

Dear Q300 Community,

Welcome to the 3rd Annual Stepping into Summer Auction! It is hard to believe we are almost at the end of our third year and gearing up for the summer. Thanks to our generous Q300 community, this year's event includes more than 100 prizes – with camps, vacation getaways, gift certificates, toys, museum memberships and more!

In the last three years, our ever-growing Q300 community has continued to develop and evolve from a school of barely over 100 students into an almost fully seeded one of nearly 400. With a dedicated new principal and fantastic teachers and staff (both old and new), our school has remained committed to its mission: to engage students in the active process of making knowledge and better understanding the world around them in ways that drive a sense of responsibility and action.

This commitment to the mission and core values is reflected in all school endeavors, whether it is in the school-wide service learning projects, the explorations room, the Model UN participation, the Middle school advisory program or the Elementary School morning meetings, the in-class celebrations across grades and disciplines, and even the Taconic Outdoor Education program. We see this commitment manifest in the choices our eighth graders made in seeking and choosing high schools that matched their unique interests and talents, or in the recognition the Chancellor gave by naming Q300 a “Respect for All” school just last month. Most importantly, we see this in the ways that our own children embody the Q300 core values of inclusion, inquiry, and responsibility in both their academic and social worlds, guided by the amazing adults in the school who know the importance of integrating these two realms.

The Q300 PTA raises money through generous direct donations and fundraising events ultimately to support the mission of the school. These funds enable us to bring high-quality enrichment programs and resources to **all** students at Q300, regardless of their background. In the 2016/2017 school year alone, PTA funding provided academic support through teaching assistants and middle school Spanish language instruction; in-class enrichment programs such as visual arts, music, architecture and dance; classroom supplies and equipment including laptops, calculators, books and robotics kits; funds towards graduation and other school outings; and financial assistance to enable students to participate in all of our programming.

In many ways, our annual Steppin' into Summer Dance Party and Auction symbolizes how we unite to support this mission in a fun, creative and meaningful way. At this event, our entire school community not only joins together to eat, drink, socialize, and dance, but also to collect prizes, obtain journal ads, and volunteer at tables at the event. Many even donate time and energy through our unique parent and staff “experience prizes” that showcase our broader community's gifts and talents! Who knew we had singing telegrammists, musicians, tour guides, nutritionists, Lego consultants, curated book advisers, chefs, bakers, and even a life coach among us?

We would like to recognize the work of the Auction Committee who has worked tirelessly over the last several months to organize the event, including Maria Hantzopoulos and Eleonora Rabinovich (co-chairs), Adele Brice and Ingrid Bromberg Kennedy (journal co-chairs), Jenn Eliasi, Kevin Gallagher, Joanna Holzman, Blain Kennedy, Paula Marisi, Randi Marshall, Sue Sekar, Andrea Tappert, and Hong van Tieu. Special thanks to the Benefit's sponsors, donors, and donor solicitors for investing in our school and making this year's benefit such a success.

And, of course, thank you to Principal Bill Biniaris and Assistant Principal Kristina Jelinek, and all of Q300's dedicated and talented teachers and staff, for all that you do, every day, to support our children's education. We are beyond lucky to have our children guided by your vision, compassion, and care.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of Q300!

Sincerely,
Andrea Tappert and Maria Hantzopoulos
PTA Co-Presidents