

Sayville Public Schools

"THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS"

District Newsletter
Volume 34.1
www.sayvilleschools.org

SUMMER 2018

DR. JOHN E. STIMMEL
SUPERINTENDENT OF
SAYVILLE SCHOOLS



**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

JOHN VERDONE
PRESIDENT
KEITH KOLAR
VICE PRESIDENT

TRUSTEES
CARL CANGELOSI
THOMAS COOLEY
NORMAN DEVENAU
MAUREEN DOLAN

TIDINGS

FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



WITH MESSAGES OF HUMOR, KINDNESS, AND ADVOCACY CLASS OF 2018 OFFERS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Thank goodness for rain dates!

Rather than hold Sayville's Class of 2018 Commencement on an iffy Saturday, with threats of rain and thunderstorms, it was moved to 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 24, 2018.

Despite Sunday morning's overcast, gray sky, nothing could diminish the joyful energy of the 250 Sayville High School graduates beaming with pride and bringing their own sunshine as they paraded across the football field to their seats. This year, a new seating arrangement which better angled the graduates toward the audience proved a great improvement in the traditional ceremony.

Once seated, the Class of 2018 was welcomed by their Principal Ronald Hoffer and addressed by Sayville Superintendent Dr. John Stimmel who expressed his faith in their extraordinariness, saying: "If the Class of 2018 is doing such remarkable things now, what will they be doing in the years to come?" Class of 2018 Salutatorian Douglas Read advocated humor to face adversity, Valedictorian Philip Rinaldi III shared his cosmic perspectives on kindness, and Class President Chris Castelli in his *Response for the Class* expressed the importance of taking the lead against injustice, cruelty and loneliness. After Board of Education President Keith Kolar reminded the graduates that there is value in human interaction free of technology, each graduate was called upon to receive his or her diploma.

Concluding the ceremony, Principal Hoffer gave his final congratulations as the graduates tossed their caps skyward.



(above, l-r) Class President Chris Castelli, Valedictorian Philip Rinaldi III, Salutatorian Douglas Read

ALUMNI WALKING



(left: r-l) Principal Ron Hoffer and Sayville Superintendent Dr. John E. Stimmel marched with B.O.E. members: trustee Carl Cangelosi, President Keith Kolar, trustee Maureen Dolan, Vice President John Verdome, trustee Norm deVenau, along with Assistant Superintendent for Business John J. Belmonte and Class of 2018

Advisors Jennifer Sohl and Tracey Trentowski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dr. Christine Criscione escorted the Alumni.

Following the processional, played by the Sayville High School Band (photo left) directed by Mrs. Kerry VanBoxel, Senior members of the High School Jazz Choir (below)—Dea Ahlgrim, John Anderson, Olivia Anderson, Nicolette Brudi, Christopher Chester, Isabella Colombo, Otto Cooley, Olivia Davidson, Kathryn Donohue, Noelle Dufrenoy, Chloe Dymek, Thomas Faughnan, Katherine Gennosa, Kaila Kotkiewicz, Michael Lofaro, Claudia Lynch, Abigail Newman, Daniel Perun, Douglas Read, Kaillee Reynolds, Philip Rinaldi, Zoe Rivera, Lauren Runco, Emma Vall, James Velazquez, Amanda Wessels, Mikayla Zemar—sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *God Bless America*.

MUSICAL Interludes

(left) *All-National* and *The Patricia Ann Kubelle Memorial Award-Winning* vocalist **Olivia Anderson** gave a tremendously moving performance of "*The Climb*" by Miley Cyrus. After she received thunderous applause, Mr. Hoffer thanked Olivia, adding, "That was amazing!"

(To see video of Commencement, including Olivia's performance, go to sayvilleschools.org/TIDINGS ONLINE.)



DR. JOHN E. STIMMEL

[EXCERPT OF SPEECH] *To the parents, grandparents, special guests, Board of Education, teachers, staff, alumni, and—most of all—to you are extraordinary. Your family, teachers, principals and I have all witnessed the potential that you possess. If the class of 2018 are doing such remarkable things now, what will they do in the years to come? There will be trials and setbacks...but the song I sing for you today echoes Sean Mendes: “there is no giving up for you...no matter how tough things may seem to you at the time...there is no giving up...it’s not in your blood!” Although the tune for this song may remain forever stuck inside in my head, and the lyrics stay within my heart—I hope today that the spirit of my song comes across in some small way...I offer you this last refrain. Remain true to the values that have been handed to you by your family, teachers, and community. Each one of you possesses the ability to do GREAT things in life. RESIST the press of cynicism, ANSWER the call of your higher angels, FIND the greatness that lies within you, and go forward today and MAKE our world a better place.*



“the Sayville Graduating Class of 2018, I say it is an honor and privilege for me to share this joyous occasion with you. Many of you I know personally, all of you I know by reputation. It is a reputation to be proud of.”

Today I stand before you with a song that is playing in my head and in my heart. Had I the skill and talent I would sing this song to honor your commencement—and it would be epic. Instead I must do my best to describe it to you.

song with a flourish to express the deep gratitude that all of us here today feel for all those whose contributions and sacrifices—both great and small—has made Sayville a great place to learn and grow.

For the graduates I want my song to be relevant. It needs to resonate within you. The lyrics must challenge you but also reassure and encourage you. Inside each of you there are seeds of greatness... you are extraordinary. Your family, teachers, principals and I have all witnessed the potential that you possess. If the class of 2018 are doing such remarkable things now, what will they do in the years to come? There will be trials and setbacks...but the song I sing for you today echoes Sean Mendes: “there is no giving up for you...no matter how tough things may seem to you at the time...there is no giving up...it’s not in your blood!” Although the tune for this song may remain forever stuck inside in my head, and the lyrics stay within my heart—I hope today that the spirit of my song comes across in some small way...I offer you this last refrain. Remain true to the values that have been handed to you by your family, teachers, and community. Each one of you possesses the ability to do GREAT things in life. RESIST the press of cynicism, ANSWER the call of your higher angels, FIND the greatness that lies within you, and go forward today and MAKE our world a better place.

The start of my song would be in the style of a rock and roll ballad, the kind that the Boss Bruce Springsteen might compose. This intro is dedicated to your parents...Somewhere along the way *Thunder Road* slipped into Cherry Avenue and a supped-up Chevrolet gave way to a seven-passenger Dodge minivan.... On a day when we gather to celebrate your accomplishments as the Sayville graduating Class of 2018, remember that today is truly one of your parents’ *Glory Days*.

To the grandparents, extended family, teachers, staff, alumni, and Sayville Community..., the lyrics I would sing for you today have a country flair in the style of Lee Greenwood or Alan Jackson...to stir your heart with pride...in our nation, our town, and most of all, pride in our Seniors... Sayville is a rare and special place.... While the entire Class of 2018 has made real and authentic contributions to our community, I want to recognize ...Aleksander Azarov [*serving in the U.S. Navy*] and Megan Caraher [*attending the U.S. Naval Academy*]. I would close this part of my

CLASS OF 2018 SALUTATORIAN

DOUGLAS READ

EXCERPTS FROM “ROUGH DRAFT”

After greeting those in attendance, Doug expressed his pride in standing “along with Phil and Chris representing the Class of 2018” and thanked everyone who “made it possible for me to become Salutatorian.”

“Thank you to all my teachers who had to deal with me in class. Though it may be a stereotype that the Salutatorian is a teacher’s pet or role model for the rest of the class, I’m not sure this applies too much to me (*but don’t worry, if that is who you expected to hear from, Phil is still speaking after me*). Thank you for putting up with my disruptions and thank you for always going beyond what I expected in helping me reach my goals.

[*Doug thanked APES teacher Mrs. Anderson for putting up with a water-gun fight in her lab; Mrs. Hart for continuing her lesson on Persian Qanats with her Whiteboard turned off unbeknownst to her because her back was turned.... To the rest of my teachers...for always being “my first scapegoat when my grade was suffering”...and the Class of 2018*] ...for giving me sanity these past four years. Whether it was Moira’s lunchbox beeping and flashing (*probably because I pressed the button on it*), Alexa’s daily screaming on issues where she would dare others to try (*and ultimately fail*) at matching her volume, or Tina who had the distinct honor of being my Google profile picture for the past four years, thank you to everyone for making each day a little bit funnier.... Lastly, thank you to my parents for being my biggest supporters in life and helping me gain an unwarranted sense of confidence that allows me to talk in front of the thousands of people here today...

...I think it is safe to say no class has had the unique privilege of graduating in a year quite like 2018. The year was filled with overwhelmingly negative and shocking stories in the news...dominated by some of the largest tragedies in recent memory. This year we



saw an average of over one school-shooting a week as gun violence continues to plague our country. We, the Class of 2018, have been forced to become more politically active, walking out of our schools begging to be kept safe. Even Sayville hasn’t remained isolated with threats causing all of us to be late to first period...With such adversity...how is it possible

for us to keep our heads up? Fortunately, we have some options. We could try to focus on the more positive stories because we have seen a few triumphs in the face of this year’s news.... One particular summit this year will certainly go down in history for its potential long-lasting effects in bettering the world. We were all truly happy to call ourselves Americans when Trump finally met with Kim...*Kardashian*. Together they will tackle the many problems facing our overcrowded and privately-owned prisons. While Kim and Trump had their historic meeting, we were also reassured about our country’s future.

....With all that has happened this year, I find it easy to lose sight of how wonderful life can be. However, since I was little, I have made it my mission to not lose sight of this fact. I first began to appreciate this joy and the silliness of life on my yearly trips down to Florida to visit my grandpa. He loved to make my sisters and me laugh by doing the most absurd things... Once, he asked us if we would like some PB&J sandwiches [which he constructed] inside out....an inside-out PB&J, it’s made by placing two pieces of bread in the middle and peanut butter and jelly on opposite sides...the science behind an inside out sandwich was quite clear: ‘When the bread is in the middle the flavors do not touch,’ he proclaimed, ‘This makes the sandwich far easier to digest.’ ...I know he loved

the ridiculous argument he would find himself in with my sisters and me.

[*Doug further described how his grandpa teased him with golf-cart driving tests.*]

Finally, after one of these ridiculous tests, I asked, ‘Why all the jokes?’ He smiled and said, ‘When I’m silly, I remember that life is wonderful. Sometimes people forget that.’

From that moment in my childhood on, I have realized the power of going through life with a smile. It’s a message that I hope lasts beyond the walls of high school. There are countless things everyday that make it easy to mope around... Whenever I would find myself stressed out, I would remind myself of my grandpa’s advice.

In many ways I have taken after my grandpa. Not many people would stand in front of thousands of people and say, ‘You know that guy that makes his sandwiches backwards and invents driving tests to fail his grandkids? Yeah? Well, that’s exactly like me!’ I, however, do it with an overwhelming sense of pride. There are many people who think these successes of mine have come despite my sense of humor and happy demeanor. I, however, must admit I have found success in high school largely because of it. Keeping my grandpa’s advice in mind I’ve always strove to do what is most important: finding happiness and laughter in the boring, mundane rut that everyday life can turn into. In times like these, it’s best when we laugh at ourselves and make other people laugh too... Thank you again to the Class of 2018! I wish everyone countless successes in the coming years. Always remember, however, we can’t always take life too seriously. Occasionally, we have to take our sandwiches inside out even if the people at Sayville Sandwich look at us strangely.

CLASS OF 2018 VALEDICTORIAN

PHILIP RINALDI III

"REVISED COPY"

“Oh, man. This is a lot worse than I thought it'd be. Before I start this thing, just a disclaimer—if at any point during this speech I sort of duck below the podium, it's ok. I'm just throwing up. But thankfully, Moira let me borrow her handy little R2D2 lunchbox just in case.”

First off, I'd like to thank Dr. Stimmel, Dr. Criscione, and the Sayville Board of Education, as well as acknowledge the many talented, intelligent, kind, and brave teachers we've been inspired by over the years, like Mr. Gittler, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Gittler, to name a few. I also can't forget about all of the dedicated parents and family members who are gathered here today, which includes a few lovely old ladies who I promised to mention in this speech: Mrs. Martorello, Susan Scheck, and my amazing grandma LuLu. And I'd be remiss if I didn't extend thanks to all of you, my classmates, for your support, love, and friendship over the years. That's right, Snacc Pacc, I'm looking at you boys.

Well, the day has finally come, my friends, when we must grow into contributing adult members of society...and it's terrifying. We've come a long way since our worry-free days of elementary school, but somehow, today, I'm only about 3-inches taller and just a few curse words more articulate. So the task of preparing some advice to help propel you into your burgeoning independence was, to say the least, a bit daunting. All I believe I can offer you today is a perspective I developed quite a few years ago. A perspective which has helped me to understand our relationship to each other as human beings more clearly, and which has, consequently, made it easier for me to interact with all of you. But unfortunately, in order to help you understand this perspective, I'll have to take us back to (*cued Mrs. VB and band*) middle school.

Though middle school was, all in all, a time we'd like to forget, one good thing did come out of it for me. In 2014, when we were all awkward little eighth graders, an informative TV series called *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey* debuted. Having taken the mandatory Astronomy elective just a year prior, which I know all of you were completely wide awake for, I had a fresh interest in the mysteries of the universe and was excited to see how the show could help satisfy my curiosity. But among all the mesmerizing animations of mind-boggling astrophysical phenomena, among all the soothing commentary by Neil Degrasse



Tyson that I soaked in every Sunday night, there was just one piece of information I learned from that series that enriched my life in more than an intellectual sense. In the first episode of the series, Dr. Tyson described that the

very elements that make up our bones, muscles, and blood were created by fusion in the cores of hot, dense stars that died millions of years ago. In other words, to quote the nation's favorite science popularizer, "we are made of star stuff."

Now upon the utterance of that complex idea, the paradigm shifting information was just an astonishing fact, and it put me in quite the philosophical mood. I was all like "Woah...so... I AM the universe! How sick is that?!" But I kept thinking about it...kept pondering. And soon enough it became apparent that that simple fact has a much broader, deeper significance. This idea, that we're all composed of star stuff...it helped me to understand how fundamentally united we are as human beings, and I think it bears repeating. The carbon and hydrogen elements that reside in all our bodies came from the same place: stars that have been carrying out their life cycles in our universe since virtually the beginning of time. That fact, I realized, is true no matter the color of your skin. It's true no matter what country, state, city, or town you're from. It's true no matter how much money you have. You see, the universe doesn't care if you're gay, straight, or bisexual. The universe doesn't care if you're the star quarterback, a mathlete, a band nerd. It doesn't care about what clothes you wear, how you do your hair, or even how often you shower. After all, to put it in our beloved classmate John Wells' terms... "We're all just, like, a bunch of particles, man."

I am lucky for having found this cosmic perspective through which to appreciate humanity and diversity as I entered this high school, as it made meeting new people and making new friends a lot easier. It is why I can pride myself of being able to hold a friendly conversation with the majority of you, or at least exchange greetings in the halls. But now I'm sure you're saying to yourselves, "great job Phil, you figured out some overly-complex way to make friends. What does this mean for us, in our lives?"

Well, the whole point of explaining this

perspective is that perhaps some of you will be able to use it to navigate relationships with people outside of our cozy Mayberry, Springfield, Scranton, Grover's Corners or Almost, Maine. Now, don't get me wrong; there's no doubt that we're all incredibly grateful for having been able to grow up in such a tightly-knit, nurturing community, but let's face it; Sayville is a pretty homogenous town. Generally speaking, the people here are of similar economic stature and there isn't much variety in opinions and viewpoints. And in a country that has recently been making great strides toward achieving true equality and fostering diversity among its citizens, it may be difficult for many of us to be comfortable in the larger, more complex social settings of college and, eventually, the workplace. But I hope that with this perspective under our belts, some of us might find that instead of spending our first big college lecture trying to figure out whether the person who decided to sit next to us is a dude or a chick, a naive liberal or a heartless conservative, an atheist or a Jesus freak, it'll be easier just to flash them a smile, shake their hand, and introduce ourselves. You never know, that particular person who decided to sit there might just go on to become a lifelong friend, or dare I say it, spouse. It takes a lot less effort to open up and extend kindness to others unconditionally than to try and surround yourself solely with people who you can deem to be *normal* according to the beliefs and values you are accustomed to. Hopefully the astounding, elegant fact I've shared with you today will make this a bit easier.

As human beings, we are all, at the most fundamental level, star stuff. That's all. Star stuff that experiences the same pain and suffering, the same joy and beauty of life. And right now, you're all star stuff that's experiencing relief about this speech finally coming to an end. But seriously, I wish you all a happy, prosperous future filled with lots of friends, endless laughter, and great success. Always remember to be kind to one another and to everyone you meet. Thank you, and congratulations once again.



Before announcing the Board of Education President, Principal Hoffer welcomed the Alumni, which represent graduating classes from our high school from 1947 through 2017. "As alumni, your attendance is greatly appreciated and it clearly reflects your pride, your enthusiasm, and your respect for your educational experience in our district. We thank you for joining us this morning, and we encourage you to join us each and every year at this ceremony."



BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT KEITH KOLAR

After wishing everyone good morning on the special occasion, BOE President Keith Kolar recalled the year he was sitting on the exact field in the blinding hot sun, thankful that he did not have to give a graduation speech.

Well now twenty-four years later I question how much wiser I have become as I actually volunteered for this moment. Life certainly has way of changing you.... In thinking about change, this Class has seen its fair share. [Mr. Kolar noted that the graduates were second-graders when the first Iphone was released, in fifth for Instagram; Snapchat has only been around since 2012; and Finsta and Fortnite are part of their generation.]

I mention these today to point out how much has changed for you in such a short time. But you must understand while these things have brought about many positive changes for you, ... be wary that it never takes away... your human element. Your human element is more powerful than any app or computer. All these wonderful advancements in technologies do not know how to show kindness, compassion, loyalty or how to form sincere genuine relationships.... At the same time, these technologies cannot show cruelty, indifference or dishonesty without a human element. Everyone of us likes to think we are kind and compassionate but I think we all know, each day we can improve in this area.

Each day we have to find the best human element and make it shine. As Bill Gates said, 'Technology is unlocking the innate compassion we all have for our fellow human beings.'

So as you leave here today and prepare for the next chapter in your life, I want you to consider a few things. Turning away from that screen and looking someone in the eye to tell them how you feel is always better. Experiencing a moment alone or with someone else is okay, it does not always need to be posted and shared with the world. Sometimes capturing a quick moment with your mind instead of a phone video will actually last longer. Handwriting a letter to someone special and putting a stamp on it is much more meaningful than a email. Memorizing five of your closest friends' phone numbers and calling them when they need to talk will make you both feel better. Being sad or upset is completely normal; we have all felt this way from time to time. But most of all, ALWAYS find the time to call your mother, father, grandparents or younger siblings instead of texting. You may not realize how much the sound of your voice means to them.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the Sayville School District I wish you all the best in this next phase in your life. And know with your great human element you can make this world a better place. Congratulations, Class of 2018!

CLASS OF 2018 PRESIDENT

CHRISTOPHER CASTELLI

"FINAL COPY"



After addressing the administrators, faculty, staff, and families, Chris acknowledged the hard work and dedication of his classmates and shared his vision in the

Response for the Class.

We have spent eighteen years of our lives in a town which has offered us

shelter from many of the dangers and stressors of the greater world. We have grown up in a sheltered community where we have been given very little exposure to cultures and beliefs different to our own. We have lived cushioned in a bubble which has blocked us from the outside world.

In times when adjusting to the new world around us becomes difficult, remember that the people sitting around us today are having the same difficulties. Sayville has sent thousands of students into the world before us; I can guarantee that they all had times when adjusting to the diverse, rainbow colored world we live in proved challenging. In times like these remember, although we are not at college together, we are not alone.

We come from the same place and share the same memories. We have all feared that our mothers would go on Facebook and post something insane on Sayville Moms, embarrassing us until the next accusatory post was made, taking the attention away from us, and placing it on some other unfortunate student. Sayville Moms has had an affect on all of us over the course of our time in this school district.

The fear of being seen out past 10:00 and having a post made about us as "suspicious children looking for trouble." The thought of our parents seeing a post about us is a terror that only we share. Quick question, moms, do any of you know why all these helicopters keep flying over town?

Although we may not have our childhood

best friend by our sides, with whom we share thousands of memories, and we won't have the amazing organizational skills and care shown by our incredible class advisors, Mrs. Sohl and Mrs. Trentowski, we will share more experiences with our new classmates than we think. We have all seen the same memes, we go to half Apps, and we are increasingly frustrated with the status quo.

The world we live in is not yet ours. Our leaders are usually old, white, and male. But that is changing. We see new voices like those of Tomi Lahren and Trevor Noah rising above the old ones of Rupert Murdoch and Bill Maher. This year, there are a record number of women in both major parties running for Congress, 309 of them to be exact, including one right here in our own district.

We have seen Danica Roem become the first openly transgender woman to win a state legislator race in Virginia. Hoboken even elected its first Sikh mayor, Ravi Bhalla.

More proof that our generation is taking the lead can be found right here in Sayville. At 10am on March 14th, we, alongside thousands of students across the nation walked out of our classes to tell lawmakers that we have had enough,

We told them to ban semiautomatic weapons and high capacity magazines, as well as create mandatory mental health and background checks for all prospective gun buyers. We made history that day as a generation. No matter which side of the debate you stand on, you will find students on your campus who felt the same way.

Make no mistake: there are many who object to our views as a generation, to the supposed collective agenda which we push. To that I say this: let's talk. We were once a nation of dialogue, of genuine conversation between competing ideals which produced engaging debate and sane legislation. No longer do we debate, it seems. We bicker. We argue. We fight. But to what end? What do we gain when we look at someone who is really no different than ourselves and tell them that we do not care what they have to say?

We need to reach out and have these discussions not just with each other but with society as a whole, old and young alike, for at the end of the day, we are all Americans.

The author James Baldwin once said, 'I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.'

In order for our nation to grow and make progress, we need to think critically, to question our underlying assumptions about who and what we are. Without this self-reflection, we would still be wearing twenty silly bandz on each wrist.

These past four years have been difficult, and without Moira's lunchbox, it would have been impossible. But they will be easy compared to what is right around the corner.

We will find that every belief we have held, every position we have defended, every conviction we have fought for, will be placed under scrutiny not only by Sayville Moms, but by the new world around us. It won't be an angry assault- it will be friendly, it will be educational, and it will be beneficial.

We will learn from our new classmates about millions of other bubbles across the country.

Our little bubble in Sayville will be popped. I'd like to end with an excerpt from a poem by Maya Angelou:

*Look beyond your tasseled caps
And you will see injustice.
At the end of your fingertips
You will find cruelties,
Irrational hate, bedrock sorrow
And terrifying loneliness.*

Let the words of Maya Angelou impart a lesson on us all. Injustice, cruelty and loneliness. There is our work. And when we approach these issues with the same energy, enthusiasm and cooperation with which we have approached the last four years, and when we say that WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH, this injustice, cruelty and loneliness will soon be, like high school, a thing of the past. Congratulations Class of 2018!

PRAISE FOR THE CLASS OF 2018

"OUTSTANDING IN ALL ENDEAVORS"

High School Principal Ron Hoffer reflected on the Class of 2018's accomplishments (see right):

VISIT SAYVILLESCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS ONLINE FOR PHOTOS AND VIDEO COVERAGE.



•The Class of 2018 has been an outstanding class to work with in all endeavors. Our students, your sons, daughters and friends, have earned many significant honors, both individually and collectively, and they have been outstanding representatives of our school and community. As I reflect on their accomplishments, I do so with a great deal of pride and satisfaction.



• In the Class of 2018, **99%** of the students will go on to further education, and **97%** of our graduates have earned Regents diplomas this year.

• Acknowledged two from the Class of 2018: Aleksander Azaroy and Meghan Caraher for their anticipated military service

• Recognized three members of our high school staff entering retirement. Joanne Alcabes, Peter Carbocci and Martha Kahan. Thank you for 54 years of combined service to our students.

• Recognized a group of teachers selected by the students in the Class of 2018 as "Teachers Who Have Made a Difference."



Moving-Up Sunrise Drive

During the three Elementary Fifth-grade Moving-Up ceremonies, there were words of encouragement and welcome from Middle School Principal Thomas Murray along with wonderful awards, student, staff and parent recognition, as well as musical performances by the talented students. Each ceremony was followed by refreshments provided by the PTAs. (See Sayville School District website for full story and more photos.)

In a celebratory send-off, the Sunrise Drive students lined the halls to applaud the Fifth-graders as they walked by on their way to the Moving-Up ceremonies in the Cafetorium.

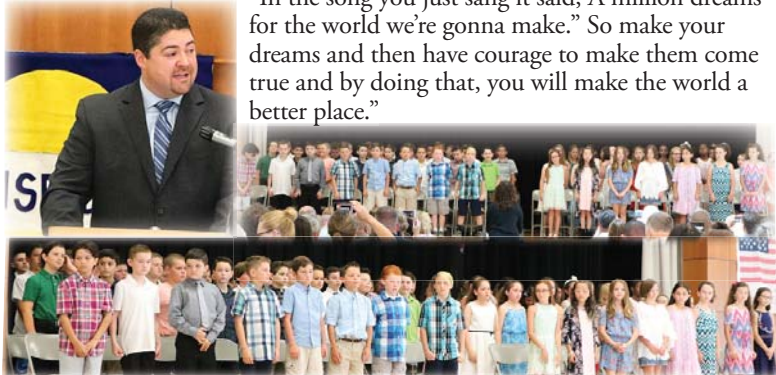
Family and friends were treated to the traditional singing of *Sunrise Drive You Are the One*, composed and directed by Mrs. Amy Baron and sung splendidly by the Moving-Up Class of 2018. In addition, Mrs. Baron directed the students in two rousing selections throughout the program, *We Go Together* and *A Million Dreams*.

Sunrise Drive Principal, Dr. James Foy welcomed the guests, students, and their families. "It is hard to believe," Dr. Foy remarked, "that the Class of 2025 is almost halfway through their educational journey here in our district." Middle School Principal Tom Murray was invited to greet the incoming Sixth-graders, and after, recognition was given to the Fifth-graders for achieving excellence in academics and for outstanding character (see lists below).

During his address, Dr. Foy extolled the virtues and accomplishments of the class by enumerating some of the kindnesses performed by the students this year. "This exemplary group of young men and women has demonstrated such amazing community outreach and service and served as role models to the younger classes." After the Fifth-grade teachers had announced the names of their students, each student was awarded a certificate by Dr. Foy.

In closing, Dr. Foy offered congratulations to the students and their parents, thanked Sayville administrators, faculty, staff, and Board of Education for their support, and gave the students one final encouragement:

"In the song you just sang it said, A million dreams for the world we're gonna make." So make your dreams and then have courage to make them come true and by doing that, you will make the world a better place."



List of Fifth-grade 2017-2018 Presidential Academic Fitness and other Award Winners

Sunrise Drive

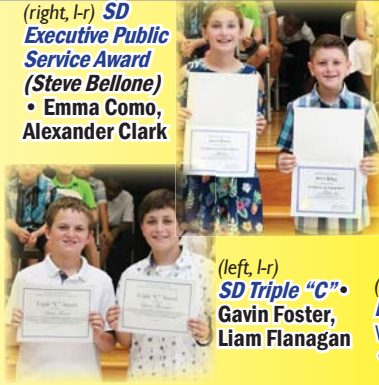
ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Donovan Bartolotta
Haley D'Ambrosio
Grace Garafola
Jake Hinteman
Elizabeth Holahan
Kellie LaMar
Andrew Law
Jake Maksimiak
Kyle Messina
Robert Rubino
Emma Tassino
Andrew Thiakodemitris

SILVER AWARDS

Carly Brady
Tyler Brown
Emma Como
Christopher Costa
Griffin Entenberg
Liam Flanagan
Elena Haakonson
Logan Keil
Maia Ludwig
Steven Mercorella
Brody O'Connell
Maura Reilly
Sienna Turner
Jordan Weber
Sydney Young

(right, l-r) **SD Executive Public Service Award (Steve Bellone)**
• Emma Como,
Alexander Clark



(left, l-r) **SD Triple "C"**
Gavin Foster,
Liam Flanagan

(above) **SD County Legislature** with William Lindsay III • Nate Traina

(below, l-r) **American Citizenship** • Robert Rubino, Cassidy Beach, Dylan Kent; **3 Rs - Respect: self/others/school** • Andrew Law, Emma Tassino, Joseph Kohn

(below, l-r) **SD Suffolk County NY State Comptroller** • Tyler Brown, Maura Reilly



Cherry Avenue



At the 2018 Moving-Up ceremony, Cherry Avenue Principal Dr. Lisa Ihne welcomed "parents, family, and friends, administrators: Dr. Stimmel, Dr. Criscione, Mr. Belmonte, Mr. Murray, and Ms. Hall, Legislator William J. Lindsay III, Ms. Rachel Anello, Assistant Attorney General from the Suffolk Regional Office, Mr. Ben Kemper, and of course, our guests of honor: the Fifth-grade students."

In her general address, Dr. Ihne shared words of praise for her students. "It has been a privilege to know these students and serve as their Principal. They are a polite, determined, fun, and compassionate group of students well prepared for the next phase in their education. I have enjoyed getting to know each and every one of the students and as much as we would like to keep them longer, it is time for them to move on to the Middle School."

Turning toward the Moving-Up Class, Dr. Ihne said, "Students, the staff and I look forward to hearing about your experiences and accomplishments in the years to come and although we will miss you tremendously a piece of you will always remain with us at Cherry Avenue School."

After Dr. Ihne thanked all the parents for their "trust and for being part of their children's education," she recognized those parents who were moving up as well and then introduced Middle School Principal Mr. Thomas Murray. Presentations of the special awards (see below) and the awarding of Moving-Up Certificates followed. Before the ceremony closed, the entertainment included a charming slideshow prepared by the parents and several musical numbers directed by Kristi Woerner *Because of You* and *We're Moving Up* which had been beautifully paraphrased for the Class of 2018.



(above) **CA Suffolk County Legislature** with William Lindsay III • Katerina Michaelides



(left) **Cherry Good Choice** • Madden Breunig

Cherry Avenue

ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Sofia Cangelosi
Taylor Carpentieri
Joseph Connor
Erin Costa
Jasmin Evans
Matthew Luffman
Julianna Weinfeld
Jolie Whalen
Adria Vargas

SILVER AWARDS

Lucy Vermilyea
Rachel Wiebke
Isabella Lundquist
Olivia Moynihan
Shay Plitt
Christopher Capriotti
Katerina Michaelides



(above) **Cameron Riccomini Scholarship Award** with CA SW Noemi Barczak • Kevin Dolan

(below photos, l-r) **CA Triple "C"** with Ms. Rachel Anello • Lucy Vermilyea, Taylor Carpentieri,



Moving-Up Lincoln Avenue

Welcoming families, friends, administrators, and guests to the Moving-Up ceremony, Lincoln Avenue Principal Dr. Michele LeBlanc shared words of thanks, particularly for the parents, "Let me begin by thanking you for being with us today, and for being with us these past six years. Your attention and time given to support your child's academics and our school activities are genuinely appreciated. We are proud of all that these children have accomplished and we are thankful to all of you in this room for the nurturing support and love which has brought them to their seats today."



As part of the Lincoln Avenue Moving-Up tradition, Dr. LeBlanc acknowledged the volunteer efforts of a special group of graduating parents—"those who served on the PTA board, the Site Based Team as well as those in the audience.... These two organizations are highly efficient and have been productive and successful in supporting our academic, social-emotional and enrichment programs. Their countless efforts add great value to our school."

In her brief address, Dr. LeBlanc noted the importance of all the students' experiences, "Six years at Lincoln Avenue... We have spent over 1,000 days of school together. As you will hear from our [student] speakers in just a bit, this group has placed great value on special opportunities provided to them, and their relationships with their teachers and classmates. John Adams, our second President of the United States, believed that there should be two types of education. He said, 'One should teach us to make a living, and the other how to live.'"

The Lincoln celebration continued with Middle School Principal Tom Murray greeting his new Sixth-graders. Students representing each Fifth-grade class (see right, top-bottom) Anna Reilly, Breanna McBride, Angelina Campos, and Kamryn Restivo gave articulate recollections in their insightful essays about their years at Lincoln.

Dr. LeBlanc complimented the four students who were chosen to speak for their classes, "Our speakers today express their gratitude for their opportunities and friendships, a very mature recognition at ten years old. I would love to have John Adams in the room with us today!"

Music teacher Christine Cirillo directed members of the Fifth-grade Chorus and dedicated their performance of *For Good* to the retiring Mrs. Katherine Whitehurst (photo left). After the students received their certificates, specific awards from local politicians were given, and the concluding number arranged by Ms. Cirillo *Graduation Train* which was sung by the entire class. Dr. LeBlanc closed with "one last bit of parting wisdom... a great piece of advice the late theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking imparted... and I think he was talking to our Fifth-graders when he said this: 'Remember to look up at the stars, NOT DOWN at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is ALWAYS something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you just don't give up.'"

Finally, Dr. LeBlanc wished the students well with, "Congratulations to Lincoln Avenue Class of 2018!"



(above, l-r) **LA New York State Comptroller** • Vincent Fontanetta, Scarlett Reilly



(above, l-r) **LA Triple "C"** • Isabella Pusateri, Audrey Bertch



(above, l-r) **LA County Legislature** • Elizabeth McCabe, Julia Deal with SC Legislator Monica R. Martinez



List of Fifth-grade 2017-2018 Presidential Academic Fitness and other Award Winners

Cherry Avenue *continued*



(above) **Executive Public Service Award** • Julianna Weinfeld



(above, l-r) **CA New York State Comptroller** • Jasmine Evans, Sofia Cangelosi, Erin Costa



(above, l-r) **Kemper Awards** • Emily Finn, Charles Duplessis

(right, l-r) **Suffolk Zone Award** • Luke Hansen, Eilise Marino



ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS (below top)
Philip Abad
John Alliegro
McKenna Broderick
Christian Buono
Camden Cheshire
Vincent Fontanetta
Jack Hartman
Dario Jaimes
Gioia Racanelli
Scarlett Reilly
Kamryn Restivo
Robert Russo
Abigail Schroeder
Samuel Wilbert
Adam Williams

SILVER AWARDS (bottom)
Khadija Abid
Cristiana Anastasio
Alexander Baumbach
Bruno Cappiello
Kailey Chiusano
Melissa Covais
Julia Deal
Ryan DeSabato
Sean Evans
Abigail Galaris
Nicole Graziano
Emily Halloran
Lauren Pallaci
Anna Reilly
Kevin Schmidt
Patrick Scomello



CLASS OF 2018 MOVES UP FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL

2017-2018 8th-GRADE
DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS



While the Seventh-grade Orchestra played the march, two hundred twenty members of the Eighth-grade class entered the auditorium for a final time. The Middle School Moving-Up Class of 2018, recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*, led by Elizabeth Bossert (above), and respectfully listened to the National Anthem, sung *a capella* by the amazing Maggie Mongiello (left).

of what to expect! They are now leaving us as young confident men and women.”

After, he enumerated the class statistics (see below) with praise for their “outstanding academic discipline and personal integrity.”

“In four short years you will be graduating from high school,” Mr. Murray shared. “In the those four short years the world will change rapidly. What has not changed is the key to making the world a better place. It is how you treat people that will have the greatest impact on the world. How you treat people will be your legacy. What your peers will remember most about you is how you treated others.” To bring home his point, Mr. Murray cited Dr. Seuss: “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

Mr. Murray closed, “You are ready to move onto the High School. Be kind to each other, treat each well. Be there for one another.”

Directing seventeen students to come pick up seventeen placards and the rest to stand and face the audience, Mr. Murray cued the “Moving-Up Class of 2018 and the future graduating Class of 2022!” to thank their parents with a very special message (see below, right) before wishing them all congratulations.

Principal Thomas Murray welcomed everyone to the celebration, noting, “It is a great privilege to be here today to celebrate the accomplishments of your children the future graduating class of 2022. They have exhibited outstanding academic discipline and personal integrity. The past three years have been a journey. They entered the Middle School as children, unsure

STATISTICS In this new era of academic rigor, the Moving-Up Class of 2017 has risen to the challenges and have excelled.

- 99 students took and passed the Algebra Regents—i.e., 43% of class
- 111 students took and passed the Living Environment Regents—i.e., 48% of the class
- A 100% pass rate on both regents’ exams
- 100 students have taken and passed the High School Studio in Art Class, which is 38% of the class.
- 98% of the Class is leaving with 1 High School Credit+
- 48% of the Class is leaving with 2 High School Credits
- 43% of the Class is leaving with 3 High School Credits

THE ARTS

- Our Music Program has competed around the country. NYSSMA students performed solos receiving top honors. Four students were selected to be part of the SCMEA All-County band/chorus/orchestra groups. Five students achieved the highest rating for their NYSSMA solo. Three musicians received SMBA grants. The music department participated in a practice-athon raising a little over \$1,000.00 for the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

ATHLETICALLY

- Our teams have competed hard and have enjoyed success. There have been many undefeated seasons as well as Section XI Sportsmanship Award winners. You learned what it means to work together for the good of a common goal!

- ALGEBRA Gene Weng
- ART 8 Chad Moccio
- Studio in Art Matthew Faraci
- BAND Matthew Sullivan
- CHORUS Olivia Reiss
- COMPUTERS Michael Villany
- CONSUMER/FAMILY SCIENCE Fatima Abid
- ENGLISH Kate Cassidy
- FRENCH Kate Cassidy
- LIVING ENVIRONMENT Jordan Messina
- MATHEMATICS 8 Brooke Burke
- ORCHESTRA Alayna Pavao
- PHYSICAL ED. (BOYS) Yirdaw Rivera
- PHYSICAL ED. (GIRLS) Allison Reilly
- SCIENCE 8 Erin O'Donnell
- SOCIAL STUDIES Sarah Hinteman
- SPANISH Swati Sheth
- TECHNOLOGY Anthony Mesi

- Cameron Riccomini Scholarship Devin Lillis
- NYS Attorney Triple C Award Brook Dubay, Dylan Schneider
- NYS Comptroller's Achievement Award Sarah Hinteman

PTA AWARDS

- GIRLS SPORTSMANSHIP JORDAN MESSINA
- BOYS SPORTSMANSHIP FRANCESCO SOCCOLI
- SCHOOL LEADERSHIP DEVIN LILLIS
- SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SERVICE SWATI SHETHZ
- ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT LUKE MARULLO

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- For the past three years, we have had over 200 Presidential Community Service Winners – serving 8,000 hours of community service
- You raised money to beat cancer, feed and clothe the needy, fight ALS.



TIDINGS

FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DR. JOHN STIMMEL, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
99 Greeley Avenue
Sayville, New York 11782

LINDA A. MITTIGA
SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER & DISTRICT WEBSITE EDITOR

*** ECRWSS ***

Postal Customer

VISIT SAYVILLESCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS ONLINE FOR PHOTOS AND VIDEO COVERAGE.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Tax Code 566