

CommunityLink

Summer 2018

Congratulations, Class of 2018!

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Nearly 520 students walked across the stage at the Westchester County Center as high school graduates on June 21st, ready to make their way in the world with some final words of encouragement from their principal, Ellen Doherty. **“ I have learned that you are loyal to your friends, with a fierce dedication. I have learned that you play and work hard, and that you hold nothing back. I have learned that your hope for a brighter future persists no matter how chaotic the world around you. I have learned that you will raise your voices, as one voice, when you want to be heard.**

This is your world. Not just your school, not just your city, not just your country. It is your world. And you have earned a seat at the table because you are engaged. Whether you advocate for changes from outside of the system or push into the system, - and by your very presence, create change - the world will be better because of you. ”

Valedictorian Andreas Alexandrou shared that high school taught him how to become his best self and that a supportive community was and remains crucial to that effort. He reminded his classmates that while no one can tell what the future holds, it’s not out of their hands. **“ It is up to us whether, when we turn the page on this great**

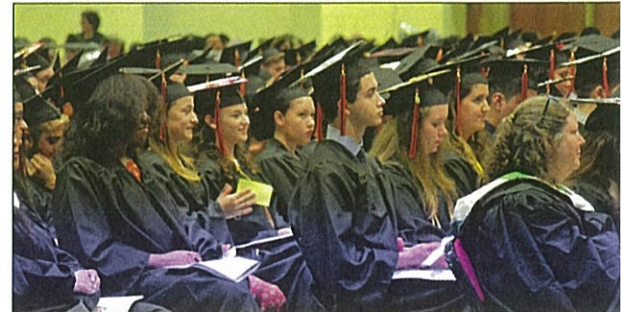


Photo: Cindy Adams

chapter in the book of our lives, we snatch the pen back into our control and forge our own identities and destinies or take the route of inaction and be spectators to our own lives, ” he said. Alexandrou will attend Northeastern University in the fall.

Salutatorian Anna Tender, who is headed for Yale University, shared that high school taught her and her classmates to speak up not only for themselves, but for one another. **“ That is what makes White Plains High School so different and special... people coming together, advocating for each other, and succeeding. ”** And, she urged her fellow graduates to keep it up. **“ We must see opportunities and solutions when other people see problems. Every single one of us has the power to change the world around us. ”**



Valedictorian Andreas Alexandrou and Salutatorian Anna Tender

On to High School

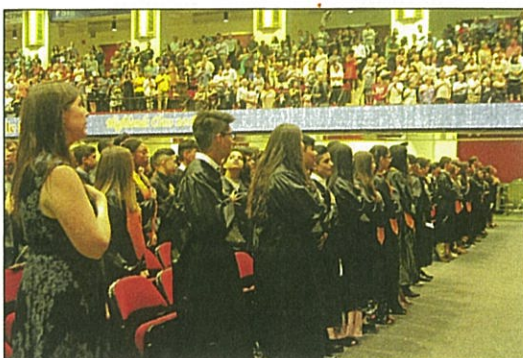
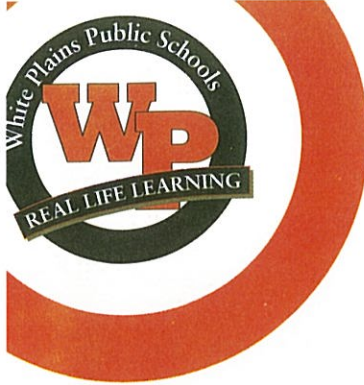


Photo: Cara Matthews

Highlands principal Ernie Spatafore was joined on stage by retiring Eastview Principal Joseph Cloherty and together they addressed the almost-600 students who are moving up to high school, congratulated them on successes both in and out of the classroom and encouraged them to

continue their academic and person growth by seeking new challenges. As is tradition, five students offered greetings, each in a different language: English, Italian, French, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. The Jazz Band, led by Music Teacher Timothy Veeder, performed the processional and recessional, and the 8th Grade Choir, led by Music Teacher Michele Davila, performed the National Anthem accompanied by Music Teacher Jennifer Irlen on piano.



GRADS GOING PLACES

We're pleased to share that once again, White Plains High School graduates have been accepted to many of the top colleges and universities in the country, including:

- Binghamton University
- Boston College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Culinary Institute of America
- Dartmouth College
- Fordham University
- Hampton University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Spelman College
- SUNY/Albany
- Syracuse University
- Tufts University
- University of California
- University of Chicago
- University of Michigan
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia
- Wesleyan University
- Yale University

Message from the Superintendent

As the 2017-2018 academic year draws to a close, we reflect on the many accomplishments of our students throughout the school year. From our kindergarten classes to our graduating seniors, every one of our students continues to have amazing opportunities to learn, grow and explore in a positive and student-focused learning environment.

A dynamic and diverse group of learners, our graduates of the Class of 2018 have been accepted to the most selective colleges/universities, will serve our nation in the armed forces and are set to begin vocational training. They have earned many awards and have brought great honor to White Plains High School.

As we look to the summer months, we are excited to plan for the future. The district will begin a new strategic planning process to help solidify a road map for future success. Additionally, various construction and maintenance projects will be underway so that our facilities continue to provide wonderful learning environments for our children.

I am proud to be completing my first year in

one of the finest public school districts in the State of New York. With the support of our Board of Education and the partnership of our community, we are committed to continuing to improve our services and provide more innovative opportunities for our children. We will expand our accelerated offerings and enrichment opportunities, build upon our strong arts and athletics programming, bolster our technological infrastructure, and provide every student with the services and supports they need to achieve their dreams. We are #WPProud of the tradition of excellence associated with the White Plains Public Schools and we know that you share our pride in our students and our community.

Even though it's summertime, our doors are always open to assist you. We remind everyone to READ and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Respectfully,
Joseph Ricca



Thank you for Your Service

The Board of Education honored 45 retirees and five 25-year staff members at its June meeting. Board President Rosemarie Eller congratulated and thanked these staff members for their years of service to the students of White Plains.

25 Years of Service

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Betsey Cicchetti | Laurie O'Neill |
| Diana Fierro | Ana Maria Salazar |
| Carmen King | |

Best wishes to Joseph Cloherty, who is retiring this June after 18 years as Eastview Principal. A caring and committed administrator, we thank Joe for his service to the district and his dedication to the many children upon whom he has left a lasting impact. He will be missed!



Retirees

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Juan Alvarez | Jane Markham |
| Jean Berger | Janis McClain-Johnson |
| Mary Brennan | Louise Messina |
| Carol Burke | Neal Mettler |
| Torrence Burrowes | Lorraine Mollo |
| Jacqueline Cabrera | Nancy Murphy |
| Carolyn Chapman | Laurie O'Neill |
| Grace Cipollaro | Roberto Petingi |
| Joseph Cloherty | Patricia Posluszny |
| Yolanda Cuming | Girija Raveendranath |
| Paula Dalto | Michael Roma |
| Maria DiPaola | Lynn Rose |
| Eliana Fernandez | Anthony Russo |
| Frank Ferrigno | Leanne Santa-Donato |
| Deborah Forman | Diane Sciortino |
| Hector Garcia | Connie Servello |
| Terri Garrity | Claire Strati |
| Phoebe Gilman | Angelina Triano |
| Wendy Heanue | Deirdre Washington |
| Lorraine Isaac | Ruth White |
| Richard Kaufman | Gail Young |
| Rose Kwik | Amy Zorovich |
| Eileen Levy | |

KUDOS

GW Contest Winner

George Washington School student Ana Maria Ochoa Villanueva was selected as a Grand Prize Winner for grades K-2 in Scholastic's *Power of Green 2018 Student Contest*, sponsored by ConEdison. She submitted an original piece of artwork and an essay that show how her family saves energy at home. Ana Maria and her teacher, Linda LoGiudici, will each receive a \$500 American Express gift card and GW will receive a library of Scholastic books worth \$500.

Sports in the Spotlight

Four WPHS teams – Girls Outdoor Track, Boys Tennis, Girls Lacrosse, and Girls Softball – were named Spring Scholar Athlete Teams by the NYS Public High School Athletic Association, a designation given when at least 75% of the team achieves a 90 average. One hundred and forty-nine individuals were also recognized as Scholar Athletes. **“It’s something our coaches talk to our student athletes about every day: being role models in the school and prioritizing schoolwork in addition to the requirement of their athletic teams,”** said Director of Athletics Matt Cameron.

Finishing the season with a 15-1-1 record in NY, the WPHS Varsity Baseball Team was undefeated league champions and entered the section 1AA finals as the #2 seed. Coach Marcel Galligani was named Section 1 Coach of the Year.



Solo Performances

Congratulations to the 19 Eastview Middle School students who participated in the 2018 New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Solo Music Festival. These talented musicians worked hard to prepare solos and scales which were performed for official adjudicators and scored at the state level.

Schools of Character

Character.org, an organization that advocates for integrity, honesty, respect, and other core values to be fused into education, has given “Promising Practices” awards to three District schools. This is in recognition of specific character-building practices or programs that other schools may learn from or even replicate. The winners will be honored in October at the 2018 National Forum on Character Education in Washington D.C.

Church Street

was given the award for its “Garden that Keeps on Giving,” the school garden which is used to engage students in service learning opportunities and empowers them to give back to communities in need while bringing curriculum to life.



Mamaroneck Avenue School

was recognized as a “Caring Community” for its Responsive Classroom Approach which creates and nurtures caring and respectful relationships between students, staff, parents and the community.

Highlands Middle School was awarded for SPARK (Students Promoting Attitudes of Respect and Kindness), a student club, supported by a faculty committee, that promotes respect, kindness and inclusivity through special projects and schoolwide activities. It was founded by Highlands social workers Cindie Lembo and Kerby Halaifonua.



As part of one SPARK project, students built a wall using paper bricks on which they wrote the qualities they most respect about themselves.

Daniela Amir
Gabriella Cardona
Isabella Cummings
Isabel Hoch
Nadiya Jones
Emiliano Juarez
Ben Kodzic
Jonah Kovach
Amber Lau
Sabrina Mondschein

Aria Mukhopadhyay
Dominic Norfleet
Dominic Portillo
Lucas Rhode
Saumya Sawant
Kleoniki Snyder
Nuala Stanghellini
Alex Vanderheof
Olivia Wilkins

School Budget Passed!

The 2018-2019 school budget of \$218,593,020 was passed by voters on May 16th with 84.3% in favor. Two propositions – use of capital reserve funds for school improvement projects and the addition of busing for students in grades 9-12 – also passed. We’re grateful for the support of the entire community, including parents and staff, who provided input during the budget process, and to Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich for her hard work. With this budget in place, students will benefit from additional science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) enrichment opportunities, enhanced support for arts, athletics and extra-curricular programming, facilities and safety upgrades, and more.

Also on May 16th, James Hricay, Cayne Letizia and Rose Lovitch were re-elected to the Board of Education for three-year terms of office.

Some of the 19 Eastview students who participated in the music festival



The mission of the White Plains City School District is to educate and inspire all students, while nurturing their dreams, so they learn continually, think critically, pursue their aspirations and contribute to a diverse and dynamic world.



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White Plains, NY 10605

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Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Superintendent of Schools

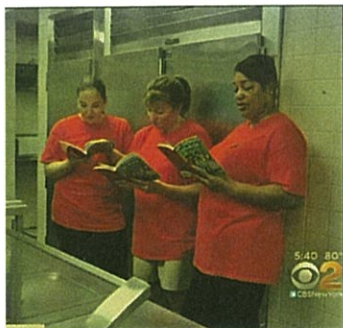
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Cayne Letizia
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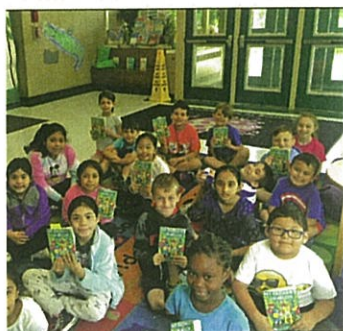
www.whiteplainspublicschools.org

On the Same Page

The *One Book, One School* initiative allows every member of the school community – children, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators – to literally be on the same page at the same time sharing the experience of a good book, together. This year’s book choice at Church Street was *My Father’s Dragon*. The entire school read a chapter a day and answered questions and the fun included a “tour” through the book: 4th and 5th graders transformed the school hallways into scenes from the story so the younger students could walk through and experience each chapter. The book was also available for online listening, with an audio version recorded by various teachers. (Superintendent Ricca can be heard on there as well!) The initiative, now in its 10th year, was featured on CBS New York. Watch it at: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2018/06/01/one-book-one-school/>



◀ On the CBS New York broadcast, the Church Street cafeteria staff are reading *My Father’s Dragon*.



◀ Students show their copies of *My Father’s Dragon*, donated by the Church Street PTA, to every member of the school community.

TedX Inspiration at Highlands

Using NPR’s “*This I Believe*” essays as a model, 385 Critical Literacy II students at Highlands were challenged to create and present their own life philosophy statement in a TedX-style event. The presentations were developed using creative in-class and group activities to encourage personal reflection. Students then wrote a first draft of their narratives, strengthened their writing by revising and editing multiple times and rehearsed for two weeks. Finally, many students presented their speeches in front of parents, teachers and peers, while some recorded them. Reflecting on the project afterward, they felt very positive about the challenge and ready for high school.

Art on Display

Nineteen advanced Art students at Highlands displayed their artwork for their families, school staff and Board of Education members at a breakfast in May. The program, facilitated by Art Teacher Phoebe Gilman, is in its second year; this was the first exhibition event. Artwork included life drawing, design and creative problem solving. An example



could be a building designed to reflect what it sold, serviced or produced, drawn to look architectural and placed into a 3D environment, with an egress point and windows that displayed interior shots.