

Sayville Public Schools

**"THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS"**

District Newsletter  
Volume 32.1

www.sayvilleschools.org

SUMMER 2016

DR. WALTER F. SCHARTNER  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SAYVILLE SCHOOLS



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

JOHN VERDONE,  
PRESIDENT  
THOMAS COOLEY,  
VICE PRESIDENT

TRUSTEES  
CARL CANGELOSI  
NORMAN DEVENAU  
MAUREEN DOLAN  
KEITH KOLAR  
DEBORAH VAN ESSENDELFT

# TIDINGS

FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Touching Moments for the CLASS OF 2016

The Sayville High School Class of 2016 formed a dazzling parade in their purple and gold gowns as the 224 graduates crossed the green lawn under a spectacularly blue sky. Unlike previous years when the annual ceremony on the football field was subject to scorching sun, high humidity, or threats of rain, June 25, 2016 offered the Sayville grads picture-perfect weather.

As the excited crowd of family and friends shouted and whistled greetings to welcome the class, Sayville Superintendent Dr. Walter Schartner, High School Principal Ron Hoffer, Board of Education President John Verdone, and Vice President Thomas Cooley, along with district administrators and Board of Education members, led first the graduates, then the *Teachers Who Made A Difference* to their seats. Again this year, bringing up the rear were the Sayville Alumni (one returning Alumnus was from the Class of 1938) participating in the Annual Alumni Walk.

During their final hours as Sayville students, the graduates listened to heartfelt speeches by their Valedictorian Jared Bergen, Salutatorian Emily Sneddon, and Class President Paige Liskiewicz. They were moved by the vocal selection *We've Only Just Begun* sung by Class of 2016 award-winning vocalist Jillian Brudi. They experienced touching moments when remembering two who had passed—a dear friend and fellow student, as well as a beloved teacher. They applauded the four among them joining the military. They cheered, not just for classmates whose academic, artistic, and athletic accomplishments raised the bar of excellence, but for those fellow grads who have dealt with personal challenges of cancer or succeeded in overcoming learning challenges. Even canine companion, Antoinette, marching with her yellow cap, was a "member" of the graduating class.

After Principal Ronald Hoffer's final words of appreciation, the graduates and crowd roared with excitement while purple and gold mortarboards sailed upward against a cobalt blue sky.



## MUSICAL Interludes

Following the processional, played by the Sayville High School Band (see photo on p. 2.), directed one last time by the retiring Andy Giammalvo, Senior members of the High School Jazz Choir (left)—Jared Bergen, Joseph Panzarino, Sean McNally, Raven Dushnick, Savannah Votino, Jillian Dymek, Kylie McCoy, Eileen Monahan, and



Jillian Brudi—sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *God Bless America*.

(right) Jillian Brudi, *The Patricia Ann Kubelle Memorial Award-Winning* vocalist beautifully matched the rich, contralto of Karen Carpenter with her performance of *We've Only Just Begun*. After she received tremendous applause for her rendition, Mr. Hoffer thanked Jillian with his praise, "Simply amazing!" (To see video of Commencement, including Jillian's performance, go to [sayvilleschools.org/TIDINGS ONLINE](http://sayvilleschools.org/TIDINGS ONLINE).)



(above: r-l) Principal Ron Hoffer and Sayville Superintendent Dr. Walter Schartner marched with B.O.E. President John Verdone, Vice President Thomas Cooley, trustees Carl Cangelosi, Keith Kolar, Norm deVenau, Special Education Director Peter Branscombe, and Assistant Superintendent for Business John J. Belmonte, while Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dr. John Stimmel escorted the Alumni.

# SUPERINTENDENT OF SAYVILLE SCHOOLS DR. WALTER SCHATNER

On behalf of the Sayville Board of Education, all teachers and staff, Superintendent of Sayville Schools Dr. Walter F. Schartner welcomed parents, siblings, grandparents, and other guests. "To the Sayville High School Class of 2016, thank you for establishing a new standard of achievement for other classes to emulate. You have added to the excellence that is the Sayville Public Schools."



“ Sayville High School has been designated a REWARD SCHOOL, the highest designation for a school in New York State for five consecutive years. This is possible because of the high school community’s success. This success is directly related to the success and hard work of our students with the support of the teachers, administrators, and families from Kindergarten until now.

I will not list all of your individual accomplishments or we would be here until dark. Mr. Hoffer will give more detail to specific accomplishments. I would like to spend a few minutes to highlight your next step in life.”

[Enumerating the ten traits of successful leaders, which he cited from *The Investors’ Business Daily Newspaper*, Dr. Schartner compared it to advice found in *All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum as he put leadership qualities into perspective.](quote below)

**These are things I learned:  
Share everything, Play fair.  
Don’t hit people. Put things  
back where you found them.  
Clean up your messes. Don’t  
take things that aren’t yours.  
Say you’re sorry when you hurt  
somebody. Wash your hands  
before you eat. Warm cookies**

**and cold milk are good for you.  
Live a balanced life. Learn  
some and think some, and  
draw, paint, sing, dance and  
play and work every day some!  
Take a nap every afternoon.  
And when you go out into the  
world, watch for traffic, hold  
hands, and stick together.**

So when you get out in the world and see the expectations, problems, challenges and temptations, discouragement and opportunities, and you forget your teachers’ and/or administrators’ lectures, just try to remember Kindergarten. The rest will take care of itself.

To the Class of 2016, as you leave this ceremony this morning, on the path to your personal future, you have become a part of a great tradition, which is Sayville High School Alumni. Buildings and people change—but that tradition of excellence will remain our goal for as long as the Sayville High School is the center of pride for this community. Remember all that have played a part in your achievement—parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators and this entire community. Remember that you have the power to do great and different things. You have the power to change the course of history through goodness, kindness, and intelligent decision-making. Remember kindergarten—hold hands and stick together! HAVE OPTIMISM!

We are proud of each and every one of you, and we share your happiness this morning. Good luck and may God bless you in all that you do!



## CLASS OF 2016 SALUTATORIAN EMILY SNEDDON "HEADING HOME"

VISIT [SAYVILLESCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS](http://sayvilleschools.org/tidings) ONLINE FOR PHOTOS AND VIDEO.

After welcoming everyone, including Dr. Schartner, members of the Board of Education, Mr. Hoffer, faculty, family, and friends, Emily greeted her classmates:

“ ...And most importantly, congratulations to the Class of 2016. We finally made it!

For many of us, Sayville is where we have grown up. We have spent either all or most of our lives hanging out at the beach, going to the movies, or enjoying *Ralph's* on a hot summer's day. We all walked along Main Street, holding our parents' hands as we crossed the street, begging them to stop and get us candy from *The Chocolatier*. As we got older, we transitioned into the freedom of going into town by ourselves. After all, "town" was the place to be in middle school. When I see current middle schoolers walking to *Carvel*, I am reminded that was once us. Now, as seniors and almost graduates, we whiz down Main Street in our cars, on the way to half apps. Although we may not now spend as much time enjoying all that town has to offer, it will forever have incredible meaning in our lives.

Simply put, Sayville is our home.

But, what is a home really? We all know that the dictionary definition is "the place (such as a house or apartment) where a person lives." In reality, a home is so much more. It is a place where a person feels comfortable, happy, and accepted. We all found home in different locations, in our bedroom, at the beach, on

the sports field, maybe even the one we are currently on, or in a classroom where we took permanent residence, and many others. Fortunately, much of Sayville feels like home to me, as I'm sure it does to most of you.

There are so many things that we have learned throughout our time in Sayville, learning how to make friends in Kindergarten, how to open a locker in middle school, how to write a research paper in high school. Although there are many lessons we have learned during our time here, one truly stands out. This may seem cliché, but the most important thing in life is not a thing, but rather the people we choose to surround ourselves with. When I was looking for inspiration for this speech I came across a quote that really touched me: "There will always be a reason why you meet people. Either you need them to change your life or you're the one that will change theirs." Standing in front of all of you now, I realize that this could not be more true. Take a second to look around.... Did you see a person who has changed you? Did you see a person that you believe you have changed? I am so thankful to all the people who have changed my life over the past four years. I have been so blessed to have great friends, and for those of you who asked, here is your shoutout; a supportive family, thanks mom and dad; and



fantastic teachers, all of whom have touched my life. I would be remiss if I didn't mention someone who has changed so many of our lives: Mrs. Killen. Although she is no longer

with us, we will carry her amazing personality, bright smile, and neverending kindness with us as we leave home. To paraphrase E.E. Cummings, a well-known poet, we will always carry her heart in our hearts.

So as we depart Sayville High School as graduates, leaving this field for possibly the final time, we should keep in mind that although we are leaving a place we have called home, we can make any place we go feel like home. All we have to do is surround ourselves with people who make us feel happy, comfortable, and accepted. We need to search for our new beach, new sports field, or new classroom.

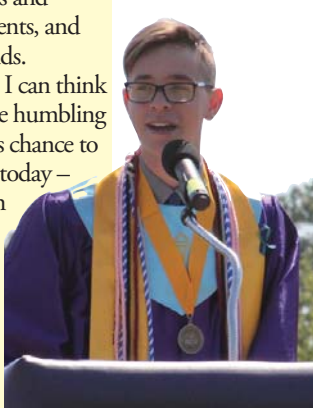
I believe that the words of Dr. Seuss fit our situation well, "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

Thank you and congratulations to the Class of 2016!



“ Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Hoffer. And thank you Dr. Schartner, the Sayville Board of Education, our devoted teachers and staff, proud parents, and supportive friends.

Class of 2016, I can think of nothing more humbling than having this chance to speak with you today – a day spent with loved ones celebrating what I hope is one of your proudest achievements thus far.



I must admit the task of composing these words was rather daunting; what advice could I – an eighteen-year-old boy with remarkably similar life experiences as you – possibly have to offer to initiate this new stage of our lives?

The following is my brief attempt at answering that question, as I am sure we are all eager to get along with the day's festivities.

•••

I recently learned this staggering statistic: if the lifespan of our planet was compressed into a twenty-four hour clock, with the formation of the Earth occurring at 12:00 in the morning, modern

humans would only arrive a mere three seconds before the stroke of the next midnight.

*Three seconds.*

In that time, our curiosity for exploring the unknown has brought us from the blackest pits of the deep ocean to the cosmic lights of an expanding universe. Our desire for communication has birthed language, music, art. Our ceaseless drive for innovation has steered the ship and powered the iPhone.

Yet in that same time, our exploration bred conquest; our communication, misunderstanding; and our innovation, neglect.

In the year 2016, our country will waste an estimated 70 billion pounds of food while millions die across the globe from malnutrition. Within the next decade, as we alter the environment to house an exponentially growing population, species of animals whose arrival on the clock predates our own will vanish.

I could go on – detailing the slew of man-made issues confronting contemporary society which we, the future generation, can no longer ignore. I could next plead with you all to be the leaders of tomorrow and solve all the world's problems and make everything beautiful again! But I am not that idealistic.

No, instead I ask of us one thing – to remedy what I posit is the pulse behind the apparent inaction of mankind: disconnection. No longer do we feel our ancestral connections

to nature; rather, we see its ownership and manipulation for our wants.

No longer do we feel our genetic connections to each other; rather, we see characteristics through which we can dissociate from one another.

I am not here to suggest that every one of us needs to be the Lorax, saving the environment before irreparable harm is done, or that we need to be the world's best friend, kickstarting a Kumbaya chain as long as the circumference of the Earth.

What I do ask is that from today onwards we reconnect with the world and all its people. Rekindle our understanding of our surroundings and rediscover our empathy for those whose identities and lifestyles are different from our own.

To close, I would like to quote a line from David Mitchell's Cloud Atlas, which I have always held near to my heart:

“My life amounts to no more than one drop in a limitless ocean. Yet what is any ocean, but a multitude of drops?”

Class of 2016, while we are all separating from one another shortly, let us work together to not become disconnected from our surroundings. Let us use our drops of life to create that limitless ocean, to make waves that will change our ways. Let us combine all our seconds on the clock to ensure that when midnight strikes it is not the end, but rather just the beginning of another, brighter day. Thank you.



Before announcing the Board of Education President, Principal Hoffer welcomed the Alumni, which represent graduating classes from our high school from 1938 through 2015. "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 JOHN VERDONE Board Trustee Norm deVenu also spoke...

AFTER HIS GREETING THAT INCLUDED COMMENTS ABOUT THE BEAUTIFUL DAY, MR. VERDONE REMARKED:



“...I again found myself having difficulty to come up with what to say, and—CHUCK SCHUMER DIDN'T LET ME BORROW HIS SPEECH. As I was preparing for today, I reflected back... I once sat in your seats many, many years ago, I really didn't pay much attention to the adult speakers, but as I sat, my thoughts wandered. I imagined what type of world I was about to enter, and I can't tell you how many times I heard "When I was your age..." So I am going to read something to you, from when I was your age: [Mr. Verdone quoted the lyrics from John Lennon's IMAGINE.]

Some touching words. Really, they still have the same meaning today as they did when they were first written. So right now, each of you take a moment. IMAGINE what you can make of the world each of you is about to enter.

IMAGINE! Put your hearts and souls into everything you do; there will be times when you will face success as well as failures. Never stop trying and never stop imagining a world that each of you can change. A world we now entrust to each of you.

Shortly each of you will walk up to this podium and receive this placket, this cornerstone. The start of the foundation of your life. Build on it and be the best you can be. But before I close, as a parent of a child who served our country with honor and distinction, I would like to stand and applaud the four students about to enter the military. Thank you for your dedication to country, freedom and family. God bless each of you.

On behalf of my fellow Board Members, congratulations to each and every one of you. Live, Love and Laugh and never stop IMAGINING! Have a fantastic summer and future..



Thanking Mr. Verdone for the opportunity to speak, Mr. deVenu admitted: "My grandson, Chris Ferremi, is graduating and I have a special interest in this class, coaching them with Chris' mom, Jen, in baseball over the years. I just wanted to say thank you for the great years. These graduates are awesome!"

Reminding them that they are the future and that this day begins their new challenges requiring important decisions, Mr. deVenu assured them that after thirteen years of assistance from parents and teachers, "you are prepared."

Praising the class for their service and accomplishments, Mr. deVenu reminded them that no matter what they do, they are "still part of the Sayville family." He especially commended those who have decided to serve in the military—"They stand for freedom." He asked not only those four in the class going into the military to stand for applause, but included all those in the audience who have served in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, and USMC.

"One last thing: Graduates, please stand and face your family and shout thank you to your parents and teachers." The graduates enthusiastically complied. Then Mr. deVenu concluded: "May God bless our future with these graduates!"

## CLASS OF 2016 PRESIDENT PAIGE LISKIEWICZ

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

“After greeting everyone present, Class President Paige Liskiewicz gave her Response for the Class of 2016.:

It has sometimes been my pleasure to serve as the President of the Senior Class.

### Sometimes.

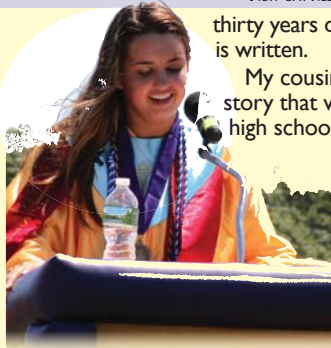
While we as a class rose to meet the challenges and opportunities of senior year, our world has seemed to spin more and more out of control, requiring us to act and react.

Since this is the twenty-first century, we know there is an app for everything. For some of us, today is a very stressful day, so I thought it best to take the stress off of all of you and have my phone react for you. So nobody worry, I have an app for that.

Together, I want all of us to take a moment and enjoy the memories of our years in Sayville Schools. When we were in elementary school, Heelys was the main form of transportation through the hallways. Nap time was an important part of our day, but recess was the best part of our day. Nobody was afraid to stand up in front of his or her entire grade and perform at a talent show. Girls were better at football than the boys; the boys had higher voices than the girls. Then middle school rolled around. Boys and girls began to interact so nap time was definitely out of the question. Picnic photos were raved about on Facebook and Uggs, even the pink, sparkly ones, were the most fashionable thing to wear. We would get upset if we got in trouble in class and not realize that a couple years down the road all would be forgotten, a distant memory to think back on at a high school graduation before it all fades away.

### Why is it so different with high school?

There's something about high school that makes it almost impossible to forget. This is where we made real friends, where our childhoods culminated and we began our transition into adults. But, most importantly, this is where every funny story we will tell at family parties, ten, twenty or



thirty years down the road is written.

My cousin always tells a story that when he was in high school, he'd swerve through the crowds of kids down the hallway on his rip stick. My mom says that when she was in high school, the

majority of the guys had full-blown mustaches, and girls would deplete a bottle of hairspray in a week to ensure that their hair could stand straight up. Other family members and friends have told me that when they were in high school, there was a smoking lounge, gymnastics team, even a "rent a senior day"?!? What were they thinking?

**Yes, indeed, times have changed. Or have they?**

What will we look back on to laugh at and reminisce about? How will our "When I was in school" story go? Will it be kindergarten orientation when separation anxiety kicked in and getting a good night's sleep before field day was far more important than being well rested for a test? Will it be all of the family fun nights where we went back to school to hang out with our parents on a Friday night? Will it be the awkward middle school dances where we made sure to keep an arm's length distance from our date? Will it be falling down mountains in Frost Valley? Or will it be the first day of high school, where we all felt insecure and lost while we navigated our way with our maps in hand looking for the stairs to the third floor or the hallway to the pool? Will it be the pressure of taking our place at Sayville's homecoming for our first time- one full skit, one complete float and something resembling

## "When I Was in High School"

a dance in only four days. Or will it be the time the whole grade went to the beach? What will you REMEMBER? I hope that the memories of these fun times fuel your stories for many years, and I hope that you remember who we are, the members of the Sayville High School Class of 2016.

**When I was in high school** we were scholars. We studied, we put in the time. From rounds of AP exams, to daily classroom discussions, to academic competitions and Senior Portfolios, we have proven that we are worthy of these weird hats. We have earned our place in the next phase in our lives.

**When I was in high school** we were creative. We were artists, musicians, actors and writers. We produced and starred in plays, our work was featured in art shows and literary magazines. The question before us now is how to carry that creativity into our adult lives.

**When I was in high school** we were athletes. We were a team, we worked hard, we won titles. We stood by each other's side in times of victory and defeat, and vowed that the next season would always be better than the last.

**When I was in high school** we were humanitarians. We stood up for causes, we donated our time and energy and we raised money. One important effort, the Every Child's Dream Holiday Dinner, required thousands of hours of work performed by hundreds of students, and we did it. We knew that we made a difference and at our graduation we took a moment to remember our friend and classmate Mark Ambrosini.

So when you are sitting at the head of your own holiday table, tell the funny stories. Tell your kids about the time we took over the teachers' parking lot. But tell the important stories too. Because those stories truly reflect who we are: our values, our goals and the place we are about to take in the world. Remember that.



# PRaise FOR THE CLASS OF 2016 "OUTSTANDING IN ALL ENDEAVORS"



After a moment of silence for Mark Ambrosini and Ms. Joanne Killeen, High School Principal Ron Hoffer reflected on the Class of 2016 accomplishments by listing the following statistics and achievements (see below):

- The graduates met and/or exceeded the academic standards: **94%** of the students in the Class of 2016 will go on to further education; **97%** will have earned a Regents Diploma this year.
- **Corinne Caminske, Sean Caraher, Mark Martucci** and **Brian Williams** were recognized for their *anticipated U.S. military service*.
- Our **Visual Arts** seniors had a tremendous year: **Cory Levy** and **Paige Liskiewicz** participated and won in competitions and/or scholarships.
- In our **Music Program**, three **NYSSMA ALL-STATE** musicians— **Alex Jones, Joseph Panzarino, and Savannah Votino**, and three **ALL-NATIONAL** musicians— **Jillian Brudi, Nicholas Burkel, and (Videographer) Sean McNally** were recognized locally, throughout the county, state, and nation. Congratulations to all of our award-winning performing groups and musicians.
- In our **Theatre Arts Program**, the Class of 2016 played an instrumental role over the last four years. Eight seniors have been inducted into the Sayville Players Honour Troupe and ten seniors have won national drama awards.
- I would like to seize this opportunity to wish three members of our high school staff and faculty well as they enter retirement. They are: **Andy Giammalvo, Vivianne Petratos** and **Barbara Nintzel**. Thank you for your combined, **60 years of service**.

• In the arena of **Interscholastic Athletics**, **21 of 29 varsity teams were Scholar-Athlete Teams**. We had a tremendous year in that we have won individual and/or team championships as evidenced by:

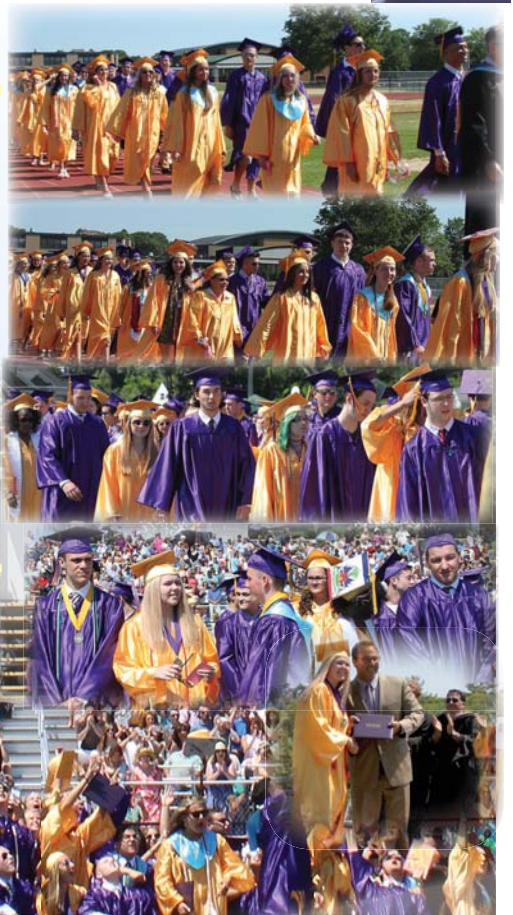
• **SEVEN League/Division Championships: Girls Swimming/ Diving, Boys Swimming/Diving, Football, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Baseball, and Softball**

• **THREE Suffolk County Champions: Football, Girls Swimming/Diving, and Girls Golf**

• **ONE Long Island Champion: Football**

*We have twenty Division 1, 2, or 3 student-athletes from the Class of 2016 who have earned athletic commitments from a college or university.*

• **High School Service Organizations** have, once again, served our community by giving back to our community and other local, national, and worldwide communities. Congratulations to all of our service organizations for your commitment in addressing the needs of others throughout our local and global communities!



# Moving-Up

## Cherry Avenue

Principal Dr. Lisa Ihne welcomed everyone to the 2016 Cherry Avenue Moving-Up ceremony which marked the “end of a chapter and the beginning of a new one” and which celebrated past accolades and anticipated future accomplishments. “It has been a privilege to know the students and serve as their principal,” Dr. Ihne said. “They are a well-mannered, hardworking, and compassionate group of students, well prepared for the next phase in their education. I have enjoyed getting to know each and every one...and as much as we would like to keep them longer, it is time for them to move on to the Middle School.”

Thanking all the parents for their trust and for being part of their children’s education, Dr. Ihne recognized those parents who were moving up as well. “Congratulations to those parents as you move on; it has been a pleasure having you as a part of our Cherry Avenue family.”

After announcing, “we are proud of you. You will be missed,” Dr. Ihne introduced Middle School Principal Mr. Thomas Murray, who assured the incoming Sixth-graders they will enjoy the Middle School experience. This was followed by the presentation of the special awards, Moving-Up Certificates (see below), and the Annual Fifth-grade Class Gift, a “Buddy Bench”—to promote friendships—presented by the Fifth-grade Committee.

Before the ceremony closed, the entertainment included a delightful slideshow prepared by the parents, followed by two musical numbers *Walk With Me* and *Five Years Old* (a paraphrased and retitled version of *Seven Years* by Lukas Graham) written and directed by Kristi Woerner, Cherry Avenue Music teacher.

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.)

## Sunrise Drive

Moving-Up ceremony at Sunrise Drive began as it has for many years, with the students singing *Sunrise Drive You Are the One*, composed and directed by Mrs. Baron. This time, however, after fourteen years as Sunrise Drive Principal, the retiring Rose Castello welcomed the students and guests for one last time. Mrs. Castello recalled, “they were “bright-eyed kindergarteners... [who] soon learned that Sunrise Drive was a safe, and often exciting, place to learn and grow. They have made many friends, grown physically and emotionally, and learned what they need to know to move on to Middle School.”

After Middle School Principal Tom Murray assured the students they would quickly adapt to the new building and changing classes, recognition was given to the Fifth-graders who achieved excellence in academics and physical fitness (see lists below on page 7).

In prefacing additional student recognition, Mrs. Castello remarked, “Anyone who knows me, knows I love baseball. I was a young child when Jackie Robinson played for the NY Dodgers, his impact on not only the sport but the nation was tremendous. He was an amazing example of good character. He once said, ‘A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.’ Good character has long been a hallmark of students at Sunrise Drive.” Mrs. Castello followed by extolling the good works accomplished by Sunrise Drive including: collecting food for Thanksgiving and LI Cares, creating anti-bullying posters for our hallways, mailing packages to our soldiers, visiting the Arbor Assisted Living facility and planting flowers in the courtyard, raising over \$2,000 to help build two water wells in Liberia to provide clean drinking water for school children, as well as donating funds to a variety of charitable organizations.

These students, your children, have made a difference! A difference here at Sunrise Drive, in Sayville, and to people they may never meet.... Our goal this year at Sunrise was to spread kindness one child at a time. As Aesop once said, ‘No kindness no matter how small is ever wasted.’ We are very proud of our students who have demonstrated such kindnesses and we know

Continues on page 7.



### List of Fifth-grade 2015-2016 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

(top) CA New York State Comptroller • Michael

#### Cherry Avenue

#### ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Brendan Cameron  
Jordan Carpentieri  
Sean Connolly  
Robert Desjardins  
Shannon Feather  
Benjamin Flaumenhaft  
Ava Gustafson  
Emma Haas  
Amanda Kleinman  
Calla Kolar  
Riley Lapine  
Alex Lepping  
Ava C. Niggemeier  
Abigail Noack  
Gavin Noone  
Michael Pitre

#### SILVER AWARDS

Madison Anderson  
Joseph Byrne  
Evan Carman  
Erica Dookram  
Isabel Egan  
Jason Frontino  
Lauren Gosse  
Kylie Hanna

Olivia Henke  
Ryan Hillery  
Taylor Hoss  
Dominick Lettieri  
Emily Langhan  
Julia Lynch  
Jacqueline McDonnell  
Braden McNamara  
Christopher Mulligan  
Griffin Perez  
Nicholas Rampulla  
Olivia Redden  
Erin Reilly  
Griffin Riggins  
Charlie Strittmatter

#### FITNESS AWARD GOLD

Owen Burke 3rd yr  
Joseph Byrne  
Jordan Carpentieri  
3rd yr  
Sasha Gagnon  
Ava Gufstason  
Taylor Hass  
Calla Kolar  
Julia Lynch  
Kylie Panasuk

Olivia Redden  
George Vadyak  
George Wessels 2nd yr

#### SILVER

Madison Anderson  
Brendan Cameron  
Kylie Carrao  
Daniel Connesrto  
Asher DeVerna  
Erica Dookram  
Isabel Egan  
Shannon Feather  
Sam Fiore  
Jason Frontino  
April Gidden  
Lauren Goss  
Kylie Hanna  
Olivia Henke  
Ryan Hillery  
Mia Kassman  
Amanda Kleinman  
Emily Langhan  
Riley Lapine  
Ava Leach  
Dominick Lettieri  
Jacqueline McDonnell

Braden McNamara  
Michael Milo  
Lauren Minasian  
Christopher Mulligan  
Ava Niggemeier  
Abigail Noak  
Abbey O'Connell  
Marina Pattilio  
Michale Pitre  
Nicholas Rampulla  
Erin Reilly  
Griffin Riggins  
Green Risner  
Benjamin Sands  
Robert Sinacori  
Kendal Squicciarini  
Colin Stagg  
Charlize Strittmatter  
Jackson Tomforde  
Juliet Tunney  
Robert Walker

(right) Cameron Riccomini Scholarship Award • Kylie Corrao

Pitre, Gavin Noone, Asher DeVerna, Jordan Carpentieri  
(above left) CA County Legislature Presiding Officer • Amanda Kleinman  
(above middle: l-r) CA Triple “C” • Griffen Perez, Riley Lapine  
(above right) Executive Public Service Award • Benjamin Flaumenhaft



(far left:l-r) Kemper Awards • Ava Gustafson, Sean Connolly

(left) Cherry Good Choice Award • Evan Carman

(below right) Suffolk Zone Award • Kyle Panasuk, Olivia Henke



## Sunrise Drive Moving-Up Continues from page 6.

they will continue to make a difference in the lives of others.”

As the ceremony continued, specific awards from local politicians were given. This was followed by the classroom teachers calling their students by name, one at a time, so each could stand and be recognized. For musical entertainment, the students sang *Hello*, paraphrased for the occasion and *Try Everything*, directed by Music Teacher Amy Baron.

In closing, Mrs. Castello first thanked the parents for their support and then addressed her students, citing Michael Jordan, Hank Aaron, and the Beatles as examples of people who reached their goals, and urged the fifth-graders to “Never, Never, Never Give Up.” After acknowledging the team of teachers and staff for their significant contributions in providing an education of excellence at Sunrise Drive, Mrs. Castello wished her students well with, “Have a wonderful summer!”



(above, l-r) **SD Suffolk County NY State Comptroller** • Olivia Paschetta, Paige Weber; **SD Triple “C”** • Robert Zane, Anna Meserve; **SD Executive Public Service Award (Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone)** • Sara Jaklitsch; **SD Suffolk Zone** • Clare Smith, Jack Rubino; **SD County Legislature Presiding Officer** • Maya Guacci

## Lincoln Avenue

After greeting families, friends, administrators, and guests for the 2016 Moving-Up ceremony at Lincoln Avenue, Principal Dr. Michele LeBlanc addressed the students, who had shared “approximately 1,099 days” of school at Lincoln, remarking on a particular memory she had of this class six years ago.

“Girls and boys, I clearly recall your spectacular performance as kindergarteners, entitled *What I Learned in Kindergarten*. My personal favorite number you sang that day was entitled, *I’m Curious*. **Curiosity** is defined as **‘eager to learn or know something.’** The lyrics of the song you sang six years ago still ring true...*I want to understand every word I’ve heard, and know the names of every bug and bird... Every day I am even more and more and more and more curious than the day before.*”

Encouraging the students to remain curious because it leads to discovery and innovation, Dr. LeBlanc recounted: “As history shows us, people, out of curiosity, have crafted new inventions and stumbled upon discoveries by accident. During the last six years at Lincoln Avenue, you have made continuous discoveries. These discoveries cannot occur without a



prepared mind. Girls and boys, you have prepared your mind for the challenges ahead. Your curiosity combined with your prepared mind is what it takes!”

Dr. LeBlanc concluded with another quote by an ingenious man, Walt Disney, who stated: “*We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we are curious and it is curiosity that keeps leading us down new paths.*”

Her parting words urged the students to “remember your kindergarten song. Keep it close, and continue to be *‘more and more curious than the day before.’* Best wishes to you as you take this next step in your lives.”

The celebration continued with Middle School Principal Tom Murray offering assurances about Middle School, Dr. LeBlanc acknowledging the “graduating” Lincoln parents for their six years of support, and thanking the PTA, SEPTA, and Site-Based Team volunteers for their countless hours of service. Students representing each Fifth-grade class (*Michela Scoleri, Liam Higgins, Erin Marshall, Vincent Bonfanti*) read their insightful essays about their years at Lincoln. Music teacher Christine Cirillo directed members of the Fifth-grade Chorus, who sang *Child of Tomorrow*, and the concluding number *We’re Moving Up* which was sung by the entire class.



## List of Fifth-grade 2015-2016 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

### Sunrise Drive

#### ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Martino Albanese  
Emily Andersen  
Margaret Brown  
Giovanna Calicchio  
David Christiansen  
Olivia Desiderio  
Maya Guacci  
Samantha Hmelovsky  
Theodore Hynes  
Ian Maksimiak  
Anna Meserve  
Chloe O’Connell  
Clare Smith  
Taylor Totevski  
Paige Weber  
Julie Weisenberger

#### SILVER AWARDS

Molly Giordano  
James Miller  
Devyn Petruzzelli  
Kristen Tellier  
Emma Yasinski  
Robert Zane



Police dog Zane, named in honor of Bobby Zane’s father, an NYPD police officer who passed away, attended the Sunrise Drive Moving Up with officers from the NYPD.

#### FITNESS AWARD GOLD

Amanda Anderson  
Tyler Woong-Hee Bickerton  
Angelina LaFroschia  
Anna Meserve  
Julie Weisenberger

### Lincoln Avenue

#### ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Ethan Alcantara  
Daniel Ayrovainen  
Sara Blaskiewicz  
Serena Buono  
Adam Burgardt  
Madeline Gibbons  
Joseph Handler  
Liam Higgins  
Grace McCavanaugh  
Erin Marshall  
Austin Meyer  
Noorma Mokarram  
Karishma Patel  
Aiden Rueb  
Mia Santana  
Benjamin Verdone

#### TIMOTHY ZELINSKI

#### SILVER AWARDS

Gabrielle Basil  
Sophia Bertsch  
Vincent Bonfanti  
Madison Cremen  
Scarlett Ferraioli  
Lauren Jones  
Ryan Karman  
Ryan Leniac  
Kieran McCullough  
Emma Muller  
Benjamin Pierce  
Gavin Powers  
Kaylin Rutherig  
Gracelyn Sarni  
Michela Scoleri

#### FITNESS AWARD

Names will be available online in the fall of 2016.



### PHOTOS

(above left) **Triple “C”** • Madison Cremen, Natalie Jones, Grace McCavanagh

(above right) **New York State Comptroller**

• Mia Santana, Kelsey Restivo

(below) **County Legislature Presiding Officer**

• Brianna Adams, Ethan Alcantara



# MIDDLE SCHOOL Class of 2016 MOVES UP

As the Seventh-grade Orchestra played the march, the Middle School Class of 2016 filed into the auditorium. Once all two hundred thirty members of the eight-grade class had assembled, the program opened with the National Anthem, powerfully sung *a capella* by a very talented Nicolette Furno (left) whose performance raised thunderous cheers and applause from the audience.



Principal Thomas Murray welcomed everyone to the celebration that recognized “the accomplishments of your children. They have exhibited outstanding academic discipline and personal integrity.”

Along with enumerating the class statistics (see below), he praised them for their outstanding attributes. “As Eighth graders, you have more opportunities at your fingertips . . . Technology has evolved at a rate that I could have never imagined. When I was in middle school, a typewriter was considered new technology.” He reminded the students of the responsibility and consequences of this new technology, stating, “It is how you use this

**STATISTICS** In this new era of academic rigor, the Moving-Up Class of 2016 has risen to the challenges and have excelled. Out of 230 students:

- 87 students took the Algebra Regents; 50% with a mastery rate—100% passed.
- 94 students took the Living Environment Regents; 87% with a mastery rate—100% passed.
- 220 (96% of the class) students have met the requirements for a high school foreign language credit.
- 65 students have taken and passed the High School *Studio in Art Class*, which is 28% of the class.
- 96% of the Class is leaving with 1 High School Credit
- 41% of the Class is leaving with 2 High School Credits
- 38% of the Class is leaving with 3 High School Credits

technology that counts. Will you use this technology to spread kindness and raise people up or will you use this technology to insult people and bring them down. It is *how* you treat people that will have the greatest impact on the world. You have the power of the technology and you have the power to change people’s lives for good. I have the utmost confidence based on what I’ve seen and heard over the last three years that you will choose to raise people up. You will choose to make people’s lives brighter.”

Quoting Ronald Reagan: “*Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation.*” Mr. Murray explained, “You will have opportunities beyond anything we’ve ever known. Sacrifices have been made by the generations before you to give you these opportunities. Remember those that have and those that continue to sacrifice so that you may have a world of endless opportunities.”

In closing, Mr. Murray thanked the students for three wonderful years. “Your foundation for success has been built by your hard work and the support of your parents and teachers.” Directing the students to stand and face their parents, Mr. Murray congratulated “the Moving-up Class of 2016 and the future graduating Class of 2020!”

## THE ARTS

- Our Music Program has competed around the country. NYSSMA students performed solos receiving top honors. One student was selected to represent Sayville in the *Long Island String Festival*. Eleven students were selected to be part of the SCMEA All-County band/chorus/orchestra groups. Thirteen students achieved an A-plus rating, the highest rating, for their NYSSMA solo. Three musicians received SMBA grants. One student received a LISFA scholarship. The music department participated in a practice-athon, raising over \$700 for the Harry Chapin Food Pantry.

## ATHLETICALLY

- Our teams have competed hard and have enjoyed success. There have been many undefeated seasons as well as Section XI Sportsmanship Award winners.

## 2015-2016 8th-GRADE DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS



- ALGEBRA** Samir Patel
- ART 8** Hailey Decker
- Studio in Art** Arden DeCano
- BAND** Anthony Ward
- CHORUS** Shaun Gibbons
- COMPUTERS** Tyler Karpowicz
- CONSUMER/FAMILY SCIENCE** C.J. Burghardt
- ENGLISH** Lilia Bartolotta
- FRENCH** Catherine Doyle
- LIFE SCIENCE** Tara Donohue
- LIVING ENVIRONMENT** Connor Brennan
- MATHEMATICS 8** Taylor Maddy
- ORCHESTRA** Caitlin Reilly
- PHYSICAL ED. (BOYS)** Brock Murtha
- PHYSICAL ED. (GIRLS)** Mary Vermilyea
- SOCIAL STUDIES** Steven Devery
- SPANISH** Angela Earvolino
- TECHNOLOGY** Harry Berg
- Cameron Riccomini Scholarship** Bailey Lillis
- Erin Halliday-Duffy Sunflower Scholarship** Eric Antos, Lilia Bartolotta, Shaun Gibbons, Isabella Harris, Nicholas Ryan
- NYS Attorney Triple C Award** Caitlin Reilly & Pablo Abad-Herrera
- SC Executive Award** Lilia Bartolotta
- NYS Comptroller’s Achievement Award** Mary Vermilyea & Alexa Vargas

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- For the past three years, we have had over 200 Presidential Community Service Winners – serving 20,000 hours of community service
- You raised money to beat cancer, support our soldiers, feed and clothe the needy, and collect toys, making Christmas a little brighter.

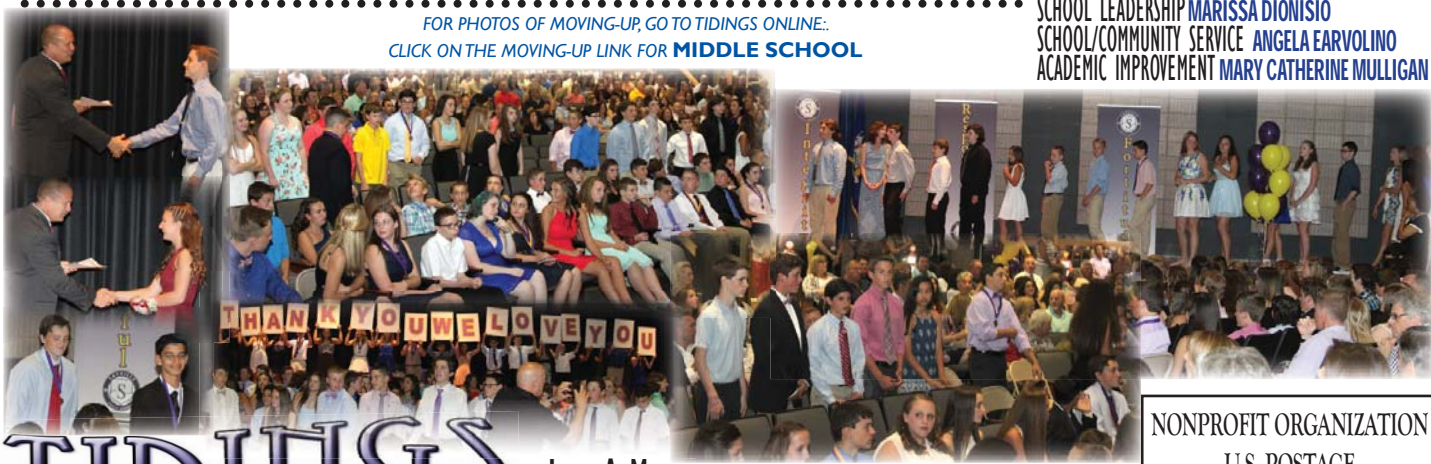
You have an impressive resume of accomplishments. Wherever you have traveled as a class you have always have made people feel welcomed and loved. You have shown compassion, courage, shared your joy, and have exhibited integrity. This will be your legacy at SMS.

## PTA AWARDS

- GIRLS SPORTSMANSHIP** BAILEY LILLIS
- BOYS SPORTSMANSHIP** KEVIN GROSS
- SCHOOL LEADERSHIP** MARISSA DIONISIO
- SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SERVICE** ANGELA EARVOLINO
- ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT** MARY CATHERINE MULLIGAN

FOR PHOTOS OF MOVING-UP, GO TO TIDINGS ONLINE:

CLICK ON THE MOVING-UP LINK FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL



**TIDINGS**  
FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DR. WALTER F. SCHANTNER,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
99 Greeley Avenue  
Sayville, New York 11782

LINDA A. MITTIGA  
SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER & DISTRICT WEBSITE EDITOR  
\*\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*\*\*

Postal Customer

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