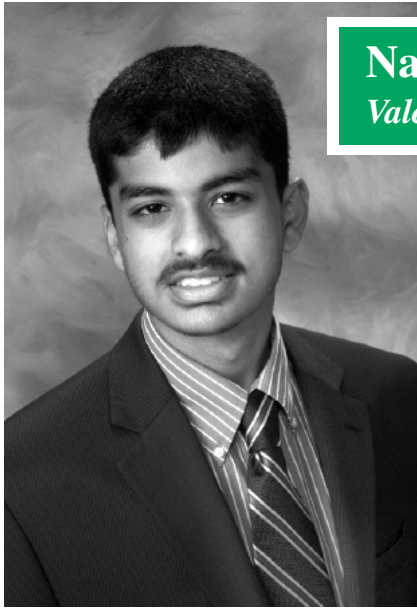


Our Schools

The Community Newsletter of the Farmingdale Public Schools • Summer 2013

At the Head of the Class



Nakul Gupta
Valedictorian

With a cumulative GPA of 105.074, Nakul Gupta is Farmingdale High School's Class of 2013 valedictorian. Extremely self-motivated and genuine, Nakul enrolled in many of the District's most challenging Advanced Placement courses, with a specific focus on math and science disciplines. He spent his senior year doing research with Stony Brook University, and he was named a Simmons Fellow this past summer.

In addition to his impressive academic accomplishments, Nakul also captained the tennis, Mathletes and science bowl teams. He was a silver medalist in the Science Olympiad and volunteered in the Radiology Department at NUMC. He will be attending Harvard College in the fall.



Sara Golshahr
Salutatorian

Versatile and ambitious, Sara Golshahr is the FHS Class of 2013 salutatorian, with a cumulative GPA of 103.619. Sara displayed a proficiency in a wide-range of subjects, qualifying as an AP Scholar in physics, biology, literature, U.S. history, among others. Sara was an international finalist in business law and business ethics for DECA. She served as president of the French Honor Society, VP of the student government and DECA Business Club, and a volunteer for Camp Helen Keller for the Blind. Sara was also a four-year starter and captain of the swimming and diving teams,

where she received All-Conference Honors and was chosen as an Academic All-American. She was a New York State team qualifier and championship finalist, All-County, All-Division and All-Conference. In the fall, Sara will attend Drexel University's Honors Program.

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Did You Know?

- FHS business education students competed in the Annual Long Island Business Teachers Association Contest in April. Out of more than 20 school districts Islandwide, eight Farmingdale students placed in their respective events. Patrick Lively was awarded the Publisher's Scholarship as well. The students were honored at an awards luncheon in May.
- Senior diver James Mangione was a three-time All-Conference award winner. James earned All-County honors, broke several school records and represented Farmingdale at the New York State Diving Championships.
- The FHS robotics team placed first overall in the inaugural Adelphi University Lego Mindstorm Competition in April. Coached by teachers Bob Clark, Charles Collica and Ann Grady, the teams finished in first and second place in the presentation category as well.
- For the fourth consecutive year, each of Farmingdale's varsity athletic teams earned the Team Scholar-Athlete Award. 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.
- Out of the 750 school districts in the New York State School Music Association, Farmingdale was chosen to receive the NYSSMA Presidential Citation Award.



The high school's business education students showcase their awards after competing in the Long Island Business Teachers Association Contest.

Visit us online at
farmingdaleschools.org

Ingenious Design Earns FHS Engineering Students First Place in Robotics Competition

Engineering students at Farmingdale High School recently took first place at the Northrop Grumman High School Innovation Challenge. The year's competition, *Autonomous Vehicle Avoidance, Tracking and Rendezvous* or *AVATAR*, challenged the participants to put their original robots through a rigorous obstacle course with hurdles of varying degrees of difficulty. Farmingdale students walked away with the grand prize — a \$1,250 grant to be used for the math, science, or other appropriate department in the school.

Farmingdale's victory was thanks in large part to one ingenious engineering decision. The team's robot had three wheels instead of the more customary four. This design enabled the FHS robot to turn much more quickly than its four-wheeled competitors. FHS students also used sensors on their robot to save time on modifications that other teams had to perform throughout the obstacle course. These design advantages led to Farmingdale's second consecutive win in the Northrop Grumman competition.

"We are extremely proud of our students and their victory in the High School Innovation Challenge," said Farmingdale High School Principal Glen A. Zakian. "They have dedicated countless hours of work on this project and we are thrilled for their well-deserved success."

The Winning Team:

Summer Baranello
Chris Brandimarte
Kevin Chang
Rachel Danzig
Bradley Koster
Domenic Strano
Alec Szigeti
Katherine Vera

The team was led by Lynne Brewer, FHS Internship Coordinator, and Robert Clark, FHS science teacher.



Thank You, Farmingdale Community Members!

On May 21, residents of the Farmingdale community came out to the polls and approved the 2013-14 school budget. 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 your continued support, and we are looking forward to another great school year.

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."

Congratulations to the Class of 2013!



What's Happening in Our Schools

Albany Avenue Elementary School

Several months ago, teachers at **Albany Avenue Elementary School** began a program called Walking to WOW. All children in grades four and five were invited to participate in this program, in which they committed to walking for 20 minutes before school at least three days a week. Participants were given wristbands so they could proudly display their membership. The club so far has been very successful; by June, over 100 students were walking every single day.



Walking to WOW came about in light of a recent University of Illinois study. It can be difficult for even the most organized individuals to fit regular exercise into their busy schedules. However the results of the study revealed that even 15 minutes of walking per day can have innumerable benefits on mental and physical health. The benefits include improved decision making and cognitive processes, increased efficiency of the brain, and increased test scores. By dedicating just a few minutes before school each day to walking, the children at Albany Avenue become better prepared for the academic challenges of the day. Congratulations to all those who participated in Walking to WOW.

Northside Elementary School

The teachers at **Northside Elementary School** understand that cultivating a healthy body is as important as developing a strong mind. It's why physical education and team athletics are so vital to public schools, and why teaching healthy dietary decisions is an increasingly central part of a school's curriculum.



That's why Northside established the Wellness Club and invited over 30 fifth grade girls to participate in an after-school program centered on self-esteem building, nutrition and yoga. The club was a collaborative effort between Northside's social worker Pam Snyder-Ball and substitute/resident Dolores Sullivan, who is also a certified yoga instructor. Consistent with social-emotional learning requirements, the girls in the Wellness Club learned confidence and responsibility, how to handle stress, and how to solve personal and academic problems. The club was well received by both the children and their families, and it demonstrated that Northside Elementary is ahead of the curve when it comes to building students' strong minds and bodies.

Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

On the list of things most important to elementary-age students, dinosaurs would almost certainly be near the top. Second graders at **Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School** were suitably thrilled when they were visited by field paleontologists Mike and Roberta Straka in May. The pair even brought with them a giant fossil, nicknamed "Mr. Nixon."

Several dino-themed events highlighted the program, which was named Dino Dig. There were songs and dinosaur puppet shows, a game show and a fossil dig. The Strakas gave a presentation to the children on topics including the formation of fossils, the differences between herbivores and carnivores, and an

inside glimpse into the life of a paleontologist. Of course, too, there was Mr. Nixon, an eight-foot fossilized skull of a triceratops discovered by scientists in 1996. Mr. Nixon and another fossil of an albertosaurus skull were valuable in teaching the children about the features of an herbivore and carnivore, respectively.



After the event, the second graders wrote about their experience. This memorable day helped the students learn about a fascinating period in our planet's history.

Woodward Parkway Elementary School

Collaborative art serves many functions. Murals bring character to city blocks; motion pictures and music help shape our culture. The joint efforts of young artists in the Scenery Club at **Woodward Parkway Elementary School** resulted in a beautiful backdrop that was used to accentuate the Woodward Parkway fifth grade moving up ceremony, as well as their concerts in the high school auditorium.



Students in fifth grade participated in the Scenery Club, which met for several weeks after school. Under the supervision of Woodward art teachers Ricki Weisfelner and Ellen O'Sullivan, the students created artwork based on Greek mythology. It's a subject that has long fascinated both students and adults; the amazing murals students created were testament to this allure. Congratulations to the students and teachers of the Scenery Club.

Howitt Middle School

Last month, eighth graders at Howitt Middle School put Isaac Newton's laws of motion to the test in a creative and fun way. For two months, 20 students spent their technology class applying science, technology and math techniques to design and construct foot-long miniature cars. The vehicles mirrored real cars and were powered by carbon dioxide (CO₂). Finally, after all their hard work, the students got to unleash their model cars and race them.

The middle-schoolers took what they learned from their study of Newton's second and third laws to study how their cars worked. They collected data by observing the races and applied it to equations that demonstrated the amount of force the CO₂ cartridges held, how far the cars went, and the speeds at which they traveled. The lesson proved that intricate, challenging scientific concepts can be taught and demonstrated in exciting ways.

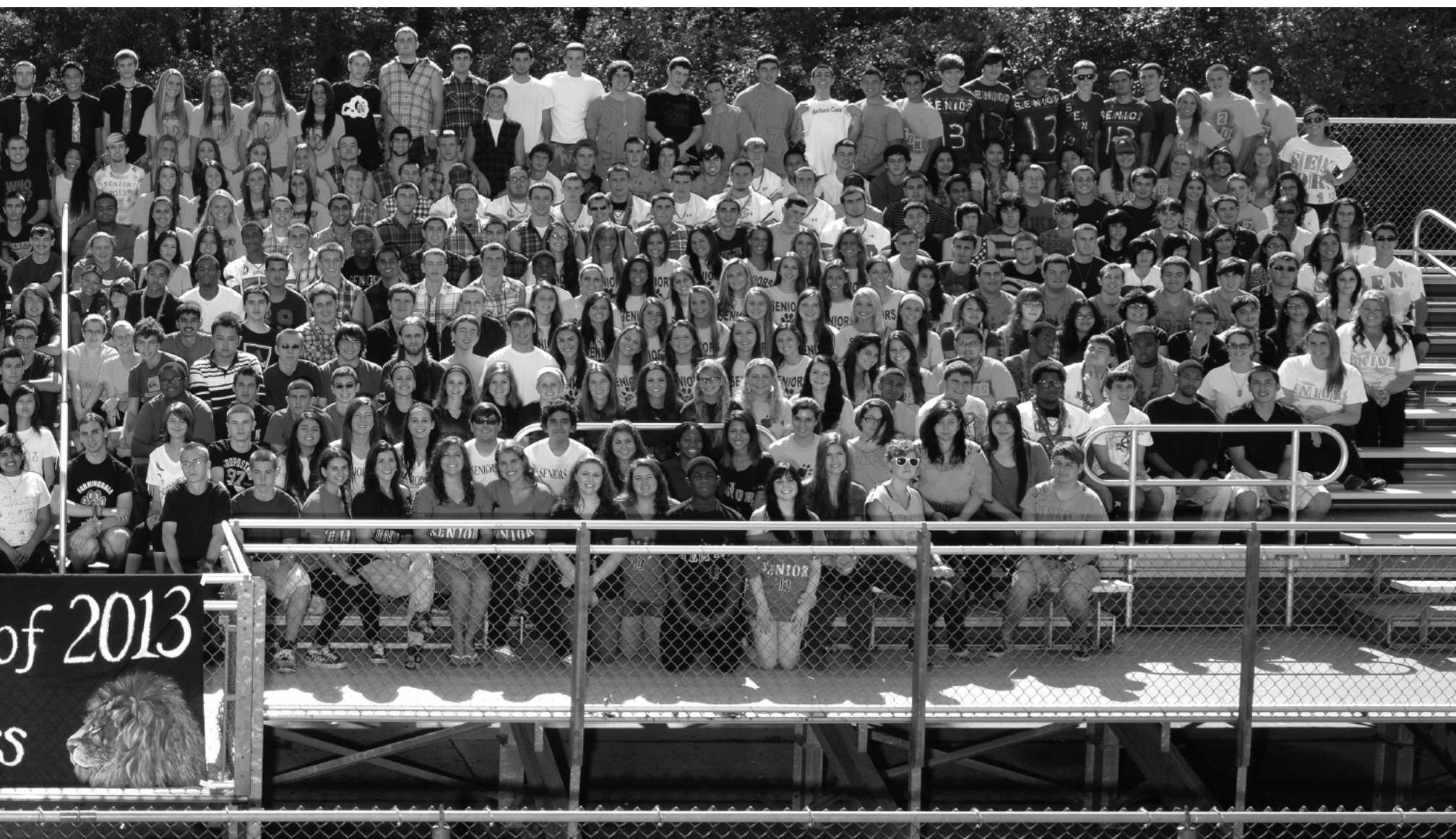




*In September, Farmingdale Class of 2013 graduates will attend
We wish each of them success and fulfillment*

Adelphi University
 Alfred State College — SUNY
 Baruch College — CUNY
 Bennington College
 Berklee College of Music
 Binghamton University
 Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
 Boston University
 Briarcliffe College
 Bryant University
 Buffalo State College — SUNY
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Central Connecticut State University
 Coastal Carolina University
 Cornell University
 Delaware Technical Community College — Owens Campus
 Drexel University
 East Carolina University
 Elms College
 Fairfield University
 Farmingdale State College — SUNY
 Fashion Institute of Technology
 Five Towns College
 Fordham University
 The George Washington University
 Hartwick College

Harvard College
 Hofstra University
 Iona College
 Ithaca College
 James Madison University
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice — CUNY
 Johns Hopkins University
 Kingsborough Community College — CUNY
 Lesley University
 LIM College
 Lincoln Technical Institute
 Lincoln University
 LIU Post
 Long Island University — Brooklyn Campus
 Loyola University Maryland
 Macaulay Honors College at CUNY
 Manhattan College
 Manhattanville College
 Marist College
 Mercy College
 Michigan State University
 Misericordia University
 Molloy College
 Monroe College
 Mount Ida College
 Nassau Community College
 The New Community College at CUNY



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

New York Institute of Technology
 New York University
 Nova Southeastern University
 Pace University — New York City Campus
 Pennsylvania State University
 Post University
 State University of New York at Purchase
 Purdue University
 Putnam Science Academy
 Quinnipiac University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
 Sacred Heart University
 Saint Anselm College
 Seton Hall University
 Sophie B. Davis School of Biomedical Education — CUNY
 Springfield College
 St. John's University
 St. Joseph's College — Suffolk Campus
 Stevens Institute of Technology
 Stony Brook University
 SUNY — Brockport
 SUNY College at Cortland
 SUNY College at Old Westbury
 SUNY — Delhi
 SUNY — Fredonia

SUNY — Geneseo
 SUNY — Maritime College
 SUNY — New Paltz
 SUNY — Oneonta
 SUNY — Plattsburgh
 SUNY — Potsdam
 Suffolk County Community College
 Towson University
 United States Military Academy
 University of Albany — SUNY
 University at Buffalo — SUNY
 University of Chicago
 University of Connecticut
 University of Florida
 University of Louisiana at Monroe
 University of Maryland, College Park
 University of Massachusetts Amherst
 University of New Haven
 University of Rhode Island
 The University of Scranton
 The University of Tampa
 Wagner College
 West Virginia University
 Western Connecticut State University
 Widener University

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

Led in to the familiar march of Sir Edward Elger's "Pomp and Circumstance," the fifth graders at Albany Avenue Elementary School gathered for their moving up ceremony on June 18. Principal Joseph Valentine welcomed the students and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Highlights of the ceremony included a rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the fifth grade chorus, and a touching video tribute reflecting on the children's six years at Albany Avenue. Certificates were presented to the students by Principal Joseph Valentine, Assistant Principal Victoria LoRusso, Superintendent John Lorentz and Board of Education Trustee Tina Diamond. Student Council President Anthony Radcliffe reflected in his speech: "Albany Avenue has been a huge part of all our lives. Going to school at Albany Avenue is not just about being a student. It is about being a part of a huge family."

This year, Anthony Raffaele was honored with the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award and Lawrence Byrnes received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.



Lawrence Byrnes
Dr. Gary E. Karp
Community Service Award



Anthony Raffaele
Board of Education Scholarship
& Citizenship Award

Northside Elementary School



Megan Michael
Board of Education Scholarship
& Citizenship Award



Sarah Shields
Dr. Gary E. Karp
Community Service Award

The creativity and accomplishments of the students and staff at Northside Elementary were on full display at the school's moving up celebration. The musical members of the Northside Elementary staff played "Trumpet Voluntary" as the fifth grade students entered the school's Bicentennial Hall. Once everyone was seated, Reilly Agres, Ralph Burney, Alexa Siegel and Kyle Stamm led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the graduation band performed The National Anthem. The class address was titled *Our Friend, Northside*, and was written by Taylor Nicolosi. The graduating class entertained the audience with a performance of "Seasons of Love" from *Rent*.

Board of Education Trustee Tina Diamond and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joan F. Ripley assisted Principal Elizabeth L. Garavuso in distributing certificates. A particular highlight of the ceremony was a video reflection on the students' six-year experience at Northside. Megan Michael was awarded the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award, and Sarah Shields received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.

Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

Saltzman East Memorial fifth graders selected "A World of Hope" as the theme for this year's moving up ceremony. Students marched in to the band's rendition of "Over the Rainbow." Board of Education President Shari Bardash-Eivers, Assistant Superintendent Barbara J. Horsley and Assistant Principal Denise Fisher presented the Class of 2013 with their certificates.

Class representative Dylan Maebert addressed the parents and friends who attended the event, and bid a fond farewell to Saltzman East Memorial. The classmates joined each other in song with a rendition of "One Fine Day." Matthew Ryan is the recipient of the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award. The Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award was presented to Cassandre Axis.



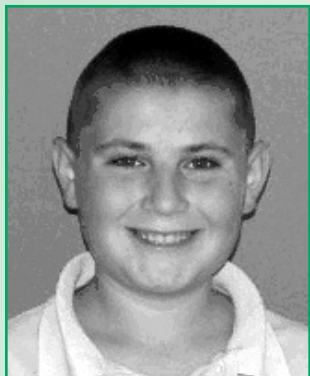
Cassandre Axis
Dr. Gary E. Karp
Community Service Award



Matthew Ryan
Board of Education Scholarship
& Citizenship Award

the future

Woodward Parkway Elementary School



Zachary Silverman
Board of Education
Scholarship & Citizenship Award



Jaeda Wallick
Dr. Gary E. Karp
Community Service Award

Moving-up ceremonies are a combination of festivity and recollection. While students are excited to be taking the next step, they will miss the friends and memories they made in their elementary school. Students at Woodward Parkway Elementary School celebrated the completion of their journey at the moving up ceremony on June 20. The processional began with “Rondeau” by the composer Mouret, followed by congratulatory remarks by Principal Patrick Klocek and PTA President Tricia Keller.

After the speeches, the senior class performed a version of “Watch As We Walk On Our Way.” Board of Education Trustee Kathy Lively and Assistant Superintendent Paul Defendini presented the students with their certificates. Two students were recognized for their remarkable individual accolades: Jaeda Wallick was honored with the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award and Zachary Silverman was awarded with the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award.

Assistant Principal Jennifer DeHayes provided the closing remarks, and the newly-minted middle schoolers left the ceremony to “Pine Apple Rag” by Scott Joplin. It was a touching end to a great day. Congratulations to all the fifth graders at Woodward Parkway.

Weldon E. Howitt Middle School

Middle school graduation is an especially pivotal moment for students, as it marks the beginning of their transition to high school. This occasion was celebrated at Howitt Middle School’s awards ceremony, held on June 17. Principal Luis Peña provided opening and closing remarks, and Howitt faculty members presented the many student achievers with their certificates.

Among the students individually recognized were Cameron McCauley, the recipient of the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award, and Haley Hosking, the recipient of the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.



Haley Hosking
Dr. Gary E. Karp
Community Service Award



Cameron McCauley
Board of Education Scholarship
& Citizenship Award

Farmingdale High School



Sara Golshahr
Dr. Gary E. Karp
Community Service Award



Raymond Webb
Board of Education
Scholarship & Citizenship Award

Farmingdale High School celebrated its 96th annual commencement ceremony at Hofstra University’s David S. Mack Sports Complex on June 18. Principal Glen Zakian welcomed the Class of 2013 to the ceremony, congratulating them on over a decade of hard work and dedication and wishing them luck as they move on to the next chapter in their lives. The ceremony included a stirring rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner” performed by the Senior Chorale. Valedictorian Nakul Gupta and Salutatorian Sara Golshahr gave their respective speeches, and the Board of Education distributed the hard-earned diplomas to graduates.

There were individual awards as well. Noted for his leadership and his civic mindedness, Raymond Webb was honored with the Board of Education & Scholarship Citizenship Award. Called by her educators the “quintessential Farmingdale student,” Sara Golshahr was awarded the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.

We wish the Class of 2013 the best of luck in all of their future endeavors!



FROM THE SPORTS DESK



One Dynasty Continues; Another May Just Be Getting Started

In competitive sports at all levels, “dynasty” is a term that gets used far too liberally. Back-to-back championships do not a dynasty make. The term should be reserved for those incredibly rare instances of sustained victory year after year after year. Using this strict criterion, there have been few true dynasties in sports, but after winning its eighth straight Nassau County Championship, the Farmingdale Lady Dalers lacrosse team has cemented its legacy as a true dynasty.



After eliminating Syosset in the semi-final round by a score of 11-6, the Lady Dalers faced off against Massapequa on May 29 for the title of county champ. It was a closely played competitive game, but in the end, Farmingdale prevailed 11-9, and for the eighth time in eight years, the team was named the best girls’ lacrosse team in Nassau County. Want some perspective? The last time the Lady Dalers failed to win the county, Barack Obama was just beginning his first year in the Senate.

Lacrosse was not the only team sport at Farmingdale to see success this spring. The Daler boys’ golf team clinched the Long Island Championship with its impressive 28-stroke victory over Smithtown East. The competition was held on the Black Course in Bethpage. Daler Matthew Lowe had the overall best score and was named the Nassau County Individual Champion. Such an imposing victory may indicate the start of a dominating run for the boys’ golf team.

Congratulations to our lacrosse and golf teams for their championship seasons.

Sports Pages: Updates on Spring Athletics

Varsity Boys’ and Girls’ Track:

Both teams participated in the state qualifiers at Freeport High School. Several individuals placed in the preliminary rounds and advanced to the finals. In addition, the boys 4 X 100 relay team members ran the best time of their season and set a new Farmingdale High School record.

Varsity Girls’ Badminton:

The Lady Dalers wrapped up an impressive season, making it to the second round of the county playoffs before losing a tough match to Great Neck South High School.

Varsity Boys’ Lacrosse:

The boys’ team made it all the way to the semifinals before coming up short in a loss against Massapequa. The team looks forward to building on this experience and becoming even stronger next year.

MUSIC AND FINE ARTS NEWS

FHS Chorus Sings at World-Renowned Venue

In April, the Farmingdale High School chorus performed in the National Youth Choir Program on Carnegie Hall’s historic stage. The students showcased their many talents in six music selections. The chorus members rehearsed with directors Michelle Lindsey and Lauren LiCausi for several months. Performing in this famous venue was an event that students and parents will remember for a long time.



Mounting the Podium at the Olympics of the Visual Arts



This year, ten student teams Districtwide placed in nine categories of the Olympics of the Visual Arts (OVA) statewide competition. Our high school students were awarded first place in the Painting, Illustration, and Drawing categories, second place in the Illustration and Photography categories and third place in the Fashion Design, Numismatic Design and Architecture categories. Howitt Middle School students were awarded first place in the Architecture category as well as first place and Most Creative in the Illustration category.

OVA provides an opportunity for our young artists to participate in individual or group artistic problem-solving. The year-long program came to a close this spring; the students traveled to Saratoga Springs to compete in a day-long celebration of creativity. Many thanks to advisors Jamie Capasso, Suzanne Germaine, Terry McEnery, Cara Palermo, Kathy Pernice, Stacey Schneider and Lynn Smith for guiding our student artists.