



PECONIC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

On August 12th, 2018, Peconic Community School will proudly honor Joe Mc Kay of Greenport, New York at their annual event SHARE. SHARE: Building Community Through Scholarship is a fundraiser that celebrates progressive education and raises scholarship funds for students at the school. Joe is a long-time PCS friend, advisor and supporter as well as a community leader, teacher, writer, speaker and advocate for life-long education and the environment.



Joe has lived on the North Fork for 35 years, having moved here full time after retiring in 1993. Joe is an activist in the community, and has become a great friend and leader, not only to PCS, but to countless people and organizations across the East End. Joe's service includes currently serving on the Peconic Land Trust's President's Advisory Council, the Board and faculty of the Lifetime Learning Institute at Peconic Landing; and he was a founding Board Member of the New Suffolk Waterfront Fund.

While most of Joe's career was spent in New York City (he was an innovator in the field of human development, creating career development programs that connected employees' personal goals and journeys to their career paths, which were sought after by large corporations throughout NYC), Joe has always been invested in life-long learning. Joe subscribes to the idea that education starts when we are born and never stops, and this is part of what drew him to Peconic Community School.

Joe connected with the founders of PCS in the school's first year, after a talk he gave on the link between education, self and community. His connection and support for the school has grown over the years as he has seen the impact of an education that connects a child to the world in which they live. "A person can't know themselves until they've explored who they are vis-a-vis the world around them. Peconic Community School provides a unique opportunity for that exploration. It's a journey I started later in life, and wish I could have had from a younger age."

Earlier this summer, Joe Mc Kay sat down with recent PCS graduate, Owen Searl to talk about Joe's connection to PCS, his career and community accomplishments, their shared ideas about education and the value of a PCS education. Owen was not only "inspired that Joe has been such an important community member for so many years," but recognized that "Joe's life is a perfect example" of why Peconic Community School strives to connect students and community members.



Peconic Community School is thrilled to be honoring Joe because his work, his values and his approach to living on the East End align so perfectly with Peconic Community School's mission and vision. We look forward to celebrating him alongside many of his friends and family not only for his support of PCS, but for his exemplary leadership on the North Fork, and for modeling a life of constant learning and humble citizenship.

PCS will honor Joe Mc Kay at their annual event, SHARE: *Building Community Through Scholarship* on August 12th at Hallockville Museum Farm. Tickets are \$150 and go towards providing scholarships for students at the school.