



## Dear Renbrook Community,

Just a year into the public phase of *Take Flight*, our completed projects are already enriching the lives of our students and their families. This fall, students across divisions developed leadership and communication skills on the renovated Challenge Course. We began Phase I of our energy and HVAC project with a campus-wide LED lighting upgrade and kicked off our fall sports season with a barbecue on the Manafort Family Plaza. And last week, the Renbrook Hawks finished their first full fall season on the Gengras Family Field, with the lowest number of weather-related cancellations on record.

It's truly an exciting time for Renbrook and our community! To date, donors have committed more than \$8.7 million to *Take Flight*, and Renbrook students are already learning and growing through some of our newly enhanced programs.

With the dedication and forward thinking of current parents Molly and Tom Rutledge as the driving force, we turn our sights to the reimagined library. Along with the Rutledge Family Foundation, Molly and Tom are committed to making the dream of a learning center like no other a reality. Their understanding and support of all the ways Renbrook brings learning to life is humbling and inspiring. We are grateful for their leadership and are honored to share their story.

We continue to raise funds for all three campaign priorities: empowering our people, enhancing our programs, and transforming our place. To learn more about these priorities and how you can be part of *Take Flight*, please contact Director of Alumni & Development Cara Woods at [cwoods@renbrook.org](mailto:cwoods@renbrook.org).

Sincerely,

Matt Sigrist  
Head of School



Tom and Molly Rutledge with their children Dylan '20, Macy '24, and Kathryn '17

## Molly & Tom Rutledge and Rutledge Family Foundation Chart Course for Reimagined Library with Largest Gift in Renbrook History

Early donors to *Take Flight*, Molly and Tom Rutledge and the Rutledge Family Foundation are once again fueling the future of Renbrook. With their latest gift of \$1 million to bring the reimagined library from visualization to actualization, their total campaign commitment of \$2 million represents the largest donation in Renbrook's history.

From the moment she first learned about the project, Molly, who currently serves on the Board of Trustees, knew she and her family wanted to support it. "The whole concept—the thought behind it, the design, the creativity—it's really exciting. Our first gift to *Take Flight* was our way of getting it rolling and encouraging others to step up," Molly shares. "This gift is about seeing it through and bringing the new library to fruition."

To Molly and Tom, who have been part of the fabric of Renbrook for 17 years and witnessed the construction of the current library, the reimagined library with its maker spaces and emphasis on inquiry-based learning is a natural and necessary extension of the school. They recognize the infinite possibilities the new space will provide students to explore their individual interests and approach learning in ways that work best for them.

"We have three very different children, who are all amazingly successful in their own right," says Tom. "Renbrook had a lot to do with that." Tom and Molly both credit Renbrook—with its student-centered approach to learning—for knowing, empowering, and inspiring each of their children uniquely. "Renbrook has different ways of teaching different kids," Tom says, "and the new library will bolster this."

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Molly agrees with Tom. "Libraries aren't just libraries anymore," she says. "Our current library was an amazing addition when it was built, but it's ready for an update. So much of learning is hands on. There are plenty of kids who do really well in a traditional classroom, but all kids learn better when they are doing. The new library – with the maker spaces, display areas, and the Hawk's Nest up top for the littles to explore – will allow children to learn through doing," says Molly. "And that's the best kind of learning."

One of Tom's favorite aspects of the new library is the intentional creation of spaces for multiple children of varying ages to work together. Reflecting on an adage from Chinese philosopher Confucius that was inscribed on a wall at the engineering school he attended, "I hear; I forget. I see; I remember. I do; I understand," Tom espouses the rigor that comes with teaching someone else. "The library is being designed with this in mind," he says. "It will provide opportunities and areas for older kids to teach younger kids. If you have the ability to teach others, you truly understand."

Molly and Tom's daughter Kathryn, a senior at University of Illinois Chicago, graduated from Renbrook in 2017, and their son Dylan, a senior at Avon Old Farms, graduated in 2020. When their daughter Macy, a current eighth grader, graduates in June, they will complete their journey as Renbrook parents and join the ranks of parents of alumni.

"We are grateful to Renbrook for the foundation our children received here. Even though our kids won't get to use the library, I love the idea of future generations using it and having the same beneficial experience our children did," Molly says.

Molly and Tom hope their family's words and actions will inspire other parents to join *Take Flight*. "A lot of people put so much focus on high school and college, but these formative years are the most important. Children will go farther in fulfilling their potential, no matter what school they attend next, if they have a strong foundation. Your contribution to this campaign is an investment in your child's future," urges Molly.

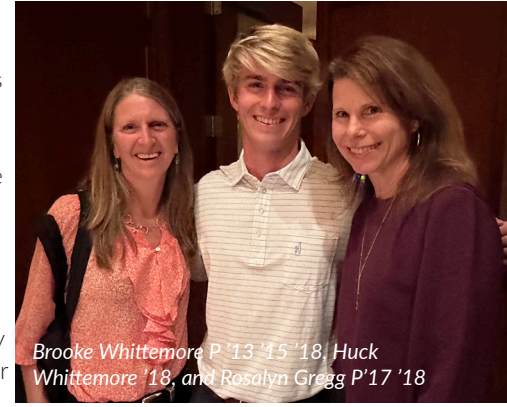
For their decades-long support of Renbrook, community-minded generosity, and inspiring leadership, we thank Molly and Tom. Renbrook students of today and for generations to come will explore their curiosity, discover new passions, and soar as learners and doers because of the Rutledges' investment in the future of all our children.

## Renbrook Takes Flight: Rocky Mountain Edition

Last month, Head of School Matt Sigrist traveled to Utah and Colorado to meet alumni and parents of alumni across many decades. Nancy Watkins Shott '74 hosted Matt for a tour of Hammerton, a decorative lighting company specializing in artisan glass and metalwork in Salt Lake City, where she serves as Vice President of Marketing.

In Park City, Renbrook community members gathered around the table for an intimate dinner and in-depth conversation with Matt. In Denver, alumni and parents of alumni joined former trustee Brooke Whittemore P'13 '15 '18 and Matt at Elway's Cherry Creek for dinner. In both cities, Matt shared detailed information about the campaign and answered questions about what we have accomplished so far and where we are headed.

This is the first time Renbrook's head of school has traveled to this part of the country. While in the area, Matt was able to connect with more than 20 members of the Renbrook community.



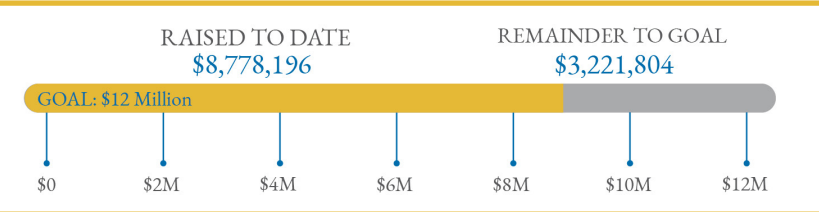
Brooke Whittemore P '13 '15 '18, Huck Whittemore '18, and Rosalyn Gregg P'17 '18

## Renbrook Students Raise \$30K for Take Flight

Renbrook students recently joined the distinguished and dedicated ranks of *Take Flight* donors. From September 26 to October 10, during the *Take Flight* Read-A-Thon, 207 students logged 72,676 minutes read and raised \$30,729 for *Take Flight* and the reimagined library! At a special assembly on October 13, students, faculty, and staff gathered in Stedman Auditorium to celebrate our students' teamwork, reading, and fundraising. We acknowledged top readers and fundraisers, heard from Head of School Matt Sigrist about what *Take Flight* and our students' philanthropy mean to our school, and cheered along to a video featuring favorite moments from the Read-A-Thon. We are truly blown away by our students' efforts and our community's support, and we are proud to announce: Mission accomplished!



Students cheer as the results of their Read-A-Thon are announced at an all-school assembly.



### Campaign Leadership

#### Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs

Thomas O. Barnes, Sr. & Robyn M. Gengras

#### Campaign Co-Chairs

Rebecca K. Corbin Loree & Stephen A. Roth '06

#### Board of Trustees Chair

Fern J. Barrasso

#### Development Committee Co-Chairs

Molly R. Rutledge & Stephen A. Roth '06

#### Head of School

Matt Sigrist

#### Director of Alumni & Development

Cara Woods