

# PRESIDENT'S Letter



## Welcome

The effect September still has on me, even now with both my children out of college, is one of regeneration. For anyone who has ever taught or attended school, there is that familiar jolt: fall is here—a chance to begin again.

September, for the natural world, signals an impending end. The leaves will drop, the blooms die, the harvest ends, the days darken and much of the earth will slumber. But for teachers and kids, it signals a fresh start—an opportunity to tackle again what was

**For teachers and kids, September signals a fresh start.**

put on hold in June, and a chance to do it better this time. The September Start out-shines the New Year's Resolution, with greater potential for lasting effect.

Parents (after one huge sigh of relief at no longer having to schedule all the activities) can feel and heed the message of fall, too. We, too, can start with a clean slate. We, too, can draw up new plans, burnish parental skills, resolve to listen well, model thoughtfully, guide wisely, love with abandon—and hope for growth.

We'll still make mistakes. We'll still want to bite our tongues. But it's fall. The notebooks and clothes are new, the classrooms are polished, the kids are spiffed—hey, we're starting over. We get a second chance. The role of a parent never goes away completely, it just changes over time. And for parents of kids still in school, there's a metaphorical fresh start every September. Embrace it.

Ruth and I and all of us at Parents in Action are embracing the return of our program year. We have a roster of thought-provoking speakers lined up for you, including Dr. Marianne Chai of Center For Living on “Addiction Is a Preventable Disease: What Parents Need to Know” Oct. 10; and Norah O'Donnell, CBS Anchor and mother of three at our Nov. 19 Fall Benefit. And in keeping with our goal to foster communication, our Facilitation team is busy scheduling your Parent Talks.

Like you, we care about getting it right. Let us know what you enjoy, what you don't, what you'd like to see us to offer in the future. We are your partners in launching confident children who make sound choices, and we welcome a new Fall with all of you.

**MELANIE WELLS**  
Co-President

**RUTH COX**  
Co-President