



Celebrating

THE CLASS OF 2023 LEAVING A LEGACY OF SUCCESS

It was a wonderful day to remember, as proud family members and guests gathered at Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High School on June 11 to celebrate the 60th Commencement of the Class of 2023. Principal Daniel Danbusky congratulated the class on their commitment to achieving their goals of academic and personal success.

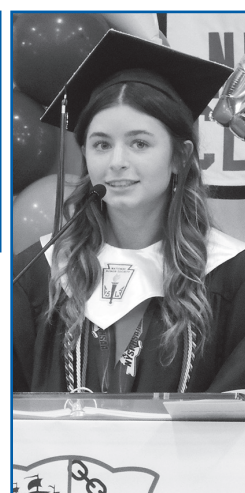
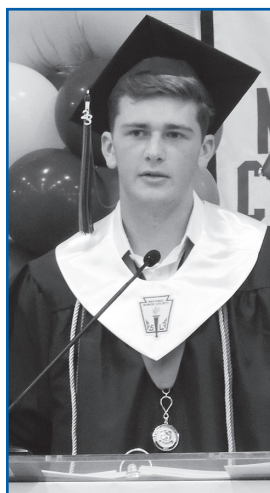
"We cannot control things we have no control over," he said. "Many of you will be living alone away from home and now you must break down the walls of isolation, put away the distractions and seek to understand. Sometimes when you find yourself adrift, you will truly find yourself." He also shared the advice of Ted Lasso, "Be curious, not judgmental."

Following tradition, the Class of 2023 was represented by three student Reflection Speakers, Ava Abatemarco, Tyler Gray and Christopher Reilly. Ava brought to everyone's attention the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" is the wrong question. The better question to ask is "Who do you want to be when you grow up?" Christopher left his classmates with four points of wisdom he wished he could have shared with his younger self: be confident, be humble, be accountable and don't take life too seriously. Tyler divulged his nickname embarrassingly

earned because of his picky eating. He shared how he learned to embrace and overcome his quirky habits through self-acceptance, defining his own self-worth and personal growth, and striving to make an impact as a future advocate and leader. He encouraged his peers, "Don't take the safe route. Thrive in the unknown."

Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch congratulated everyone on the culmination of 13 years of academic success. "This class battled the pandemic beginning as freshmen, displaying remarkable steadfastness, courage and resilience. Through your strengths and abilities, you uplifted others and stepped up when times were tough. You have the power to make ripples of hope ... believe in yourself, discover your passions. You possess so many talents. You have inspired our youngest learners, and you are the torchbearers of a bright future."

"Class of 2023, you have worked together to leave your mark on our community," she continued. "Remember the next part of your journey shapes you and who you will become. The effort and the things you learn along the way and, more importantly, the people you surround yourself with will make all the difference in the life you create for yourself. Congratulations to the Cold Spring Harbor High School Class of 2023. Fly high, Seahawks!"

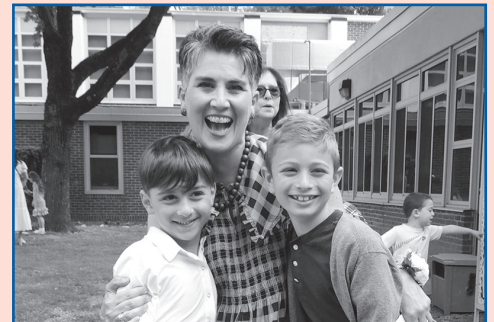


A Day to Remember at GOOSEHILL PRIMARY

There were many memorable days during the school year at Goosehill Primary School. Moving-Up Day was certainly one of the most sentimental days as students celebrated and said farewell to a very special school they called home for two years. During two separate moving-up sessions, music teacher Daniel Santangelo led the students in song, followed by Principal Christina Cosme presenting the students with their well-deserved moving-up certificates. This year marked the first moving-up ceremony for Ms. Cosme.

"I wish you the very best as you embark on your journey to West Side and Lloyd Harbor," Ms. Cosme said. "I have no doubt that you will continue to shine wherever you may go. Remember, you will always have the cherished friendships you forged at Goosehill. Congratulations, children."

Following the ceremony, refreshments were served and the students proudly shared their artwork on display in the courtyard. Congratulations and best of luck in your new schools next year. Always remember you will forever carry your Goosehill family in your hearts.



A Tradition Continues at West Side Moving-Up Ceremony



A long-standing tradition continued during this year's moving-up ceremony. Fifty-eight students each had the opportunity to speak and share their most memorable experiences at West Side School. Principal Dr. John Barnes marveled at all they have accomplished over the past five years, the many friends they have made, how the students raised the bar in so many ways and the special traditions they embraced and created.

"On a personal note, I very much appreciated the opportunity to get to know the West Side grade six students, and thank you, students, for accepting me into the West Side family," Dr. Barnes said. "Your student-led reflections were inspirational. What a privilege to hear about your memories, takeaways during your time at West Side, core values and insights that you will bring into your future. I feel grateful to have shared the experience with your proud parents and our staff members and I love this special West Side tradition."

The students reflected on the many challenges and lessons they learned that helped them learn and grow, including living through a global pandemic that tested their strength and resolve. The students revealed struggles, hopes, gratefulness, supportive teachers and families, joys, bonds of friendships, perseverance and resilience that embraced the 233-year history of West Side. They also thanked teachers for being kind, supportive, sometimes strict and always caring, and especially for helping them to learn and succeed.

Many students reflected upon the advice they would have given their younger second grade self, including to have more motivation, to not be afraid of mistakes, to not wish the time away or take time for granted, to try new things and to remember to be kind.

Dr. Barnes reminded students that the bonds forged within the West Side walls will forever bind them together as a West Side family, and to always remember the essence of the West Side School morning affirmation, "You are kind, smart, brave, confident, loved, capable, grateful and enough!" Congratulations as you move up to the Jr./Sr. High School.



Leading By Example and Moving Upward at Lloyd Harbor School



It was truly a year to remember as Principal Valerie Massimo spoke about the sixth graders during their moving-up ceremony on June 22 at the PAC.

"These sixth grade seniors were part of the reason Lloyd Harbor School achieved the distinct honor of becoming a National Blue Ribbon School," Ms. Massimo said. "This highly regarded designation is a team award that comes from great teaching, great learning by our students and the partnerships with our LHS families. It is a distinction that is not easy to achieve or acquire."

A special tribute was made to members of the sixth grade class who embodied the great character and role modeling that brought to life the school's HIKER values of honesty, inclusion, kindness, empathy and respect. The students, who succeeded despite living through a pandemic, were also reminded of a special book read by the entire student body, "Courage," by Bernard Waber. The book ends with, "Courage is sometimes having to say goodbye."

"As you say goodbye to Lloyd Harbor School and start over, I know you will find courage to climb those mountains, explore new things and, most importantly, have courage to hold on to your dreams," Ms. Massimo said. "Your dreams are your future, and now go and make them happen."

Student Council President Sara Paci spoke of her time at LHS. "I don't think I have enough fingers and toes to count all the incredible things we have done together," Sara said. "At first, I didn't like the idea of a new school. I never thought that I would be able to make new friendships. Instead, I realized that this new school meant meeting terrific new people and incredible opportunities."

Sarah reflected upon COVID-19 times and how everyone missed out on the many events during the pandemic. "It made us stronger," she said. "We are an amazing class and we are going to make a difference in this world. I'm so proud that I am a part of the Lloyd Harbor School Class of 2023."

Congratulations to all and best of luck at the Jr. High.



Here We Come – The Class of 2027

As the eighth grade class officially began their moving-up ceremony to the high school, Principal Daniel Danbusky said, "I have the distinct privilege of watching this group of 122 youngsters grow and mature from eager and anxious young teens who entered the Jr. High School into a formidable class of self-confident young adults as they seek out their own paths in life."

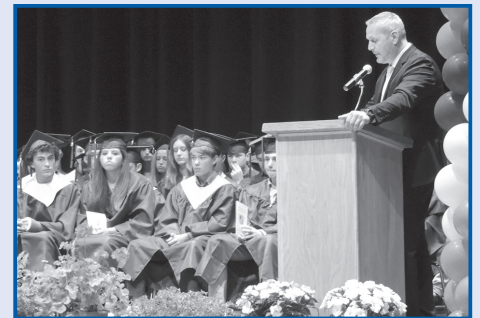
The students were encouraged to explore new challenges, opportunities, self-discovery and growth and to embrace their journey with an open mind and a willingness to step outside their comfort zone.

"Be ambitious, yet realistic, and use tonight as a reminder of your potential," Mr. Danbusky said. "Remember success is not always measured by grades alone, but also by the relationships you build. Take advantage of the resources available to you and seek guidance from your teachers, counselors and mentors. Remember that setbacks and obstacles are a natural part of any journey. Believe in yourself and your abilities, even when faced with difficulties. Your determination and perseverance will carry you through the toughest of times. Finally, never forget to enjoy the journey."

The students were reminded that the diploma and handshake are an official welcome to the high school, where they will be called freshmen and will have tremendous responsibilities, new opportunities and meaningful new experiences.

Mr. Danbusky extended a challenge to the Class of 2027. "As you move into the final stage of your educational journey here in Cold Spring Harbor, you will face situations where you will need to decide between doing something the right way or the wrong way," he said. "The choices you make will make all the difference for the life that you ultimately lead. Will you be the person who does the right thing because it is the right thing to do, even if no one is looking?"

Assistant Principal to the Junior High School Ms. Caitlyn Harman and Superintendent Jill M. Gierasch also expressed their sincere gratitude and pride and wished the students great success as rising freshmen. Congratulations, Class of 2027, and welcome to High School.



LEADING THE WAY RAISING THE BAR ON SUCCESS

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CLASS OF 2023

The members of the Class of 2023 have succeeded despite unique challenges and have raised the bar on achievement, personal growth and success. They have acquired the confidence and leadership skills and the social-emotional awareness to become future leaders. Below are some of the inspiring facts about the Class of 2023:

- 123 graduates in the Class of 2023.
- 118 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- 29 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors with Math and Science Endorsement.
- 16 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors with Math Endorsement.
- 8 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Science Endorsement.
- 1 graduate earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors.
- 5 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors with Science Endorsement.
- 7 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Math and Science Endorsement.
- 10 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Math Endorsement.
- 1 graduate earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with CTE (career and technical endorsement).
- 5 graduates earned a Regents Diploma.





LEAVING A LASTING GIFT

The senior commons area has always held a special place in the hearts of seniors. The Class of 2023 gift is a large crest displayed on the wall in the senior commons, representing the values of the Class of 2023 and what it means to be a Seahawk. The crest was hung on June 20. Thank you, seniors, for this cherished gift.

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

For the seniors on the boys varsity lacrosse team, June 11 will be a day to remember. The day began with the seniors attending their high school graduation. With no time to celebrate, they headed to Hofstra University where they showcased their winning athletic skills and defeated Marcellus in the Class D championship 12-5. This was a back-to-back state championship win for this amazing team. It doesn't get much better than that in the day-in-the-life of a Seahawk.



2023 JUNIOR BOOK AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to the following 15 students who were recognized with the 2023 Junior Book Awards, designated by colleges to juniors with the highest levels of academic achievement. The honors went to Saami Ali, Dartmouth University; Zabelle Bobelian, Brown University; Owen Cornog, Miami University of Ohio; Katherina Coteck, University of Pennsylvania; Cleopatra Dallariss, St. Lawrence University; Kylie Drakos, St. Michael's College; Kathleen Engel, Princeton University; Michael Gallagher, Cornell University; Holden Schneider, Columbia University; Ian Smith, Harvard University; Hannah Stark, Yale University; Trevor Steele, University of Rochester; Sophie Talamas, Hamilton College; Charles Wood, University of Notre Dame and Amber Zhou, Tulane University.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following juniors, who were presented with these very prestigious awards: Kylie Drakos, University of Rochester Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award; Kathleen Engel, University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology, Rensselaer Award; Hannah Stark, University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award and Amber Zhou, University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award.



From left: Amber Zhou, Kylie Drakos, Kathleen Engel and Hannah Stark

OUTSTANDING MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The following student-musicians were recognized for their outstanding musical talents:

Toni Nemazi, ACDA All-National Choir and Lily Smyth, NAFME All-Eastern Treble Chorus.

Toni Nemazi, ACDA All-National Choir



Lily Smyth, NAFME All-Eastern Treble Chorus



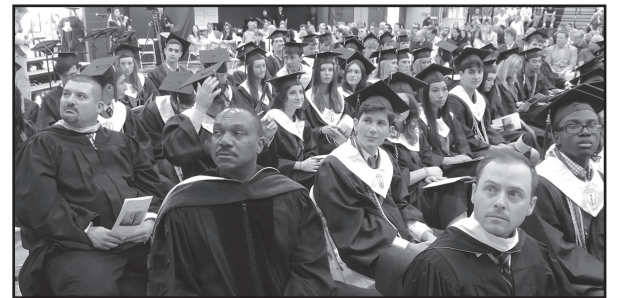
Seahawks Soaring Off to College

The Class of 2023 will continue to seek new opportunities to excel as they move forward onto the next chapter of their academic careers. They have successfully competed with students worldwide and were offered admissions to the finest colleges and universities in the country. The members of the Class of 2023 will be attending the schools listed below.

Adelphi University
Arizona State University-Tempe
Ashland University
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Bucknell University
Clemson University
College of Charleston
Cornell University
Emerson College
Emory University-Oxford College
Fairfield University
Florida Atlantic University
Georgetown University
Hofstra University
Indiana University-Bloomington
James Madison University
Lehigh University
Loyola University Maryland
Marist College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University
Molloy University

New York University
North Carolina State University at Raleigh
Northeastern University
Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus
Quinnipiac University
Roanoke College
Roger Williams University
Savannah College of Art & Design - SCAD
Skidmore College
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University
State University of New York at New Paltz
Stony Brook University
SUNY College at Geneseo
Texas Christian University
The George Washington University
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
United States Naval Academy
University at Buffalo
University of Arizona

University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Maryland College Park
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Mississippi
University of Notre Dame
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina-Columbia
University of Southern California
University of Virginia Main Campus
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Wagner College
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Williams College



ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD – CHRISTINE OSWALD

Congratulations to Christine Oswald, K-12 art department chairperson, who has been recognized as the Western Suffolk BOCES Model Schools Program Teacher Technology Integration Award 2022-2023 Administrator of the Year. She started her career at Cold Spring Harbor in 2000 and quickly became a well-respected educator. She became the art department chairperson, where she continues to demonstrate her passion for education, commitment to growth through collaboration and inclusivity, and informed decisions that benefit all.

“Christine has a ‘we can do this’ mindset all the time,” Joseph Monastero, executive director for instructional and administrative technology, said. “During our districtwide STEAM Night, she guided activities and presentations with care and efficiency, finding solutions for every challenge along the way.”

Thank you for being an incredible role model, and congratulations on this distinguished award.



NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED DISTRICT K-12 MUSIC PROGRAM

For the second consecutive year, the district's K-12 music education program achieved national recognition. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. The NAMM Foundation celebrates and promotes the intrinsic value of music education nationwide. NAMM is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants with approximately 10,000 members worldwide. Special thanks to the Board of Education, parents, community and staff for funding, recognizing and promoting the arts.

“Receiving this recognition again identifies our K-12 music program as one of the finest in the nation,” K-12 Music Chairperson Brent Chiarello said. “We are honored and will continue to encourage our students to develop a lifelong appreciation of music and the role it plays in our lives.”



NEW STAFF APPOINTED



Carissa Hajdasz – Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal

Ms. Hajdasz holds a B.S. in biology from Syracuse University and an M.S. in mental health counseling and school counseling from SUNY Plattsburgh. She began her career in education as a school counselor at Sauquoit Valley High School. During her eight years as a high school counselor, she led the Freshman Seminar course curriculum development and spearheaded events connected to social-emotional learning, directed the Handshakes college scholarship/mentor program and successfully implemented a districtwide comprehensive guidance program. After completing her certificate of advanced study in educational leadership at SUNY Cortland in 2019, Ms. Hajdasz has served the Whitesboro Central School District as a grades 6-8 assistant principal, where she was instrumental in developing programs to address learning loss and educational enrichment.



Brian Taylor – K-12 Director of STEM

Mr. Taylor began his teaching career as a Regents chemistry teacher at The Mary Louis Academy. He earned his Master of Arts in liberal studies from Stony Brook University and became a Regents and Advanced Placement chemistry teacher at North Babylon High School. After earning his postgraduate certificate in educational leadership from Stony Brook University, he served as the administrative dean of students at Commack High School. He went on to become the director of science and engineering technology K-12 in the West Islip School District, where he led the acceleration of all eighth grade students in Living Environment and added several International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses to the high school schedule. He led the creation of the West Islip High School STEM Academy where students work on independent research in science, computer science, engineering and mathematics. Most recently, Mr. Taylor was the executive director of human resources in West Islip, where he led the hiring process for the district and supported all staff in making it a safe and healthy place for students to learn.

RECOGNIZING SERVICE ABOVE AND BEYOND

The Exemplary Service Award was presented to Transportation Supervisor and Registrar Jean Luna during the June 13 Board of Education meeting. Each year, the Board of Education honors an employee who supports, with great distinction, our school community. The criteria for consideration to receive this award includes having worked in the district for at least five years, having the unanimous recommendation of the administration and the Board, and exemplifying leadership and excellent character among others.

Board President Tara Belfi thanked Ms. Luna for her 7 ½ years of service in the District Office, where she has left her mark either welcoming new families or reassuring parents by addressing their concerns.

“I know that I speak for the Board of Education, the superintendent and the entire leadership team when I say that Ms. Luna is someone whom we all value greatly and who is a critical part of our team,” Belfi said. “Congratulations, Ms. Luna, on this very distinguished award.”



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Missing from photo: Stephanie Carlstrom, Mary Jo Hannity, Jeanne Lupo, Michael Ramsay and Cynthia Scudieri

Retirement Wishes

During the June 13 Board of Education meeting, 10 retirees were honored for their many years of dedicated service to the district.

“Over the years, we have all worked with you in various capacities and have shared in your enthusiasm for your work,” said Superintendent Jill M. Gierasch. “It has been our pleasure to get to know you personally and professionally. Indeed, you are a caring group of educators and staff members who are held in the highest esteem. I know the staff and students will miss you and the legacy you all leave behind. It is our sincere hope your retirement years will bring you joy and fulfillment. Congratulations!”

The 10 retirees honored were Stephanie Carlstrom, Martin Colucci, Paul Dwyer, Philip Gray, Mary-Jo Hannity, Jeanne Lupo, Michael Ramsay, Victoria Rinaldo, Cynthia Scudieri and Robin Weinberg.

Thank You, Board Trustees, for Your Service

Special gratitude is extended to Board of Education trustees Ms. Tara Belfi, Dr. Janice Elkin and Mr. Mark Freidberg whose terms of office ended on June 30. Their tireless commitment was always at the forefront, focused on enhancing programs and curriculum for all students, maintaining and improving facilities and ensuring the community’s investment in our schools was protected.

Ms. Belfi joined the Board in 2020 and most recently served as Board president. During her tenure, the Board and district increased opportunities for community building through the AP Collegial Circles, Homecoming Festival, Parent University, STEAM Night and many professional learning opportunities for staff. She also served as a member of the Audit, Capital Projects, Policy and Safety Committees.

Dr. Elkin began her tenure on the Board in 2004, serving twice as president and three times as vice president. Seven graduating classes started and ended their education during her term on the Board. She served as one of the most experienced school board members, sharing her historical perspective, mentorship, guidance, thoughtful manner and sound advice.

Mr. Freidberg served on the Board for nine years. He shared his insight and perspective on issues that helped shape the district, including two superintendent searches, several administrative hires, countless contract negotiations and facilities planning.



Honoring Parent Leaders

Superintendent Jill M. Gierasch hosted the annual Parent Leader Breakfast, where she noted that the parent leaders and the groups they represent support so many programs, are invaluable to the success of the district and that the degree of volunteerism is remarkable and does not go unnoticed. The administration and staff are so grateful for their service and commitment not only to the students, but for their expressions of appreciation to the staff throughout the year. Parents enjoyed guest speaker Molly Prep, a reader, writer, fitness instructor and life enthusiast. She is also a teaching assistant at New York University for The Literature of Children and Adolescents course and is the author of “Cancer Angst: A Memoir.” Ms. Prep’s messages generated discussion and thoughtful reflection.

