

# Our Schools

The Community Newsletter of the Farmingdale Public Schools • Summer 2012

## Farmingdale's Top Two



### Valedictorian Brian Entwistle

Hardworking and academically talented, Brian Entwistle graduated as the Class of 2012 valedictorian with a grade-point average of 105.584. Brian was inducted into the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, and has been an enthusiastic participant on both the Science Olympiad and Mathlete teams.

Brian also has a passion for music. He served as president of the FHS chapter of the Tri-M Honor Society and participated in the All-County Jazz Ensemble and All-State Wind Ensemble, in addition to being a drum major for the school's award-winning marching band.

Brian has honed his leadership skills as a member of several school clubs, including the Key Club, and has been an active member of the Boy Scouts. A young man of great character, he has also taken a lead role in community service activities.

Brian graduated with an advanced Regents diploma and is looking forward to attending Vanderbilt University in the fall.

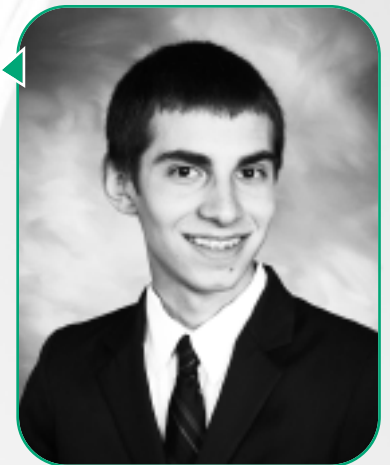
### Salutatorian Robert Brienza

Robert Brienza's grade-point average of 103.878 attests to his intellectual prowess and diligence. His motivation and desire to excel have been evident in all of his academic pursuits, and his high performance granted him acceptance into both the National Honor Society and Italian Honor Society.

The Class of 2012 salutatorian is passionate about science and math, and has been active on the Farmingdale High School Science Olympiad Team and in the Science Bowl. He also participated in the National History Bowl, and demonstrated his overall knowledge when he and his teammates represented Farmingdale in the MSG Varsity Tri-State Challenge in New York City.

Robert is musically talented as well. An accomplished baritone horn player, he served as a section leader in the Farmingdale High School Marching Band.

Robert graduated with an advanced Regents diploma and intends to study physics at Stony Brook University this fall.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

- For the third consecutive year, Farmingdale's varsity athletic teams earned the Team Scholar-Athlete Award. As such, Farmingdale is recognized as a *School of Distinction* and will be presented with the award and certificate in September by the New York State Athletic Association. This award is given only to schools in which all varsity teams earn an average of 90 percent or better.
- At an awards ceremony in June, the community granted scholarships to 191 graduating seniors, totaling approximately \$97,550.
- The Farmingdale High School Science Olympiad Team competed in the New York State competition for the first time in school history. While in Buffalo, students Brian Entwistle and James Keenan earned a first-place medal in the Water Quality Competition. Additionally, Robert Brienza and Nakul Gupta earned a sixth-place medal in the Math and General Science Knowledge Competition.

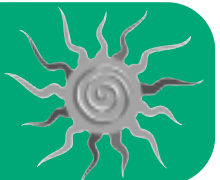
Congratulations to our students, some of the best in New York State!

- Though many school districts from all over New York State competed in the Olympics of the Visual Arts Competition, Farmingdale High School placed first in photography, painting and fashion. The team received the *Most Creative* Award in the industrial design and architecture category.
- Fifteen performing groups displayed their talents at the NYSSMA Large Organization Festival at Hofstra in May. Farmingdale students received 13 gold awards, including two with distinction, and two silver awards.
- In the Nassau County Transportation Poster Contest, Farmingdale won first place in both the Kindergarten-grade 2 category and the grades 6-8 category. The District tied for first place in the grades 3-5 category.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Shari Bardash-Eivers, *President*  
Stephen G. Wilson, *Vice President*  
John Capobianco • Russ Catanzaro  
Tina Diamond • Kathy Lively • Rick Morrison

For School District Information  
and Board Meeting Agendas,  
Sign on to: [www.farmingdaleschools.org](http://www.farmingdaleschools.org)



## Saltzman East Memorial Team Stands Out at Odyssey of the Mind World Finals

Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School's fifth grade team placed in the top half in the 33rd Annual Odyssey of the Mind World Finals this May, and was recognized as the most creative team on the national and state levels. The only team to represent Long Island, the Saltzman East Memorial group traveled to Iowa State University to compete against approximately 20,000 students from across the U.S., and from countries as distant as Japan, China, Poland, Germany, India, Indonesia, Singapore and Mexico. Saltzman's team participated in the *Weird Science* category. Congratulations to our students on their achievements!

The Odyssey of the Mind competition is organized by Creative Opportunities Unlimited (COU), which affords students opportunities to meet National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronauts and attend NASA conferences and workshops.



## Farewell to Our Retirees of 2012



### **Dr. Eve Dieringer, Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School Principal**

Dr. Eve Dieringer joined the Farmingdale Public Schools in 1996 as an elementary assistant principal at the Northside School. After four years, she was ready to make the transition to principal and joined the Saltzman East Memorial family. Dr. Dieringer has worked extensively on the professional development plan, staff development and curriculum review of the District's K-5 language arts program. Highly energetic and well-organized, she is an instructional leader – and always a student herself. She has always demonstrated her belief that every student can achieve, and has encouraged the use of intervention strategies to meet the needs of individual learners. Her high expectations for accountability and performance have enabled the students of our District to achieve at their highest levels. We will all miss her, and wish her many wonderful years ahead.

### **Josephine Murray, District Personnel Administrator and Board of Education District Clerk**

Josephine Murray has had a positive impact on countless individuals in the Farmingdale School District. She joined Farmingdale Schools in 1977, beginning her career first as a school monitor in the East Memorial Junior High School cafeteria and later as a telephone operator in the lobby of the Howitt Middle School. In short time, her talents were recognized and she began working in the office of the superintendent. Since 1985, she has been the personnel administrator for the District, and can be credited with essentially building the department from the ground up. In addition, she has served as the district clerk to the Board of Education for 25 years. Mrs. Murray has worked closely with five superintendents and numerous Board trustees, administrators, teachers, and support staff. She has been the voice of the District, and her sense of humor, her patience and her institutional memory will be missed by all. We thank her for her countless contributions to the Farmingdale School District, and wish her the very best in the years ahead.



## Thank You, Farmingdale Residents!

On May 15, members of the Farmingdale community came out to the polls, approving the 2012-13 school budget by a 1787 to 896 margin. Trustees Shari Bardash-Eivers, Kathy Lively and Rick Morrison were re-elected to the Board of Education. The approved budget allows us to continue to provide the highest quality education for the children of Farmingdale while fulfilling our responsibility to taxpayers by maintaining careful control of expenses. The Board of Education and District administration appreciate the continued support of the Farmingdale community, and look forward to another great school year in September.

## Our Board of Education's Overarching Goal for the District

**“We will establish Farmingdale as a high-achieving school district, as evidenced by high levels of student performance in all areas including New York State assessments and Regents exams.”**



# What's Happening in Our Schools...



## Albany Avenue

In June, Albany Avenue celebrated the completion of the third year of its Ambassador Program, which matches fifth grade ambassadors with their peers on the autism spectrum. This year, 64 ambassadors completed the program and received medals and certificates of honor. Albany Avenue ambassadors are nominated to participate in the program based on their maturity, empathy, kindness and dedication; those who accept are trained for five weeks with a special education teacher and the school psychologist before being matched with a child with autism. During their recess periods, pairs of student-ambassadors interact with each autistic child. In addition, the ambassadors share their knowledge and experience with their classmates, helping them to be more understanding and empathetic toward those with autism. This program has been an enormous success for all Albany Avenue students. Congratulations to our new ambassadors!

## Northside

In May, second grade students at Northside participated in the *Math Minds* Competition, a two-part interactive event designed and coordinated by math coach Jackie Wedner. In part one, each class picked four student representatives to speedily and accurately respond to mental-math problems. Part two featured 10 second grade students who completed a *Pieces of the Grid* puzzle in their classroom; these students worked toward the same goal of being both fast and accurate. This competition used approaches modeled in the Singapore Math program; the forum gave students the opportunity to display their knowledge and be commended for their excellent problem solving.



## Saltzman East Memorial

With the implementation of the Singapore Math model in our District's curriculum, students have been acquiring more skills in mental math and computation, as well as mastering math concepts, through hands-on learning. Saltzman East Memorial has been immersed in Singapore Math strategies throughout the year, and the children have been gaining a deeper understanding of the topics being taught. Students have been working in teams to solve problems daily; teamwork has made learning more fun, and everyone has enjoyed refining their mathematical reasoning skills. Teachers meet with students to discuss different approaches to solving a problem, and all possible solutions are displayed to show how students think differently. Students at SEM are showing a positive response to the hands-on approach, and they have grown tremendously throughout the year.

## Woodward Parkway

Kindergarten students from Woodward Parkway took a field trip to Howitt Middle School to participate in the *Literacy to Life* event. The kindergarteners spent the day with eighth grade students from Anmarie Ingenito's home and career skills classes, and Howitt librarian Jennifer Bleicher read *Walter the Baker* by Eric Carle. Afterward, the eighth graders developed engaging activities based on the book, including a puppet show, pretzel play dough and pretzel "twister." The kindergarten children constructed pretzel-marshmallow towers and enjoyed coloring, playing baker bingo and learning about kitchen supplies in the baker's kitchen equipment lesson. The event was a great learning experience for both the older and younger students, and everyone had fun in the process.

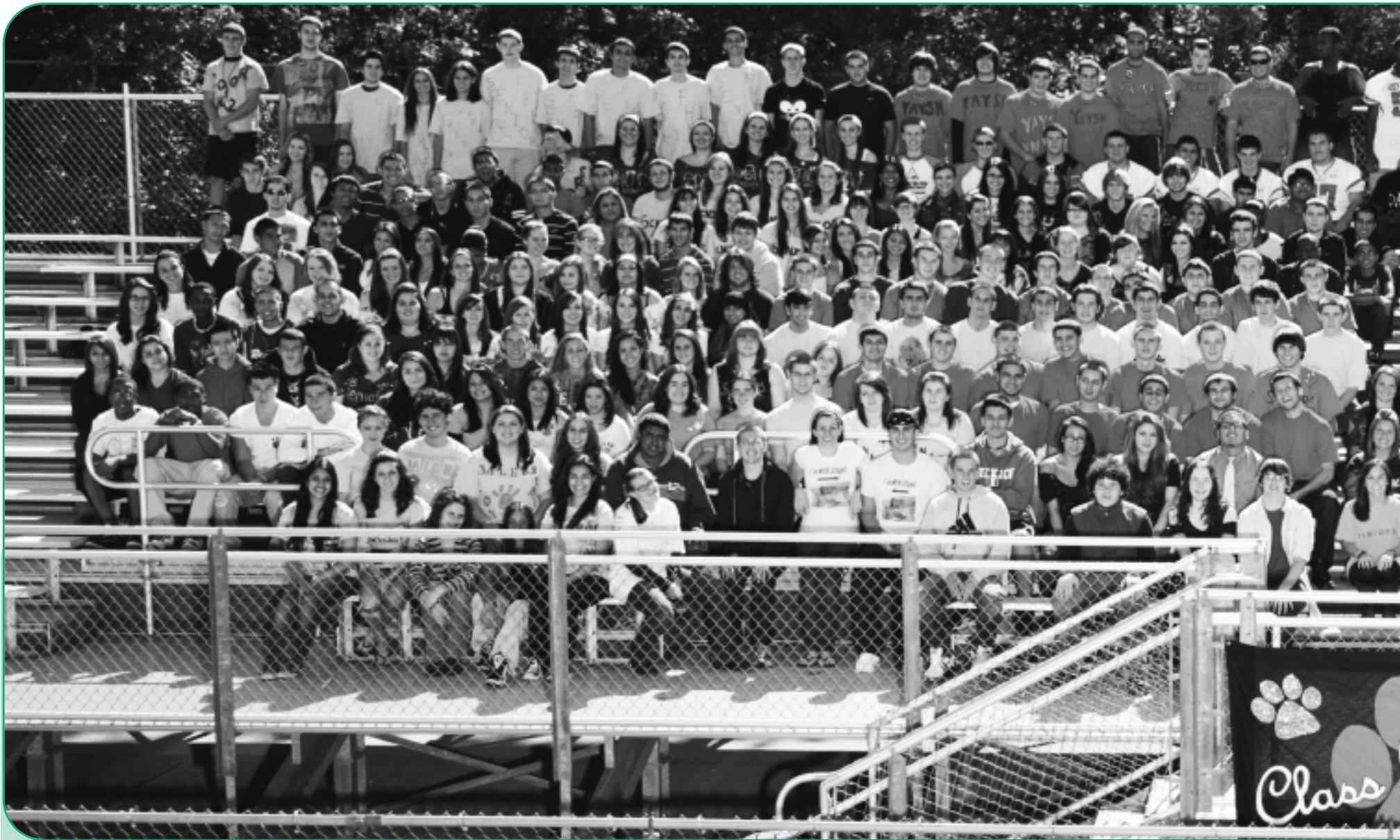


## Howitt Middle School

In May, Howitt Middle School sixth graders celebrated the completion of their fascinating science projects. During the Sixth Grade Evening Science Fair, students were immersed in the creative process of experimentation and problem solving using the scientific method. The vision of the science fair is to provide students with fresh and innovative ways to think about science using a variety of new skills and practices learned throughout the year. Over a two month process, Ms. Pound's, Ms. LaRosa's and Mr. Marzilier's science classes developed projects that were designed and executed solely by the students. Students conducted experiments to solve a problem or design a prototype that could be integrated for use in a real-world application. Over 150 sixth graders presented their work during the fair and answered questions from an audience of over 200 guests. The students were stewards of their own progress as they learned to drive a long-term project from concept to fruition.



# Presenting the



**In September, Farmingdale Class of 2012 graduates will attend  
We wish each of them success and fulfillment**

Adelphi University  
Albany College of Pharmacy  
Binghamton University  
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Boston College  
Briarcliffe College  
Carnegie Mellon University  
City College of New York - CUNY  
Coastal Carolina University  
The College at Brockport - SUNY  
College of Mount Saint Vincent  
The College at Old Westbury - SUNY  
Drexel University  
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Electrical Tech School  
Fairfield University  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Five Towns College  
Florida A&M University  
Hofstra University  
Hunter College - CUNY  
Indian River State College  
Indiana University Bloomington  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice - CUNY

Johnson & Wales University  
Keuka College  
Kingsborough Community College - CUNY  
Lee University  
Lehigh University  
Liberty University  
Lincoln Technical Institute  
Long Island University - Brentwood Campus  
Long Island University - Brooklyn Campus  
Long Island University - C.W. Post Campus  
Longwood University  
Macaulay Honors College - CUNY  
Manhattan College  
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
- Worcester Campus  
Medgar Evers College - CUNY  
Molloy College  
Nassau Community College  
New York Institute of Technology - Old Westbury Campus  
New York University  
Pace University  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Pennsylvania State University - World Campus  
Pennsylvania State University - Schuylkill



# Class of 2012



some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities.  
in all their endeavors. Our grads are off to...

Pennsylvania State University - University Park  
Philadelphia University  
Purchase College  
Quinnipiac University  
Rhode Island College  
Rice University  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey - New Brunswick  
Saint Joseph College  
Salisbury University  
Seton Hall University  
St. John's University - Queens Campus  
St. Joseph's College - Suffolk Campus  
State University of New York - Albany  
State University of New York - Oswego  
State University of New York - Plattsburgh  
State University of New York - New Paltz  
Stonehill College  
Stony Brook University  
Suffolk County Community College - Ammerman  
Suffolk County Community College - Eastern Campus  
Suffolk County Community College - Western Campus  
SUNY at Farmingdale  
SUNY - Buffalo State College  
SUNY - Cobleskill

SUNY - Cortland  
SUNY - Delhi  
SUNY - Geneseo  
SUNY - Oneonta  
SUNY - Potsdam  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
The College of Saint Rose  
The University of Scranton  
The University of Tampa  
Towson University  
Universal Technical Institute  
University at Buffalo  
The State University of New York  
University of Bridgeport  
University of Central Florida  
University of Connecticut  
University of Delaware  
University of Hartford  
University of Maryland - College Park  
Vanderbilt University  
Vassar College  
Veeb Nassau County School Of Practical Nursing  
Wagner College  
Wake Forest University  
York College of Pennsylvania



# Moving Into

To showcase the achievements of another successful school year, students around the district participated in special year-end ceremonies attended by many proud members of our school community.

## Albany Avenue Elementary School

Albany Avenue fifth grade students proudly marched to “Pomp and Circumstance” as the moving-up ceremony began. The children were greeted by Principal Joseph Valentine, Assistant Principal Victoria LoRusso and Student Council President Brandon Carbone. The fifth grade chorus performed Carl Strommen’s “Like an Eagle” accompanied by Director MiHee Hwang, and everyone enjoyed watching a video reflecting on Fifth-grade parent Barbara Hayden created a video montage that reflected on the students’ journey throughout the years. Board of Education Vice President Steven Wilson, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joan Ripley, and Assistant Principal LoRusso assisted Principal Valentine in presenting the certificates to the Albany Avenue Class of 2012.

This year, Kathryn Yaeger was honored with the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award. Brian Hayden was honored with the Gary E. Karp Community Service Award. It was a proud day for all.



*Board of Education Award  
Kathryn Yaeger*



*Karp Community Service Award  
Brian Hayden*

## Northside Elementary School



*Board of Education Award  
Riley Preiss*



*Karp Community Service Award  
Camryn Kopetic*

“Trumpet Voluntary,” performed by the talented musical staff, led the moving up fifth grade students into Northside Elementary’s moving-up ceremony. Katie Duke directed the school’s Chamber Club as members performed a rousing rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner.” Afterward, the audience enjoyed a multimedia montage of the students’ years at Northside. Under the direction of choral teacher Pat Facchiano, Northside graduates entertained the audience with the song, “We’ll Remember You” by Steven Vogel.

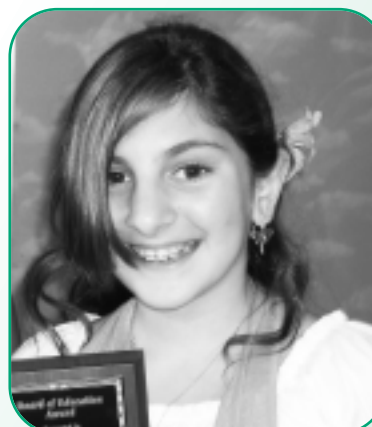
Board of Education Vice President Stephen Wilson and Assistant Superintendent Barbara Horsley attended the ceremony to help distribute certificates. The artwork of fifth graders Antonio Brienza and Mia Valenti decorated the front and back of the printed graduation program.

Riley Preiss was the recipient of the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award. The Gary E. Karp Community Service Award was given to Camryn Kopetic.

## Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

Following an impressive display by the color guard, Saltzman East Memorial School fifth grade moving-up students marched in to the band’s rendition of “Astron: A New Horizon.” The class joined in singing the “Star Spangled Banner” and “Day of Celebration” as family members, faculty and staff looked on with pride. Assistant Superintendent for Business Paul Defendini and Board of Education President Shari Bardash-Eivers offered inspiring comments; Dr. Eve Dieringer, Principal of Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School, gave the introductions, and Assistant Principle Jeff Galluzzo presented the class to the enthusiastic gathering.

Alissa Kevan was the recipient of the Board of Education Award this year. The Gary E. Karp Community Service Award went to Victoria Recine.



*Board of Education Award  
Alissa Kevan*



*Karp Community Service Award  
Victoria Recine*

# the Future

## Woodward Parkway Elementary School



*Board of Education Award  
Joseph Schuler*



*Karp Community Service Award  
Julianne Malanowski*

All eyes were on Woodward Parkway Elementary School moving-up students as the processional began to the tune of “Rondeau” by composer Mouret. Following congratulatory remarks from Principal Patrick Klocek and PTA President Tricia Keller, the senior class presented a moving performance of “Follow Your Dream,” composed by George Strid and Mary Donnelly. Board of Education Trustee Kathy Lively and Superintendent John Lorentz presented the students with certificates, and Assistant Principal Patricia O’Regan spoke warmly and enthusiastically as she offered closing comments. The recessional, Scott Joplin’s “Pine Apple Rag,” played by Debra Lutz, was a fittingly celebratory piece to end the momentous occasion.

Joseph Schuler received the Board of Education Award; the Gary E. Karp Community Service Award went to Julianne Malanowski.

## Weldon E. Howitt Middle School

Farmingdale’s eighth graders were honored for their achievements throughout their middle school years at the Howitt Middle School Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, June 18. Principal Luis Peña provided opening and closing remarks, and Howitt faculty members presented the many student achievers with their awards.

Among the many achievers were Margaret Hans, the recipient of the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award, and Elizabeth Veranda, who earned the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.



*Board of Education Award  
Margaret Hans*



*Karp Community Service Award  
Elizabeth Miranda*

## Farmingdale High School



*Board of Education Award  
Sarah Hecht*



*Karp Community Service Award  
Brian Entwistle*

On Thursday, June 19, the Farmingdale High School Class of 2012 entered Hofstra University’s David S. Mack Sports Complex to the processional of “Pomp and Circumstance.” Principal Glen Zakian welcomed the District’s graduating seniors to the commencement to celebrate 13 years of hard work and dedication. Valedictorian Brian Entwistle and Salutatorian Robert Brienza addressed their fellow classmates, and Andrea Cardona delivered the President’s Address.

Board of Education President Shari Bardash-Eivers presented Sarah Hecht with the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award, and Board of Education Vice President Stephen G. Wilson honored Brian Entwistle as the recipient of the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.

The Board of Education presented students with their diplomas. Class of 2012 graduates will follow many different paths. Some students are headed to prestigious colleges and universities, others to technical schools or the workforce. We wish the Class of 2012 the best of luck in all of their future endeavors!



## FROM THE SPORTS DESK

### Congratulations to Our 29 Scholar/Athlete Teams!

Farmingdale athletes have displayed their astounding skills both on the field and in the classroom throughout the past spring season. All varsity spring teams have achieved Scholar/Athlete team status for the and third consecutive year. Scholar/Athlete teams are designated by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for maintaining a combined GPA of at least 90 percent during the season.

Below are highlights from the spring season:

The **GIRLS' LACROSSE** team captured the Nassau County Championship title for the eighth consecutive year. The Lady Dalers earned their place as undefeated Conference I champions with a 9-0 record, concluding the spring season with a dominant 17-2 record! Congratulations to the All-County, All-Long Island, Academic All-American and All-American girls' lacrosse athletes.

The **BOYS' GOLF** team, led by state qualifiers Kyle Brey and Matthew Lowe, clinched the Co-Conference III championship. We congratulate all of the All-Conference and All-County players on the team.

Also named with All-Conference and All-County players, the **SOFTBALL** team has grasped the title Conference AA2 championship this spring and is looking forward to another successful season in 2013.

TEAM	# OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING	TEAM AVERAGE
Boys' Lacrosse	41	97.065
Girls' Lacrosse	30	99.143
Boys' Baseball	21	95.125
Girls' Softball	15	91.172
Girls' Badminton	26	98.408
Boys' Tennis	17	99.07
Girls' Spring Track	71	99.703
Boys' Spring Track	90	98.628

**WE THANK EACH AND EVERY  
ONE OF OUR TALENTED  
STUDENT/ATHLETES FOR THEIR  
HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE  
IN THIS SPRING SEASON!**

## Music and Fine Arts News

### Dalers Reign Triumphant at the Olympics of Visual Arts

This year, Farmingdale middle and high school students earned nine awards at the Olympics of the Visual Arts (OVA) competition in Saratoga. Among those participating from across New York State, Farmingdale's ten teams combined their talents to win the most awards in the OVA competition in District history. High School students were awarded first place in the *Fashion, Photography* and *Drawing* categories, second place in the *Illustration* and *Sculpture* categories, and third place and *Most Creative* in the *Industrial Design* and *Architecture* categories. Howitt Middle School students were awarded second place in the *Illustration* category.

The OVA program provides an opportunity for students to participate in individual and group artistic problem solving. A new series of problems is posed at the beginning of each school year; students create long-range artistic solutions and travel to Saratoga to compete during a day-long celebration of creativity.



Art teachers Eunice Vega, Laura Steffen and Cara Palermo coached Farmingdale High School and Howitt Middle School students in the Olympics of the Visual Arts competition.

### Farmingdale Musicians Achieve Outstanding Ratings

Fifteen ensembles from the Farmingdale School District performed at the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Large Organization Festival held at Hofstra University. Among the many school districts that participated, Farmingdale had the most individual students and student groups to be adjudicated by certified judges. The NYSSMA judges scored the groups on rhythm, intonation, phrasing, dynamics, interpretation, tone and musicianship. Congratulations to these students on their achievements at the festival.

**The following Farmingdale teachers and their ensembles received awards based on their performance at the NYSSMA Festival:**

#### From Our Elementary Schools...

Joan Drewes, Saltzman East Memorial Chorus, *Level 1 Silver*  
Erika Felker, Saltzman East Memorial Orchestra, *Level 1 Silver*  
Matt DeMasi, Albany Avenue Band, *Level 1 Gold*  
Erica Hartmann, Woodward Parkway Band, *Level 1 Gold*  
Jen Tower, Saltzman East Memorial Band, *Level 1 Gold*  
Therese Mannino, Woodward Parkway Orchestra, *Level 1 Gold*  
Katie Duke Northside, Band, *Level 1 Gold with Distinction*

#### From Howitt Middle School...

Danielle Tucker, Lunch Chorus, *Level 2 Gold*  
Jessica Mischke, Lunch Chorus, *Level 3 Gold*  
Andy Segale, Howitt Wind Ensemble, *Level 4 Gold*

#### From Farmingdale High School...

Sam Gelfer, High School Orchestra, *Level 4 Gold*  
Claire Zatorski, High School Women's Chorus, *Level 4 Gold*  
Sam Gelfer, High School Chamber Orchestra, *Level 5 Gold*  
Barbara Lieberman, High School Symphonic, Band *Level 5 Gold*  
Gina Pelletiere, High School Wind Ensemble, *Level 6 Gold with Distinction*