

Our Schools

The Community Newsletter of the Farmingdale Public Schools • Summer 2015

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!



SEE MORE
ON PAGE 2

AT THE HEAD OF THE CLASS

Congratulations to Farmingdale's Class of 2015 valedictorian and salutatorian, Tosha Patel and Julia Piraino, respectively. The accomplishments of Tosha and Julia represent the culmination of many years of hard work, dedication and perseverance. They were a credit to the Farmingdale School District and all the educators and teachers they worked alongside. On behalf of everyone in the District, we'd like to say congratulations to Tosha and Julia, and wish them both all the best in college.



Valedictorian
Tosha Patel

GPA: 104.842

Activities: Student council, National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, Tri-M Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Key Club.

College and major: Boston University, Biology



Salutatorian
Julia Piraino

GPA: 104.665

Activities: Environmental club president, Long Island Regional Envirothon, school newspaper editor-in-chief

College and major: Northeastern University, Engineering

Did You Know?

- For the second year in a row, the Farmingdale School District has been named to the Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll. Farmingdale is one of only 547 districts across the U.S. and Canada being so honored. The distinction is a result of the District increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Farmingdale's status on the AP Honor Roll indicates that the District is identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit from rigorous AP course work.
- For the sixth year in a row, Farmingdale High School was named a School of Distinction by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). All fall, winter and spring-seasons varsity sports teams have achieved Scholar Athlete Team Status by the NYSPHSAA.
- Farmingdale High School won the Brookhaven National Laboratory/Long Island Regional High School Science Bowl. FHS competed against 15 other teams from across the region.
- Each of the six Farmingdale schools are recipients of the Healthier U.S. School Challenge Bronze Award for demonstrating a commitment for excellence in both nutrition and physical education to promote a healthier school environment for children.
- For the second year in a row, FHS Principal Glen Zakian was named Best Long Island Principal by Long Island Press' Best of Long Island Awards.
- FHS' magazine, *Labyrinth*, was named one of the best school publications in the country by the National Scholastic Press. *Labyrinth* magazine was one of only 8 school magazines nationwide to receive this distinction.
- The NAMM Foundation has recognized Farmingdale as one of 388 districts in the United States for its outstanding commitment to music education with a Best Communities for Music Education designation.

Thank You, Farmingdale Community Members!

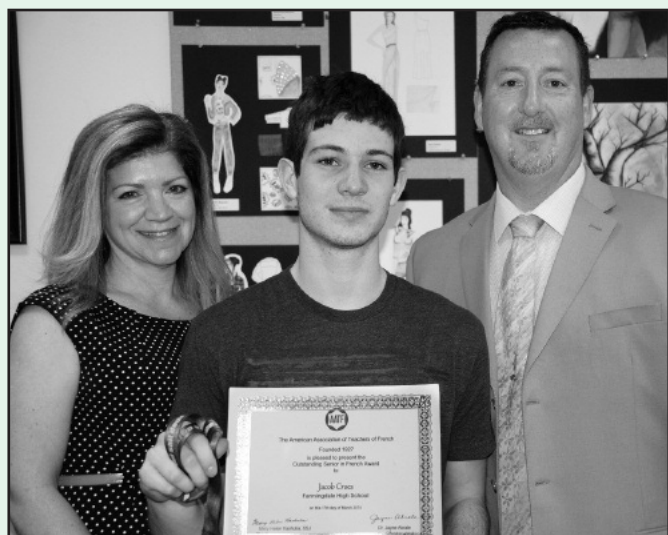
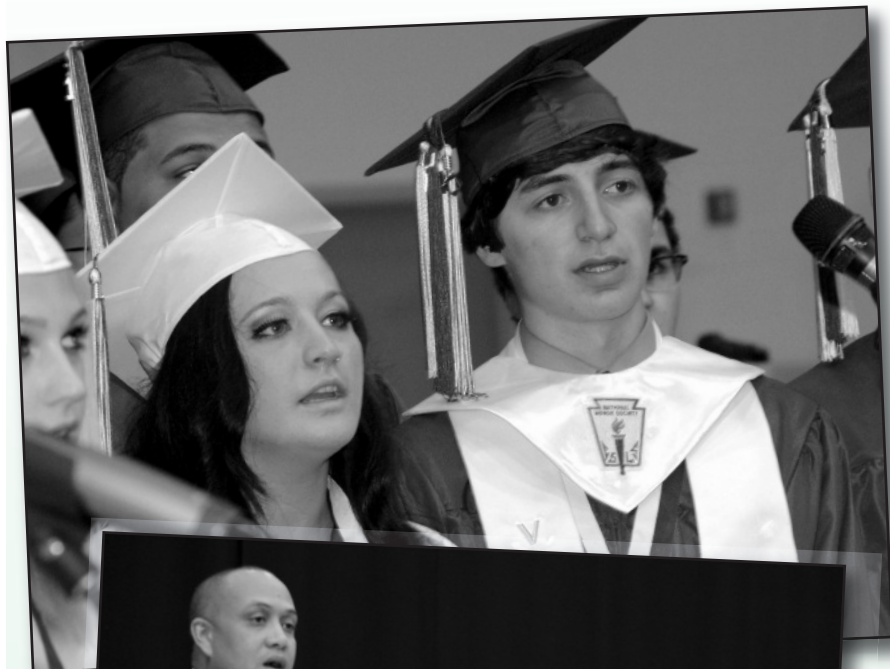
The Farmingdale School District would like to thank the Farmingdale community for overwhelmingly approving the District's 2015-2016 budget proposal during the May 20th vote. Over 70 percent of the voters approved the District's budget. "By voting yes on May 19, the Farmingdale community sent a clear message that they understand the intrinsic value of the public school system and are willing to take action to preserve it. Thank you," said Superintendent John Lorentz. "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."

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015



Farmingdale HS Senior Receives National French Award

Jacob Croes, a senior at **Farmingdale High School**, recently received the 2015 Outstanding Senior in French Award from the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). The award recognizes excellence in the study of French as well as exceptional commitment to the French language and culture. It is given annually to a graduating senior who is both a non-native French speaker and has studied French for at least three years. Jacob's national recognition is a wonderful testament to his ability and dedication, as well as the excellence of Farmingdale's French language program.

"Our mission is to offer our students the tools and the resources to excel socially, academically and professionally," said FHS Principal Glen Zakian. (Pictured here with Jacob and French teacher Jill Nimphius.) "By offering college-level courses in various areas of study, exceptional students like Jacob are able to pursue areas of study that inspire them and help them build toward a successful future."

Farmingdale Says Goodbye to Patricia Keneally

Patricia Keneally joined the Farmingdale Public Schools in September 2007, serving as the Chairperson for the English Department. During her very successful educational career, Pat served as an elementary school teacher, a reading teacher and an English teacher in several districts. Her depth of knowledge and her passionate advocacy for children was noted through her collaborative efforts with teachers and parents. Her focus on improving classroom instruction led to increased responsibilities as the Director of English and Languages Other than English. Later, she added Director of Secondary Reading to her many listings of accomplishments.

Ms. Keneally is known by all throughout the district for her kindness and gentle manner. She truly embodies the life-long learner ideal and has served as a resource to her many colleagues, both in Farmingdale and throughout the Long Island and New York State educational communities. Pat's willingness to guide her teachers as they addressed individualized student need was evidenced by the growth we have seen in student achievement. Her ability to do so while maintaining strong interpersonal relationships was a gift she gave to us all.

What's Happening in Our Schools

Albany Avenue Elementary School

Hundreds of students and teachers from **Albany Avenue Elementary School** recently participated in The Brain Show, a special assembly giving students a chance to show off their intellects and special talents in an interactive game show. The participating students took to the auditorium stage in teams of four to compete in the game show while the rest of their classmates cheered them on. There were two different events: One for students in kindergarten through second grade, and another for the students in third grade through fifth grade.

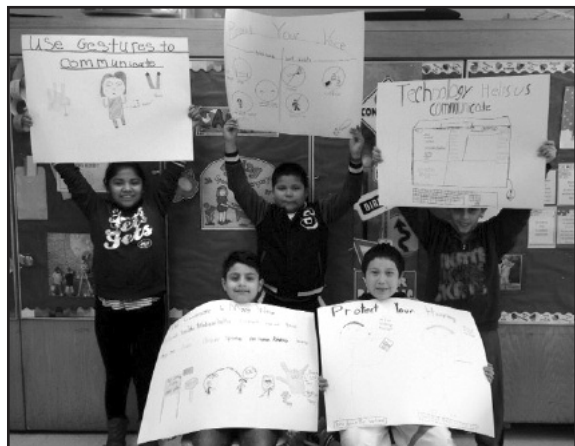
The Brain Show is a national program that offers a fun and interactive way to engage students in an effort to build excitement for learning and the material covered in their classrooms. The organization brings colorful, computerized decorations, podiums and gaming equipment to give the students an authentic feel of being on a real live TV game show.



Northside Elementary School

Kelli McCarroll's fourth and fifth grade speech and language students at Northside Elementary School celebrated "May is Better Hearing and Speech Month 2015" by entering the *Long Island Speech-Language-Hearing Association's* annual poster contest. Ms. McCarroll's students demonstrated their knowledge of speech, hearing and communication skills, as well as their creativity, by creating beautiful and informative posters. In addition, students presented daily health tips via the morning announcements, sharing suggestions on how to take care of your vocal chords, throat and hearing. The practical advice was appreciated by all!

Pictured from front to back and left to right: Rene Clemente (Gr.4), Xavier Mejia (Gr.5), Jennifer Romero (Gr.5), Franklin Pavon (Gr.5) and Kevin Renteria (Gr.4).



Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

Students at **Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School** recently worked together to construct a Buddy Bench—a creative and colorful symbol of comradery and school unity. Situated on the school's playground, the Buddy Bench serves one major purpose: It offers a place for people looking for a buddy over recess to meet. The children pictured were part of a committee that presented the bench to each grade level, explained its purpose and use, and talked about the process of building the Buddy Bench.

After the presentations, audience members participated in role-playing activities, acting out different scenarios with the bench. Additionally, each grade collectively said a pledge about being a friend at the end of the assembly.



Woodward Parkway Elementary School

Have you ever tried to write a piece of music? Second graders at **Woodward Parkway Elementary School** have; over the course of a few months, they created original compositions to play on the xylophone! The children first learned how long various notes can be in a measure. (They color coded their note selections to make this transition easier.) They worked on melody and patterns and wrote their own original pieces. Next the children played and edited their musical pieces. When the compositions were complete, they gave it a title. Lastly, the students shared their pieces with one another in the courtyard on a beautiful day!

The experience gave the second graders at Woodward Parkway the ability to explore musical elements such as steady beat, rhythm and melody. They developed note-reading skills as well as proper mallet technique as they performed on the xylophone.



Howitt Middle School

In developing nations across the world, access to fresh water can be severely limited. Recently, seventh grade students at **Howitt Middle School** raised funds that were used for the construction and drilling a fresh-water well in South Sudan. Throughout the month of May, the students collected donations from the community and recycled water bottles. Additionally, they participated in a walk-a-thon. Through their combined efforts, the students were able to raise over ten thousand dollars!

The money will help provide fresh, clean water to people in South Sudan. The program was so successful, that the school is already planning to raise funds to help build another well in South Sudan next year. Congratulations to all the students involved.



Farmingdale High School

Twelve Farmingdale High School students—led by their coach Pete Macchia—were recently named the 2014-2015 Long Island Quiz Bowl Champions. The students competed for eight hours, going head-to-head with public, private and parochial schools throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties before clinching their first place win against Port Jefferson School District.

"We are extremely proud for our Quiz Bowl team and their success this season," said Principal Glenn Zakian. "To be named Long Island Champions not only speaks for their diligence in the classroom, but for their superior teamwork and leadership skills."

The winning team consists of Senior Captain Dan Laine, senior Jacob Croces, senior Nick Florio, and underclassmen Suraj Muralidharan, Michael Callahan, Clarisse Baes, Jake Chammas, Ramin Chowdhury, Dan Dougherty, Matt Golubow, Urooba Abid, and Tyler Looney. The team prepares and competes in five competitions throughout the five month season beginning in November and culminating in March. Students are charged with recalling both academic and trivia-based questions and receive points for each correct answer.





In the fall, the Class of 2015 graduates will be furthering their education. We wish all of them the best of luck as they enter the next phase of their lives.

Alfred University
 American University of Rome
 Assumption College
 Berklee College of Music
 Binghamton University
 Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
 Boston University
 Briarcliffe College
 California Institute of Technology
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Cornell University
 CUNY-Baruch College
 CUNY-Hunter College
 CUNY- John Jay
 College of Criminal Justice
 CUNY-Macaulay Honors College
 CUNY-City College of New York

Davis & Elkins College
 DePaul University
 Dowling College
 Fairfield University
 Fashion Institute of Technology
 Five Towns College
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Fordham University
 Full Sail University
 Gemological Institute of America
 George Mason University
 Gordon College
 Hofstra University
 Iona College
 James Madison University
 Johnson & Wales University
 Lafayette College

Lenoir-Rhyne University
 LIM College
 Long Island University, Brooklyn
 Long Island University, Post
 Manhattan College
 Manhattanville College
 Mansfield University of Pennsylvania
 Marist College
 Mercy College
 Molloy College
 Mount Ida College
 Nassau Community College
 New York Institute of Technology
 Northeastern University
 Pace University
 Pennsylvania State University,
 University Park



LONGDALE CLASS OF SCHOOL 2015

their education at colleges and universities the nation over.
phase of their educations! Our graduates will be attending:

Purchase College State University
of New York

Quinnipiac University

Rochester Institute of Technology

Sacred Heart University

Seton Hall University

Smith College

Southern Connecticut State University

St. John's University - Queens Campus

St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus

State University of New York - Plattsburgh

State University of New York at Albany

State University of New York at New Paltz

Stevenson University

Stony Brook University

Suffolk County Community College

SUNY College at Farmingdale

SUNY College at Cortland

SUNY College at Geneseo

SUNY College at Old Westbury

SUNY College at Oneonta

SUNY College at Potsdam

SUNY Maritime College

SUNY University of Buffalo

Susquehanna University

Syracuse University

The George Washington University

The Ohio State University

The University of Scranton

Towson University

Universal Technical Institute

University of Central Florida

University of Connecticut

University of Delaware

University of Florida

University of Hartford

University of Maryland, College Park

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of New Hampshire

University of New Haven

University of Pittsburgh

University of Rhode Island

University of South Carolina

University of Vermont

Utica College

Western Connecticut State University

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

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 service who exemplifies the selfless standard that was set by Dr. Karp, a school board member, from 1987-1997.

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.

Albany Avenue Elementary School

The fifth graders from Albany Avenue Elementary School celebrated their Moving-up Ceremony on June 22 at Farmingdale High School. They were led in to the celebration by the Sir Edward Elger's "Pomp and Circumstance," played beautifully on the piano by Mihee Hwang. Under the direction of Music Director Catherine McLoughlin, the fifth grade chorus performed a rendition of "For Good" from the beloved musical *Wicked*. Also in attendance were Farmingdale Board of Education member Michael Goldberg and Assistant Superintendent Paul Defendini.

This year, Alyssa Drozdowski was honored with the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award and Taylor Reggio received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award. Taylor also delivered the Student Council's President's Address Service Award.



Alyssa Drozdowski



Taylor Reggio

Northside Elementary School

At Northside Elementary School's Moving-Up Ceremony, the school's music staff performed "Trumpet Voluntary" as the 94 graduates entered Bicentennial Hall. Ryan Corriss, Megan Dreher, Conor Farrell, Brandon Gallipani and Keiry Martinez led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the student ensemble performed the National Anthem. Board of Education President Shari Bardash-Eivers and Assistant Superintendent Barbara Horsley assisted Northside Principal Michael Febbraro in distributing the certificates. A video reflection of the graduates six years at Northside brought tears of joy to all. Under the direction of choral teacher, Mrs. Pat Facchiano, the graduates entertained the audience with Tyrone Well's "Time of Our Lives." Andrew Hilton addressed the Class of 2015, and Diane Anderson emceed the event. Additionally, the Moving-Up Ceremony program covers were created by students Marely Rodriguez and Caitlyn Civelli.

This year, Andrew Hilton received the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award and Catherine Cassidy received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.



Andrew Hilton



Catherine Cassidy

Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

The theme for Saltzman East Memorial's 2015 Moving-Up Ceremony was "We Hold the Future in Our Hands." The SEM Color Guard led the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance and the Senior Band played a rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner. The students were greeted by the opening remarks of Principal Patricia O'Regan. Highlights of the show included Jacquelyne Jeavons' Class of 2015 address and the Class of 2015 performing "We Are the Young" by Mary Donnelly. Certificates were distributed by Principal Patricia O'Regan, Assistant Principal Jessica Santarpia, Board President Shari Bardash-Eivers and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joan Ripley. The event concluded with closing remarks by Assistant Principal Jessica Santarpia and a performance of "May You Always Have a Song," written by Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse.

For 2015, Colin Cody was the recipient of the Board of Education Scholarship and Citizenship Award, and Isabella Recine received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.



Colin Cody

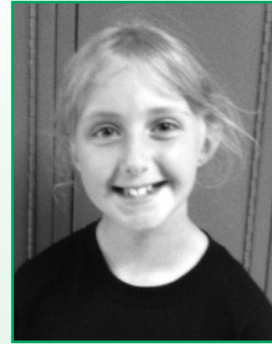


Isabella Recine

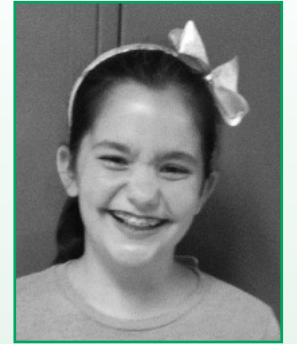
Woodward Parkway Elementary School

Woodward Parkway Elementary School's Moving-up Ceremony began with the entire graduating class singing The Star Spangled Banner. Students also sang "Dreams that Children Dream" by renowned composer Ruth Elaine Schram while Farmingdale music teachers Eric Hulse and Debbie Lutz conducted and played piano, respectively. In attendance at the Moving-Up Ceremony were Superintendent John Lorentz and Board of Education Trustee Kathy Lively. The event featured speeches by Woodward Parkway Principal John Patrick Klocek and Assistant Principal Jennifer DeHayes.

This year, Amanda Treulich was honored with the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award and Vanessa Espinosa received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.



Amanda Treulich



Vanessa Espinosa

Howitt Middle School

Howitt Middle School held its Eighth Grade Awards Ceremony at the conclusion of the school year, honoring students who received awards in all subject areas. Principal Luis Peña provided opening and closing remarks, and Howitt faculty members presented the many student achievers with their certificates. Additionally, Farmingdale Board of Education President Shari Bardash-Eivers and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joan Ripley attended the ceremony.

Zara Kahn was the recipient of the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award, and Christine Gilleran was honored with the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award.



Zara Kahn

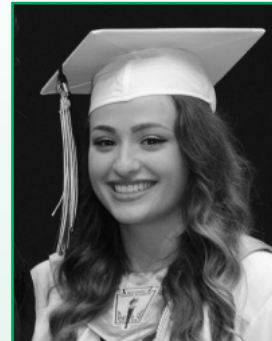


Christine Gilleran

Farmingdale High School

Farmingdale High School celebrated its 98th annual commencement ceremony at Hofstra University on Tuesday, June 23. Principal Glen Zakian welcomed the Class of 2015 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 464 students who received their diplomas that evening earned the many congratulations that came their way. Speeches were delivered by Valedictorian Tosha Patel and Salutatorian Julia Piraino, and the Board of Education distributed the hard-earned diplomas to graduates.

There were individual awards as well. Brittany D'Ambrosio was awarded the BOE Scholarship & Citizenship Award and Casey Grzanic received the Dr. Gary E. Karp Community Service Award. Congratulations to the entire Class of 2015!



Brittany D'Ambrosio



Casey Grzanic

Congratulations to our Victory Games Athletes

Our students in the local Victory Games last month. Pictured here are the athletes from the Farmingdale School District and their support team. Congratulations to all who participated!



MUSIC AND FINE ARTS NEWS

Farmingdale Shines at All-County Art Exhibit

On Sunday, March 15, thousands gathered at Adelphi University to take in the beautiful student artwork on hand at the 11th Annual Nassau All-County Art Exhibition. Of the many artists highlighted, an impressive 42 were from the Farmingdale School District. The All-County Art Exhibition was sponsored by the Nassau County Art Supervisors Association, and it honored student-artists in kindergarten through 12th grade who have demonstrated excellence in a variety of art forms including drawing, painting and printmaking, as well as computer graphics and photography. All artwork was in alignment with the New York State Standards for Visual Arts. Additional photos of the exhibit and student artists are available on the Art Supervisors Associations website: www.artsupervisorsassociation.org.



Albany Avenue All-County Art students are shown with Principal Valentine and art teachers Ms. Sharp and Ms. O'Sullivan



Northside All County Art students are shown with art teacher Ms. Napolitano



Howitt Middle School All-County art students are shown with art teachers Ms. Vega, Ms. Smith, Ms. Ginexi, and Ms. Steffen. Not shown: Ms. Rummenie



Woodward Parkway All-County art students are shown with art teachers Ms. Weisfelner and Ms. O'Sullivan, as well as Assistant Principal Ms. DeHayes



Saltzman East Memorial students pictured with their art teacher Ms. Capone



Farmingdale High School All-County Art students are shown with art teachers Ms. McEnerg, Ms. Nicholas, Ms. Palermo, Mr. Buchholz and Fine Arts Director Ms. Rita Zirpolo Padden

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

FHS Track Stars Shine in State Competition

Several elite members of the Farmingdale High School Girls' and Boys' Varsity Track & Field teams competed in the State Qualifiers last month. The competition was fierce, but our 'Dalers dug deep and the results were outstanding! Khadia Jenkins (discus), Ginamarie Ospedale (pole vault), Micheal Outing (110m high hurdles), Jude Pierre (long jump) and Kelsea Thompson (pentathlon) all qualified for the New York State Championships, which were held in mid-June at SUNY Albany. Congratulations to these athletes and their coaches Katie Dunne, Megan Holden, Walt Henning and Tom Londino. The dedication and hard work put in by all these student-athletes and their coaches was evident, and it did the entire Farmingdale School District proud.



FHS Track & Field competitors at State Qualifiers