

"THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS"

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Summer 2014

DR. WALTER F. SCHARTNER SUPERINTENDENT OF SAYVILLE SCHOOLS

TIDINGS

FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



TRUE COLORS IN CLASS OF 2014

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Sayville's Commencement for the Class of 2014 was held on Saturday, June 28th, at 10 a.m., on a clear day under a blazing summer sun. Even so, most "kept their cool" for the sake of the graduates who were celebrating their final hours at Sayville High School.

Enthusiastic graduates, led by Sayville Administrators and Board members, began their procession from the high school, unfurling like ribbons of purple and gold, across the green stretch of lawn and onto the red track toward the football field as the crowd of relatives and friends cheered and whistled. Processing along with the 245 graduates were more than 100 Alumni (one Alumnus was from 1938) participating in the Annual Alumni Walk.



During the ceremony, speakers shared insights, comic anecdotes, and a few sight gags to liven up the morning ceremonies. After the diplomas were awarded, a brief visit by Senator Chuck Schumer was followed by Principal Ronald Hoffer's final words of appreciation, and then the graduates' purple and gold mortarboards sailed upward against a cobalt blue sky.

Still showing their "True Colors" as graduating seniors, (a class theme developed during their Middle School Frost Valley Trip in 2009), the Class of 2014 had continued their "chain reaction" of paying it forward with kindness, service, and support throughout their High School careers.

MUSICAL Interludes After the processional was played by the Sayville High School Band, directed by Mr. Andy Giammalvo, Senior members of the High School Jazz Choir—**Kurt Caminske, Benjamin Diehl, Liam Hofmeister, Gabrielle Kalomiris, Julia Magnani, and Katya Sparwasser**—blended their seasoned *a capella* voices to sing *The Star-Spangled Banner*. As a special tribute to her class, **The Patricia Ann Kubelle Memorial Award-Winning** vocalist **Gabrielle Kalomiris** gave an absolutely exquisite performance of Billy Joel's *Vienna*, paraphrasing in closing: "When will you *re-a-lize*, Sayville waits for you!" After the thunderous applause, Mr. Hoffer remarked, "My guess, Gabrielle, if Billy Joel were here, he would say WOW!" (To see the video of Commencement, including Gabrielle's performance, go to the sayvilleschools.org/TIDINGS ONLINE.) The Seniors also closed with **God Bless America**, directed by Karen DiMartino and accompanied by the Band.



(right) Sayville Superintendent Dr. Walter Schartner marched with Principal Ron Hoffer, Assistant Superintendent for Business John J. Belmonte, Special Education Director Peter Branscombe, B.O.E. President John Verdone, Vice President Thomas Cooley, trustees Keith Kolar, Norm deVenau, Raymond J. Nelson, while (above) Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dr. John Stimmel led the Alumni Walk.





Superintendent of Sayville Schools, Dr. Walter F. Schartner greeted members of the Board of Education, administrators, teachers, staff, distinguished guests, alumni, parents, grandparents, extended families, and “our very special Class of 2014. I welcome you and thank you for the honor to be part of this morning’s significant occasion and to share with you the next transition in your journey.”

SUPERINTENDENT OF SAYVILLE SCHOOLS DR. WALTER SCHARTNER

“ Sayville Superintendent Dr. Walter Schartner referred to his 66 years with the graduates as their Middle School Principal:

I have been fortunate to be part of **ALL THREE** of your transitions. This group will always hold a special place with me since you were my last group of 8th graders moving up to the high school.

As you move to the next chapter in your life at college, at work, or in the armed services, remember the important lessons of your 13 years of education. To give a different perspective to this advice, I came by the writings of Robert Fulghum in his book entitled, *All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten*, that attempts to put our collective futures in a proper perspective and I quote:

*“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, temptations, discouragement and opportunities, and you forget your teachers’ and/or administrators’ lessons, just try to remember Kindergarten. The rest will take care of itself.

To the Class of 2014, as you leave this ceremony this morning, on the path to your personal future, you have become a part of a great tradition, which are 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 to say thank you to those special people in your life. 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.

And when you go out into the world of opportunities... (Dr. Schartner held up framed T-shirts)...remember to **Show Your True Colors – you just might start a chain reaction!**

Good luck and may God bless you in all that you do!



CLASS OF 2014 SALUTATORIAN NICOLE DELGAUDIO THE 5 TOP THINGS I LEARNED IN HIGH SCHOOL

EXCERPTS BELOW. VISIT SAYVILLESCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS ONLINE FOR NICOLE’S FULL SPEECH, PHOTOS, AND VIDEO COVERAGE.



Welcoming and thanking everyone who gave guidance and support, Nicole admitted: “At the start of my senior year, I had never imagined that I would be standing on this podium today, speaking to you all. I couldn’t be more honored to have this opportunity. I know Mr. Hoffer shared in the surprise of finding out I was salutatorian. But, after the shock subsided was when I realized I had to make a speech at graduation, and anyone who knows how awkward I am, knows the struggle I face right now.”

After some procrastination and advice-seeking, Nicole spoke of “the top five things I’ve learned in high school.”

Number five: “...procrastination is the enemy. Whether it’s an art project, an English essay, Social Studies chapter assignments, or in my case, this speech, we’ve all told ourselves we’d never leave an assignment to the last minute again. But the next week we do it all, again....”

Number four: “...laugh through the stress. We’ve all had our ups and downs ...and I’ve found that laughter is the best cure. The best memories... laughing until your stomach hurts.... the best things about this class is the humor we have.... unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime.”

Number three: “...pursue what makes you happy. Put your heart into whatever makes you happy, ...it makes you happy for a reason.... We have aspiring athletes, musicians, thespians, artists, and scientists... What would the world be like without unique people, willing to follow their passions?...”

Number two: “...treasure the time you have.... We can’t go back in time, but we can fully immerse ourselves in the present. In the spirit of

Mr. Bennett’s mindfulness bell, take some time to think and be grateful for everything.... Make every day count, because I’m sure ten years from now we’re going to be wondering where the time has gone again.”

Number one: “...value the friendships and bonds you have. We’ve all been touched by some pretty amazing people on our journeys from kindergarten to now.... Whether... friends I’ve had for thirteen years, or friends I’ve made this year, you’ve all had a profound impact on me and shaped me into the person I am today.”

“...Friendships between classmates aren’t the only bonds that are valuable; I’ve learned so much from my teachers. ...we will remember those teachers who have taught us life lessons ...Or those teachers that know you better than you know yourself.... I never spoke a word the first half of the year [in Mrs. Psilakis’ class] unless forced to. Yet, she knew I was silently coming up with plans to take over the world. ...she pinpointed my ambitious personality. I’ll miss our awkward conversations and never forget how I could come to her for anything; college essay advice, advice on picking a college, this speech, and she would help me without fail.”

“...bonds with our families are probably the strongest. I can’t fail to mention my older brother Stephen, who definitely didn’t tell me to add him to my speech and express the positive influence he’s had on me throughout my whole life. (Ha). But seriously, I do owe some motivation to being in the same AP Psych class in 10th grade, and wanting to beat him on every test. Moreover, I have to thank my parents for being my number one supporters since day one. They have somehow dealt with me through all my stressed out, unpleasant moods. As cliché as it is, they really are my inspiration to succeed. As much as

I want to please myself, I want to please them as well. ...Nobody can get through life alone. I hope you all take the time to think about those people who’ve made your time...special...”

“It’s crazy to think that after all this time... this is only the beginning; the beginning of the rest of our lives... Some of us looking to become engineers, some of us looking to defend our country, some of us aspiring to be lawyers, some of us looking to end up right back in a high school teaching, etc. The one thing that I’ve had difficulty with, and that I want us all to do, is to embrace change.”

“This is your life... from this point on you have the ability to do whatever you want with it. ...In the words of Guevara, “*Let the world change you and you can change the world.*” I, like Señora Rizzo, thought the meaning behind this quote was especially fitting for us as graduating seniors.”

“And when you’ve embraced the changes and learned from others and experiences, you can make your mark on the world. Don’t ever stop following and fighting for what you believe in. I wish you all the absolute best in whatever paths you wish to take. But, we can always come home to Sayville, walk down Main Street, and see a familiar face. I hope, one day in twenty years, when I’m in the Starbucks in town... you can tell me all the amazing things you’ve done since this day. I am so proud to be graduating with the unquestionably amazing Class of 2014. We’re all going to do great things. Congratulations.... have a great summer!”



Imitating Senator Chuck Schumer, Liam began his animated address by greeting all present:

“

Good morning! I've come to our school's graduation for the past few years to help sell water, to burn in the sun, (as many of us are today) and to take notes from Senator Schumer and his presentation in case I was to ever be put in this speech-giving situation, and even though he isn't here

today, I think I've found the key to success. You see this speech here? (*rips up speech!*) (*whoa!*) That's what I think of it! Now that I've had my adrenaline rush of the day and enacted the sure-fire successful speech ritual, I will read to you *COPY NUMBER 2* of what I have prepared....

...I'm here to inform you today, the Class of 2014, that it's all over. That's right, done! Our time here is done, and after today, we're the *Class of it-doesn't-really-matter-anymore*.

The initial reaction may be a *Boohoo! Oh, no! High School is over!* But our passing is a strikingly beautiful, yet personally terrifying process. Every moment of our lives has led to now, our *literal* graduation. Every person, every place, and everything, has brought us here, to the now, and our impending future. Despite ...challenges..., we persevered with inner strength...the aid of those around us...we conquered these unique foes of adolescence. *We did it! Go us.*

However, what happens after today? Where do we go from here?Today, I'd like to share what I think may be the key to living for tomorrow, whilst valuing the past. *But I'll get to that later, because I've got a 5-minute slot to fill, and I'd hate to disappoint.*

...what do we want out of tomorrow? Truthfully, this is a dangerous question. I asked myself this question, say, mid March, and it led to a downward spiraling existential crisis where I had no idea whether I wanted to be an actor, a chemist, a writer, or a runaway, completely abandoning everything I've ever known. Even now, I still don't know, I mean, all I've ever been is the kid who was just good at studying. Personally I don't think that merits a speech, but I digress. This leaves me and us all, with a profound question with which to start. What do we want out of tomorrow?

I think that it's ok not to have that answer. I mean I'm 18. We're all 18, give or take a few of your summer birthdays. Given the miracles of modern medicine, we have a possible 80 years ahead of us. We're only 20 percent done! We may not know what we want to do with our lives yet, but that's ok....

What isn't ok, however, from here on out, is idleness. ...We can't wait for our wants of tomorrow to come to us, like watching from ashore as the ship named "Destiny" leisurely sails by. Some reality I need to share; that ship doesn't pull up. In fact, the only way we're getting on that ship is if we're *swimming* out into those

seas, *screaming* for it to throw down a ladder and *climbing* aboard. Some may call you a pirate for stealing that boat, but I'd like to call you *proactive* for *steering your own destiny*.

...We must be fighters for our fates, not simply commentators, always positing with *I wish's* and *Wouldn't that be great's* and not doing anything about it....I think we're all done with wishing, ready to seize the day. *Did I just mention Carpe Diem? Oh man!*

The hardest question, though, is how do we go forth and seize the day. I think we're all a bit inexperienced in that respect, so I've come up with my own core tenets, a threefold path to breathing tomorrow and leaving an impact on this world. Everything I'm about to say is completely opinionated and subjective, so value it as you may.

Step one in making tomorrow yours is go forth and be happy. This may seem to be a given, but it's often forgotten in materialism. Money, luxury, and social status all get in the way of this basic human need in being fulfilled. If money were no object, if we didn't want the nicest car, and if we didn't need to prove anything to anyone, with what are we left? We're left to find happiness, for no one else but ourselves. But it's not that simple, you may say. How do we find what makes us happy?

...Despite common belief, this school is not our prison; it is our gateway to personal realization. We were all here to discover what appeals to us and what doesn't. ...

But the learning curve doesn't end at graduation. Life is a school, and we're lucky enough to be presented with completely customizable, real-world learning experience, where we can do anything we want. We can be, anything we want. Each of us can start our own business, write a book, become a Chilean alpaca farmer, or not. No one has the right to tell us no anymore. Our lives are finally completely self-directed. We are now bestowed with the freedom to go forth with what makes us happy, or at least try to find what it is that makes us happy. We can't waste it.

The **second step** on the path in my *Carpe Diem* guide is limited by our time period. Although we may have it easy, ...We have no *Great War*, we have no *Great Depression*. Our war now becomes a spiritual war, and that just makes our challenge that much more important and rewarding.

So, I challenge us all, after being happy, to go forth and be great. Be a person who everyone would want to know. Someone interesting, someone exciting, someone willing to face the world before them. Every person who has or ever will be born possesses the potential to be extraordinary, because there is no one like you. You are unique. You have the potential for greatness. **Prove it.**

But how do we become extraordinary? How do we become great? It's easy, really. Once you know what makes you happy, commit yourself to it. Commit yourself to something, and reach your

full potential. Leave a mark in your field, be a revolutionary, do it like no one has ever done before. If in nothing else, be great in what you love. And then, after that, find a new love, and do it all over again. We'll want to turn, and just say to anyone: "*Wow. This is cool.*" But what if we turn, and no one is there? Was any of this, aspiring for happiness, aspiring for greatness, really worth it then?

Here is the final and most important **step three** to making tomorrow ours; on our way to the top, we must go forth and love. I've always put the greatest stock in interpersonal relations, and truthfully, what is the point of living, without someone to love? I've told you all that you better find something, an activity or occupation that makes you happy and great to reach the uppermost potential of life, but it can be a lonely, myopic road to the top, and friendship is the single most valuable thing in this world that makes it all worth it in the end. Because who's going to be there with us when our luck turns bad? What happens when we are not so happy? What happens when we are not so great? I can tell you that the purported "Go forth" attitude sure isn't enough to pull us through sometimes. So what's left for us? Who will keep our heads held high and legs a-moving when life becomes too much to bear?

A friend. Maybe like many of the friends we have here, amongst this crowd of shared experience. Stay in touch. Keep a smile on your face and an open ear. Break down boundaries, and forge friendships. Who knows when you may need one?

Now it's over, Class of 2014, or should I say *Class of it-doesn't-really-matter-anymore*. We step away from this life into another, where the titles of yesterday are no longer important. All that matters is how we make the next day ours. Strive to be happy, strive to be great, and maybe make a friend or two along the way. Make each passing day more important, more fulfilling, and more joyous than the last. Go forth and leave a history, leave an impact, and have a little bit of fun on the way. It's our time. Make tomorrow count, because each of you is unique.

And me?

Well, I was just pretty good at studying. Congratulations, my friends! Step into tomorrow!

”



Before announcing the Board of Education President, Principal Hoffer welcomed the Alumni, which represent graduating classes from our high school from 1938 through 2013. "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

“What a beautiful day! The past thirteen years have gone by in the blink of an eye. Your parents have saved your finger paintings that you made in kindergarten. They have proudly displayed on your refrigerator, the “A” you received on your first spelling test. They will remember the science project you worked so hard on in elementary school. Your first Middle School dance and the late nights you studied for your Math and English finals.

They will remember the band and chorus practices, opening night for the plays and musicals and the games that were won and the ones that were not.

I have been given the opportunity to speak to the Sayville Class of 2014, and to be honest with you, each time I have been given the honor to speak at Commencement, I struggle with what words to say. But, what I did find out, never ask your teenage daughter.

For my first draft I did have a couple of great quotes, the military to protect the freedoms we all value all so much. from Mark Twain, Helen Keller and stories of my life experiences, but I'm not going to use any today. So no quotes, no stories of my life experiences. Today is about each of you. In front of your family, friends and classmates, we will recognize each of you for your hard work and dedication that bring all of us together today.

Shortly each of your names will be called and you will walk up here and receive your High School Diploma. Another milestone in your lives, and then you'll be on your way.

A new beginning.

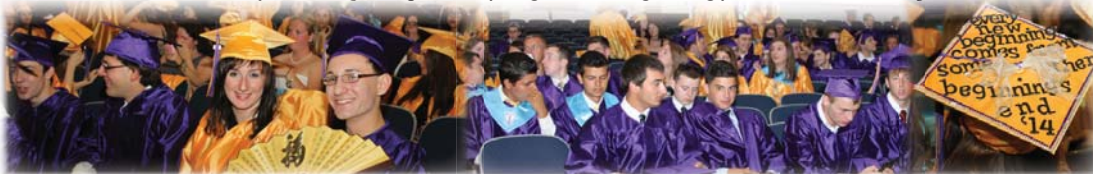
A journey of unlimited possibilities of what to make of your future, our future, a future we now entrust to each of you with the unlimited possibilities in your search to where life may lead you.

And as a parent of a child that is serving our country in the United States Coast Guard, THANK YOU, to the young adults sitting among you that will be entering

the military to protect the freedoms we all value all so much.

In closing, I do have one favor to ask, whatever path you take, please take time and spend it with family and friends, and take time to laugh.

On behalf of the Sayville Board of Education, congratulations to each and every one of you!



CLASS OF 2014 PRESIDENT MICHAEL FARESE LET THE PEACOCKS FLY

EXCERPTS BELOW. VISIT SAYVILLESCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS ONLINE FOR MICHAEL'S FULL SPEECH, PHOTOS, AND VIDEO COVERAGE.



After greeting everyone present, 2014 Class President Michael Farese congratulated his fellow graduates in the **Response for the Class:**

After four years of high school and twelve years of rigorous schooling, today officially concludes the reign of the Class 2014.

This couldn't have been possible without the help of so many people... **parents**... these wonderful people always encouraging us and pushing us to do better; I can guarantee that many of the us would be on the outside of the fence today...our **class advisors** Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Feeley, and Mr. Shaw. Three amazing human beings. Throughout our four years here at Sayville High School they were always there to help... did it all... scheduling fundraisers, finding volunteers, working the concession..., building floats, helping me write this speech, scheduling prom, (which was fantastic)... Not only did I realize, after a year of working with them, that they were **immortal**, ...there were few people who cared about us more than our class advisors...we are blessed to have some of the most caring and hardworking **faculty**... One person...is a "teacher" who has been with us the whole way...the one and only Mr. Ferremi. Most of us first encountered this legend when he was a student teacher in the middle school, ever since then it has been hard to get rid of him. Even though, technically, he is still just a substitute teacher, he has been one of the most influential people this class has encountered. Mr. Ferremi was always there to help and support us. Now can you imagine if he was a **FULL-TIME** teacher? (Michael hinted with an obvious smile.)

...last but not least I'd like to thank the students. I had the honor of representing the Best Senior Class in Suffolk County, on Long Island, in New York, in the United States, and in the world! It was twelve years ago that we began our

educational journey which would lead us to today. It would lead us to the end but also to a new beginning.... Elementary and Middle school are now a distant memory,.... the past four years we have been through... Regents and AP exams, ...missing school due to hurricanes...equipped with the tools to succeed. Some of you may ask, 'Michael, where do we go from here?' Well, I had the honor of being president of such a unique and distinguished class that set the precedent and raised the standard of excellence for future classes. And to the Class of 2014, the time has finally come... to pass our torch of leadership to the underclassmen; it was time for us to take it to the next level, it's time to finally *let the peacock fly!!!*

...in life we have three types of people: **People who GET things done, people who WATCH things get done, and people who WONDER what just happened!**

As a class we must strive to accomplish the unaccomplishable, we must learn to accept life's challenges and learn to ride them like it was a wave. **Ride them right into the warm summer beach of success:** • We must follow the example of ambition set by **Tyler Cutrone**, who, during his senior year, ran his own business, got his pilot's license, and still managed to find the time to put all the guys to shame with his prom invitation. • We must all demonstrate the commitment of **Jarrett Meyer**, who left Sayville High School every day, and made the journey to New Jersey for ice hockey training. • Our example of selflessness is **Mary Kate Montemagno**, who managed to have near-perfect first-period attendance during her senior year, even when she was pulling two overnight

shifts a week as a community ambulance volunteer. • Bravery? Look no further than

Donaldo and Anthony Ruiz, who arrived in Sayville three years ago with almost no English skills, and graduate today as two of the most popular, beloved members of our class. • We must show the resourcefulness of **Meghan Marshall**, who worked in the concession stand every football game and, every year, managed to get the soundtrack to our homecoming skit to play over the football field sound system. • And how about our Valedictorian, **Liam Hofmeister**, who spent countless hours working on his solar project, all so he could win a trip to Paris (the most romantic city on Earth) with his girlfriend.

As great as these individual accomplishments are, our achievements as a school this year have been equally impressive: • **8 varsity teams** were **Suffolk County finalists**, **6** became **Champions**; **5 All-State musicians**, our **FIRST Coca-Cola Scholarship Winner**, **Eagle Scouts**, **Congressional Award Winners**, and **3 classmates** who will answer the call of **military service**.

So, yes, this is a new beginning for all of us. It is a time for us to take full control of our lives and be self-motivated to achieve our dreams. In order to succeed we must remember this, "good, better, best." Never rest, until your good is better, and your better is the best. So you see, the Class of 2014 is going to have many opportunities in life, but no matter what you are going to be, I...I personally want you to be the best at it. So from here throughout life be the best at whatever you do. Because our future is so bright...(Michael and Grads put on sunglasses he supplied earlier.) That's right, Senior Class, our futures are **SO BRIGHT**, we have to wear shades. Thank you!



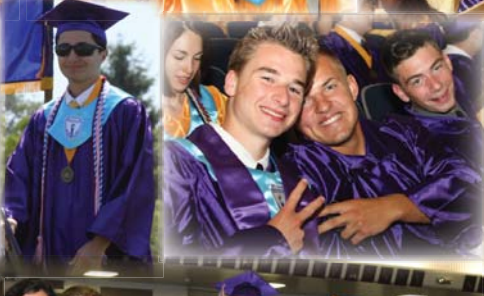
PRAISE FOR THE CLASS OF 2014 "OUTSTANDING IN ALL ENDEAVORS"

"Members of the Class of 2014 won significant honors, both individually and collectively, and have been tremendous representatives of our school and community," stated High School Principal Ron Hoffer before he briefly enumerated the following statistics:



- The graduates met and/or exceeded the academic standards: **95%** of the students in the Class of 2014 will go on to further education; **99%** will have earned a Regents Diploma this year.
- At the **40th Annual Scholastic Awards** Program, 77 deserving students received 111 awards. These recipients wore gold- or purple-ribbon medallions at graduation.
- So far, 146 students have received **academic or community scholarships that value well over 3.6 million dollars.** (The amount includes \$110,000 in scholarships and awards from local community organizations.) This list is incomplete since notification of more scholarships continue throughout the summer.
- **Kurt Caminske, Matthew Hewson, and Shannon Wissemann** were recognized for their **anticipated U.S. military service.**
- **Liam Hofmeister, Aneri Kinariwalla, Heather Leahy, Jennifer Lembeck, and Emily Nowlan** were **National Merit Scholarship Commended students.**
- Our **Visual Arts** seniors participated in ten juried shows: **Kara Stenberg and Emily Milano** were selected into the **Hecksher Museum Long Island's Best Youth Artist Juried Competition;** **Esra Erdogan** was awarded scholarships from Long Island University Advanced Visions, BAFFA, SAVA, and SMBA.
- In our **Music Program,** the **String Ensemble** participated at the **New York Philharmonic.**

- Three **NYSSMA All-State musicians—Robert Danzi, Heather Leahy, and Susan Mangaluz—**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,** our seniors participated in *Play On, The Glass Menagerie, South Pacific,* and six seniors produced and directed in the "36th Annual One-Act Plays." Five seniors earned the **U.S. Achievement Academy Award,** one senior received the **Thespian Circle Award,** and five others were inducted into the **Sayville Players Honour Troupe 2014.**
- In the arena of Interscholastic Athletics, **18 of 26 varsity teams were Scholar-Athlete Teams.** The following teams won **LEAGUE or DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS in BOYS: Soccer, Golf, and Football; GIRLS: Soccer, Volleyball, Golf, and Softball; SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS: BOYS: Soccer, Golf, and Volleyball; GIRLS: Soccer, Lacrosse, and Softball; LONG ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS: Boys Golf and Softball.**
- **High School Service Organizations,** (Student Government, Athletes Helping Others, Key Club, Anchor Club, Tri-M, Art Honor Society, Interact Club, SVEEP, SADD, History Club, and the National Honor Society) have once again served our community by giving back not only to local communities, but also worldwide.



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.)

Lincoln Avenue Moving-Up



Principal Dr. Michele LeBlanc welcomed the assembled students and guests to Lincoln Avenue's 2014 Moving-Up. After acknowledging the "graduating" Lincoln

parents for their six years of support, Dr. LeBlanc specifically thanked the special group of volunteers from the PTA, SEPTA, and Site-Based Team, who "have given countless hours to provide programs and improve our school."

"In Sayville schools we pride ourselves on academic rigor while building confidence in our students in order to develop the necessary skills to be heard positively and create change for the better." Dr. LeBlanc was proud to announce that "this group's progress measured by a number of data points in comparison with others is superior."



In addition, while honoring the retiring Jane Cozza, whose career had come full circle, Dr. LeBlanc extolled the qualities of the "circle" for its healing power, equality, unity, and completeness. Dr. LeBlanc encouraged the girls and boys "to hold on to that Kindergarten circle, make room in your circle, expand it, and this practice can enrich you as a person, enrich your community, and enrich your world." Dr. LeBlanc ended her



address by introducing Middle School Principal Thomas Murray.

During the ceremony, select Fifth-graders representing each class read personal essays about their shared experiences at Lincoln. Each student was called individually by their teachers to receive the Moving-Up certificate, followed by the naming of those students receiving special awards (*see list below*).

New this year was an especially entertaining dance routine to honor Mrs. Cozza, performed by a group of students (*wearing face masks of the administrators and staff members that included the honoree*), which had the audience laughing. Although the musical interlude was the sentimental favorite, *For Just a Little While*, the Moving-Up ceremony closed with an upbeat new musical arrangement (thanks to the cooperative efforts of Mrs. Cirillo and lyricist Mrs. Woerner) of Frozen's *Let It Go*, aptly re-titled *Let Us Go!*



Sunrise Drive Moving-Up



Opening this year's Moving-Up in their own Sunrise Drive state-of-the-art Cafeteria/Auditorium, the Fifth-graders sang the school song (composed by Mrs. Amy Baron), *Sunrise Drive You Are the One*, for the last time as Sunrise Drive students, which they had learned in Kindergarten.

In her Welcome, Principal Rose Castello first introduced Middle School Principal Thomas Murray, who greeted the future Sixth-graders with reassuring words. Mrs. Castello continued by proudly citing many good works performed by the students, especially noting: "This past year two young men came to me about collecting food for those less fortunate. Their initiative led to the collection of over 2,700 lbs. of food by the students at Sunrise Drive for LI Cares. Some other students sold bookmarks and bracelets outside of school and donated the funds to our Thanksgiving food baskets for local families."

"In October our students raised over \$15,000 for the American Heart Association during our annual Jump Rope for Heart. Many students daily supervise and assist in the safe arrival and dismissal of our students. Our student council members created birthday boxes for children and donated them to the Sayville Food Pantry. They also raised money and donated funds to Alex's Lemonade Stand for childhood cancer, The Theresa Foundation for children with special needs, FOCOS an orthopedic foundation, UNICEF and St. Jude."

List of Fifth-grade 2013-2014 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

Lincoln Avenue

ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Cameron Batterberry
Robert Burgos
Dean Gennosa
Joseph Golio
Adam Jones
Christian Jones
Conor McGrath
Sanjeeda Rahman
SILVER AWARDS
James Anderson
Kerri Gunther
Emily Hartman



Sarah Hauk
Sarah Kenney
Dylan Krinsky
Jack Cheshire
Caroline Crawford
Jacklyn DuTot
Dean Gennosa
Sarah Gover
Erin Henn
Adam Jones
Dylan Krinsky
Linda McAuliff
Julia Ayrovainen

Cameron Batterberry
Hannah Blaskiewicz
Jack Cheshire
Caroline Crawford
Jacklyn DuTot
Dean Gennosa
Sarah Gover
Erin Henn
Adam Jones
Dylan Krinsky
Linda McAuliff
Marcus Minutello

Jack Pierce
Brendan Rafferty
Dominique Rinaldi
Erin Schaefer
Tyler Schaefer
Noah Steil
George Werner
Elizabeth Yoskowitz
SILVER
Kristen Alexopoulos
Robert Burgos
Colin Caraher

Alec Cohen
Devon Coiro
Ethan Cooley
Phillip Downey
Brett Doxide
Nicholas Gibbons
Jenna Guerra
Emily Hartman
Sarah Hauk
James Herbst
Chloe Jeffares
Christian Jones

Sarah Kenney
Louis Maffetone
Rose Maizus
Aidan McCullough
Conor McGrath
Jacob Minerva
Skylar Morello
Giana Morrione
Kyle Pawloski
Hayley Pepe
Brian Tavoulaareas
Jose Scalogna

Matthew Yonkers
Christopher Zender
Katie Zender
Matthew Zender

(photo above, middle column; l-r) **Triple "C"**
• Dominique Rinaldi & County Legislature Presiding Officer
• Jenna Guerra, Colin Caraher

New York State Comptroller • Hannah Blaskiewicz, Sanjeeda Rahman (below)

Sunrise Drive

ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Kathryn Brady
Lainee Buck
Corinne Entenberg
Shannon Hanrahan
Ryan LaMar

Kaitlyn Menze
Brendan Meserve
Craig Messina
Alex Millwater
Jennifer O'Leary
Henry Pedisich
Max Petruzzelli
James Schuster Jr.
Brooke Wandelt

SILVER AWARDS
Zachary Battell
Rhyan Christiansen
Courtney Giattino
Kayla Huisman
Mallory Kinahan
Max Llewellyn
Marissa McGrath
Meghan McLaughlin,

Samantha Young
FITNESS AWARD GOLD
Craig Messina
Alex Millwater
(photos p7. l-r)
Suffolk County NY State Comptroller
• Emma Famularo

County Legislature Presiding Officer
• Nathan Perez
Triple "C"
• Michaela Re
Triple "R"
• Marvin Peralta

Executive Public Service Award (presented by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone) • Kevin Bunk





"These students, your children, have made a difference! A difference here at Sunrise Drive, in Sayville and to people they may never meet."

Prior to the presentation of certificates to all the Fifth-grade students by their classroom teachers, select students were named for specific awards (see p. 6. list below) followed by the musical interlude *When I Grow Up*.

Principal Castello also thanked the Sunrise Drive faculty for making a difference in the lives of their students.

Addressing her Fifth-graders for the last time, Mrs. Castello praised them for learning "much at Sunrise Drive; academically, socially and emotionally. You have grown and matured, ever moving forward toward independence. Many of you have demonstrated leadership, scholarship, character, citizenship and service to others. You are well-prepared for the challenges of Middle School. Although we don't know what jobs you will hold in the future, I know that you can critically think, evaluate, read, and write."

Once more, the music swelled as the students performed *These Years Were Ours* before they marched away amid tremendous applause.



(photo right) Suffolk County Executive Public Service Award (presented in person by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone) • Kevin Bunk



Cherry Avenue Moving-Up

After welcoming everyone to Cherry Avenue's Moving-Up ceremony, new Principal, Dr. Lisa Ihne, acknowledged that the special day marked the closing of another chapter and the beginning of a new one in the students' remarkable education.

"It has been a privilege to know the students and serve as their principal." Dr. Ihne continued, "As a Fifth-grade, they are bright, eager students, well-prepared for the next phase of their education. They have helped make my first year at Cherry enjoyable and a memorable one. I have really enjoyed getting to know each and every one of the students, and I must admit that they're one of the most respectful Fifth-grade groups I have ever met."

Dr. Ihne thanked the parents for sharing their children with the Cherry Avenue community, encouraged the students (as they grew older and faced new challenges) to keep communication open with their parents, and closed with heartwarming sentiments; "Believe in yourself the way I do, and nothing will be beyond your reach. Congratulations Fifth-grade class. We are so proud of you. You will be missed!"

After the Moving-Up students were presented to Middle School Principal Mr. Thomas Murray, who invited the Sixth-graders to visit the building over the summer, the Special Awards portion of the ceremony (see list below) as well as the awarding of certificates followed.

Musical interludes during the program included the students singing *Because of You*, written and directed by Kristi Woerner. The traditional class gift was a unique ornamental garden sculpture, presented on behalf of the parents by Fifth-grade Committee parents Lisa Walker and Jean Feather, while the slide show was a sentimental journey that amused everyone. Thanks to the special talents of music teacher Kristi Woerner, the students ended the Moving-Up ceremony with a moving performance of Frozen's *Let It Go* that had been cleverly paraphrased and re-titled *Let Us Go!*

(photos right) Representing NYS Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman at Cherry Avenue, Susan Connelly (a Sayville resident) presented the Triple "C"

Christina Guiffre & Emily Rosado for their commitments to better themselves, their school, their community, for their strength of character, and their remarkable courage.



(photo right) County Legislature Presiding Officer Award • Chloe McCormack-Faulk presented by Suffolk County Legislator William Lindsay III in honor of his late father.

List of Fifth-grade 2013-2014 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

Cherry Avenue

ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Tara Feather
Amber Gidden
Christina Guiffre
Cole Hansen
Angela Keane
Aidan Montalbine
Ryan Wilson

SILVER AWARDS

Nicholas Buffardi
Aidan Conroy
Jack Hanlon
Giavanna Kolczniski
Mary Madigan
Ariel Meza
Nicole Moccio
Jordan Milo
William Neuschwender
Jack Reinhardt
Emily Rosado

Katrina Schieck
Connor Tloczkowski
Grace Urmaza
FITNESS AWARD GOLD

Sebastian Berlingieri
Nicholas Buffardi
Cole Hansen
Alexis Hellman
Brooke Hoss
Ryan Santoro
Katrina Scheik
SILVER
Taylor Banks
Rebecca Brielmeier
Nathan Casaburi
Jaden Catalina
Shelby Cook
Aiden DeVerna
Rebecca Diehl
Justin Doucet
Marykate Goconnier
Katie Gozaloff

Regan Hillary
Giavanna Kolczniski
Ashley Luffman
Mary Madigan
Adreanna Martin
Liam McGlinchey
Steven Miller
Nicole Moccio
Aiden Montalbine
Christopher Neumeyer
Nicholas Pitschi
Jeanmarie Politoski
Scott Rea
Jack Reinhardt
Gianna Romano
Emily Rosado
Emily Steffens
Grace Urmaza
Lindsey Walker
Lucas Walters
Anna White
Shayan Yajadda

(right) Suffolk Zone Scholar-Athlete Award • Brook Hoss, Ryan Santoro

Cameron R Award (right) • Mary Madigan



Cherry Good Choice (left) • Ariel Miza



Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone Public Service Award (above) • Nicole Moccio



(above) NYS Comptroller • Taylor Banks, Giavanna Kolczniski, Grace Urmaza



(above) Marjorie Kemper (citizenship) • Angela Keane, Nicholas Buffardi

"Wonderful" Middle School CLASS OF 2014 Moves Up



Two Hundred sixty-one Eighth-graders processed into the auditorium for their Moving-Up Ceremony, while the Seventh-grade Orchestra played the march.



Once all had assembled, the program opened with the National Anthem, sung *a capella* by the gifted Dea Ahlgrim, followed by the outstanding Jazz Band performing Earth Wind and Fire's *In the Stone*, which included solo improvisations by accomplished Eighth-grade musicians. Each of these commanding musical performances



raised roars of approval and applause from the audience.

During his address, Principal Thomas Murray celebrated the accomplishments of the Moving-Up students, enumerated the class statistics (see below), and praised them for their outstanding attributes. "John Quincy Adams once said: *'If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.'* Your actions have and will continue to inspire others to dream more, learn more, and become more....Thank you for three wonderful years.... You are a wonderful class."

Mr. Murray concluded by having the students stand and face their parents. "You have learned well these past three years. Your foundation for success has been built, by your hard work and the support of your parents and teachers. You are ready to move on to the High School. Be kind to each other, treat each other well. Be there for one another. Congratulations!"

2013-2014 8th-GRADE DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

- ALGEBRA** Thomas Faughnan
- ART 8** Julia Hodgkinson
- Studio in Art** Emily Abrahall
- BAND** Olivia Harrison
- BIOLOGY** Amanda Wessels
- CHORUS** Zoe Rivera
- COMPUTERS** Nicole Sugarman
- CONSUMER/FAMILY SCIENCE** Joseph Razzano
- ENGLISH** Carleigh O'Donoghue
- FRENCH** Marnie Monahan
- LIFE SCIENCE** Noelle Dufrenoy
- MATHEMATICS 8** Victoria Geraci
- ORCHESTRA** Sean Haselton
- PHYSICAL ED. (BOYS)** James Lyons
- PHYSICAL ED. (GIRLS)** Jessica Smith
- SOCIAL STUDIES** Douglas Read
- SPANISH** Kathryn Donohue
- TECHNOLOGY** Cora Connolly
- Cameron Riccomini Scholarship** Ryan Wilson
- Erin Halliday-Duffy Sunflower Scholarship** Abigail Brown, Julia Hodgkinson, Ava McNevin, Carleigh O'Donoghue, & Lyla Patterson
- SC Executive Public Service Award** Hailey Keyser
- NYS Comptroller's Achievement** Christopher Castelli, Jenna Deignan, & Chloe Dymek

STATISTICS For the 2014 Class of 261 students ACADEMICALLY

- 93 students took & passed the Algebra Regents—36% scoring at mastery level.
- 100% passed the Integrated Algebra Exam—59% scoring at mastery level.
- 80 students took & passed the Living Environment Regents—90% scoring at mastery level.
- 100% pass rate on both of the Regents exams.
- 67 students took & passed the High School Studio in Art Class, which is 20% of the class.
- 90% of the Class is leaving with 1 High School Credit
- 36% of the Class is leaving with 2 High School Credits
- 26% of the Class is leaving with 3 High

School Credits

- 30% of the Class has maintained a 90 GPA for 11 marking periods.

THE ARTS

- Our Music Program has competed around the country. NYSSMA students performed solos receiving top honors. A student was selected to represent Sayville in the Long Island String Festival. Twelve students were selected for SCMEA All-County band/chorus/orchestra groups. Seven students were selected for the All-County Jazz festival. Twenty students achieved an A+s rating (the highest rank) at this year's NYSSMA solo festival. The music department participated in a *practice-a-thon* raising over \$1000 for the Harry Chapin Food Pantry.

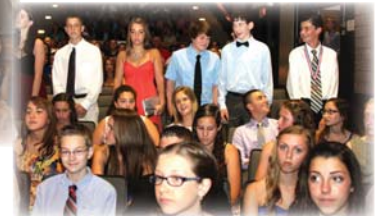
ATHLETICALLY

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

PTA AWARDS

- GIRLS SPORTSMANSHIP** MELANIE O'HOPPE
- BOYS SPORTSMANSHIP** NICK GONZALEZ
- SCHOOL LEADERSHIP** CODY BOSTINTO
- SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SERVICE** RYANN CONNOLLY
- ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT** PAUL WELCH

FOR PHOTOS OF MOVING-UP AND LIST OF 2013-2014 PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARD RECIPIENTS GO TO TIDINGS ONLINE: CLICK ON THE MOVING-UP LINK FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL



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