

"THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS"

District Newsletter  
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Summer 2013

DR. WALTER F. SCHARTNER  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SAYVILLE SCHOOLS



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(See Sayville School District website for full story and more photos.)

# TIDINGS

Class of 2013  
FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



## In Superlatives & Solidarity!

Just in time, the drenching rainstorms of the prior week dissipated, allowing the Sayville Class of 2013 Commencement Exercises to be held outdoors, as scheduled, on Saturday, June 22.

Under a gloriously beautiful morning sky, the audience raised hearty cheers and encouraging whistles in greeting as the Commencement procession entered the football field. Along with the Sayville Administrators, Board of Education, and Class of 2013 graduates, members of Alumni classes, some from 1947 to 2012, participated in the Annual Walk. Marching in the rear were "Teachers Who Made A Difference," nominated for this recognition by the graduates.

In their final hours as Sayville students, this accomplished class, known for its resiliency and courage, as well as one that was "MOST LIKELY TO COME TOGETHER" to help others, tossed their caps in jubilation, embraced each other joyfully and parted ways—to commence upon the next journey of their lives.



After the processional, the Sayville High School Band, directed by Mr. Giammalvo, played *The Star-Spangled Banner*, as the Senior members of the High School Jazz Choir, directed by Mr. Hoffman, sang. **Marissa Casazza, Matthew Iovino, Elizabeth Larkin, Shannon Lynch, Denise Natoli, Danielle Post, Jameson Rebholz, Christa Saracino, and Christian Savini** blended their voices in a moving performance of our National Anthem. The Seniors also closed with *God Bless America*, accompanied by the High School Band.



This year's vocal soloist and *Patricia Ann Kubelle Memorial Award Winner* was the melodious **Melina Guida** who beautifully performed *I Hope You Dance* with genuine feeling. Melina faced her fellow classmates to sing the last stanza and finished amid thunderous applause and cheers.



(photo below) Dr. Walter Schartner, Sayville Superintendent, marched with Principal Ron Hoffer, Assistant Superintendent for Business John J. Belmonte, BOE President Raymond J. Nelson,



Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Stephen Koepper, BOE VP John Verdone, Assistant Superintendent-Dr. John Stimmel, BOE Trustee Norm deVenau, retiring Deputy Superintendent Geraldine Sullivan Keck, followed by BOE trustees Thomas Cooley and Keith Kolar.



(above) Class Advisors Colleen Backer and Marie Sinclair



(above) Senator Schumer tore up his speech and succinctly wished the Class of 2013 well.





After Superintendent of Sayville Schools Dr. Walter F. Schartner greeted members of the Board of Education, administrators, teachers, distinguished guests, alumni, parents, grandparents, and extended families, he addressed the members of the Class of 2013: "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."

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SAYVILLE SCHOOLS DR. WALTER SCHARTNER**



**“** In May, *Newsweek* published a list of the top high schools in the nation for 2013. Out of 27,142 high schools in America, **Sayville High School is ranked 483, or in the top 1.8%.** This is a direct reflection of your academic success and the rigorous courses that you have chosen.

focus on that purpose, you will keep flying and avoid the **prickle-ly perch**. Stay connected with your teachers and your school. Your input is always welcome. We are always looking for ways to teach our students to fly farther and faster while avoiding the **hang-ups** and **bang-ups**.

...I would like to spend a few minutes to highlight your next step in life. To do that I will use the literature of one of my favorite authors on the 75th anniversary of his first publication, Dr. Seuss. This journey is described well in one of my favorite books written by him, **Oh, the Places You'll Go**. He states:

To the Class of 2013, 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. 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. Just ask the many alumni that have chosen to share your day by marching into the graduation. 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.

*"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go. You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care. About some you may say, I don't choose to go there. With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet, you're too smart to go down the not-so-good street...."*

*...I'm sorry to say so but, sadly, it's true that Bang-ups and Hang-ups can happen to you. You can get all hung up in a prickle-ly perch. And your gang will fly on. You'll be left in the Lurch.*

*Somehow you'll escape all that waiting and staying. You'll find the bright places where Boom Bands are playing. With the banner flip-flapping, once more you'll ride high! Ready for anything under the sky. Ready because you're that kind of guy!"*

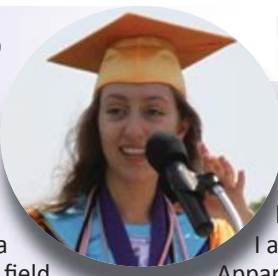
As you reflect on your educational journey at Sayville Public Schools, take the advice of Dr. Seuss. **'Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.'**

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! **”**



**REBECCA MONASTERO**

**“** As high school graduates today, we will be going off and leading very different lives in the coming years. We will have different majors, different goals, and different stories to tell. But at some point, most of us will come home to Sayville. Maybe we'll just pass through, or stop by a friend's house for a visit. Maybe we will return to this field to see a football game or come back to Sayville to make our homes. So, someday, when we meet again... I'll ask if you're happy, truly happy. One of my favorite quotes is by Leo Tolstoy: "If you want to be happy, be." When I first heard that quote, I assumed what he meant was, "If you want to be happy, just be *happy*." And I said, "Hey! It's not that simple!"



**2013 VALEDICTORIAN "BE"**

a difficult time in a friendship, it's hard to stay positive. When we are at work and dealing with one problem after another, it's hard to feel like our lives are great. But is it possible to still be happy underneath all those burdens and the weight of struggles? Me being the person I am, I tried to look up the scientific basis of happiness. Apparently, there is none. There is absolutely no biological way of measuring happiness. No specific chemical or wave, or diagnostic test... there are only subjective measures, relating emotions and personal perceptions to one another. So if there's no concrete marker for happiness, then what is it?

Some people say happiness is the little things in life: bike rides down Main Street, laughing for no reason, walking down to Foster beach, or running through the sprinklers. Ralph's Italian ices, Summerfest, a street fair, a concert at Gillette Park. But these little things are not what truly make us happy; they are just glimpses into a happy person's life. These things are only enjoyable if we are open to enjoying them. A discontent person could appreciate all of these things individually and then still go home at the end of the day grumpy and dissatisfied. But the reason why we so often think of these little things as sources of happiness is because happy people are simply on the lookout for them and enjoy them more wholeheartedly.

But the question remains unanswered. If it's not the little things, our experiences, then what is it? How can we find contentment?



I thought that if anyone should know the secret of happiness, it would be the Dalai Lama, especially considering he wrote a book called *The Art of Happiness*! So I looked to see if he had any insight on the idea, and I found an interesting thought of his. He said, "Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions."

So there was something missing from Tolstoy's quote! "If you want to be happy, be... 'What?'" But it's not the idea that we should just be "happy," it's the idea that we should just be! We should take action! We should inspire and do what we love. We should be friends, be strong people, be givers. Be explorative, be adventurous, and be inquisitive. And maybe most importantly, we should be people who know what we love and pursue it.

So it really is our actions that make the difference. We have to make a conscious effort to maintain our happiness, seeking out things that we enjoy and viewing our situations through a more optimistic lens; focusing on finding what interests us, asking questions, learning more, and appreciating its beauty. Because when we see the beauty in something, we appreciate it more. And the more we appreciate it, the more it becomes beautiful. It's as much a conscious decision and a strong-willed action as it is an outlook.

With that, I'd like to thank all of our parents, families, and teachers

for fostering that outlook, showing us the brighter side, and helping us to be happy kids. I hope that we've inspired you to be happier adults. And to my classmates: when I see you down the road, on line at Four Star, or on the beach at Sailor's Haven, or at the railroad station, I'll ask you how you are. We'll exchange pleasantries and discuss the weather. You'll tell me how life's been, where you're going.

And I hope that before we say goodbye, you'll tell me you're happy.



## CURRAN BOYCE 2013 SALUTATORIAN "LIFE IS A ~~ROSE~~ \*RACE"



**My fellow Americans.** I stand before you today, your compatriot and your friend, and I say Congratulations! We did it. The Class of 2013 is officially graduating from Sayville High School. For those of you in the audience who don't know me, the name is Boyce. Curran Boyce. And not only am I the right choice, but today I've been given the honor of delivering the salutatory address

for our high school, a truly humbling experience, especially considering the amazing achievements and accomplishments of so many members of our class. Thank you for this incredible opportunity.

To the teachers, administrators, families and friends that have gathered here today, on behalf of my class, I'd like to say thank you. Without your support, none of this would be possible, and we certainly wouldn't be sitting here today. Furthermore, special thanks must also go out to our parents. Your guidance, assistance and advice have been invaluable in helping us to realize our potential and achieve our dreams, and you more than anyone else are responsible for our successes. Thank you, Mom and Dad.

Today is a day that will live... in memory! We're graduating high school, and we have proven that we have the skills to survive in our modern world: skills like geology, geography, geometry... and calculus. But what happens next?...It's kind of funny, but in many ways I feel as if life is like training for a cross-country race. Each of us trains for his own personal reasons, for her own personal goals. Some people do it to stay in shape; others, to win medals, while still others do it for the companionship. There are hills and valleys, ups and downs, and it's a million times better if you train with friends. And the absolute best aren't always those who are the most naturally gifted; rather, it's those special people who give their all, dedicating 110% to achieving their goal.

It's the same with us. I know at our high school I've had the pleasure of getting to know almost every individual in our graduating class. I've gotten to meet so many unique, unbelievable people. We're motivated by so many different things, but what's so cool is that despite all our diverse motives, we've all developed our own talents, successes and goals. And when push comes to shove, we are willing to unite to make a difference.

I vividly remember organizing and running our *Every Child's Dream Dinner*, and how awesome and unbelievably special our school was

in offering a real Christmas experience and dinner to all of our less-fortunate neighbors. I'll never forget how generous and giving and happy our class was that night and on countless other occasions when we united to achieve some good for the world.

But maybe my cross-country analogy is not always accurate. Maybe life is more like the game of *Risk*, one of world domination. Maybe we are all players ruthlessly competing against each other for the same final goal, where only one person can be the ultimate victor. You can certainly apply this model to real life, for in life, there are alliances and betrayals, grand strategies and cold realities, and it remains true that even the best laid plans can be thwarted by chance. I've seen it in high school, and it hasn't always been so rosy.

I remember running the best track season of my life, only to become ill with mono. I remember getting projects and thinking, "Oh, I'll get this done," and then suddenly it's the night before the paper is due and my eyes were bugging out and I was frantically racing to beat the clock for turnitin.com. (*Yes, I procrastinated*). But ultimately, those have been some of my most rewarding high school experiences. Yes, I've been cheated by fate and failed myself, my own goals. But I feel that's when you learn the most about yourself. Everyone has excuses. But when the chips are down, character and integrity, commitment and dedication come into play. It's that action of standing back up when the world is seemingly against you, when all you want to do is just lay down. Not everyone can do it. I know I haven't always done it. But those special people who do stand up, who do overcome fate and obstacles and everything thrown in their path: they've inspired me. They've inspired me to never, ever give up, and to work hard, keep going, and "seize the day" carpe-diem style.

So no matter if you believe life is a race, [*a rose*], or a board game, or perhaps a mix of the two, where will you finish? Because ultimately, that's up to us. The friendships we've made in the past four years and the lessons we've learned—lessons like resiliency and courage—will define our future selves, the people that we want to be. Thank you Class of 2013 for making my high school experience an unforgettable one that I'll cherish forever. Good luck in the future! I hope you all accomplish all of your hopes and all of your dreams.

Congratulations again on this monumental achievement and **God Bless the United States of America!**

\* *Life is a Rose* was a misprint in the program.



Before announcing the Board of Education President, Principal Hoffer welcomed the Alumni representing the classes of 1947 to 2012. "Your attendance is greatly appreciated and clearly reflects your pride, your enthusiasm, your respect, and your educational experience here in our district. We thank you for joining us ...and we encourage you join us each and every year at this ceremony. We also welcome several of our district employees who are joining us this proud moment as they present their graduating sons or daughters with their diplomas."



**BOARD OF EDUCATION President Raymond J. Nelson**

gave parents a "photo op" by asking the graduates to "turn, face the bleachers and shout out a thank you to those people who are here to congratulate you today." He spoke briefly, reminding the class that "you didn't arrive on your own," without the support of so many who cared about them and their educational opportunities. Mr. Nelson introduced Trustee Norm deVenau who would be addressing the class on behalf of the Board because Mr. deVenau's granddaughter, Kaytie Ferremi, was among the graduates.



**BOE Trustee Norm deVenau**



Grateful for the special privilege to speak to the Class of 2013, Mr. deVenau entitled his address: **Sayville: The Team That Works.** "It takes a great team to accomplish what the young people sitting

before you have accomplished this past year." He welcomed everyone: the graduates, parents, grandparents, family members, friends, teachers, staff, administrators, Board of Education, and alumni, acknowledging



they were all members of the great team. As he encouraged the graduates to "polish your dreams" by putting "all your knowledge and training to work," Mr. deVenau admitted seeing in the Class of 2013 "the future leaders of the community, the county, the state and the country. As a side note, I have inside information that there is a gentleman who has the desire to be President of our United States! This is not an impossible dream!"

For his closing advice, Mr. deVenau kept it simple; "Whatever you dream, give it

your all. Wherever life leads, live your life wisely. Wherever you go, never look back. Always look forward to greater and greater accomplishments. Congratulations!"



**Peter Hayes 2013 PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE "MOST LIKELY TO..."**

**Responding to the advice of his classmates, Peter spoke briefly, meaningfully, and ended with a musical bang (thanks to an assist from Mr. G. and the SHS Band), earning him a standing ovation from his fellow graduates.**

"...a response for THIS class ...that would do the entire class justice was no small task.

I kept telling myself, "I think I'll start this speech tomorrow." Even my bro, Mr. Overachiever Curran Boyce, hadn't started his speech yet, so I thought that I was in pretty good shape. "I think I'll do it tomorrow" turned into a few weeks and pretty soon I had to answer to my mom's relentless, "Pete, did you start your speech yet?" (Yes, the English teacher many of you know... who has looked kindly on you and extended a deadline or two, cuts me absolutely no slack.) And then there was Mr. Shaw who would give me a deathly stare whenever I passed him in the hallway because it was the last full week of school and I still hadn't met with him to work on my speech.

... procrastination had its benefits, because it wasn't until that last week of school that I truly realized how much I am leaving behind. That final week of classes was an explosion of energy and emotions. We laughed together as we watched teachers, including "every girl's dream" Mr. Lecci, get dunked in the dunk tank at the class picnic. We cheered with an energy unsurpassed by any other class for each and every student throughout the entire senior awards ceremony and celebrated our Valedictorian Rebecca's accomplishments with a standing ovation and thunderous applause. And, yes, we cried on the last day of school as we played our class song *It's Time*. You may not have seen me shedding any tears, but you all know I was crying on the inside. ...but not even our yearbook can capture the

individual efforts that led to the collective energy, emotions and accomplishments of our class.

In October we voted for the senior superlatives, .The Superlatives: yes, the name given to the class members we considered to be most athletic, most likely to succeed, friendliest, and the list goes on. We'll look back at our yearbooks and fondly remember those people and how their superlative qualities added to the class, maybe even with a bit of envy. I can't count how many of my friends wrote their names on the ballot for most attractive. Let's get it straight gentlemen, according to the ladies, Connor O'Neal is the most attractive guy in the school, and that's final!

But the list of superlatives could be endless because I believe that every person in the class of 2013 has his or her own superlative that added to the class throughout the years.

For instance, where would we have been at homecoming without MOST SPIRITED CLASS MEMBERS Erin Krug and Cottie Winfield, to lead our homecoming skit in Beyonce's Single Ladies' Dance? Thank you ladies. If it wasn't for our BEST FLOAT BUILDERS, Mike LoPreto, Jack Weisheit, and Chuck Verbeck, we wouldn't have even had a float for homecoming. And if it wasn't for our BIGGEST PRANKSTER Dylan Schreiber putting fake legs in the boys bathroom stall, creating a bathroom line that wrapped around the hall, and using his saran wrap skills to cover teachers' and students' cars, our April Fool's Day would have been pretty lame. And where would we have been without Claire Luceri's endless comments and questions in Mr. Pace's 9th and 10th grade World History Class, earning

her the title of MOST CURIOUS to say the least. And when we look to the stage we will be likely to see Matt Spina who will be MOST LIKELY TO PERFORM ON BROADWAY. And things just wouldn't be the same without Kyle Treco as MOST LIKELY TO DISAGREE.

Maybe you contributed to the class on a more serious note by being a person who led by example, every day, like Pat Waters, or should I say "Patty Guns," who is arguably the MOST HUMBLE person in the class. Yes, Pat, you have been found out. Maybe your superlative was just discovered this year like Hillary Slavik, Erica Ferer, and Sarah Philbin, who deserve the title MOST LIKELY TO ROCK THE HOUSE after their incredible performance at Band Night! Or maybe your superlative will make our class proud in the future like Eliot the Archer as MOST LIKELY TO GO TO THE OLYMPICS. And when you shoot that winning Bull's Eye for a gold medal you better give the Sayville Class of 2013 a shout out, Eliot!

This list could go on forever, and as I thought about how much each and every one of you contributed to the class it occurred to me, "what if the class of 2013 had its own superlative?" I know it's mind blowing isn't it? But, what would our class superlative be? How could we define our entire class and four years of high school with one title? Having gained a new perspective as your senior class president this year, I have come to realize that we are the class that is MOST LIKELY TO COME TOGETHER, the class that is MOST LIKELY TO SET ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES,

*continues on bottom of facing page 5.*

# PRAISE FOR THE CLASS OF 2013 Outstanding in all Endeavors



"Members of the Class of 2013 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: **94.5%** of the students in the Class of 2013 will go on to further education; **97%** will have earned a **Regents Diploma** this year.

- At the **39th Annual Scholastic Awards program**, 149 deserving students received 249 awards. These recipients wore gold- or purple-ribbon medallions at graduation.

- In the Class of 2013, 146 students have received academic or community scholarships that value well over **4.1 million dollars**. (*The amount includes \$120,000 in scholarships and awards from local community organizations.*) This list is incomplete, since notifications of more scholarships continue throughout the summer.

- **Six** students received distinction from the **National Merit Scholarship Foundation**: Our one **Semifinalist** was **Curran Boyce** and five were **Commended students**: **Kerry Keenan, Dylan Schreiber, Steven Smith, Matt Stephan, and Courtney Takats**.

- **Curran Boyce, Hunter Grant, and Thalia Rojas** were recognized for their **anticipated U.S. military service**.

- Our **Fine Arts** students had a tremendous year. Our seniors participated

in over ten juried shows, **Jackie Christensen** and **Lorelei Olk** were selected into the **Hecksher Museum Annual Long Island Best Young Artist Show** that exhibited over 200 entries; Senior **Anna Corso** was awarded by **South Bay Art Association**. Two of Sayville's finest artists, **Meagan Mulry** and **Lorelei Olk** were honored with scholarship awards:

- Our **Music Program** had another tremendous year, with the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Choir performing at Disney World. We had five **NYSSMA All-State musicians**: **Kieran Harrison, Matthew Iovino, Jameson Rebholz, Caroline Pace, and Christian Savini**. Congratulations to all our award-winning performing groups and musicians who have been recognized throughout the county, state, and nation.

- In our **Research in Science and Engineering Program**, under the direction of Ms. Maria Brown, **Curran Boyce, Katherine Farrell, Elizabeth Koehler, Rebecca Monastero, and Rachael Wachter** have excelled and been recognized in multiple science competitions for their winning research.

- Under the direction of Mr. Steven Hailey, our **Theatre Arts Program** had another productive year with the summer workshop, **A Night at the Opera**, the November production of **Hotel Suites**, the Shakespeare Sample of **All the World's @**

**Stage**, the Spring musical **Fiddler on the Roof**, and five seniors directed the **35th Annual One-Act Plays** in May. Among the graduating seniors, **ten** were inducted into the **Sayville Players Troupe**, **eleven** received **United States Achievement Academy National Drama Awards** and **two** are recipients of the **Thespian Circle Award from the International Thespian Society**.

- In the arena of Interscholastic Athletics, 20 of our 26 varsity teams were scholar-athlete teams

- We are extremely proud of our varsity individuals or teams in eight sports, that won **CHAMPIONSHIPS: BOYS: Football, Soccer, Swimming-Diving, Golf. GIRLS: Field Hockey, Soccer, Golf, Swimming-Diving; SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS in Football and Softball; and LI CHAMPIONSHIP in Softball!**

- **High School Service Organizations:** Student government, Key Club, Anchor Club, Tri-M, FBLA, Art Honor Society, Interact, SWEEP, S.A.D.D., History Club, and the National Honor Society have once again served our community by giving back not only to local communities, but also worldwide.



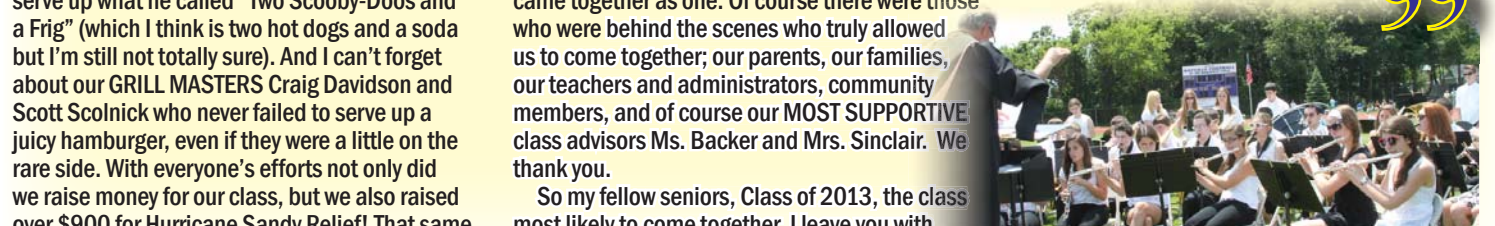
*MOST LIKELY continues from page 4.* and our cliques and unite! One of the places that we all came together was inside our school snack stand during home football games. Whether the weather was brutally hot or frigidly cold, I could always count on Amanda Bonkoski and Casey Lodol, our **CHIEFEST ORGANIZERS** to get things going, and we could always depend on **MOST LIKELY NOT TO HAVE A CAREER IN FOOD SERVICES** John Riess to provide the humor and serve up what he called "Two Scooby-Doos and a Frig" (which I think is two hot dogs and a soda but I'm still not totally sure). And I can't forget about our **GRILL MASTERS** Craig Davidson and Scott Scolnick who never failed to serve up a juicy hamburger, even if they were a little on the rare side. With everyone's efforts not only did we raise money for our class, but we also raised over \$900 for Hurricane Sandy Relief! That same

spirit and unity surged at the Long Island Football Championships as our **MOST VALIANT** fellow senior Donny DeKenipp went in as the back-up quarterback and the entire stadium erupted with roaring cheers.

Those cheers and energy have gained momentum over the year and we've become a family, and like any family we've had some minor differences, but when it really counted we truly came together as one. Of course there were those who were behind the scenes who truly allowed us to come together; our parents, our families, our teachers and administrators, community members, and of course our **MOST SUPPORTIVE** class advisors Ms. Backer and Mrs. Sinclair. We thank you.

So my fellow seniors, Class of 2013, the class most likely to come together, I leave you with

this. It's been an unbelievable four years together and we know each and every one of us has what it takes to be successful in our endeavors. Go ahead and create your own superlative. Go ahead and write yourself in on the ballot. You know you have all of our votes, and in the wise words of Mr. Bennett: Solidarity Forever! (*Peter cued the SHS Band for a musical finish that brought his cheering classmates to their feet.*)



During the three Elementary Fifth-grade Moving-Up ceremonies, there were words of encouragement and welcome from Middle School Administrators, 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.)

# Cherry Avenue Moving-Up

At Cherry Avenue, the pledge was led by Nicholas Ryan, followed by Principal Dr. John Stimmel presenting the Moving-Up class to Middle School Principal Murray, who offered assurances and welcome.

The ceremony had a full agenda. Awards to the students for their major accomplishments (see list below) were presented by representatives from the County Executive, NY Attorney General, and NYS Comptroller's offices. Mr. Kemper made a special trip to present the Marjorie Kemper Award in memory of his wife who was a long-time Cherry Avenue employee. A memorial award was created to remember classmate Cameron Riccomini, and retiring Deputy Superintendent Dr. Geri Sullivan Keck was recognized with flowers and words of praise by Dr. Stimmel for her dedication to Sayville students.

During the program, the students sang, under the direction of Kristi Woerner, *For Just a Little While*, *Sometimes*, and *Thank You*, and two slide shows, one as a thank-you from the Riccomini family, and the other by the PTA, was a heartwarming class retrospective.

Dr. Stimmel's farewell comments held special significance this year, since he too was moving up to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum in Sayville, replacing the retiring Dr. Geri Sullivan Keck.

Enlisting the traditional assistance of select Fifth-graders to hold specific props (a lantern, megaphone, a telescope and microscope, a *Meet-the-Robinsons* Poster, a clock, and a gold statuette) that in previous years symbolized special life lessons they could "walk away with," Dr. Stimmel reversed the tradition this year

and asked the Fifth-graders to give him lessons that he should walk away with, such as: "Stay at Cherry; remember to smile; be prepared; don't forget your pencils and pens; tell the Middle School—no homework on Fridays; be kind; be yourself; always get to work on time; keep calm; finish your old job first, that way, you won't have to worry; look presentable; adding recess time at the Middle School would be appreciated; never write sloppy, cause you need to read your notes; it's kind of like moving to a new school, just like us; ....bring something to your new job that makes you feel better or reminds you of something happy.."

So Dr. Stimmel would have a lasting memento of his time at Cherry, he received a class gift (above right), a framed and signed photo of the Fifth-grade and their families on the annual boat trip.



(above) **Cherry Good Choice Award** • Marissa Dionisio



(right) **CA Suffolk County Legislature William Lindsay Presiding Officer Award** (presented by Chris Bodkin) • Lauren Flaumenhaft



(right) **CA Suffolk County Executive Steve Ballone Public Service Award** • Mary Vermilyea

**CA PRESIDENTIAL FITNESS AWARDS** see list below.



(below) **CA Suffolk Zone Scholar-Athlete Award** • Kevin Gross & Caitlin Keglihan



## List of Fifth-grade 2012-2013 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

### Cherry Avenue

#### CA PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARDS

- SILVER AWARDS**  
 Matthew Aracri  
 Isabella Arzt  
 Krista Birong  
 Jayna Catalina  
 Anna Crisalli  
 Elizabeth Argenzian  
 Harrison Berg  
 Connor Brennan  
 Isabelle Byrne  
 Michael Corwin  
 Thomas Costa  
 Liam Cummings  
 Brendan D'Andrea  
 Arden DeCanio  
 Lauren Flaumenhaft  
 Bailey Lillis  
 Chris Quartuccio  
 Caitlin Reilly  
 Alexa Vargas  
 Mary Vermilyea  
 Nicholas Virga  
 Harry Wessels  
 Joanna Ziegler

- GOLD AWARDS**  
 Elizabeth Argenzian  
 Harrison Berg  
 Connor Brennan  
 Tara Donohue  
 Patrick Hession  
 William Langan  
 Olivia Lynch  
 Dino Michaelides  
 Sydney Mulry  
 Brock Murtha  
 Ryan Noone  
 Morgan Peres  
 Madison Perez  
 Sarah Watters

- CA PRESIDENTIAL FITNESS AWARD**  
 Grade 5  
 Elizabeth Argenziano  
 Caitlin Keglihan

- Nicholas Virga  
 Brock Murtha  
 Kevin Gross  
 Connor Brennan  
 Isabelle Byrne  
 Brendan Dillon  
 Ryan Noone  
 Chris Quartuccio  
 Mary Vermilyea

- CA National FITNESS AWARD**  
 Matthew Aracri  
 Aiden Arnesen  
 Isabella Arzt  
 Colin Bauers  
 Krista Birong  
 Stephen Braun  
 Michael Cassidy  
 Jayna Catalina  
 Mikey Connor  
 Michael Corwin  
 Thomas Costa  
 Anna Crisalli  
 Liam Cummings  
 Hailey Cutrone

- Molly Daly  
 Brendan D'Andrea  
 Liam Davidson  
 Arden DeCanio  
 Chris Delaney  
 Marissa Dionisio  
 Tara Donohue  
 John Downs  
 Julianna Ettore  
 Gianna Ferrara  
 Lauren Flaumenhaft  
 Lindsey Grimes  
 Patrick Hession  
 Jennifer Hichborn  
 Natalia Liberato  
 Bailey Lillis  
 Taylor Maddy  
 Kimberly McCarthy  
 Dino Michaelides  
 Mary Kate Mulligan  
 Sydney Mulry  
 Thomas Nolan  
 Billy Pelletier  
 Morgan Peres  
 Barry O'Brien  
 Rylie Quintana

- Luke Santoro  
 Aidan Scura  
 Lauren Schutte  
 Connor Smalley  
 Chris Tapen  
 Sarah Watters  
 Harry Wessels  
 Jillian Wilson

(above) **CA Cameron Riccomini Scholarship Award** (presented by Cherry Ave. psychologist Laura Hill) • Nicholas Virga



(above) **CA Marjorie Kemper (citizenship)** • Lauren Perez & Connor Brennan



(above) **CA NYS Comptroller Achievement Awards** • Elizabeth Argenziano, Isabella Arzt, Brendan D'Andrea, & Caitlin Reilly



(above) **CA Triple "C" Award** • Bailey Lillis & Madison Perez

# Sunrise Drive Moving-Up



For the last time, Sunrise Drive Fifth-graders performed the school song composed by Mrs. Baron, *Sunrise Drive, You Are the One*.

Acknowledging Sayville Administrators and Board members in her Welcome, Principal Rose Castello invited Middle School Principal Murray to speak to the in-coming Sixth-graders.

Mrs. Costello continued by proudly citing the good character the students have demonstrated through many good works, especially noting: "This past year a trio of young ladies spent their Saturday afternoon cleaning the outdoor educational area at Sunrise, others collected over \$15,000 for the American Heart Association, or raised over \$8,000 for St. Jude's Research Hospital. ...Our student council members created photo frames for our local seniors at the Nursing Home, collected clothing for those less fortunate, and shared their good fortune by collecting food for several local charities, including 720 lbs. for LI Cares."

Prior to the presentation of certificates to all students by the classroom teachers, select students were named for specific awards (see list below), and a special tribute was made to retiring Deputy Superintendent Dr. Geri Sullivan Keck for her service.

In closing, Mrs. Castello reminded the students about the Third-grade butterfly lesson. "You too will go through many changes as well, but know the results you get are well worth your efforts." Once more, the auditorium swelled with music when the students performed *Thank You* before they marched away amid tremendous applause.



(above, L-R) SD Awards: **3-R Award** • Tristan Moreau, **Presidential Citizenship Award** • Natalie Young, **Suffolk County Executive Bellone Public Service Award** • Dylan O'Donoghue, **NYS Attorney General Schneiderman Triple "C" Award** • Alexia Lankowicz & Shaun Gibbons, **NYS Comptroller DiNapoli Student Achievement Award** • Jenna Harclerode

## List of Fifth-grade 2012-2013 Award Winners

### Sunrise Drive

#### SD PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARDS GOLD AWARDS

Lilia Bartolotta  
Michayla Britton  
Aidan Cappellino  
Angela Earvolino  
Patrick Delaney  
Steven Devry Jr.  
Ethan Gross  
Jenna Harclerode  
Michael Moran  
Tristan Moreau  
Kailee Muscarello  
Dylan O'Donoghue  
Nolan Russo  
Natalie Young

#### SILVER AWARDS

Olivia Battell  
Nicolette Furno

Jillian Garera  
Philip Kloska  
Tyler Maslak  
Olivia Mullen

#### SD PRESIDENTIAL FITNESS AWARD

Kyla Fitzsimmons  
Thomas Grainger  
Alexia Lankowicz  
Domenico Rastell

(above) SD County Legislature Lindsay Presiding Officer Award (presented by Bill Lindsay Jr.) • Matthew Grossi



# Lincoln Avenue Moving-Up

This year's Lincoln Avenue Moving-Up ceremony was filled with goodbyes, not only to the wonderful Fifth-graders progressing forward in their education and their parents, but also to several devoted educators who were retiring: Deputy Superintendent Dr. Geri Sullivan Keck, and Lincoln Avenue teachers Janice Bowers, Susan Chaskin, Stephen Neugebauer, and Anne Marie Podlas.

After thanking Lincoln families for six years of support, Dr. LeBlanc recognized Art Teacher Mrs. Podlas (*who was present at the Moving-Up*) with a special request from the audience. Dr. LeBlanc invited all Mrs. Podlas' former students in attendance to join her on stage for a last photo together. The multitude was a true testament to Mrs. Podlas' years of dedicated service. (See photo below.)

The remainder of the ceremony focused on the students. Select Fifth-graders from 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*).

Lincoln's Moving-Up ceremony closed with *Home*, musically arranged by Mrs. Cirillo.



(left) Chris Bodkin presented the LA County Legislator Lindsay Presiding Officer Award • Catherine Doyle



(below) LA Triple "C" Award • Hailey Votino, Peter Bisculca & Sarah Nolan



### Lincoln Avenue

#### LA PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARDS GOLD AWARDS

Peter Bisculca  
Cassidy Bunting  
Michelle Buono  
Aidan Collins  
Caroline Collins  
Rory Collins  
Joseph Comiskey  
James DeSabato  
Catherine Doyle  
Jessica Fraccalvieri  
Sarah Keane  
Mackenzie Koster  
Sarah Nolan  
Mark Radzewsky

Steven Talbot  
Samir Patel

#### SILVER AWARDS

Brianna Baldante  
Matthew Larkin  
Donald McAuliffe  
Hailey Decker  
Charles Burgardt  
Hailey Votino

#### LA PRESIDENTIAL FITNESS AWARD

Jamie Abraham  
Angelina Capuano  
Brian Donlan  
Catherine Doyle  
Jayson Gensch  
Julia Intermesoli  
Sarah Keane

Michael Kontryn  
Mackenzie Koster  
Jordan Miglino  
Lauren Porcelli  
Michael Scoleri  
Isabella Wilson

#### LA National FITNESS AWARD

Brandon Alfano  
Brianna Baldante  
Cassidy Bunting  
Michelle Buono  
Rory Collins  
James DeSabato  
Cole Doller  
Morgan Esposito  
Jessica Fraccalvieri  
Ryan Gover

Jacklyn Kanaley  
Gillian Levy  
Joshua Liotta  
Allison Lynn  
Donald McAuliff  
Sarah Nolan  
Dominic Palumbo  
Julia Portnoy  
Rachel Volpe  
Hailey Votino  
Aidan Walsh  
Lauren Weber



# Middle School CLASS OF "TRUE LEADERS" MOVE UP

Two Hundred fifty-six 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 in a sultry voice by the amazing Emily Llewellyn.

In addition, the outstanding Jazz Band performed *Dare to Dream*, 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 acknowledged that "It is a great privilege to be here today to celebrate the accomplishments of your children, the future class of 2017. They have exhibited outstanding academic discipline and personal integrity."

After Mr. Murray enumerated the class statistics (see below), he also praised this class for their outstanding attributes. "You came together to help raise money to beat cancer;



to support our soldiers; to feed and clothe the needy; to fight ALS, (for the past 5 years, you have raised over \$6,000 dollars); to collect toys to make someone's Christmas a little brighter. You have an impressive resume of accomplishments."

"Wherever you have traveled as a class," Mr. Murray continued, "you have always made people feel welcomed and loved ... You have left a handprint of love, compassion, courage, joy, and integrity. This will be your legacy at SMS."

Citing the most outstanding attributes of the Moving-Up class, Mr. Murphy said: "If any group of young men and women reflect the characteristics of true leaders, it is the group sitting before me today. If any group has forged a path of high expectations for future groups, it is the Moving-Up class of 2013."

Mr. Murray concluding 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!"

## STATISTICS For the 2013 Class of 256 students ACADEMICALLY

- 133 students took & passed the Algebra Regents—42% scoring at mastery level.
- 85 students took & passed the Living Environment Regents—92% scoring at mastery level.
- 100% pass rate on both of the Regents exams.
- 50 students took & passed the High School Studio in Art Class which is 20% of the grade.
- 53% of the Class is leaving with 2 High School Credits
- 35% of the Class is leaving with 3 High School Credits
- 40% of the Class has maintained a 90 GPA for 11 marking periods.

## THE ARTS

- Music Department competed in festivals around the country, with students in SCMEA All-County Band, Orchestra, and Chorus this year, and raised over \$1,000 for the Harry Chapin Food Pantry.

## ATHLETICALLY

- Our teams have competed hard, enjoyed success, and have had many undefeated seasons, as well as Section XI Sportsmanship Awards.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- For the past three years, we have over 200 Presidential Community Service Winners (with 30,000 hours of community service).

## 2012-2013 8th-GRADE

### DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

**ALGEBRA** Matthew Tomko  
**ART 8** Jennifer Philbin  
**Studio in Art** Michael Danielson  
**BAND** Matthew Tomko  
**CHORUS** Emily Llewellyn  
**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS** Serena Russo  
**CONSUMER & FAMILY SCIENCE** Emma Davis  
**ENGLISH** Gianna Fraccalvieri  
**FRENCH** Francis Reilly  
**LIFE SCIENCE** Batsheva Apfelbaum  
**LIVING ENVIRONMENT** Jahan Rahman  
**MATHEMATICS 8** Amanda Pacholik  
**ORCHESTRA** Conor Riccomini  
**PHYSICAL ED. (BOYS)** Jack Coan  
**PHYSICAL ED. (GIRLS)** Megan Havranek  
**SOCIAL STUDIES** Griffin Mills  
**SPANISH** Michael Earvolino  
**TECHNOLOGY** Shane Remhild

**Cameron Riccomini Scholarship** Ryan Muscarella

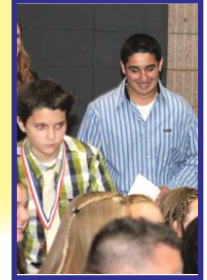
**Erin Halliday-Duffy Sunflower Scholarship** Emily Antos, Daniel Forsberg, Emily Levin, Andrew McCarthy, & Jahan Rahman

## PTA AWARDS

**GIRLS SPORTSMANSHIP** SARAH BUNK  
**BOYS SPORTSMANSHIP** HUNTER SELTS  
**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP** ELIZABETH GOUVIS  
**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SERVICE** CAITLIN GORMLEY  
**ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT** JARID GOINEAU-FISCHER



FOR THE FULL LIST OF 2012-2013 NAMES OF PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC, SCHOLAR, HONOR SOCIETY, AND PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD (50+ HOURS) AWARD RECIPIENTS, GO TO TIDINGS ONLINE: CLICK ON THE MOVING-UP LINK FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL



**TIDINGS**  
 FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 DR. WALTER F. SCHATNER,  
 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
 99 Greeley Avenue  
 Sayville, New York 11782

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

\*\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*\*\*

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