



Dear Renbrook Community,

Happy new year! Last fall, after three years of careful planning, we launched the public phase of our \$12 million comprehensive capital campaign. *Take Flight: The Campaign for Renbrook* is now solidly off the ground, and we are excited to build on the momentum of Fall Fest, the dedications of Gengras Family Field, Manafort Family Plaza and Bruce Irving Field, and our early and exhilarating conversations with so many of you. Throughout the life of the campaign, we will share our aspirations for *Take Flight* through periodic email newsletters, photos of projects in progress, and informational events.

Take Flight will fuel Renbrook's future and propel our students, faculty, and staff into a new chapter in the school's exciting journey. Our mission is to transform our learning spaces and athletics facilities, upgrade our historic 75-acre campus, and enhance faculty support and financial aid. To date, 100% of trustees have made gifts or pledges to the campaign, and donors have committed nearly \$7.5 million, including a transformational \$2 million gift, the single largest gift in Renbrook's history.

Gengras Family Field, our new synthetic, multi-sport turf, was completed in October, and I am thrilled to share that the Hawks are currently undefeated on it! Manafort Family Plaza, our new community gathering space near the upper fields, was also completed in October and has already hosted two major school events: Fall Fest in October and the Young Alumni Pastry Party in November. In our first donor spotlights, found below, we are pleased to share the stories of these two families, early supporters of *Take Flight* and leaders not only in the Renbrook community but in the Hartford area as well.

Currently, we are fundraising for all three campaign priorities: to empower our people, to enhance our programs, and to transform our place, and we look forward to connecting with you and your family in the coming months about *Take Flight* and the opportunities it presents. To learn more about these priorities and our campaign goals, to read our case for support, and to see renderings of projects like the reimagined library, visit our campaign website at takeflightrenbrook.org. If you would like to talk to someone about how you can be a part of *Take Flight*, please contact Director of Alumni & Development Cara Woods at cwoods@renbrook.org.

Sincerely,

Matt Sigrist
Head of School

FALL FEST PHOTOS



DONOR SPOTLIGHT



The Gengras Family

Few families are as intricately woven into Renbrook's history as the Gengrases. Edie and E. Clayton "Skip" Gengras, Jr. currently serve as co-chairs of the Grandparent Executive Committee, and Edie is a former member of the faculty and a past trustee. Edie and Skip's sons, Chip Gengras '85 and Jonathan Gengras '87, are graduates of Renbrook, and all of them have fond memories of the boys' days as Renbrook athletes. Jonathan and his wife Robyn, who currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees, are the proud parents of two Renbrook alumni, Ged '19 and Mary '20, and a current Renbrook student, Katherine '23, all of whom they describe as "diehard Renbrook athletes." Chip and his wife Ashley's children, Julia '15, Emmy '17 and Clayt '19, also have fond memories of their time as Hawks.

It's these memories and the positive impact that Renbrook's athletic program has had on their children that inspired the Gengras family's generosity and ultimately the creation of Gengras Family Field. With Renbrook being the Gengras family's common experience, it made sense to them to combine their legacies in a gift to the school that would celebrate the sports program that has meant so much to their family.

For their part, Edie and Skip love the "Take Flight" theme because it invokes memories of the Rentschlers yet looks to the future. And what better way to honor the future of Renbrook than with this remarkable gift? Robyn and Jonathan also wanted to give something of value to future Hawks while honoring their family's deep Renbrook roots. The field, it was decided, would be a lasting testament to a special school-family relationship.

Renbrook is deeply grateful to the Gengras family for their dedication and generosity.

Campaign Leadership

Honorary Campaign Co-Chair

Thomas O. Barnes, Sr.

Campaign Co-Chairs

Rebecca K. Corbin Loree

Stephen A. Roth '06

Board of Trustees Chair

Robyn M. Gengras

Development Committee Co-Chairs

Molly R. Rutledge

Stephen A. Roth '06

Head of School

Matt Sigrist

Director of Alumni & Development

Cara Woods

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



The Manafort Family

In the past, climbing the hill to get to the Upper Athletic Fields meant navigating puddles, roots, and rocks, on a muddy, ill-defined pathway. Now, thanks to the Manafort family, their vision of a beautiful and welcoming community space, and their dedication to Renbrook, visitors to the fields traverse an elegant stone walkway on their path to a spacious flagstone plaza that is flanked by a stone wall displaying the school name and our iconic armillary sphere.

Manafort Family Plaza is a gift from the Manafort Family Foundation, which includes current families Jim and Jolyn Manafort (Madelyn '24 and James '28), Justin and Tabitha Manafort (Samantha '18, Justin '19, and Tommi Rose '24), and William and Heather Manafort (Olivia '24 and Owen '31), along with parents of alumni Jason and Sandra Manafort (Evan '13, Jon '16 and Julia '18), and grandparents Jon and Elisa Manafort. In addition to being the proud parents of two Renbrook alumni and one current student, Justin is a Renbrook trustee and Tab is a former member of the faculty. Jolyn, who is also a Renbrook trustee, reflected on the gift, its goal, and its impact on the Renbrook community in a recent conversation with the editor of *Renbrook Magazine*. "Because our children and our children's cousins have all had such wonderful Renbrook experiences, we wanted to give something wonderful back to the school that had given them so much," shares Jolyn. "We envisioned the plaza as a space to bring the community together."

And bring us together it has! Manafort Family Plaza was the perfect gathering place for families and friends last October when we launched *Take Flight* and celebrated our community during Fall Fest. Jolyn's hope is that "our family's donation to the capital campaign can help to improve the school so that other families can benefit as ours has for many more years to come."

Thank you to the Manafort family for their support of the *Take Flight* Campaign and for their love of our Renbrook community.

