



Grade 8 students Kayla Lennon and Krystal Johnson were all smiles after the Junior High School Moving Up Ceremony.

## Junior High School Graduation

# Moving On Up!

**H**ow does it feel to be called the Class of 2017?" School Principal Thomas Averill asked the enthusiastic group of 229 students who are moving up to the High School this fall.

"You're one step closer to the big graduation day, and through hard work, you'll meet these challenges successfully," he advised.

The packed audience of parents, grandparents, and high school representatives cheered on the Grade 8 students, amidst choral performances and a PowerPoint photo presentation of the students' junior high school activities that was compiled by Grade 7 science teacher Tina Van Voorhis.

Class of 2013 Senior Class President Eric Beresheim urged the Grade 8 students to set their standards high and "go for it" during high school.

"The next four years will show the real you," Eric said. "You will find your niche and decide what you want in life. You'll be able to set your own legacy."

Before moving up, the Grade 8 students received some more counsel, from Junior High School Assistant Principal Lisa Kappler.

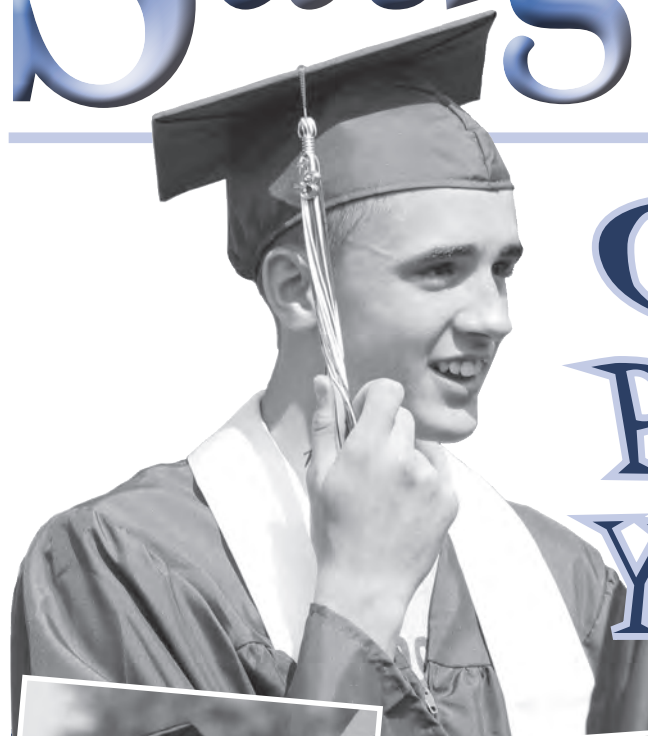
"It's all about choices," Ms. Kappler said. "If I can give you one piece of advice as you move into high school, it's to make good choices. When you have to make a choice, think, and then think again," she suggested. "When you do that, I'm sure you'll make the right decision."

**MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 2!**

# Saugerties

## School District

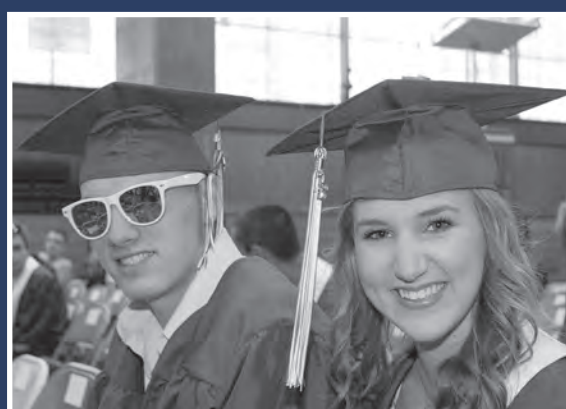
SUMMER 2013



# Oh the Places You'll Go!



## GRADUATION 2013



**T**he sun finally returned on a Saturday morning in June to set the stage for a beautiful Commencement ceremony that honored the 206 graduates of Saugerties High School.

School Principal Thomas Averill recalled arriving for his new career as Saugerties Junior High School Principal in 2007, the same year that the Class of 2013 began Grade 7.

"Today, I get a chance to say congratulations and good luck to that same group," Mr. Averill said nostalgically.

The group includes 160 graduates who are off to college and 5 who will join the military. Of the class, 102 graduates received Regents Diplomas, 70 earned Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation, and 16 garnered Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation with Honors.

Congratulations were also offered by Saugerties Superintendent of Schools Seth Turner, who light-heartedly encouraged the audience to "go crazy" when anyone said "Class of 2013."

In addition to receiving their diplomas, the graduates also got advice from sources that ranged from the vice presidents of their class and the District Board of Education to Dr. Seuss.

**SEE MORE ON CLASS OF 2013 ON PAGES 4 AND 5**

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**Junior High  
School Graduation****Moving  
On Up!**

Nicole Joers,  
Mia Pedersen,  
Amalia Martinez,  
Lilith Haig,  
Keilly Wickham,  
and  
Abigail Smedek



Grade 8 students  
Brendan Reilly,  
Madison Swart, and  
Daelan Santa Maria are  
all smiles about moving  
up to the high school in  
the fall.



Mikayla Weeks, Joseph Schwitz, Brady Snyder, Chris Richards, Jordan Gallo, and Harpreet Multani

**Junior HS Student Government Takes Action**

From motivational multi-media presentations to dances to a walk through a haunted mansion, the Saugerties Junior High School Student Government helps fill the students' calendars with both educational and social activities throughout the academic year.

The group is led by Student Advisor Tina Van Voorhis, a Grade 7 science teacher at the school. Funds raised at the school's dances, which Ms. Van Voorhis said are very popular among the students, support a full roster of events.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Student Government funded the school's presentation of "The Power of Three," a fast-paced, multi-media program that addresses issues commonly faced by young teens – bullying, drugs, poverty, and teen driving crashes. From the inspirational show, the students learned that the power of one voice, two actions, and teams of three could change problems and change lives, Ms. Van Voorhis said.

The government group also helped support school awards programs, district-level spelling bees, and a fun field trip to nearby Puttin Plus at the end of the academic year. "We try to have somewhere fun for the students to go in the midst of all the testing," Junior High School Assistant Principal Lisa Kappler commented.

Additionally, the Student Government sponsored a PowerPoint presentation at the school's



2012-13 Saugerties Junior High School Student Government  
Vice President Brett Igoe discusses an end-of-the-year event with  
Assistant Principal Lisa Kappler.

Moving Up Ceremony, as well as a performance by the Arm-of-The-Sea Theater.

"Without the Student Government, we wouldn't have a lot of the perks we're able to give the students," Ms. Van Voorhis remarked.

A new team of officers will be elected in the fall. The outgoing leaders and their 2012-2013 grade levels were Meghan Carney, President, Grade 8; Brett Igoe, Vice President, Grade 7; Kira Podmayerski, Secretary, Grade 7; and Kaleb Friedman, Treasurer, Grade 8.

Two representatives from each homeroom serve with the officers in the Student Government.



Fellow 2013-2014 Saugerties High School Student Council officers "support" Treasurer Kevin Wood. They are, from left, Jaclyn Greco, President; Sean McCave, Secretary; Elizabeth Westwood, Vice President; and Kathryn Agar, Social Director.

**HS Student Council Takes  
Shape for New Year**

When Kevin Wood begins his senior year at Saugerties High School, one of his responsibilities will be running the new *Talk to Me* program.

In *Talk to Me*, Kevin and all the other members of the High School's Student Council will be available to speak with any student who is having any sort of problem. Council members will wear bracelets that identify them as part of the club.

"I think *Talk to Me* will be a really great addition to our school," said Jaclyn Greco, who was recently elected as 2013-2014 Student Council President. She will be joined by four other motivated seniors as officers of the school's student government group: Elizabeth Westwood, Vice President; Sean McCave, Secretary; Kathryn Agar, Social Director; and Kevin Wood, who will serve as Treasurer.

The students recently created a video about the program, which will be broadcast regularly during homeroom announcements to help get the word out to students. Council plans for a fall kick-off event are also in the works.

"I like the feeling of being able to help others and make a difference in the school," Kevin said about his upcoming role.

Among its many other activities, the Council will sponsor all of the school's varsity sports games in October as a fund-raiser for the Susan G. Komen breast cancer foundation. The athletes will wear pink shoelaces in solidarity, and half of the money raised from 50/50 raffles at the games will be donated to the cause.

"This group of officers is very charitable," commented Jennifer Dargan, a Grade 9 Honors English teacher, who will begin her eighth year as Student Council advisor.

Ms. Dargan said, "I guide the group as a way to help foster the goodness that I believe exists in all students." She explained that each group of officers leaves behind a legacy and encourages the next set of leaders to do more.

The Student Council meets every Tuesday during the school year, and enrollment never closes.

# Talk to Me



## Students “Dig” Reading Projects

“What to do with children of all ages during the long, hot summer months?” poses Jennifer Zicot, librarian at Morse and Riccardi Elementary Schools. “Summer reading programs! Regular contact with print materials – books, magazines, and writing games – helps younger students get ready to read and helps older students maintain and even raise their reading skills.”

*Read on about the fun programs in Saugerties this summer!*

### Riccardi Students Revved Up to Read

In addition to splashing in the pool and enjoying the sun, students at Charles M. Riccardi Elementary School can spend some summer time participating in a fun reading challenge.

Riccardi students received a packet full of activities toward the end of the school year intended to persuade them to continue reading during the summer. After completing designated numbers of activities, the readers qualify for certificates, token prizes, and then an achievement medal.

Participants are recognized at the first assembly of the year. Riccardi Principal Susan Osterhoudt has promised to do a fun stunt if the number of participants exceeds last year’s enrollment.

“Our goal is for our students to maintain the comprehension and literacy skills levels they’ve reached during the school year,” Ms. Osterhoudt said. “We



Frances Murphy’s students enjoy the classroom reading selections. Top: Sarah McCloskey and Nico Bocchimuzzo. Bottom: Madeline Koloski and Gabriel Batista.

always say, ‘If you don’t use it, you lose it.’”

Riccardi Grade 2 teacher Frances Murphy began the program for the entire school body seven years ago based on a discovery she had made with her own class. Mrs. Murphy had led a similar “contest” with her Grade 3 class that looped into Grade 4. When the students returned to school in the fall, she noticed that they were raring to go with their reading for the year.

Ms. Osterhoudt said students get to choose the genres in which they read. Having a choice helps “individualize the project for students, so they’re able to feel a sense of accomplishment,” she said.

“The Summer Reading Challenge calls on the children to try new things,” Mrs. Murphy said. “It simply sets an achievable goal and asks children to try to be the best they can be.”

### Morse Summer Reading Challenge

To pique their interest and keep them reading during the summer months, the Morse School has offered its students a challenge in conjunction with the Saugerties Public Library.

Students can fill out a ticket at the library whenever they visit, and a drawing to raffle off several gift certificates to The Inquiring Minds Bookstore and Café in Saugerties will follow in September. The more the students frequent the library, the better their chances to win.

The Morse PTA created the challenge last year as an incentive to help students avoid the “summer slide,” explained Rebecca Mulford, a Grade 4 Morse teacher and PTA member who coordinates the group’s reading program.

“It’s not about the gift – it’s a nice incentive, but the main thing is to keep the students reading,” she explained.

Morse PTA member Heather Johansen said, “Reading has always been encouraged by Morse teachers and staff. The summer reading challenge is



Kelly Hogan’s Grade 1 students listen to a story in the Morse School Library.

another way to encourage the students to read. It’s an organic, easy way to put a book in their hands.”

The challenge also connects the young readers to the many programs the library has to offer.

“It’s a natural fit, to pair our program with the public library,” Mrs. Mulford commented. “It’s an amazing space and it’s cool. On a hot, summer day, it’s a great place to cozy up and read.”



A mummified Stephanie McElrath, library children’s program assistant at the Saugerties Public Library, talks up the library’s 10th summer reading program, “Dig Into Reading” during visits to all four district elementary schools before the end of the school year.

### Check Out This Library Program!

During the summer, the library offered programs to encourage bookworms of all ages to continue to read and visit their local public library. A treasure box enticed readers to dig into their books, and then log their progress to earn a prize.

The library kicked off the special season with magician Jim Snack on June 26, and for its finale, ventriloquist Steve Charney and his dummy Harry will entertain families at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14. The Saugerties Teachers Association sponsored both free events.

Sandwiched between the two happenings, the library hosted reading clubs for every age, birth through adult.

Mrs. McElrath explained that there’s an emphasis in libraries statewide to promote literacy to families. “Families who read together recreationally instill a love of learning in their children,” she said.

**Library patrons ages six and up are eligible for a Saugerties Public Library card. It can be used in any of the 66 libraries in the Mid-Hudson system, and materials can be borrowed from other branches through interlibrary loans. Using a card to borrow library materials “opens up a door of exploration and discovery,” Mrs. McElrath said.**



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

# Oh the Places You



Dhruv Patel and Antonino ("Nino") Laquidara

Board Vice President Thomas Ham remarked that on looking out at the class, he saw many people who won't be average. "Do everything a little faster, a little better, and do something that makes you stand out and not be average," Mr. Ham recommended.

Many graduates have already begun making their mark. Community donors and Saugerties High School organizations awarded an impressive 97 scholarships totaling \$86,000 to members of the Class of 2013.

Mr. Averill reflected, "Where will the next generation of doctors, nurses and health care professionals come from? Who will be building our houses, caring for our cars, and cutting our hair?" The principal honored the Saugerties High School students "who are already prepared to meet this challenge and begin their careers" – the Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Center graduates.

Saugerties students who attend the Career & Technical Center spend half of their day at SHS and the other half immersed in hands-on training in one of 20 career areas to develop specialized

job skills in preparation for the workplace.

Two Saugerties students took the lead among this year's graduates of the county-wide program, Valedictorian Ashley Feldman (Criminal Justice) and Salutatorian Sarah Krajovic (Graphic & Visual Arts).



Grads Sarah Krajovic and Ashley Feldman are Ulster BOCES Career & Technology Center Salutatorian and Valedictorian

## Top Academic Achievers

This year's top academic titles went to Antonino Laquidara, Valedictorian, and Dhruv Patel, Salutatorian.

Long-time friends, academic allies, and banter partners, the two Saugerties High School super students both graduated with extraordinary four-year, weighted cumulative averages that exceeded 101 percent. "Nino" garnered the top billing at 102.156 percent, and Dhruv earned a 101.610 percent. He said he doesn't mind at all being beaten by a hair.

"I'm really happy that I'm recognized as the Salutatorian, but I'm really happy for Nino," Dhruv said. "He deserves it."

There's no sign of competition between the two high achievers. Rather, they took the same classes, and earned the same grades, for a long time. "We help each other out," Nino said.

The boys met in fifth grade at Cahill Elementary School. Nino recollected with a smile, "I said to myself,

who's that kid? I might as well talk to him...and the rest is history."

College and course of study won't separate the two, either. Both are headed to Albany to study science, Nino in the six-year program at the Albany College of Pharmacy, and Dhruv at SUNY Albany to major in biochemistry and pursue a minor "like political science." He hopes to go to medical school to become an intensivist, working in the Intensive Care Unit.

Both had exposure to the sciences they plan to pursue this past school year through the Ulster BOCES Pre-University program's New Visions Health Career Exploration program. The program offers students the opportunity to work with practicing professionals at Benedictine and Kingston Hospitals as they take an academically challenging curriculum related to the field of health.

"In New Visions, I got to see what the pharmacists do, and how they work," Nino said. "I know that's what I want

to be, and in college, I'm looking forward to learning how to do what they do."

Dhruv worked with medical residents through New Visions. He is eager to take his learning further than the high school setting allows. "In college, you get to learn for the sake of learning," he said. "Also, it will be sort of an alarm clock – am I ready for the real world?"

In addition to thanking their parents for their support and encouragement, the two modest, engaging students recognized Debra Cacchillo, their High School calculus and pre-calculus teacher. "She's been the voice of reason for us for such a long time," Dhruv quipped.

"And, she's the one teacher you don't mind getting yelled at by," Nino added. "You expect it from her, but it's totally okay. You think, 'I definitely deserved that one.'"

"Yeah, and then, there's 'the look,'" Dhruv mused.

Congratulations to these two impressive, and funny, students.



# Go!

## GRADUATION 2013

SHS Class Vice President Ryan Cornelison spoke with sincerity and levity about the impact Saugerties High School made on the graduates' lives. They also learned how to deal with adversity, Ryan said, "whether it was the stressful task of getting into your dream college, or the equally stressful task of getting up at 6:30 every morning just to come to school."

Musical performances by the High School Band and Choir entertained the audience, and Mr. Averill shared some poignant words by children's author Dr. Seuss from "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

*"You'll get mixed up, of course, as you already know...so be sure when you step, step with care and great tact, and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act...And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed... You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!"*



"Do everything a little faster, a little better, and do something that makes you stand out and not be average."

SCSD Board of Education  
Vice President Thomas Ham





## CAHILL ELEMENTARY

At their recent moving up ceremony, the 46 Lawrence M. Cahill Grade 6 students were applauded by not only their parents, teachers, and school principal, but also by two Cahill graduates who this year became the Saugerties High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian of 2013.

High School Valedictorian Antonino ("Nino") Laquidara and Salutatorian Dhruv Patel gave the Cahill Grade 6 students some counsel about their upcoming junior and senior high school years.

"If you show that you care, your teachers will love you," Nino said. "It might be really cheesy, but these upcoming years will be the best years of your life. Enjoy it while you can."

His close friend and classmate since their Cahill days, Dhruv said, "A new chapter is beginning. As you move on to the Junior High School, many things will change, but one thing that stays the same is that you work hard to do your best."

Grade 6 teacher William Hanson said it was a great year. "We tried to

bring all the students forward based on their needs. It benefited the students, because we were able to give them what they needed to succeed."

Mr. Hanson and teacher Deborah Ciccone-Yaeger brought students together this year for a cooperative English Language Arts and math schedule. He expressed his hope that all the students felt self-assured as they completed their time at Cahill. "I hope that they all gained confidence this year, and came to realize that if they do their very best, they will be successful. It's all you can do, your best."

Cahill School Principal Susan Gies echoed that sentiment by offering the students encouragement in literary style.

Quoting from the wonderful children's author A.A. Milne, Mrs. Gies reminded the graduating students that, as Christopher Robin said to Winnie the Pooh, "There is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."



Raymond Williams,  
Vincent DeMarco,  
Brett Pitt, and  
Juliano Valles



Brooke Stade, Sophia Levy, Jasmine Mergendahl, Shaelyn Day, Catherine Maclary, Kendall Barnes, and Adalena Tompkins

## moving

## MORSE ELEMENTARY

Ashlen Pacheco is full of aspiration, and said she is excited to move up to Saugerties Junior High School this fall. "I'm looking forward to studying science – I love animals and either want to be a biologist or work on a farm," she announced just before she and the 55 other Grade 6 students were honored in Morse Elementary School's Moving Up Ceremony.

Morse Principal Donald Dieckmann, Jr. commended the students for a "job well done," and advised the

parents, guardians and other family members in attendance to, "Be there for that transition, and support the children in the years to come."

Growing up was also on the mind of Damian Gonzalez, who presented the Sixth Grade Welcome speech to the audience.

"I'm sure we can all remember back to our Kindergarten year when we were just starting out," Damien remarked. "We were so little."

Damien also commented about the supportive environment at Morse.

"The amount of respect everyone has here for each other is incredible."

Mr. Dieckmann admitted that while some days were challenging, of course, on other days the Grade 6 students would come in and it would "blow our minds away, how they stepped up to the challenge."



Riley Hewitt, Logan Martin, and Jessica Curtis



Cameron Ortiz,  
Taylor Brooks, and  
Olivia Surprenant



Brandon Numssen, Jarrod Leung, and Zachary App



# ng up!

## RICCARDI ELEMENTARY

### MT. MARION ELEMENTARY

An unusually large class of 70 Grade 6 students celebrated its accomplishments in the Mt. Marion Elementary School Moving Up Ceremony in late June.

"You were known as the 'Big Class' when I arrived at Mt. Marion five years ago," said Mt. Marion Principal Lawrence Mautone in addressing the graduating students. "We're going to miss you next year – there'll be a big hole," Mr. Mautone quipped.

Grade 6 student Ashley Philippe-Auguste presented the graduates' Welcome Speech to the audience, which gathered in the Saugerties High School auditorium due to the size of both the class and the enthusiastic crowd.

"It wasn't always easy," Ashley said about the school year. "With the help of my wonderful teachers and supportive parents, I knew I'd pull through."

Her supportive teachers, Stefanie Colclough and Char Fraske, taught as a team.

"We hope we gave our students the confidence, study skills, and the organizational skills they'll need in junior high school," Mrs. Fraske said.

Mr. Mautone advised the Grade 6 students, "Keep your uniqueness – be leaders and not followers." He noted that even with all the individuality the students possess, the one-of-a-kind class also contains four sets of twins.

One pair, Connor and Mason Beck, continued a distinctive Mt. Marion tradition, the Passing of the Gavel. On behalf of their class, they gave the gavel to Grade 5 student Abigail Bravo, who accepted it on behalf of her classmates. "In the hope of meeting and exceeding all the challenges that lie before me," Abigail said as she accepted the gavel.



Riccardi Grade 6 students give each other a round of applause for their accomplishments.



Mark Cafaldo, Nate Cantwell, and Mackenzie Carter

The 52 Grade 6 students at Charles M. Riccardi Elementary School are revved up for Junior High School this fall.

Among the many accolades given at their moving-up ceremony, a new Margaret Sasso Memorial Award was presented to a boy, Jackson Baker, and a girl, Morgan Nagy, in memory of a beloved former kitchen employee at the Riccardi School.

The two Grade 6 students were each chosen for their "happy and pleasant demeanor, positive attitude, and appropriate sense of humor," said Riccardi School Principal Susan Osterhoudt.

Mrs. Sasso was a "vibrant woman who loved the school and the children, and they loved her," said her daughter, Lucy Stagich of Saugerties about her mom, who passed away last fall. Funny in her own right, "Mom would say, 'You can eat the lunch today, I doctored it up.'"

Riccardi graduate and Saugerties High School senior Maureen Ball addressed her brother Daniel and the other Grade 6 students about some of the new choices they will get to make at the Junior/Senior High School, and added some levity as well. In addition to decisions about new learn-

ing opportunities and athletics, she light-heartedly offered some lunchtime advice about moving up to the new building. "Just so you know, Wednesday is wrap day, and you always get the wrap," she advised. "It's the best."

The two Grade 6 teachers also shared some kind words about their pupils.

Grade 6 teacher Carole Kelder explained that the students were grouped as a unit and became more of a community together. "We used a team approach this year, and the students really learned to look out for each other," Mrs. Kelder said. "We're very proud of them."

Beyond all the course material they mastered, the students learned about making eye-to-eye contact and shaking hands as they prepared for the Moving Up Ceremony, reported teacher Meg Lezette.

The Riccardi PTA generously gave a gift to each Grade 6 student: the calculator required for Grade 7. "Yea, more math!" teased Principal Osterhoudt.

The principal reminded the graduating students that a good work ethic will open doors for them, and that being authentic and doing their best will carry just as much weight as getting good grades. "Be yourself, and remember, an original is worth more than a copy."



Michael McIntyre,  
Marcel Washington,  
Drake Grant,  
Joshua Hartrum,  
and James Jarman



Jaea Kleinberg, Carly Bailey, Hannah Yonnetti, Jenna McDonald, and Alexis McCabe





Kindergarten students Joshua Pereira and Anna Gramoglia

On two jam-packed, sun-filled days in early June, Cahill Elementary School students crossed the road and entered the big meadow on the other side of Main Street to communicate, cooperate, compete a little, and have a lot of fun.

They were participating in the school's end-of-the-year field day events. For the older students, the special happening is well known as Cahill Elementary "Survivor Island" field day.

Day One brought the Kindergarten through Grade 3 students to the grounds, affectionately called the "Cow Slop" by the Cahill community. Group fun ensued, complete with relay stations, a bucket brigade, and a barbecue.

Outfitted in a potato sack, leading his line's "wacky race" over the hurdles, Kindergartner Joshua Pereira said the experience was "like a bunny, hopping." Joshua's teammate Anna Gramoglia waited her turn, and after completing the obstacle courses, she reported, "It was fun. I've never done one before."

## Survivor Island Field Day at Cahill

Cahill Physical Education teacher Steven Below emphasized that enjoyment is the main objective of this annual school occasion. "On Field Day, we try to reinforce in a fun way what we teach the students during the year – to cooperate with each other, to communicate, and to work together in teams to successfully complete the events," he said. "The biggest thing is that they have fun."

On Day Two, everything changes when students in Grades 4 through 6 convene. "That is where the true 'Survivor Island' tone takes place," Mr. Below remarked.

Through class vs. class competitions over boot-camp style obstacle courses, the older students worked together and engaged in a "healthy competition."

"It's very challenging physically, and sometimes, mentally," Mr. Below observed. "The students get wet and dirty, and at the end of the day, they're having a great time."

Cahill Principal Susan Gies commented, "Field Day is a way for our students to get some exercise, have some fun, and show school spirit through this community-building, end-of-the-year event."



Third graders Erick Umana, Joan Karron, and Emelia Horvath



Cahill students enjoy exercise and fun in the sun on Field Day.

Anna Conrad,  
Kindergarten



Mt. Marion Elementary School Kindergarten students sing for their families at the school's Kindergarten Open House.

## Celebrating Mt. Marion Kindergartners' Successes

Singing a snappy rendition of "The Kindergarten Class" to the tune of the television show song "The Addams Family," the Kindergarten students at Mt. Marion Elementary School showed their proud parents and grandparents what they achieved in their first year of school at the 7th annual Kindergarten Open House.

"We like to celebrate all the accomplishments your children have made this year," Mt. Marion Elementary School Kindergarten teacher Jody Scott said as she welcomed the families to the festive assembly. "Your children have been learning reading, writing, and how to be a good friend and a good citizen."

A slide show set to the tune "What a Wonderful World" reviewed the year's happenings and highlighted just how special Kindergarten was for the 49 students. Highlights included a fire truck visit, a field day, science and art projects, and baking and reading activities. Each family received a DVD copy of the slide show as a keepsake of the unique school year.

Kindergarten parents were also invited into the classrooms to sit with their children, look at their writing portfolios, and hear them read.



Margaret Reese Johnson and Ronald Johnson are all smiles as they listen to their son, Aidan, read. Aidan was taught by Kindergarten teacher Sharan Scanlon.



Kindergarten student Marissa Litts and her proud dad, Lester, share a moment in her class, taught by Jody Scott.