

Our Schools

The Community Newsletter of the Farmingdale Public Schools • Summer 2014

The goal of the Farmingdale public schools is to establish ourselves as a high-achieving school District, as evidenced by high levels of student performance in all areas.

At the Head of the Class



Elijah Mas
Valedictorian

Described by his teachers as an active leader and true scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar Elijah Mas graduated with a GPA of over 105, earning an Advanced Regents Diploma with a Mastery in Mathematics and

Science. Outside of the classroom, Elijah is a member of Farmingdale High School's National Honor Society chapter and captain of the school's Environmental Competition Team. He was also a member of the school's Science Olympiad and Mathletes teams, and has been actively involved in martial arts and music in the community. Elijah will attend Yale University in the fall to study astrophysics.



Leah Ragno
Valedictorian

With a GPA of over 105, Leah Ragno is one of Farmingdale High School's Class of 2014 valedictorians. Leah was a vital member of the school's Science Olympiad Team, Environthon program and marching band. In addition, she was inducted into the National Honor Society and

the French Honor Society. Leah interned at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City for four years, where she served as a patient representative and assisted in patient escort services. She also volunteered for the Maria Regina Innkeepers and Mary Brennan Inn Soup Kitchen organizations. Leah will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall to pursue a career in medicine.



Minhal Ahmed
Salutatorian

With a GPA of 104.858, Farmingdale High School's Class of 2014 salutatorian Minhal Ahmed is admired by his peers and teachers for both his humility and motivation. He earned a score of 5, the highest score possible, on all of his Advanced Placement exams. During the 2013-14 school

year, Minhal also qualified as a National Merit Scholarship finalist. Outside the classroom, he was an avid participant in the school's Science Bowl team, Science Olympiad and Mathlete programs. In addition, Minhal has volunteered his time to tutor his fellow classmates in math and physics, and volunteers at the Nassau University Medical Center and his local library. Minhal will attend Northeastern University in the fall to study bioengineering.

Did You Know?

- Farmingdale High School was recognized by the College Board as an **Advance Placement School of Distinction**.
- The Farmingdale School District was voted one of the **2014 Best Communities in Music Education in the United States**. Nine FHS students were named **All-State musicians**, and three FHS students were named **All-National musicians**.
- The FHS' Science Bowl team was crowned **regional champion** and **placed 4th in the nation**.
- A FHS team won the **prestigious Northrop Grumman Innovation Challenge**.
- FHS' salutatorian was awarded a **National Merit Scholarship**.
- All 29 varsity teams were named **New York State Scholar-Athlete teams**. Each team had an academic average above 90. One of four schools on Long Island to achieve this honor this year, FHS has been named, for the 5th year in a row, a New York State School of Distinction.
- FHS athletic teams won multiple **league, conference, county, Long Island and state championships**.

Thank You, Farmingdale Community Members!

The Farmingdale School District would like to thank the Farmingdale community for overwhelmingly approving the District's 2014-15 budget proposal during the May 20th vote. Over 70 percent of the voters approved the District's budget.

"When you went to the polls on May 20th, you spoke loud and clear," said Superintendent John Lorentz. "You said that you understand the intrinsic value of our public school system, and are willing to take action to preserve it. We can't thank you enough."

"The passing of the proposed budget will enable us to continue offering the wonderful education that has come to define Farmingdale schools," says Board of Education President Shari Bardash-Eivers. "We'd like to thank the community for this tremendous vote of confidence, and we look forward to educating your sons and daughters for years to come."

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Farmingdale Union
Free School District

CAR-RT SORT
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Farmingdale Public Schools
Administrative Offices
50 Van Cott Avenue,
Farmingdale, New York 11735

Congratulations, Class of 2014!



DISTRICT UPDATES

Liz Garavuso Retires After 20 Years

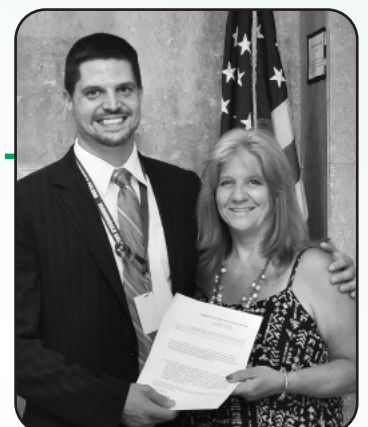


Partings are, by nature, bittersweet. While we are excited for what lies ahead, we are also sad to say goodbye to those we are leaving behind. The end of the 2013-14 school year is especially poignant, because we're saying goodbye to a principal who has been positively affecting the lives of Farmingdale students for two decades. Elizabeth "Liz" Garavuso retired as principal of Northside Elementary School at the completion of the school year after holding the position for the last 20 years. During her time, she helped ensure that more than 3,000 students received the highest quality education possible.

During her tenure, Ms. Garavuso played a vital role in assisting her staff teach the District's curriculum to the students in a positive and encouraging learning environment. Over the years, she has recommended 67 teachers, 54 teacher aides, 12 custodians, two secretaries and one nurse for positions at Northside. In addition, she has worked for three District superintendents and for more than 25 board members. Ms. Garavuso and her husband, Gary, plan to settle in upstate New York for their retirement.

Paul Defendini is Awarded the PTA's Honorary Life Membership

When PTA units award the Honorary Life Membership, they are recognizing a person for their distinguished service to children and youth. Our programs help distinguish the education children receive in the Farmingdale School District, and we might not have those programs without our Assistant Superintendent of Business, Paul Defendini. Through meticulous attention to detail and long hours, Mr. Defendini has ensured that the students of Farmingdale continue to receive a first-rate education, with all the programs, resources and high-quality instruction they have come to expect. He is a calming, informative voice at the District's Board meetings and has been a consistent friend of the PTA. For all these reasons, Mr. Defendini was an obvious choice for the PTA's Honorary Life Membership.



What's Happening in Our Schools

Albany Avenue Elementary School

The end of each school year is marked by final exams and field trips, graduation ceremonies and family get-togethers.

Albany Avenue Elementary School has a special year-end tradition of its own: the school gathers 450 students, teachers and family members and heads to a Long Island Ducks minor-league baseball game. In an annual excursion aimed at building community and celebrating the year's accomplishments, Albany Avenue's trip to Bethpage Park is an event the school looks forward to throughout the year. It offers a chance to reflect on the prior school year and gear up for the summer ahead. Thank you to everyone who helped organize this year's event; we look forward to seeing all of our returning students in September!



Woodward Parkway Elementary School

History came alive on stage at **Woodward Parkway Elementary School** as fourth graders put on an outstanding performance of the play *The European Explorers of the New World*. For months leading up to the performance, the students researched the Age of Exploration. They learned how monarchs from Spain, France, Portugal and England engaged in an intensive exploration of the world in search of treasures such as spices, silk and gold. During the show, students assumed roles of famous explorers including Ferdinand Magellan, Amerigo Vespucci and Sir Francis Drake. Congratulations to all those involved in this wonderful performance!



Howitt Middle School

Community outreach and social responsibility are pillars of public education. It's how students take the lessons they learn in their core classes and apply them to the world. This is particularly true at **Howitt Middle School**, where for six years, eighth graders have been holding their annual Dance Marathon, an event that raises thousands of dollars in food and donations for a local charity.



At the beginning of the school year, students research various charities and vote on which charity they will support. The students spend the entire school year educating themselves, the school and the community about the organization. This year, Howitt students selected Friends of Karen, a local nonprofit organization that serves New York families with children, birth to age 21, who have been diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. Each year, students create an original logo and slogan related to the selected charity, and they design a t-shirt, write lyrics to a popular melody, and choreograph a line dance that reflects their commitment to the organization. The year-long program culminates in the Marathon, a five-hour show featuring dancing, music, food, games and team-building activities. All told, this year's Dance Marathon raised almost \$8,000!

Farmingdale High School

The importance of art instruction at the high school level cannot be stressed enough. Classes such as art, music and theatre offer students a vital opportunity to explore their creative nature, which can distinguish students from their peers as they enter the competitive world of college and careers. Each year, Farmingdale High School presents one student with the prestigious Art Supervisors Leadership Award.

Presented by the Art Supervisors Association of Nassau County, this award is given to a senior who best represents the qualities of leadership within the high school art program. The honored student consistently displayed dedication and produced artistic pieces of the highest caliber. The student participated in the after-school art club and greatly contributed to the school's overall art culture. This year the Art Supervisors Leadership plaque is presented to Alecia Fuschetto. Alecia is a deserving recipient of the award; through her time at FHS, she consistently displayed all the attributes educators look for in an Art Supervisors Leadership Award. The future looks bright for such a talented student, and all of us in the FHS' art department are excited to see what lies ahead for her.



Northside Elementary School

A new math museum has opened at Northside Elementary School! It's called the *Place Value Museum*, and it's under the direction of the school's math coach, Jackie Wedner. The museum assists children in learning various mathematical concepts and number sense.

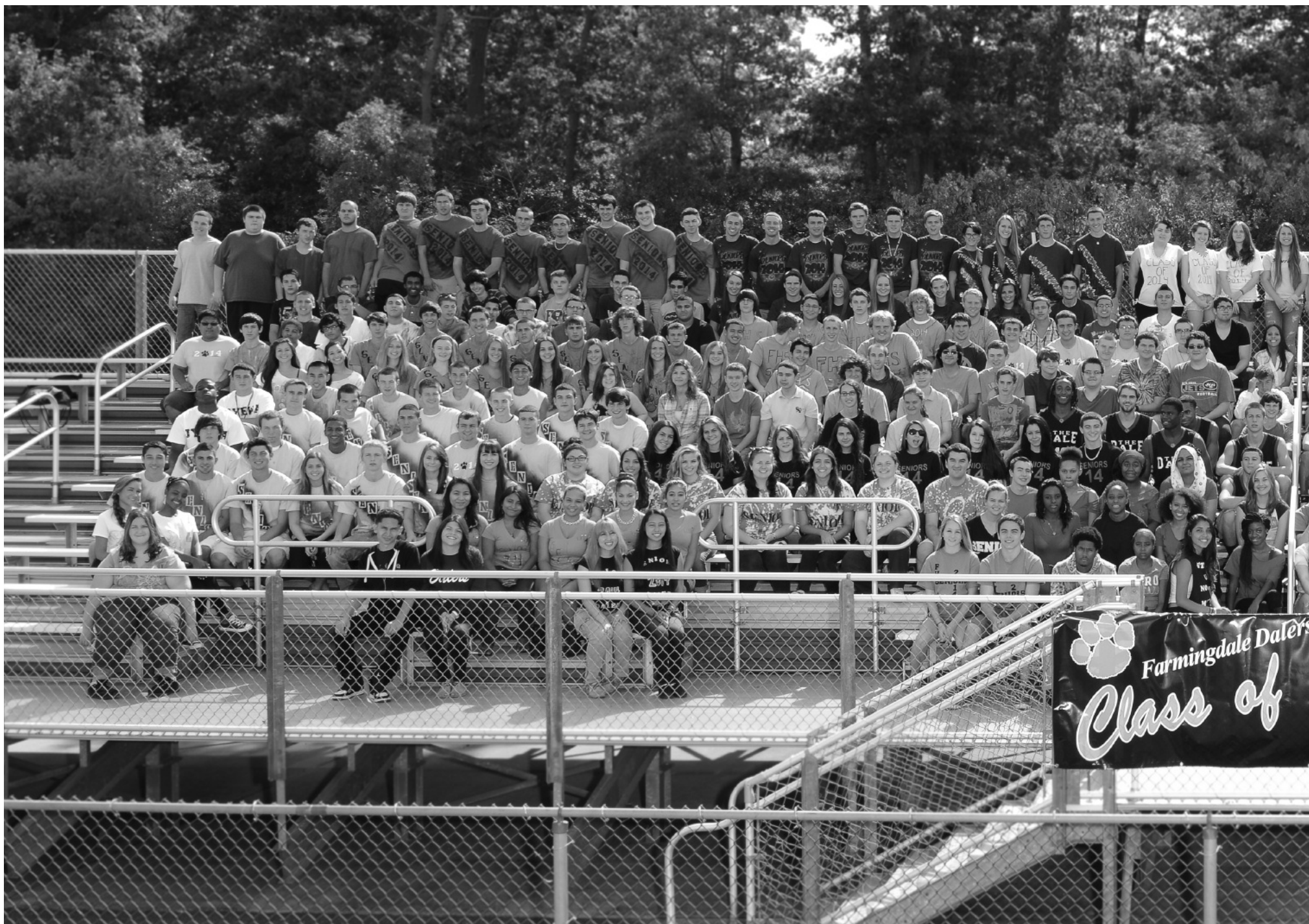
A group of kindergarteners broke in the new exhibits, spending about ten minutes examining the many displays. After visiting the museum, the students returned to the classroom, where they were abuzz with excitement. Their teacher engaged the children by having them work on shared-writing activities, where they wrote about their experiences in the *Place Value Museum*. The activity perfectly melded with Common Core initiatives, as it streamlined ELA and math lessons into one assignment. Congratulations and thank you to all those who helped make this new museum a reality.



Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

As the importance of STEM initiatives continues to be stressed at all grade levels, it's increasingly important that students learn how to conduct research. Third graders at **Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School** are getting a leg up: they recently researched animals and created reports based on their findings. The students conducted their research and designed their projects in the computer lab. The topics they studied included the animals' appearance, diet, habitat, life cycle and defense mechanisms. The research projects helped the children prepare for their field trip to the Bronx Zoo, where they were very excited to see up-close the animals they had been studying.

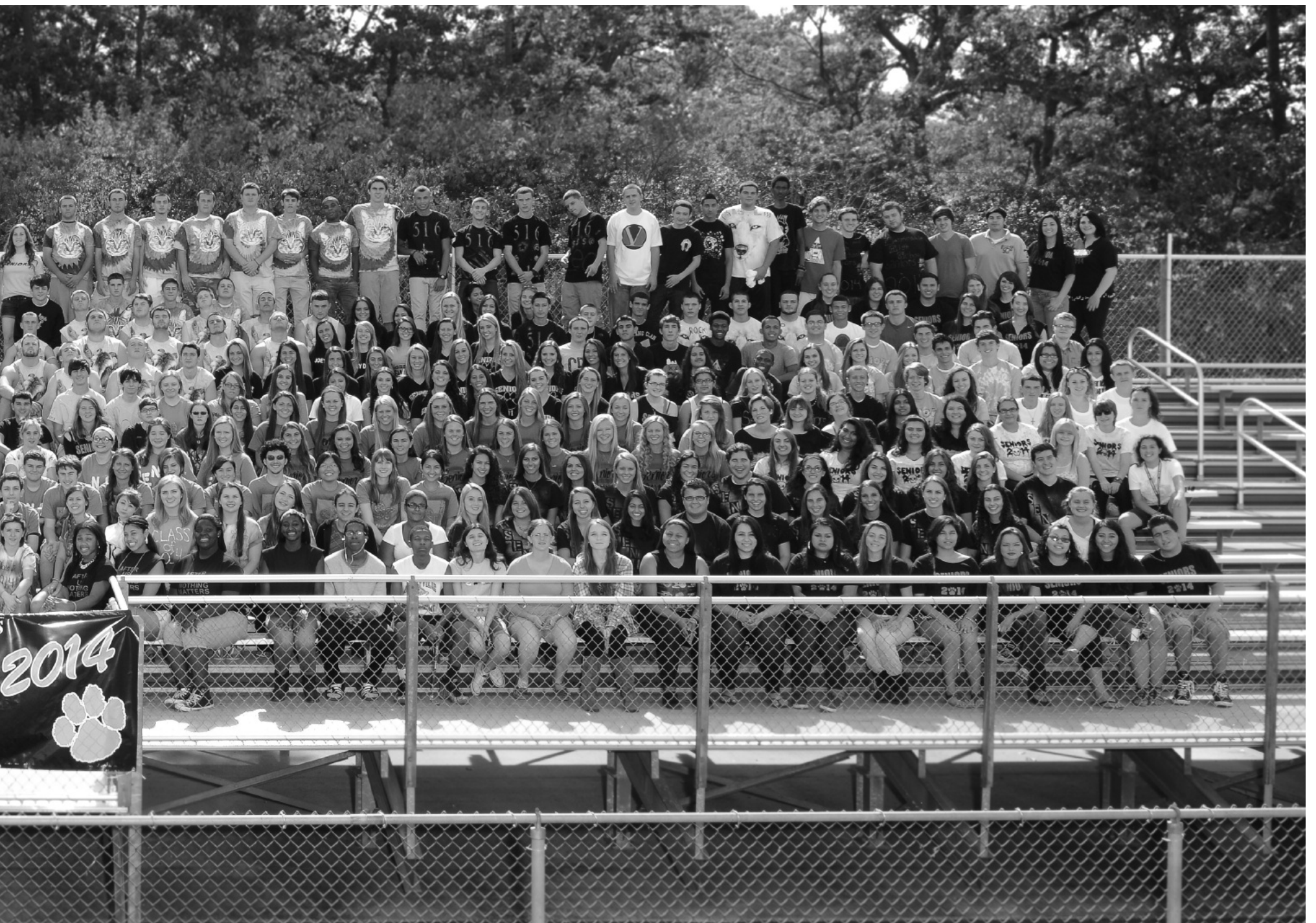




*This fall, graduates of the Class of 2014 will attend some
We wish each of them success and fulfillment in*

Adelphi University
 American University
 Barry University
 Bay Path College
 Berry College
 Binghamton University
 Boston University
 Briarcliffe College
 Bryant University
 Coastal Carolina University
 Delaware State University
 Dowling College
 Duke University
 Dutchess Community College
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - FL
 Endicott College
 Fashion Institute of Technology
 Five Towns College
 Florida State University
 Fordham University
 Hofstra University
 Hunter College of the CUNY
 Ithaca College
 Jamestown Community College
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the CUNY

Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
 Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
 LIM College
 LIU Brooklyn
 LIU Post
 Loyola University Maryland
 Manhattan College
 Marist College
 Mercy College
 Molloy College
 Nassau Community College
 New York Film Academy
 New York Institute of Technology - Old Westbury
 North Carolina State University
 Northeastern University
 Pace University - New York City
 Pace University - Westchester
 Palm Beach Atlantic University
 Pennsylvania State University - University Park
 Polytechnic Institute of NYU
 Professional Skills Institute
 Queens College of the CUNY
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Rowan University
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey at New Brunswick
 Sacred Heart University



*of the country's most prestigious colleges and universities.
all their endeavors. Our grads will be attending...*

Salve Regina University
 Sanford Brown Institute - New York
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 School of Visual Arts
 Seton Hall University
 St. Francis College
 St. John's University - Queens
 St. Joseph's College - Suffolk
 St. Lawrence University
 Stanford University
 Stevens Institute of Technology
 Suffolk County Community College - Ammerman
 SUNY Albany
 SUNY Alfred State College
 SUNY Buffalo State
 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
 SUNY Cortland
 SUNY Farmingdale
 SUNY Fredonia
 SUNY Maritime College
 SUNY Morrisville
 SUNY New Paltz
 SUNY Old Westbury
 SUNY Oneonta
 SUNY Oswego
 SUNY Plattsburgh

SUNY Stony Brook
 Swarthmore College
 Syracuse University
 Temple University
 The Catholic University of America
 The Culinary Institute of America
 The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music
 Tufts University
 Union College
 University of Alabama
 University at Buffalo - The State University of New York
 University of Central Florida
 University of Delaware
 University of Maryland - College Park
 University of Massachusetts - Amherst
 University of Massachusetts - Boston
 University of New Hampshire
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Rhode Island
 University of Scranton
 University of Tampa
 Yale University
 York College of Pennsylvania

MOVING INTO

At the end of every school year, all six schools in the Farmingdale School District hold a special Moving-up Ceremony or graduation (FHS). At each of these ceremonies, the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award and Dr. Gary E. Karp Award are awarded. Read on to see who won these prestigious awards. Congratulations to all of Farmingdale's students!

Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award

The Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award is given to a student each year in each school for service and commitment to our schools or community and exemplifies the standard that was set by Dr. Karp, a member from 1987-1997. Dr. Karp was a selfless individual who was involved in many different ways and encouraged our students to follow his example.

Albany Avenue Elementary School

The fifth graders from Albany Avenue Elementary School celebrated their Moving-up Ceremony on June 23 at Farmingdale High School. They were led in to the celebration by the Sir Edward Elger's "Pomp and Circumstance," and by the welcoming remarks of Albany Avenue Principal Joseph Valentine.

At the ceremony, a touching video tribute was screened. The crowd was awash in nostalgia as it watched scenes from the children's years at Albany Avenue. Under the direction of Music Director Catherine McLoughlin, the fifth grade chorus performed a rendition of "Best Day of My Life" by the band American Authors. This year, Samantha Lier-Kasindorf was honored with the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award and Nicholas Biscardi received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award. Principal Joseph Valentine, Assistant Principal Victoria LoRusso, Board Member Michael Goldberg and Assistant Superintendent Barbara J. Horsley distributed the certificates.



Dr. Gary E. Karp Award:
Nicholas Biscardi



BOE Scholarship & Citizenship Award:
Samantha Lier-Kasindorf

Northside Elementary School

On June 25, Northside Elementary School held its Class of 2014 Moving-up Ceremony. The soon-to-be middle schoolers entered the assembly to "Trumpet Voluntary," then took their places among proud friends and family members. Highlights of the event included a performance of "You Raise Me Up" by the fifth grade class, a touching video tribute that brought back memories of the past several years at Northside, and a reading by student Ani Smith of a piece titled "Goodbye Northside." Principal Liz Garavuso, Assistant Principal Diane Anderson, Board Member Michael Goldberg and Assistant Superintendent Paul Defendini distributed the certificates.

Many students were awarded for their accomplishments at the elementary school. In particular were Christopher Barresi, who was awarded the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award, and Sophia Guthy, who received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Award.



Dr. Gary E. Karp Award:
Sophia Guthy



BOE Scholarship & Citizenship Award:
Christopher Barresi

Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

"King William's March," by composer Jeremiah Clarke led in the fifth graders at Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School during their Moving-up Ceremony. The students were greeted by the opening remarks of Principal Patricia O'Regan, and the Senior Band performed a rousing rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner." One particular highlight of the show was Antonio Castano's Class of 2014 address. Certificates were distributed by Principal Patricia O'Regan, Assistant Principal Jessica Santarpia, Board President Shari Bardash-Eivers and Superintendent John Lorentz. The event concluded with closing remarks by Assistant Principal Jessica Santarpia.

Ann Burns was the recipient of the Board of Education Scholarship and Citizenship Award, and Antonio Castano received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.



Dr. Gary E. Karp Award:
Antonio Castano



BOE Scholarship & Citizenship Award:
Ann Burns

THE FUTURE

.....
who demonstrates a sense of
by Dr. Karp, a school board
t community organizations and

Board of Education Scholarship and Citizenship Award

.....

Each year, the Board of Education recognizes a student in each school with the Scholarship and Citizenship Award who exemplifies those characteristics that are most meaningful for success. The criteria that is used to choose this award winner include scholastic achievement, character, citizenship, discipline and leadership.

Woodward Parkway Elementary School

Woodward Parkway Elementary School celebrated its Moving-up Ceremony on June 25. The processional began with "Rondeau" by Jean-Joseph Mouret and Principal Patrick Klocek provided opening remarks. Six fifth graders from our Senior Band entertained the audience with a rendition of "American Patrol" under the direction of Mrs. Hartmann. The fifth grade chorus sang "This Little Light of Mine" and the Class of 2014 sang "May You Always Have a Song" conducted by Mr. Hulse. Principal Patrick Klocek, Assistant Principal Jennifer DeHayes, Board Member Kathy Lively and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joan Ripley distributed the certificates. 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.

Two students were recognized for their remarkable individual accolades: Olivia Grace Callahan was honored with the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award and Ronald E. Brodman III was awarded with the Board of Education & Citizenship Award. Congratulations to all the fifth graders at Woodward Parkway.



*Dr. Gary E. Karp Award:
Olivia Grace Callahan*



*BOE Scholarship &
Citizenship Award:
Ronald E. Brodman III*

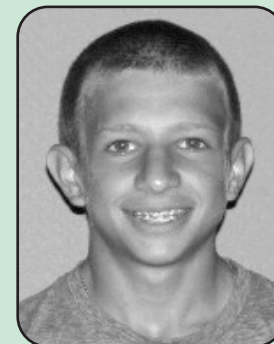
Weldon E. Howitt Middle School

The end of middle school is an exciting moment in the life of a young student; it marks the beginning of their transition to high school and adulthood. This moment was celebrated recently at Howitt Middle School during the school's Award Ceremony on June 23.

Principal Luis Peña provided opening and closing remarks, and Howitt faculty members presented the many student achievers with their certificates. Farmingdale Board Member Michael Goldberg recognized John Russo as the recipient of the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joan Ripley presented Cole DeCastro with the Dr. Gary E. Karp Award.



*Dr. Gary E. Karp Award:
Cole DeCastro*



*BOE Scholarship &
Citizenship Award:
John Russo*

Farmingdale High School

Farmingdale High School celebrated its 97th annual commencement ceremony at Hofstra University on Tuesday, June 24. Principal Glen Zakian welcomed the Class of 2014 to the ceremony, congratulating them on their immense accomplishment. High School Graduation marks the culmination of over a decade of hard work and dedication to education, and the 452 students who received their diplomas that evening earned the many congratulations that came their way. Look below for images from this wonderful event.

Speeches were delivered by Valedictorian Elijah Mas and Salutatorian Minhal Ahmed, and the Board of Education distributed the hard-earned diplomas to graduates. There were individual awards as well. Patricia Fischetto was awarded the BOE Scholarship & Citizenship Award and Marisa Capucciati received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Award. Congratulations to Patricia and Marisa, and to the entire Class of 2014!



*Dr. Gary E. Karp Award:
Marisa Capucciati*



*BOE Scholarship &
Citizenship Award:
Patricia Fischetto*

Farmingdale Named One of the Best Music Education Communities

Each year, the NAMM Foundation – a nonprofit organization supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants – reviews thousands of surveys from school districts across the country. From those thousands, a select few are recognized with the prestigious Best Communities in Music Education designation. This award signifies that a district recognizes the importance of a strong music education.

“These schools and districts make a strong commitment to music education,” said NAMM Foundation Executive Director Mary Luehrsen. “And they understand the essential value of the well-rounded education it provides for every child.” This year, Farmingdale School District was one of only 376 districts nationwide (out of 2,000 that applied) to receive the honor.

In order to be considered for the award, Farmingdale administrators and teachers had to answer an extensive survey with questions about funding, graduation requirements, music-class participation, instruction time, credentials of music teachers, facilities and more. Receiving the award serves as a testament to the commitment to music education displayed by all members of the Farmingdale community. Students, teachers, administrators, parents, community leaders – all of them played a major part in Farmingdale winning this award, and we are extremely grateful and proud.



FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Checking In On Our Spring Sports

Every season, the Dalers of Farmingdale make our community proud, and the 2014 spring season was no exception. In addition to every varsity team being named a Scholar-Athlete Team, our athletes had great success on the field as well. Read below for more detailed information on each of our varsity teams.

- ❖ **Baseball and Softball:** Both teams completed their seasons and held a “senior send-off” at their last home game.
- ❖ **Varsity Badminton:** The Lady Dalers hosted Great Neck North in the first round of the playoffs.
- ❖ **Golf:** The reigning conference champion Dalers headed back to the Nassau County Championships, held at Bethpage State Park. The Dalers once again had an impressive showing, but just missed repeating as champions, finishing in second place.
- ❖ **Boys’ Lacrosse:** In the first round of playoff action, the Dalers defeated Oceanside at Hofstra by a score of 12-6! After the victory, the boys’ lacrosse team played Massapequa in the semi-final round, where they came up short despite a strong start.
- ❖ **Girls’ Lacrosse:** As a result of their successful regular season campaign, the Lady Dalers completed their regular season with a bye in the first round of the Nassau County Championships, which were held at Adelphi University. And true to form, the Lady Dalers won the County title for the ninth consecutive year! They went on to the Long Island Championship to play West Islip, where after a hard-fought contest, they came up just short. That won’t put a din on their success, however; the Lady Dalers lacrosse team continues to set the standard for the region.
- ❖ **Tennis:** The varsity boys weathered a spate of early rain outs to complete a successful season. The following four Dalers represented the District in the county tournament: Robert Mattia (12th grade), Steven Lensky (12th grade), Suraj Muralidharan (10th grade) and David Ammendola (8th grade).
- ❖ **Boys’ Track:** This team does not disappoint! The Dalers completed their regular season as Conference Champions. Their next stop was in Syosset, where they earned the Division Champions title! They headed on to the Nassau County Championships, earning the County Runners-Up title. Nico Fratto was named county champ in the discus and 200 meters, and Nader Golshahr was named county champ in the pole vault. The competitions were not over yet for the Dalers; they competed in the state qualifiers and sent six athletes to the New York State Championship.
- ❖ **Girls’ Track:** The Lady Dalers participated in two very long days at the Nassau County Championships, culminating with Khadia Jenkins placing 3rd in the shot put and the high jump, and Kelsea Thompson being name County Champ in the long jump and triple jump! Last week, the team competed in the state qualifying meet and once again Kelsea triumphed – this time in the 110 meter high hurdles.

Congratulations to all our student athletes! We can’t wait to see what you’ll accomplish next year.