

"THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS"

District Newsletter
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Summer 2012

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 2012

FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Supportive and Grateful

Within a fortuitous break from the oppressive weeklong swelter, Sayville held its Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2012. At 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 23, while the morning promised to get hotter (*and it did*), it was relatively bearable compared to the previous two days and depending upon where one observed the ceremony.

Hearty cheers and encouraging whistles greeted the Commencement parade entering the football field. Processing first were the poised Administrators and Board members, but as the Class of 2012 approached, the crowd roared louder, soliciting reciprocal shouts and waves from the graduates and the 81 participants in the Alumni Walk. Marching in the rear were many of the 49 "Teachers Who Made A Difference" and who had been nominated for this recognition by the graduates.

Throughout the ceremony, the purple- and gold-robed graduates benefited from decent breezes that teased across the grass football field; the Alumni and honored teachers were comfortably shaded under the white tents nearby, but those courageous souls who watched from the apt-named BLEACHERS dealt with the brunt of reflective rays. Even so, most "kept their cool" for the sake of the graduates who were celebrating their final hours at Sayville High School.

An accomplished class renowned for being supportive and grateful, the Class of 2012 lived up to its reputation and demonstrated joyful celebration in grand style.



(right) Senator Schumer made his customary visit and congratulations.

(right) Dr. Walter Schartner, Sayville Superintendent, marched with Principal Ron Hoffer, Assistant Superintendent for Business John J. Belmonte, Deputy Superintendent Geraldine Sullivan Keck, and Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Stephen Koepper.

(below) B.O.E. trustees (l-r), Keith Kolar, Maureen Dolan, Thomas Cooley, Norm deVenau, President Raymond J. Nelson, and Vice President John Verdone.



(below) Advising this class since their Freshman year, Class Advisors Amy Thomas and Michael Pace were pleased to participate in the Commencement ceremonies.



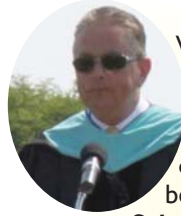


1938 Fred Harold, Madlyn Fitzgerald Eleazer; Vera Weeks Reichel; **1947** Elaine Beebe, Ernest Kusmaul, William Paauwe, June Vanderborgh Smith, Jamie Vanderborgh; **1948** Charlene Tichy Schneeberg, Harold Schneeberg, John Wells; **1952** Alice Gray; **1953** Katherine Paauwe; **1954** William Schneider; **1955** Howard Jones, Frances Sorrention Kaelin, William Ludlum, Janet Weedon Gianquinto; **1956** Fred Maasch; **1957** George Pesko; **1959** Trudy Pesko; **1969** Linda Rice; **1971** Ken Van Essendelft; **1973** Cathie Occhiogrosso Ciresi; Donna Eleazer, Cynthia Schneeberg Smith, John Wright; **1974** Jane Downes DeBeauchamp, Jane Hodgekinson Koropsak, Gerry Pagels, Theodore Drinkwater, Tara Patin, Keddie Scott, Pat Ambrosio Williams; **1975** Angela Occhiogrosso, Cheryl Callen Adams, Joanne Gallo Agolgia, Kim Farkely-Mikhael; **1977** Michael DeFede, Don Usewick; **1978** Terry Ambrosio, Gail Eleazer Brooks, Brian Howland, Louis Kalomiris, Brian O'Neil, Nancy Gallo Russell, Sharon Rodgers Sputz; **1979** Robert Russell, Laura Estelle, Janet Usewick; **1980** Gary Estelle, Kathi Gallagher, Andrea McCormick-Gilbert, Meghan Keenan; **1981** Rob Arrasate, David Mergl, Karen Mizzi, Kathie Whitehurst; **1982** Mary Ann Arrasate, Shiela Carroll Estelle, Debbie Gatta, John Gatta, Linda Karszen-Hunt, Phil Mizzi; **1983** James Cannini, Suzanne Stevens Cannini, Gary Pesko; **1984** Helen Glavickas Ali, Rich Harrigan, Georgette Kalomiris Notigs, Fred Leyboldt, Joyce Liguori Sheridan, Dan Sheridan; **1985** Kris Bachsmith Diehl, Lizabeth Hirsch; **1986** Marjorie Fox Decottignies; **1987** Kristen Leyboldt Ferris; **1988** David Ali; **1989** Eric Fox, Jeanine Carroll Handler; **1999** John Tomasetti II; **2000** Linda Carroll Mohabir; **2008** Marissa A DeFede; **2009** Matthew O'Neil, Matt Rippert, Jordan Stankovich; **2010** Conor Fucci



Superintendent of Sayville Schools, Dr. Walter F. Schartner, greeted members of the Board of Education, administrators, teachers, distinguished guests, alumni, parents, grandparents, extended families, and members of the Class of 2012: "I am honored to be part of this morning's significant occasion and to share with you in this celebration of your graduation."

SUPERINTENDENT OF SAYVILLE SCHOOLS DR. WALTER SCHARTNER



Sayville Superintendent Dr. Walter Schartner recalled his years with the graduates as their Middle School Principal. He accredited this class as not only helping the Middle School become an **Essential Elements:**

School to Watch, National School of Excellence in 2006, but for also attending the award presentation by New York State Education Department representatives.

"I've watched many of you over the past seven years perform in plays, music concerts, art shows, athletic contests, robotics, and participate in high school committee meetings. I've viewed your involvement with service projects and other general efforts to help your fellow man, including the planning and implementation of a holiday dinner for over 700 homeless people. All



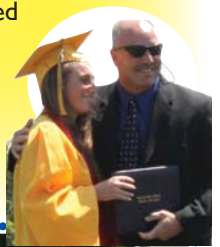
of this while participating in AP courses at levels that allowed Sayville High School to be recognized

nationally for AP achievement. Through all of these activities, you have helped set new standards of achievement for other classes to emulate. You have added to the excellence that is the Sayville Public Schools."

Enumerating the ten traits of successful leaders, which he cited from **The Investors' Business Daily** newspaper, (and that when combined, can turn dreams into reality), Dr. Schartner acknowledged that the graduating class had already demonstrated many of those traits during their school careers, for which, "your current level of success is not an accident!"

The Superintendent also reminded the Class of 2012 to thank "those special people in your life," who had helped them achieve. He offered the Class last words of advice: "You have the power to change the course of history through goodness, kindness, and intelligent decision-making."

In closing, Dr. Schartner stated that Sayville was proud of "each and every one of you, and we share your happiness this morning," wishing them "Good luck and may God bless you in all that you do!"



MUSICAL Interludes

After the processional was played by the Sayville High School Band and directed for the last time by retiring Pete DeSalvo, **The Star-Spangled Banner** officially opened the commencement. The beautifully blended voices of Senior members of the High School Jazz Choir **Kiera Muscara, Kailey Schnurman, and Miles Whittaker**, along with **Junior Liam Hoffmeister**, provided a moving rendition of the National Anthem. The Seniors also closed with **God Bless America**, accompanied by the High School Band.

Introduced as "a very special individual, an outstanding All-State bassoonist, President of Tri-M, and a sensational member of Sayville's Theatre Arts program," Mr. Hoffer announced that **Kailey Schnurmen** (left) was **The Patricia Ann Kubelle Memorial Award Winner**.



Standing at the microphone, Kailey was sheathed in a gold robe and glimmering sunshine, but it was her golden voice that hushed the crowds. Throughout her entire performance of the pop-style work **Whenever You Remember** by award-winning and prolific composer/writer Diane Warren, Kailey demonstrated her "amazing" talents, sustaining impressive musicality and emotional power. Swelling applause thundered approval.



ERICA WEINBERG CLASS OF 2012 VALEDICTORIAN "FROM ROOTS TO WINGS"

"A young woman who has achieved the highest honors in each academic discipline in our high school, a remarkable musician, an outstanding scholar, and a true gem." **Principal Ron Hoffer**



"I had no clue where to start," Erica admitted with total honesty about her speech. Nor did she feel she had "created those life lessons" from which to draw inspiration.

Instead, the Valedictorian for 2012 focused on the district's previous motto **From Roots to Wings** to illustrate her message. "...after this day, we will spread our wings and fly in all directions, based on our individual desires, goals, and accomplishments. But

instead of preaching to you...or attempting to shape or predict your future, I wish to reflect on the thing uniting us here together: the root of our experiences and the lessons learned here in Sayville."

Collectively thanking those who made "our experience at Sayville absolutely unforgettable," Erica enumerated what life lessons she had acquired from the "people along the road of my high school career." Although every teacher helped her "learn the basics from the letters in the alphabet to integrals in math problems...specific teachers left me with specific tidbits of knowledge:"

- "From Mrs. Brown, I learned how to act as a mother to over 50 students, and yes, that did include feeding us. I also witnessed how to make the most use of the mere 24 hours in a day."

- "Mr. Gittler, as a Physics teacher, seemed to defy the laws of the universe himself by giving some of the most challenging tests and lengthy homework assignments, yet still being one of the most well-loved teachers in the school."

Erica included her orchestra conductor Mr. Kramer, Mr. Hall for his *fashionable* sweater vests, Mrs. Dreyer for her



cure to any bad day by watching *Friends*, and Mr. Bennett for his true passion for Economics and action for a cause."

- "And from Mrs. Bernstein, aside from pure dedication, to how expressing annoyance and anger towards a class is really just a sign of love...Bernie, we love you too, and we're so happy to share this day as your graduation from Sayville as well."

Erica thanked her family. "We're teenagers, so we don't really say it enough, but really and truly, thank you for everything...It is from my parents [that] I know to dream big, but never to be discouraged by the challenging road to turn these dreams to a reality. And it is through my sister, Monica, that I have witnessed this perseverance and success firsthand."

Acknowledging she "learned the most from you, my fellow classmates and friends," Erica confided, "It is through you that the true meaning of ambition, perseverance, kindness, friendship, and strength has been defined for me. ...your passion to chase what you love with full force has inspired me."

A class described as tenacious and close, making "leaving here today, even more difficult," Erica assured them, "we all share the same community, the same home, and the same place where

our everlasting roots were established, and where today, they will be transformed to wings. Congratulations... I wish you the best of luck with the utmost faith that those wings take you exactly in life where you want to go."



JACQUELINE KALOMIRIS CLASS OF 2012 SALUTATORIAN "YOU BEGIN AGAIN"

"A gifted student, an award-winning science competitor, and an outstanding musician, as well as a tremendous person." **Principal Ron Hoffer**

Greeting her audience with cheerful demeanor, Jackie attempted to corral her classmates' runaway thoughts "as we sit here on this momentous day." The 2012 Salutatorian skirted reflections of pride, separation, and celebration. Instead, she asked them to question the "kind of people we would like to be after we receive our diplomas and leave Sayville High School?"

Jackie found her answers in observing the best role models, her teachers, who not only have "one of the most important jobs," but who "love what they do...their happiness in life is something that I could only hope to obtain myself."

"The first person I thought of was Mrs. Bernstein." This drew resounding applause from the graduates. "...this wonderful woman has graced these hallways since my father attended Sayville High School, Class of 78..." Jackie giggled as she looked for Mrs. Bernstein's reaction where the honored and vocal educator sat under the white tents with colleagues. "Now she is graduating with us! Not only has she devoted the last 34 years to teaching High School math, she has also done it with an unmatched passion and dedication." Jackie expressed appreciation for



Mrs. Bernstein's strength, level-headedness and teaching methods, especially her successful reduction of "an entire AP course in record time, giving us more than two months to review, so we can get those 4s and 5s and get the college credit that many of us need. We wish you luck in your retirement, and we love you!" Again applause punctuated Jackie's remarks.

Mr. Gittler was another remarkable teacher. After a twenty-year career as an optometrist, he followed his real passion: teaching. "...he risked everything by putting himself through school again, all...well...to put up with us! I think that we should learn from Mr. Gittler... take our lives into our own hands and make ourselves happy, because no one is going to do it for us."

Jackie encouraged her classmates to react and adapt. "Whoever each of us chooses to be, if in the end we are happy with our choices, then everything will be great, and if we are not happy, we know that nothing is permanent, and with courage, self-respect, and optimism, we can make the right decisions for ourselves. And remember, it is okay to change your mind...to become someone better." She thanked them for teaching her "invaluable life lessons, how to have fun, and how to be competitive;" Sayville faculty for "providing the best education and support;" the Sayville community as a whole; and her family for playing "the biggest role in helping me become the person I am today, I love you all!" Concluding, Jackie wished, "best of luck in finding yourself!"

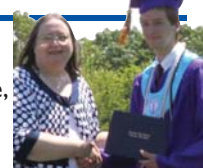


Before announcing the Board of Education President, Principal Hoffer welcomed the Alumni representing the classes of 1938 to 2010. "Your attendance is greatly appreciated and clearly reflects your pride, your enthusiasm, your respect, and your educational experience here in our district. We thank you 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."

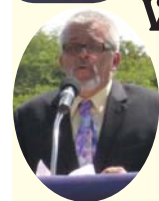
BOARD OF EDUCATION President Raymond J. Nelson



hour speech," Board of Education President Raymond Nelson spoke briefly so that Vice President John Verdone, whose daughter Amanda was among the graduates, could give the actual address instead. Mr. Nelson admitted, however, that the Class of 2012 was a special graduating class, for him. "The year I entered the Board, was the year you entered kindergarten. So I got to see you full circle... The Board of Education is extremely proud of your academic accomplishments, and even more proud of the fine men and women you have become." Then he suggested that the parents, guardians, and grandparents of the graduates give themselves "a rousing hand of applause for what you have accomplished!



Vice President John Verdone



Recalling the sense of wonder at his Graduation 35 years ago, John Verdone expressed a mix of emotions, and concerns. Happy for his daughter, "Amanda, somewhere amongst you—I happen to see her and have a smile on my face right now... Each one of you is wondering how long this is going to take and what am I going to say?"

Uncertain which words would prepare the graduates for a future of new challenges, new beginnings, and even some failures, Mr. Verdone instead offered a vision of hope.

"As I stand here in front of the Class of 2012, ...I see the **next Bill Gates**, I see the **next Steve Jobs**, I see the young men and the young women leaving our safe harbor to **protect our freedoms**. I see the **next Robert Jarvik** and instead of helping develop an artificial heart, you will bring sight to those who cannot see or hearing to those who cannot hear."

I see the **teachers** who will teach our young to read, and I see the **plumber who will finally fix my sink**. I see the **actors** who will bring tears to our eyes and joy to our hearts. I see you filling the years with **world peace, curing hunger, solving our dependence on fossil fuel, and finding a**

cure for all those illnesses that affect so many lives. I see the generation that will see things differently. Soon, each of you will move your tassel and toss your cap and enter an ever-changing and challenging world."

"But regardless of any path you take, and whatever challenge you face, always find the time to sing, laugh, dance, and spend time with family and friends. Whatever happens to the Class of 2012 is entirely up to each of you. And in the words of Helen Keller: 'Never bend your head. Hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye.'"



DEREK HARTNETT

CLASS OF 2012 PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"It is now my pleasure to introduce the president of the Senior Class, a young man who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the class of 2012, a remarkable role model, and a very special person in our High School." **Principal Ron Hoffer**



GIFTED WITH RESONATING INSIGHT, DEREK SPOKE WITH DEPTH AND WISDOM IN HIS ADDRESS:



We have had quite a run. For some, the four years in high school seemed to go by so quickly, and yet for others, it could not have gone any slower. Some days, it seemed like 6th period would never end, but it feels like it was just last week when we were packing for Frost Valley.

In just this year alone, we have managed to achieve so much: the Wind Ensemble played in Carnegie Hall, the Football team won the Long Island Championships, the Softball team became New York State Champions for the first time EVER. There are 20 Research in Science and Engineering Seniors that are graduating. Both the Boys and Girls Soccer teams are League Champions, the Varsity Field Hockey team won the Division II Championship, Girls Cross Country finished First in League. Among us, we have freshly minted Eagle scouts, EMTs, dramatists, and published authors. And the list could go on, but since it is so incredibly hot, I will leave it at that.

As a Class, we have managed to attain all of these outstanding achievements. ...Next year, however, things are going to be different. We're going to go off and no longer be viewed as a member of the Class of 2012. Instead, we're going to be viewed as individuals. Our goals will be our own, our decisions will be our own, and our rewards will be our own. This new pressure, at times, may overwhelm us. We may find ourselves

complaining about our tremendous workloads and the imminent all-nighter than instead of actually just getting it done, but what I ask you [to] keep in mind are the words of advice Mr. Shaw has offered my English Class over the past year: "millions of people have done this before us, therefore we can too."

..... That list of accomplishments from just a minute ago? It's our turn to grow our own lists of accomplishments and to be as impressive as individuals as we have been as a group....I hope that when we are doing this, we are able to look back and realize that, though we were all different, we shared the bond that is the Class of 2012. So please remember:

- If you are going to college, you're not better than people who aren't;
- If this is your first time participating in a school function on a sports field, you're no better than people who have;
- If you're sitting out there with medals, cords, and scholarships, you're no better than people who aren't;
- If you're wearing crocs, there's no help, and I'm sorry for you!

But know this. If you are a member of the Class of 2012, you ARE better than people who are not, and that, my friends, is a proven fact.

As a class, we have many people to thank... I hope you let my personal thanks represent your own:

- Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Pace: I could not be more thankful to have two advisors that made our senior year everything it was. Your hard work and dedication to our Class has made these four

years of high school memorable. At Homecoming in 9th grade we were the 80s, in 10th *Spiderman*, 11th Grade was the year of *Men in Black*, and this year, we were *Rugrats*, sometimes almost literally! With each theme comes unforgettable moments that could not have happened without the two of you.

- Mr. Sznitken: in addition to helping get me through High School while remaining sane, you've taught me that the only thing worse than geometry is trigonometry.
- Mrs. Brown: Not only have you shown me science in all of its nerdy and wonderful ways, you've taught me that the only thing harder than surviving the Amazon Rainforest is having to leave it.
- Ms. Sumner, or should I say, Mrs. Perlin: Every day in your class was a memorable moment. You managed to keep it real and always find a way to incorporate fashion, Putin, and cross-fit into the comparative government curricula.
- Mom and Dad: Thank you for your endless love and support. I will always be your Indigo Child.

Truth be told, we will always be the Class of 2012. When we're booking babysitters for our 10-year reunion, losing weight for our 25th, and checking our cholesterol before our 50th, we will always be a member of this very special graduating class. So, whether you are joining the military, going into the workforce, or matriculating with the Class of 2016, let us go forth and alter the course of history!



PRAISE FOR THE CLASS OF 2012 Outstanding in all Endeavors



"Members of the Class of 2012 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: **97%** of the students in the Class of 2012 will go on to further education; **94%** will have earned a Regents Diploma this year.

- At the **38th Annual Scholastic Awards** program, 143 deserving students received 246 awards. These recipients wore gold- or purple-ribbon medallions at graduation.

- So far, 133 students have received **academic or community scholarships that value well over 3.1 million dollars.** (The amount includes \$125,000 in scholarships and awards from local community organizations.) This list is incomplete since notification of more scholarships continue throughout the summer.

- **Garret Boyce, Jesse Hirsch, and Kyle Tieman-Strauss** were **National Merit Scholarship Commended students.**

- **Jessica Bartolotta, Garret Boyce, KeriAnn Murphy, and Brenden O'Toole** were recognized for their **anticipated U.S. military service.**

- Our **Fine Arts** students had a tremendous year. At the BAFFA Art Exhibition, Sayville's **Kayla MacFarlane** won the **Jacqueline C Palmer Award**. Also, **Zachary Harragan** won an award at the **Heckscher Museum Annual Long Island**

Best Young Artist Show that exhibited over 200 entries.

- Our **Music Program** had a tremendous year, with the **Wind Ensemble** performing at **Carnegie Hall** [Thank you, Mr. DeSalvo and students]. Recognized locally, throughout the county, state, and nation, we had six **NYSSMA All-State musicians: Craig Davidson, Kieran Harrison, Matthew Iovino, Denise Natoli, Kailey Schnurman and Kyle Tieman-Strauss.** Congratulations to all of our award-winning performing groups and musicians.

- In our **Research in Science and Engineering Program**, under the direction of Ms. Maria Brown, the following seniors have excelled and have had their research recognized by winning multiple science competitions: **Alexis Brown, Tiffany Bruno, John Farese, Jacqueline Kalomiris, Courtney Mignone, Kyle Tieman-Strauss, and Erica Weinberg.**

- Under the direction of Mr. Steven Hailey, our **Theatre Arts Program** had another productive year with the intense drama *Antigone*, the hilarious comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace*, the blockbuster musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, and thirteen excellent student-directed one-act plays. Thank you to the nineteen graduating seniors who are **United States Achievement Academy National Drama Award recipients.**

- In the arena of Interscholastic Athletics, for a **FOURTH consecutive year, all 26 varsity teams were given NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team Awards.** Congratulations to our athletes, their respective coaches, and our Athletic Director Mr. Maloney on this tremendous achievement.



In ten sports, our varsity individuals or teams won **LEAGUE or DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS** in **GIRLS: Cross-Country, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming-Diving, Track; BOYS: Football, Soccer, Swimming-Diving; LI CHAMPIONSHIPS** in two sports: **Football and Softball; COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS** in five sports: **Bowling, Boys Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Football, and Softball.** Additionally, Football was a **Rutgers Cup Recipient** and we are also extremely proud of our **New York State Class A-Champion SOFTBALL TEAM!**

- **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.



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.)

Lincoln Avenue Moving-Up

Principal Dr. Michele LeBlanc welcomed the assembled students and guests to the District's first Moving-Up of 2012, with a special nod to Deputy Superintendent Dr. Geri Sullivan Keck for her tremendous service to Sayville schools.

After thanking Lincoln families for six years of support, Dr. LeBlanc associated the Lincoln Avenue Fifth-graders' success with parental involvement in education; all that "attention and time and support have paid off." She also acknowledged those parents whose youngest children were moving up, "which means you are leaving us," and asked them to stand up in the audience. The applause was the official wave goodbye.

"Today is a milestone and one to celebrate." Dr. LeBlanc began by naming and thanking a special group of parents, as volunteers for PTA, Site-Based Team, and in general, who have "always been there" to service Lincoln students, staff, and school.

Dr. LeBlanc linked the District's motto *The Foundation for Success* to the learning process. "Your children have received the mortar to place the bricks, one by one, to create a solid foundation." She referred to the *Three Little Pigs*, emphasizing it is a "true" fairy tale; because we know building a strong foundation is a combined effort. Our Fifth-graders are here to celebrate the



completion of their first few floors. These first few staircases of success can only have been accomplished through great effort and encouragement, one step at a time... through the love and encouragement of their teachers and their first and best teachers—their parents! Our students have proven that each and every ceiling completed and reached only becomes a new floor. There is more work to be done.... Through their demonstrated determination and efforts displayed these last six years, I am confident that the bricks and mortar supplied will continue to build new ceilings...new floors at Sayville Middle School." Dr. LeBlanc ended as she symbolically placed the "care of these children" in Principal Murray's hands.

After, the Lincoln Avenue ceremony focused on the students. 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). 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 Mrs. Cirillo) of *Rock Around the Clock*, aptly entitled *We're Going to the Middle School*.

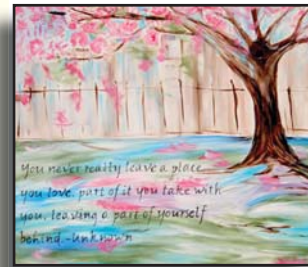
Cherry Avenue Moving-Up

At Cherry Avenue, there was a full agenda (see list below) of awards that included special recognition for the Fifth-grade students, moving-on families, retiring staff, an entertaining slide show prepared by the parent committee, and music which combined to make a memorable ceremony.



Once the pledge was led by Hannah Niggemeier, Principal Dr. John Stimmel presented the class to Middle School Principal Murray, who offered assurances and welcome. A special nod was given to both retiring teachers, Christine Duggan and Elaine Hitner, who were honored for their unforgettable service to Sayville Schools with flowers and applause.

During the program, the students sang *Because of You* written by Kristi Woerner (out on maternity leave) and directed by Justin Marks, as well as *Another Step Up*. At the end of the ceremony, a very upbeat recessional played by Mr. Marks on the saxophone and Mr. Fred Diekmann on the keyboard



accompanied the students as they marched away. The class gift, an enormous painting designed by art teacher Robin Laxton, was presented on behalf of the parents

by Jennifer Mohrmann to Cherry Avenue faculty and staff for their "wonderful job of preparing our

List of Fifth-grade 2011-2012 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

Lincoln Avenue

PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARDS GOLD AWARDS

Harrison Bench
Mary Jo Chan
Mackenzie Damon
Meghan Dooley
Jake Magliola
Kiera Mizzi
Kathryn Murphy
Abigail Sneddon
Samantha Yost
SILVER AWARDS
Devin Castell
Christopher Desimone
Alyssa Hald
Andrew Jones
Hailey Lap

Joshua Minutello
Karl Stein

PRESIDENTIAL FITNESS AWARD Grade 5

William Bongiorno
Briana Davis
Riley Freeman
Madison Mergl
Joshua Minutello
Emily Parsowith
Mackenzie Pfeufer
Haille Ross
Abigail Sneddon
Isabella Wilson



NYS Comptroller Achievement Award
• Harrison Bench

Erin Halliday Duffy Awards • Kamryn Nickdow, Mary Jo Chan,

Alexandra Coia, Douglas Hunter, Timothy Kanaley

County Legislature Presiding Officer Award • Hailey Lap

Triple "C" Award
• Thomas Marks, Samantha Yost, Christopher Pilutik

LA PTA Cultural Arts Awards • (art) Emily Tucker, Joseph Maher; (Orchestra) Victoria Maffetone, Luke Rosario; (band) Bryan Bartell, Hailey Lap; (voice) Olivia Werner,

Harrison Bench, Kaitlyn Maher; (piano) Trinity Estien, Meghan Dooley, Johnna Hutchison

Cherry Avenue

PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARDS GOLD AWARDS

Cory Cutrone
Jack Davis
John Gaconnier
Nita George
Eric Gustafson
Keira Hanlon
Julia Kaczmarek
Timothy Mohrmann
Christopher Pitre
Erika Powers
Avery Rosado
Donald Schweikert
Lillian Schweikert
Madelyn Wagner
Eric Willson
SILVER AWARDS
Liam Berlingieri

Simone Carniaux
Sara Holmes
Ceili Howland
Emily Manning
Allison Neumeyer
Thomas Nielsen
Jonathan Nolan
Alexander Urmaza
Jacqueline Weinfeld
Daniel Witt
PRESIDENTIAL FITNESS AWARD Grade 5
Cory Cutrone
Evan Geffner
Ceili Howland
Julia Kaczmarek
Aidan Kaler



NYS Comptroller Achievement Award • Nadia Yajadda, Avery Rosado, & Julia Kaczmarek

County Legislature Presiding Officer Award

• Donald Schweikert
Marjorie Kemper (citizenship)
• Gabi Ulloa & Jacob Wolmart



Katie Kolar
Kolbi Maddy
Emily Manning
Liam Berlingieri

County Executive Public Service Award • Bettina Bonfigli





students for Middle School.” The artwork displayed a tree topped with leaves—handprints of each Fifth grader—and written below: “You never really leave a place you love. Part of it you take with you, leaving a part of yourself behind.”

For his farewell comments, Dr. Stimmel first told a story about a boy named Tommy, whose disappointing pitches in an important baseball game did not diminish the love and pride of his father for whom “Tommy was better than gold.” Asking all present to take this lesson to heart, Dr. Stimmel encouraged families and children to express their love and pride in each other, because above all else, they are valued “more than gold.”

Enlisting the traditional assistance of select Fifth-graders to hold specific props (a lantern, megaphone, a telescope and microscope, a Meet-the-Robinsons Poster, and a clock) that in previous years symbolized a special life lesson, Dr. Stimmel added a golden statuette this year. “You will always have friends, family, and teachers, here in your hometown of Sayville, who believe you are better than gold!”



Representing NYS Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman at Cherry Avenue, Susan Connelly (a Sayville resident) presented the **Triple “C” Awards** to Kathryn Kolar and Aidan Kaler for their commitments to better themselves, their school, their

Triple “C” Award • community, for their strength of character, and their remarkable courage.

Sunrise Drive Moving-Up



Significant goodbyes were made during Sunrise Drive’s Moving-Up Ceremony this year as the Fifth-grade class parted company and a Fifth-grade teacher waved ‘so long’ after 25 wonderful years in Sayville.



To open the ceremony, the Fifth-graders performed the school song composed by Mrs. Amy Baron *Sunrise Drive You Are the One* for the last time as Sunrise Drive students.

In her Welcome, Principal Rose Castello first introduced Middle School Assistance Principal Peter Branscombe, who greeted the future Sixth-graders with reassuring words. Mrs. Castello continued by proudly citing many good works performed by the students, especially noting: “Sunrise Student Council this year received two awards for their community service-learning projects from the **Long Island Regional Service-Learning Network**.... These students, your children, have definitely made a difference! A difference here in Sunrise Drive, in Sayville, and to people they will never meet.... We are very proud of all of our students and know they will continue to make a difference.”

Prior to the presentation of certificates to all students by the classroom teachers, select students were named for specific awards (see list below).

A special tribute recognized retiring Fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Susan Burton with high words of praise from Mrs. Castello. This was followed by the Fifth-graders singing *For Good* (from the musical *WICKED*) directed by Mrs. Amy Baron. Stemming grateful tears, Mrs. Burton hugged the bouquet in her arms and expressed her thanks to the boys and girls, her colleagues, and Mrs. Baron for their “unbelievable job... Who has a better job than I do? I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart.”

Reading a popular email, called *Mean Moms*, Mrs. Castello encouraged authoritative parenting. “...help them to make solid decision, continue the educational partnership you started with us six years ago.” She thanked the Sunrise Drive faculty for also making a difference in the lives of their students, and parents for their “patience, support, and assistance. You are the key to our success at Sunrise Drive.”

Addressing “these fine Fifth-graders,” Mrs. Castello reminded them 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 *Unwritten* before they marched away amid tremendous applause.



List of Fifth-grade 2011-2012 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

Continued from page 6.
Cherry Avenue



Suffolk Zone Scholar-Athlete Award • Emily Manning & Kolbi Maddy

Sunrise Drive

PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARDS GOLD AWARDS
Grace Aversano
Emily Benedetto
Kylie Buck

Nicholas Cameron
Nicholas Cannetti
Cassandra Deutchsh
Cayleigh Dillon
Andrew Faughnan
Owen Ifferte
Jillian Knopf
Evan May
Michael McKillop
Deanna McNally
Kelly Read
Cassandra Rosado
Benjamin Scapellati
Christian Simpson
Eric Stenzel
Amy Tomko
Patrick VanWickler
Liam Wallace
SILVER AWARDS
Amanda Albanese
Sierra Boyce
Robert Cascio

Laura Eichele
Katie Feeley
Kellyn Gregory
Megan Hassig
Deanna McNally
Anna O’Connell
Madeline Recker

PRESIDENTIAL FITNESS AWARD Grade 5

Grace Aversano
Olivia Boucher
Kylie Buck
Nicholas Cannetti



Triple “C” Award • Evan May; **NYS Comptroller Achievement Award** • Eric Foster; **Triple “C” Award** • Cayleigh Dillon; **County Executive Public Service Award** • Grace Aversanon; **County Legislature Presiding Officer Award** • Kellyn Gregory

Cassandra Deutchsh
Cayleigh Dillon
Laura Eichele
Aidan Fitzpatrick

Sarah Gallagher
Kellyn Gregory
Michael McKillop
Patrick VanWickler

SD PTA Cultural/Arts Awards • (art) Megan Hassig, Christopher Hlavaty, Owen Ifferte, Anna O’Connell; (brass) Madeline Recker; (percussion) Anthony Borruso; (strings) Robert Cascio, Eric Foster; (voice) Ariana Annarumma, Samantha LoGrippe; (woodwind) Amy Tomko, Lauren Vahle



"HARD WORKERS" MOVE-UP FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL



While the Seventh-grade Orchestra played the march, the Eighth-graders processed into the auditorium for their Moving-Up Ceremony.

Once all had assembled, the program opened with the **National Anthem**, sung in a clear and deep voice by the talented Raymond Ebarb. In addition, the outstanding Jazz Band performed *The Final Countdown*, which included solo improvisations by various 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 Class. Describing them as "hard workers who had challenged themselves," 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 the needy, to fight ALS [raising] \$3,000, and to collect toys to make some families' Christmas a little brighter. You have knitted over 1,500 hats, blankets, and scarves to donate. You have an impressive resume of accomplishments, but what I have come to admire most about this class is the fine men and women you have become."

In his reflections about the past, how things have changed, and how far society has come, Mr. Murray stated, "what hasn't changed is the key to success and making a difference: hard work, perseverance, scholarship, compassion, empathy, and doing the right thing when nobody is looking. You have learned well over the past three years. Your foundation for success has been built by your hard work, 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!"



2011-2012 8th-GRADE DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

- ALGEBRA** Shane O'Donoghue
- ART 8** Samantha Wilson
- Studio in Art** Lia Magliola
- BAND** Jared Bergen
- CHORUS** Jillian Brudi
- COMPUTER APPLICATIONS** Kyle Matson
- CONSUMER & FAMILY SCIENCE** Jillian Brudi
- ENGLISH** Kathleen Herbst
- FRENCH** Amanda Minutello
- LIFE SCIENCE** Sydney Entin
- LIVING ENVIRONMENT** Jared Bergen
- MATHEMATICS 8** Kayla Perrone
- ORCHESTRA** Bridget Pitre
- PHYSICAL ED. (BOYS)** Shane O'Donoghue
- PHYSICAL ED. (GIRLS)** Nicole Farese
- SOCIAL STUDIES** Kaitlyn Ross
- SPANISH** Eric Bartlett
- TECHNOLOGY** Sean Caraher



CLASS STATISTICS

From the class of 237 students, **ACADEMICALLY**

- 105 students have taken and passed the Algebra Regents, one with a perfect score.
- 82 students have taken and passed the Living Environment Regents, two with perfect scores.
- 100% pass rate on both of the Regents exams.
- 38 students have taken and passed the High School Studio in Art Class.
- 50% of the Class is leaving with 2 High School Credits
- 35% of the Class is leaving with 3 High School Credits
- 28% of the Class has maintained a 90 GPA for 11 marking periods.

THE ARTS

- Music Department competed in festivals around the country, with 28 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).

PTA AWARDS

- GIRLS SPORTSMANSHIP KAITLYN ROSS
- BOYS SPORTSMANSHIP TRAVIS BROWN
- SCHOOL LEADERSHIP SHANE O'DONOGHUE
- SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SERVICE MEGAN O'CONNOR
- ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT JACLYN PARCELLUZZI



8TH GRADE 2011-2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS

PRESIDENTIAL

Kevin Esposito
Daniel Lumley
Lia Magliola
Christian Maloney
Christopher McAuliff
Ray McNamara
Melanie McNeill
Jamie Meere
Julia Miglino
Amanda Minutello
Jack Monaco
Eileen Monahan
Kimberly Monitto
Michael Nadeau
Jack Novak
Shane O'Donoghue
Joseph O'Leary

Christopher Palmeri
Angelina Perrone
Emily Perun
Elizabeth Pigott
Bridget Pitre
Tyler Powers
Jaycee Rodman
Michael Rolland
Kaitlyn Ross
Jack Saracino
Zachary Schulz
Alexandra Severin
Emily Sneddon
Luke Solak
Kyra Squillante
Gabrielle Stallone
Daniel Stuvén

Sean Velazquez
Savannah Votino
Christy Wichert
Samantha Wilson
Rachel Zarett
Daria Zeman

Kylie McCoy
James McKeon
Sean McNally
Kevin Smith
John Tama
Jonathan Verbeck

Emily Sneddon
Rowen Mahoney
Bridget Pitre
Sean McNally
Michael Nyman
Amanda Minutello
(silver)

Jillian Brudi
Lara Beth Hirsch
Savanah Votino
(bronze)
Madison May
Erik Lindquist

NYS COMPTROLLER'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- Lara Beth Hirsch
NYS TRIPLE 'C' AWARD
- Kyra Bachety,
- Madison May
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS (gold)
Nicole Farese
Jonathan Verbeck

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

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