

September 2005

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER VOLUME 21.2 http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us

NEWSWORTHY

Senior Daniel Hahn Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

Congratulations to Sayville High School student and Class of 2006 Senior Daniel Hahn, who has been named one of the 16,000 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. Danny "demonstrated outstanding academic potential" by his performance on the 2004 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and will continue in the competition for Finalist status.

Metropolitan Youth Chorale Selects Joseph Hailey

Sayville High School sophomore Joseph Hailey has been selected as a member of the Metropolitan Youth Chorale, an ensemble of 60 high-school-aged singers selected from Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk counties, who sing a wide variety of four-part choral music and perform yearly at the Tilles Center, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall.

Back by Popular Demand!

ACTIVE PARENTING OF TEENS Instructors: Konopelko/Simonsen Wednesdays (starts Sept. 28) 7-9 p.m. Sayville Middle School Library eeping things confidential This sixweek program addresses issues of drugs. sexuality. and violence prevention by helping parents learn to communicate with teens, teach responsibility, and develop effective discipline skills. Fee of \$40 includes workbook/parent guide.

Go online for registration deadline or for forms at www.sayville, kl2.ny.us, and link to Fall 2005 Adult Ed, or call 244-6647.

Fresh Faces Going Places

After a record-setting sweltering summer, a lovely fall chill greeted Sayville students back to school on Wednesday, September 7th. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosemary F. Jones reported that Opening Day ran

As Kindergarteners hopped of bus, Board of Education Truste Norm deVenau herded them

> unny the Safe Duck guide

smoothly thanks to the assistance of District administrators, faculty, staff, security, and transportation personnel. Another measure of first-day success: all the Kindergarteners appeared happy.

Heading Back to

School



of the Sayville School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION

KEVIN L. SPELMAN, PRESIDENT DEBORAH VAN ESSENDELFT, VICE PRESIDENT ALLISON J. CRUZ NORMAN DEVENAU MAUREEN DOLAN RAYMOND J. NELSON JOHN VERDONE BOARD NOTES

At the September 7th Board Meeting:

STAFF RECOGNITION

was given to

•Lucille Rinaldi (16 years-Teacher Aide) •Kathleen Young (6 years-Teacher Aide and 12 years-Monitor)

Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools, reported on the following:

- 1. Opening of School
- 2. Data Warehousing Presentation
- 3. Five-Year Capital-Facility Plan

(J. Belmonte)

Board of Education Discussion:

- Board Reports
- Volunteer Policy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 27 Superintendent's Roundtable

7pm District Office-Board Room

Sept. 29 Cherry Avenue

Parents Information Night 7pm

HS Open School Night 7pm-9pm

- Oct. 3 First Full Day of Kindergarten
- Oct. 4, 5 Rosh Hashanah Schools closed
- Oct. 10 Columbus Day Schools closed
- Oct. 13 Yom Kippur Schools closed
- Oct. 18 College Day at HS 7pm
- Oct. 20 Board of Education Meeting 8pm

NY State Ed Initiates **QUALITY Assurance Review** on Special Education Students' Achievement in Sayville

The New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) has initiated a Special Education Quality Assurance Review in Sayville School District during the 2005-2006 school year. The purpose of the review is to assess the District's compliance with selected Federal and State laws and regulations governing the education of students with disabilities as well as its ability to meet key performance indicators identified by the State Education Department.

The review will be conducted by VESID's Special Education Quality Assurance office and will include representatives from the School District, community, and parents. The focus of the review will be "Achievement' and will involve a review of school records of [randomly] selected students with disabilities, classroom visitations, and interviews with selected students with disabilities, administrators, teachers, related-service providers, and parents. Several meetings of the Committee on Special Education will be observed, and parents selected by VESID will be invited to participate in a Parent Forum, as well as being asked to complete a Parent Survey. A summary of the findings will appear in forthcoming District publications at the conclusion of the review. Further information may be obtained by contacting VESID's Special Education Quality assurance office in your region and/or your local School District.

Required Notice as per No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Legislation

President Bush signed NCLB legislation into law on January 8, 2002. It will remain in effect for six years. At that time it will be reviewed and reauthorized. The primary focus of Title I is improving the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. For school districts receiving Title I funds, there are a number of notices which must be shared with the public. These notices are noted and described below.

MILITARY RECRUITING Parents of high school

students: Districts receiving federal education funds under the No Child Left Behind Act, upon request, provide military recruiters and institutions of higher learning the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students. This is unless students and their parents exercise their right to prohibit release of the information without prior written parental consent. In addition, districts must provide military recruiters with the same access to high school students generally provided to college and universities or prospective employers.

EQUAL ACCESS

School districts that allow outside groups to use public facilities may not deny access to, or discriminate against, the Boy Scouts of America or other youth groups listed as a patriotic society in Title 36 of the U.S. Code, based on the group's membership or leadership criteria or oath of allegiance to God and country. Patriotic society youth groups other than the Boy Scouts include, for example, the Girls Scouts and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION SERVICES

When schools receiving Title I funds fail to make adequate yearly progress for at least three consecutive years, those schools must make supplemental education services available to eligible students from low-income families who attend those schools. In addition, schools that continue to fail in subsequent years and are consequently identified for corrective action and/or restructuring, must continue to offer supplemental services to eligible students. School districts required to arrange for the provision of supplemental education services must meet annually, give parents of eligible students notice of the availability of the services, the identity of such providers, and a brief description of the services, qualifications, and demonstrated effectiveness of each provider. Supplemental education services must be provided outside of the

regular school day. A school district is not required to provide transportation to students receiving supplemental educational services.

PLACEMENT IN A LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM BILINGUAL OR ENGLISH AS A

SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM Parent Notification: Pursuant to No Child Left Behind and Commissioner's Regulations, parents or guardians must be notified of their child's placement in a manner and/or language that they can understand, be it a language instruction educational program, instructional bilingual, or freestanding English-as-a-second-language program. Parents must be informed of their options regarding their child's placement in any such program. Parent notification is required by the district within 30 days after the start of the school year, or within two weeks of placement in a program when the student was not identified as limited English proficient before the start of the year.

PAGE TWO

of the Sayville School District

Giving Chase in the Corporate Challenge

Participating in the 20th Annual J. P. Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge on Long Island, held on July 26th, Sayville School District personnel ran or walked a 3.5-mile stretch along Jones Beach with 7,252 contenders from 241 companies. Guest athlete Olympic Gold medallist Sarah Hughes offered encouragement during the Long Island celebration. In one of the hottest summers on record, the Sayville team accepted the challenge of high humidity, eased ever so slightly by ocean breezes. Despite the weather, the Sayville team of Heidenreich, Mattimore, Morgo, and Richter finished fifth overall out of 84 Womens Teams, and for a second year received Tiffany trophies for their achievement. They are now eligible to compete with top corporate teams in future competitions. Congratulations go to trophy winners (pictured I-r) Christine Richter, Brooke Mattimore, Diana Heidenreich, with Team Captain Rosemary Camilleri, and Jennifer Morgo. In addition, the following people should also be commended for participating (some pictured in photo below): Kathy Bernstein, Stephanie Bricker, Rosemary Camilleri, Mary Beth Dieterle, Lori Falco, Kathleen Finn, Mary Pat Holler, D. Stephanie Lammano, Tricia Mannix, Matthew Nani, John Pagano, Denise Philp, Will Sprague, Geri Sullivan Keck, and Eileen Wind.







Sayville's sixteen new staff members received workshops



in a two-day orientation program that focused on the District's mission, expectations, and the differentiated instruction initiative. After receiving words of encouragement and welcome from Dr. Rosemary Jones (photo left), the staff got down to business. It was not all hard work. The staff development program was a perfect blend of humor and instruction, thanks to Education

consultants Cecil Ramsey and Roberta Richin, who conducted the seminars.



From the Office of the Superintendent

Special Invitation for <u>Parents</u> to attend

The Superintendent's Roundtable* * first in a series of three this year

What's Really Going On <u>After</u> School Hours?

Come and join us

- Violence

• *Risky behaviors* Find out how these things are affecting our young people after school hours! Discussion Panel

Mr. Joseph Buderman, High School Principal Elizabeth Quilan, CSW Dr. Jen Doddato, Psychologist Shar Roberta Richin, Consultant Shawn Foster, CSW

When: Tuesday, September 27th - 7:00 p.m. Where: District Office - Board Room R.S.V.P. Julie at 244-6515 or vaccaroj@sayville.k12.ny.us Please respond to ensure we have adequate space!



New Staff in alphabetical order: Bryan Coon, Audra Feeley, Lori Gary, Stephen Greenwald, Julia Lang-Shapiro, Nicole LiVigni, Niamh Mannoia, Mary Matthews, Lynn Meade, Katherine O'Connor, Sonja Olsen, Jilian Petrone, Heather Prince-Skulvich, Kristi Valentine, Roberta Weisbecker, and Kimberly Williams

PAGE THREE



of the Sayville School District

Roots and Wings "We are responsible for giving our students roots and wings," Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones announced as she introduced this year's theme during the staff assembly on Teacher Conference Day, September 1st. "We will continue to respect the traditions of our District, while preparing our students to meet the challenges of the future. It takes everyone to accomplish extraordinary things."

Giving Students

Also during the Conference, Dr. Jones congratulated staff members who had achieved milestone years of service. Recognized in a sentimental media presentation were:

* 20 years: Kathy O'Brien

* 25 years: Anne Duncan, Josephine Myszka, Anne Marie Podlas, Jean Pollack, Ellen Potere, Tim Southerton, & Patrica Warren

When Children Have Roots and Wings... Anything is Possible..

* 30 years: Alice Bilz, Carol Guinaw, Joan Jetter (not in photo), & Brian Vorwald 35 years: Joan Jones, Rich Lewin, & Ellen Wels.



Ribbon from Business Magazine **SAYVILLE RECEIVES** Blue

Providing a service to its 45,000 corporate subscribers, Expansion Management, a monthly business magazine for executives, evaluates and reports on communities nationwide that hold promise for relocation or potential for a well-educated work force. As part of this assessment, the magazine has been producing the Education Quotient TM, which rates secondary school districts throughout the United States with a district enrollment of at least 3,300 students. In its most recent edition of Education Quotient TM, published December 2004, Sayville School District ranked in the top third nationally and was recognized as a Blue Ribbon school.

According to Chief Editor of Expansion

Management, Bill King, the EQ makes this determination by focusing on results in three categories, based upon a weighted scale: " Graduate Outcome (how well students learn and how many stay to graduation); Resource Index (which measures a community's financial commitment to education; "Community Index (which measures the community's adult education and income levels)...By far the most important factors are the test scores and the graduation rates. That's the bottom line for potential employers," according to King. "They want to know if their potential workers are smart enough to do the job, and if they will show up for work every day."

Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones was awarded the Blue Ribbon Certificate for Sayville School District as Expansion Management's way of saying thank-you for a job well done.



PAGE FOUR

The Presentation of the Lori Abrams SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Lori Abrams Scholarship Awards were awarded to two graduating seniors in June. This year's recipients were Brian Carlson for the FBLA Award and Ashraya

Gupta for the Drama and Music Award. Both recipients were selected by faculty members of Sayville High School for their talents and exceptional involvements. Congratulations and best wishes were given to both Brian and Ashraya for their continuing success in their futures. Two perpetual plaques will be displayed in Sayville High School commemorating the recipients of these awards in the past and for the future.



(1-r) Pictured are Mrs. Amy Baron (music teacher at Sunrise Drive School), Mr. Steven Hailey (drama director at Sayville High School), and Ashraya Gupta at the Drama Awards Night after she sang Lori's Song which was written with love by Mrs. Baron.

Donations to the Lori Abrams Scholarship can be mailed to The Lori Abrams Scholarship, 21 Cleveland Avenue, Sayville, NY 11782. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this fund to preserve the memory of Lori.



ith the Annual Installation and Awards Ceremony held on June 9th, the Sayville High School drama club, the Sayville Players, brought its 2004-2005 season to a close. The successful season included productions of "Jesus Christ, Superstar," "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Spotlite on Drama: the Words of Arthur Miller," "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds," "The Sound of Music," fourteen student-directed one-act plays in "Drama Fest 2005," and the year-end theatrical recital "Showin' Off!"

Graduating seniors Joseph Casper, James Dier, Melanie Gudesblatt, Ashraya Gupta, Danielle Kane, Stacie Kennard, Thomas Murray, Lisa Nelson, Robert Paul, Josh Rothberg, and Tyler Stratman were inducted into the *Sayville Players Honour Troupe* for their contributions over the last four years to the High School's theatre arts program. Receiving *Honorable Mention* were seniors Katie Banaszak, Michael Ann Barnes, Meghan Brown, Claire French, Nicolle Heagney, Megan Schmitt, and April Warren.

Additionally, the *Sayville Players (International Thespian Society Troupe #6416)* installed a new Board of Directors for the 2005-2006 school year, which included Michael Ellison, James O'Connor, Meredith O'Connor, Brian Ellison, John Barrett, Alexandra Van Horne, Kieran Siao, Elizabeth Schonig, and Mianna Molinari.

of the Sayville School District

Celebrating Its Tenth Season Sayville Young People's Opera Workshop

Sayville Young People's Opera Workshop celebrated its tenth season with a successful production of A "TASTE" OF OPERA and selections from the Who's rock opera, TOMMY. Involving over 70 area young people from the ages of 10 to 23 as singers, actors, dancers, crew, and (for the first time ever) members of the live orchestra, the company played to audiences of over 200 for four nights in the David M. Jones auditorium at the Sayville Middle School and one night at the Common Ground Gazebo in Sayville's Rotary Park.

Each performance featured different young people in leading roles, and all five performances were unqualified successes. The directors would like to thank the administration of the Sayville Public Schools, the Sayville Middle School (especially the custodial staff), the Sayville Music Department, and the Sayville Players for their assistance this summer, as well as the family and friends of the company members for helping us have

an outstanding tenth season.

Looking Ahead

The Sayville Players will present:

- Elmer Rice's award-winning drama *STREET SCENE* on November 2-5, 2005 - Sayville High School Auditorium
- SPOTLITE ON COMEDY: THE WORDS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE on January 6-7, 2006 - SHS Little Theatre
- Neil Simon's classic comedy THE ODD COUPLE(S) on January 11-14, 2006 - SHS "Backstage Theatre-in-the-Round"
- The Sayville Players and the SHS Music Department present The Spring Musical -(*TBA*) in March 2006 - Sayville High School Auditorium
- Drama Fest '06 an evening of student-directed one-act plays in May 2006 - Sayville High School Little Theatre
- * Showin' Off! a student-produced theatre arts recital in May 2006 - Sayville High School Little Theatre
- The Sayville Players and International Thespian Troupe #6416 INSTALLATION and AWARDS CEREMONY in June 2006 - Sayville High School Auditorium
- The Sayville Players and the Sayville Young People's Opera Workshop will present Summer Opera Workshop 2006

PAGE FIVE

of the Sayville School District

VEGGIE

You may have already noticed the **Pigs On Parade** by Middle School artists in this year's School Calendar (see November). but another art project you did not get a chance to see involved Mrs. Urso's (photo below) Eighth-grade art students learning **Photoshop** in the Computer Lab. Assisted by Computer Lab Tech Kathy Mellynchuck



ech Kathy Mellynchuck (photo right), the students learned to cut and paste design elements using Photoshop tools. The result? Veggiemen Portraits, faces



composed of vegetables and fruits. It gave new meaning to "you are what you eat" and the students enjoyed the challenge of "drawing" these unique caricatures.

Katrina Relief Ongoing Efforts

While Sayville School District is grateful that our region could conduct school business as usual, our hearts go out to the many victims of Hurricane Katrina. In response to the urgent need of those communities struck by this national disaster, the Sayville High School Student government quickly organized homeroom fundraisers for the victims, and the Sayville Teachers Association held a barbecue at the Maritime Museum to collect financial donations. This is just the beginning. As ongoing efforts continue to be organized by students, staff, and community members in Sayville, *flighlights* will help to keep you posted.

Fitness Fridays Addressing Epidemic Proportions

During the past academic year, Middle School Health Education teacher Jodi Maurici organized *Fitness Fridays* in response to the growing epidemic of childhood obesity.

This topic of obesity in children has been the subject "in countless articles," Mrs. Maurici explained. "The newest stats are indicating that 1 in 3 children of this generation will become obese due to a lack of exercise, an overabundance of convenience foods (fast food, prepackaged foods, and vending machines), and a failure to follow serving-size requirements. Childhood obesity is one of the largest causes of diabetes and heart disease," Mrs. Maurici added, "and a recent article stated that this generation may be the first to predecease their parents because of this trend."

While it is recommended that children and teens get 60-90 minutes of physical activity per day in addition to any sport they play, most children do not even come close to the requirement because of the inert distractions of video games and home media. "Couple this with the over abundance of sugar-filled soft drinks," Mrs. Maurici remarked, "and we have an enormous problem on our hands. Just an FYI: a bottle of *Fruitworks* has more sugar content than is recommended *per day* for human consumption. This is why I've started *Fitness Fridays.*"

Every Friday during the semester, Mrs. Maurici and students exercised to a video or did a routine and the children rated what they felt about the instructor, the music, the level of difficulty, and their enjoyment. Well, the kids LOVED IT! Doing a combination of cardio, strength, and yoga/flexibility, *Fitness Fridays* have enabled many students to begin making life changes.

This new school year, Mrs. Maurici is confident she can enlist more kids on board. The only impediment? A limited supply of exercise videos, hand weights,

stability balls, medicine balls, etc. Donations to help this program grow would be greatly appreciated. Contact Jodi Maurici, Sayville Middle School, 244-6650, if you can contribute.

National Anthem Program Makes Music History



Last spring, students in Lincoln Avenue Elementary School participated in the weeklong launch of the *National Anthem Project*, which has among its many sponsors the National Music Teachers Association. The Project to teach the Anthem, spearheaded by Mrs. Laura Bush, both reinforces the importance of music in public education and recognizes that children can learn the history of our country through music.

"While Lincoln Avenue students learned the National Anthem," explained Lincoln Avenue music teacher Christine L. Radcliffe, "the Fifth graders created projects to help the younger students learn and understand the song. Presentations were made over the PA system by Fifth graders and the Anthem was sung every day for a week. We continued to sing the Anthem once a week after the initial launch."



of the Sayville School District

Time Capsules Revisited

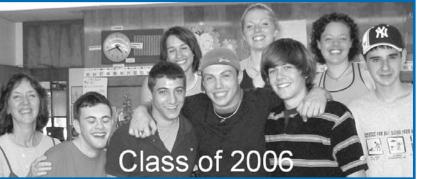
was like a scene from Back to after so many years. Mrs. the Future when two different Abrams has planned another time capsules were opened by the juniors and seniors who, ten and nine years ago, were in Mrs. Abrams' Fourth-grade classes. Both classes were invited for separate reunions and many students returned to witness the reopening of the capsules containing momentoes from Fourth grade. After sharing memories and future plans, a time warp was created by watching a video of the classes from 1998 and 1997. It was quite a thrill to experience the transformation in one

Room 105 at Sunrise Drive afternoon and to meet again opening of a time capsule for the year 2014, when her Second graders will be juniors. Best wishes to all the students and may they always have fond memories of Sayville Schools.

> Class of 2006 (front row) Mrs. Abrams, Garet Newman, David Bachy, Harry Grimm, Jesse Lane, and Mike Lotto (back row) Maggie Cerveny, Lorelei Schreiber, and Stephanie Morgan. Those who also attended were Mrs. Baron (music teacher), Danny Buckley, Caitlyn Delaney, Lauren Erath, and Christopher MacLellan.



Class of 2005(front row): Kerri Dileo, Christina Silvestro, Melanie Gudesblatt, Kaitlyn Kennedy, Mrs. Judy Abrams, (back row) Colin Macy-O'Toole, Daniel Olk, Ethan Finlay, and Jenna Duryee.



Kids Helping Kids Reaching Out to Louisiana

Sayville Elementary school children, staff, and families have a unique opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to students whose lives have been severely disrupted by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Greenbrier Elementary School, in East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is providing education to over 200 additional students who have been displaced from their homes in New Orleans. These students are being housed in local shelters and are in need of clothing and school supplies. Our elementary schools will be "adopting" Greenbrier in order to make a difference at this very difficult time.

Children at Greenbrier need the following items:

Maroon or Burgundy polo shirts or t-shirts Navy Blue shorts, pants, skirts, or jumpers (Color is important as these colors correspond to the school uniform colors.)

Tennis shoes: girls and boys sizes 11-7 **Bookbags / School supplies**

White t-shirts, underwear, socks, sweaters

Please help in whatever way you can. There will be boxes sorted according to item and set up in each elementary school's main hallway. We would like to make our first shipment to the children at Greenbrier on Friday, September 23rd. Donations will be accepted after that date also, up until September 30th.

This is a tremendous opportunity to put a "face" on our fundraising efforts on behalf of these fellow Americans. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated by the school communities of Sayville and Baton Rouge.

Making a Fundraising ifference at Sunrise

Touching the lives of many in need, Sunrise Drive students were quite productive last year in various Physical Education fundraising efforts.

Under the guidance of Sunrise Physical education teachers Miss Hamilton and Mr. Cox, the students helped hurricane victims last fall through the American Red Cross. For only a quarter a piece, the students could purchase red, white, or blue paper sneakers and hang them on the wall. After the colorful sneakers filled the hall outside the gym, the students had contributed a total of \$165.

During February's successful Jump Rope for Heart program, students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 raised \$10,915 to help the American Heart Association in their research, educational, and community service programs.

In May, the student responded to Island Harvest's 2005 Hunger Awareness Coin Harvest Campaign by bringing their pennies from home to fill huge buckets in the gym. They raised \$848.94.

(Even the teachers at Sunrise, Lincoln and the High School joined forces to fundraise for Go Red For Women, the American Heart Association program geared to raising awareness about women's heart health, and raised \$505.)

"We wanted to help our students experience the great feeling of helping others with these community-service activities," Miss Hamilton said. "We especially would like to thank all the students and their families for their continued support. When you give to others, your return is always greater than what you give."



SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER Linda A. Mittiga, Producer,Writer, Editor, Designer Past Winner of NYSPRA Awards

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

99 Greeley Avenue School Tax Code 566 Sayville, New York 11782 Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools

****ECRWSS**** POSTAL CUSTOMER

New Art: A COMMON Legacy

When the Sayville High School coffee house, *The Common Grounds*, relocated to its new room in the Old Junior High, many High School artists seized the opportunity to express themselves. Under the supervision of High School art teacher Mr. Evan Hammer, a team of students created a new mural, transforming the blank wall into a colorful scene. Designed by Class of 2005 students Kaitlin Van Pelt and Roy Verspoor, the mural depicts caricatures of actual students who participated in the painting project. "Roy is the drummer; Kaitlin is in the gondola with her sketchbook," Mr. Hammer explained, "I am the gondola

driver. If you know the students, you can probably guess who's who. It is especially

meaningful to me, because each has been a student of mine in the last couple of years." While acknowledging the combined efforts of the students who worked for the common good of the coffee house, Mr. Hammer added, "It's nice to see that after all that hard work, they get to leave a kind of legacy behind for others to enjoy."

The Common Grounds has a new look

The Common Grounds has a new look thanks to the following student artists:

Kaitlin Van Pelt Roy Verspoor Meg Garbarino Emma Wasielke Cristina Razzano JoAna Swan Meghan Taylor Maggie Kaminski Matt French Ericka Van Essendelft Terrance Daly Jaci Carley



Fresh Faces Going Places on their way to school



