding student arrival. Student arrival on East Lake Avenue although better than in the past, remains a concern and a hot topic on social media (according to my sources). I respectfully ask that parents continue to pull forward and utilize the entire drop-off area. Additionally, if you must get out of the car to let your child out, please do not do so in the drop off area. This will greatly improve traffic flow and make student arrival quicker and safer. I ask that you please share this information with whom-ever is responsible for transporting your child to school.

In addition to student arrival, dismissal is just as important. East Lake School currently has 511 students who need to get home

safely every day. That means that there can be as many as 511 different plans each day. You can help us manage these plans by keeping a daily pick up routine with your children. It is always beneficial to have a familiar routine so your child can become more confident, independent, and most importantly, safe as they navigate the campus after school. Having pre-arranged plans with a neighbor or family member to pick up your children in the event you are delayed or unable to get to the school for pick up is most helpful. Of course, any time the daily routine is changed, please inform the main office especially if it involves a primary aged student. Please remind your child that if they do not see you or their designated pick up person that they should go back into the building and report to the main office. Let's continue to work together to keep all children safe.

Finally, if you ever have any questions or concerns about any aspect of your child's education, feel free to contact me or Mrs. Velte. We welcome your inquiries. Have a wonderful remainder of the school year!

**Thomas A. McKillop III,**  
Principal



## Boo Hoo! Yahoo! Breakfast & New Kindergarten

**Meaghan Wrona & Laura Vassil, Co-Chairs**

The annual Boo Hoo! Yahoo! Breakfast was another great success. September 6, 2019 marked the first day of kindergarten for the class of 2025. This day can be exciting and emotional for both the child and the parents. To ease some of those feelings all kindergarten parents were invited to a breakfast in the school cafeteria, after drop off. There, the parents had a chance to meet, share stories, and get to know each other. The annual breakfast is a great tradition that continues to help welcome new families to our great school.



### your 2019-2020 pta officers



CO-PRESIDENTS  
**Dana Durso & Meaghan Wrona**

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
**Danielle Ocuto**

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
**Tina Flynn**

TREASURER  
**Luz Bove**

RECORDING SECRETARY  
**Erika Conti**

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
**Lauren Cuccias**



# BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Ashley Brennan & Stephani Gwerner, Co-Chairs

The Back to School Bash event brought many of the East Lake families together. It was a great kickoff to the school year consisting of music from our live DJ, yummy sandwiches from Jersey Mikes, raffle prizes from local hot spots, and tons of activities for the kids. It is also a great way to meet other parents for an affordable price! Great job to all who participated and attended.



## Health and Nutrition, Walk to School

Jennifer Czachor & Tina Flynn, Co-Chairs

On Wednesday, October 2nd the blocks were filled with happy children walking to and from school completing their "signs of fall" scavenger hunt. This motivated the students to get out on a beautiful sunny day and appreciate their surroundings. First grade won with the highest percentage of participation and was rewarded with an extended recess.



## Fifth Grade Harvest Fair

Janine Hunter & Michelle Wienczorkowski, Co-Chairs

The fifth grade helped kick off the fall season at East Lake with the annual Harvest Fair held on October 15th. Beautiful mums, scarecrows, hay bales, pumpkins, and assorted fall decor were for sale. There was face painting, temporary tattoos, and fun games for all the kids. The fifth grade Baking Committee also offered delicious homemade treats and candy. Thank you to everyone who helped with the sale, as well as those who made a purchase to support the fifth grade in raising funds for their graduation activities. The fair was a great success!



## Outreach — Food Drive & Coat Drive

Luz Bove & Jaclyn Jansen, Co-Chairs

The Outreach Committee does a great job of giving back to people in need. As the weather got colder, we collected and donated twelve large bags of coats and accessories to various charities during the coat drive. This year, the East Lake Outreach Committee kicked off the holiday season by hosting a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's Food Pantry. The food pantry created baskets for local families in need to provide them with a generous Thanksgiving meal using all donated items. Thank you to all the families who made generous donations.



A great way to stay informed of upcoming PTA events. Text to this number: **81010** | Enter this message: **@elpta** You will receive a response with further directions.





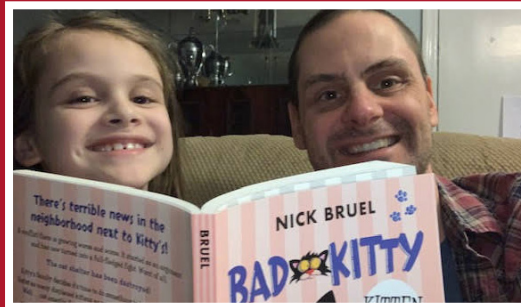
2020

# EAST LAKE PRESENTS RED CARPET READERS



Jennifer Azzariti & Erica Burns, Co-Chairs

This year's PARP theme was Red Carpet Readers: The Book is Better than the Movie. Students kicked off PARP walking the red carpet at our kickoff evening event, that had students participate in various reading activities as well as a book swap. In addition, students received a swag bag filled with an autograph book, bookmark, pencil, and various coupons donated by Massapequa Bowl and United Skates. To go along with the theme, all hallways were decorated with books and their corresponding movie titles. Students and families came in large numbers to our Barnes and Noble Night to listen to multiple "secret readers". Raffle tickets were given out for borrowing books from the public library, as well as one in every child's swag bag, led to one raffle winner for each grade, as well as one Grand Prize winner of an Apple iPad, donated by Little Treasures. Additionally many students posed for PARP selfies for extra stars to be earned for their grade. Our winning grades for PARP 2020 was a very close race with kindergarten and fourth grade coming in first place.





## holiday fair

Jackie Moran & Andrea Reyes,  
Co-Chairs

The East Lake holiday fair was, once again, a success! The students were given the opportunity to shop for holiday gifts for family and friends. Everyone shopped until they dropped! We hope everyone enjoyed their presents.



## holiday party

Nadia D'Amico & Laura Vassil,  
Co-Chair

A fun time was had by all at this year's Holiday Party. PTA members gathered at Patrizia's for a fun night, which included food, drinks, and raffles. A special thank you to Patrizia's for judging the ugly sweater contest and providing a gift card of \$100 to the winner. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Patrizia's again next year.



# EXPLORE the Arts!

## PARTICIPATE in PTA Reflections

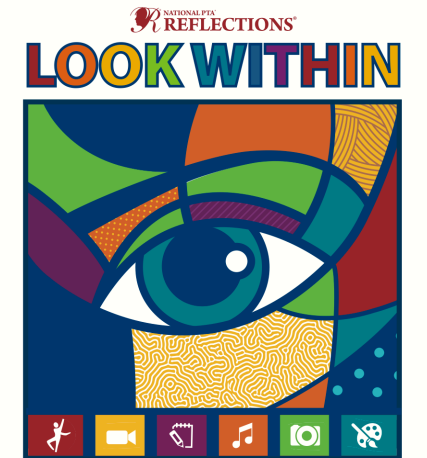
## Reflections -

Erika Conti & Lindsay Guzzo, Co-Chairs  
Reflections 2019-2020: "Look Within"

East Lake collected 36 Reflections Submissions this year, which were submitted across three categories (Visual Arts, Literature, and Photography) for our 2 division levels (Primary & Intermediate). Those submissions were blindly judged by the staff at McKenna. From that blind judging, 12 submissions advanced to Nassau County in December.

All participants and winners will be announced and honored at our Annual Reflections Ceremony on March 16th at 6:30 PM at the East Lake Cafeteria.

Thank you to everyone who participated this year!



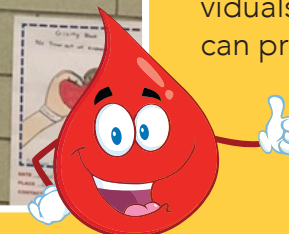
2019-2020  
Call for Entries! Deadline for Entries: \_\_\_\_\_  
For Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit [PTA.org/Reflections](http://PTA.org/Reflections) to learn more and get involved.

## Blood Drive — Danielle Sforza & Cathy White, Co-Chairs



East Lake's Annual Blood Drive was held on November 21st and was co-chaired by Danielle Sforza and Cathy White. This year's theme "Donate Blood – No Truer Act of Kindness," coincided with the school-wide Acts of Kindness campaign. Students submitted posters to announce the drive and the grand prize winners were Gabriella Tommolino (grades K-2) and Shannon O'Leary (grades 3-5). Donor turnout was the highest it has been in 3 years with a total of 45 pints of blood donated. A big thank you to the East Lake Community of donors and the blood drive committee who helped spread the word. The blood that was donated will assist many individuals and once again, East Lake shows that together we can practice acts of kindness to help save lives!





## arts in education

Tina Flynn & Robyn Scarpas, Co-Chairs  
**Cultivate Kindness**

On October 21st students kicked off Red Ribbon week by attending a very powerful and motivating assembly, Cultivate Kindness with Rich Specht. He proved to the students how easy it is to spread kindness and pay it forward. The students were inspired and encouraged to go out and make the world a better place.

**Journeys Into American Indian Territory**

Fourth grade students had a full day of fun, hands-on activities engaging in traditional games and stories of the Native Americans.

The students rotated through a museum, storytelling, game playing, government role playing, and clay activities. They developed an understanding of the personal and cultural influences of the Native Americans.



## raise craze

Luz Bove & Danielle Ocuto,  
Co-Chairs

The PTA fundraiser this year, Raise Craze, was based on giving back and gratitude. Participants completed acts of kindness to thank family and friends for donating funds to East Lake. Our students certainly rose to the occasion with over 300 acts of kindness completed and almost 1,000 donations collected! Challenges were held throughout the two weeks of Raise Craze. The Raise Craze final challenge was won by Mrs. Brady's Kindergarten class and Mrs. LiCausi's Fourth grade class. These two groups raised more money for East Lake, completed more acts of kindness, and reached out to more family and friends for donations than other classes. They are officially "Kindness Kids!" Both classes have been featured on a special bulletin board for all their peers to see. Individual acts of kindness included students helping more at home and being more inclusive of their peers.



## book fair

Lauren Cuccias & Allison Giordano,  
Co-Chairs

This year's book fair was a great success. Our co-chairs transformed our cafeteria into our very own book store for our students! We even had a special surprise visit from Clifford.



## family fun

### Bingo and Islanders Game

Maria Casale & Annmarie Tromba, Co-Chairs  
**Bingo Night**

On November 21st over 200 people participated in the annual East Lake Bingo Night. There were games and raffles with many prizes to be won, even two grand prize winners who walked away with a family pack of tickets to the NY Islanders game! Everyone enjoyed the fifth grade bake sale goodies and treats, overall another fun night for East Lake families!

**Islander Game**

Another great family fun event in the books! Our Family Fun co-chairs you completely nailed it. Not only was it a great game (too bad the Islanders took a loss), but the Bryan Trottier experience was truly spectacular. Everyone got to personally meet with him and get photos and autographs! It was so cool and the kids were in their glory.



## box tops

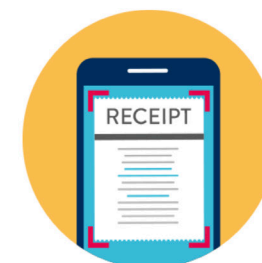
Antonella Mifsud & Melanie Valle,  
Co-Chairs

Schools may earn up to \$20,000 cash per year! Each box top you clip is worth \$0.10. If each student collected 100 box tops over the entire year, East Lake would receive more than \$5,000!



**BUY**  
BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

Look for the logo. You can find it on hundreds of products you know and love.



**SCAN**  
YOUR RECEIPT

No more clipping. Tap the scan button and snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



**EARN**  
CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

It's that easy! Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.