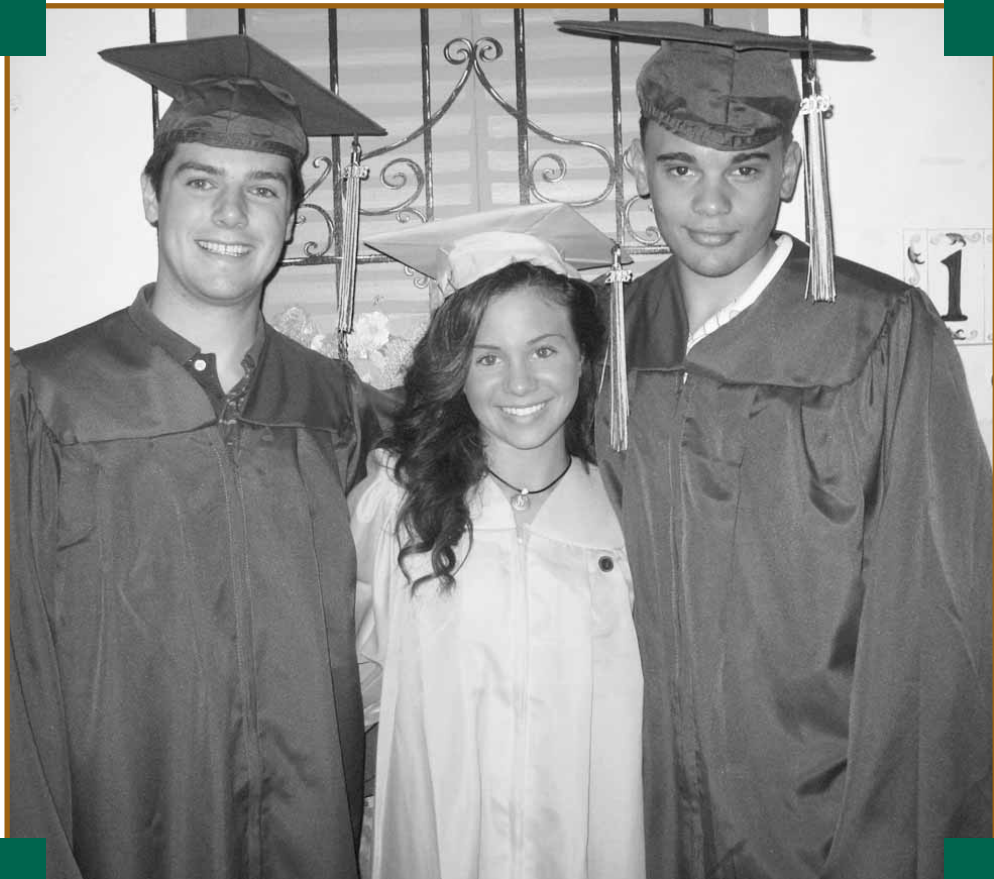




the Reporter

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

www.3villagescd.k12.ny.us



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Three Village Central School District
200 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

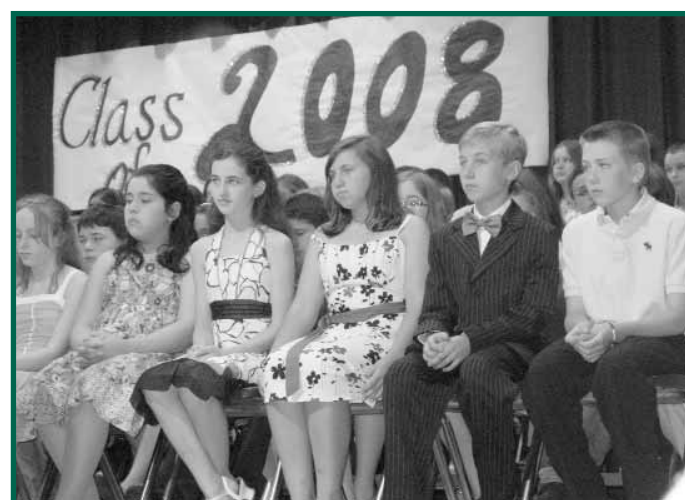
Board of Education

President: John K. Diviney
Vice President: David A. Micklos
Trustees: Jonathan Kornreich; Carol Leister; Frank McIntosh;
Diane Peritore; Glen T. Whitney

Superintendent of Schools: Ralph P. Ferrie, Ed. D.

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Class Profile

- Both Valedictorians will be attending Yale.
- For the Senior Class Gift the graduates made a donation to a charity that helps children buy school supplies.
- 10 National Merit Scholarship Finalists
- More than \$12,168,600 awarded in scholarship money
- 2 Siemens Westinghouse Semifinalists
- 5 National Merit Scholarship Winners (to date)
- 13 Intel Semifinalists
- 1 Intel Finalist

Continuing the Journey

Graduates in the Ward Melville High School Class of 2008 were admitted to numerous colleges and universities across the country. Below is just a snapshot of some of the schools that offered the students admittance in the fall:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Adelphi University | Northeastern University |
| Boston College | Northwestern University |
| Boston University | Pennsylvania State University |
| Brown University | Pratt Institute |
| Columbia University | Princeton University |
| Cornell University | Rutgers University |
| Dartmouth College | Sacred Heart University |
| Duke University | School of Visual Arts |
| Fairfield University | Stanford University |
| Five Towns College | St. John's University |
| Fordham University | SUNY Albany |
| George Washington University | SUNY Buffalo |
| Georgetown University | SUNY Geneseo |
| Gettysburg College | SUNY Stony Brook |
| Harvard University | Temple University |
| Hofstra University | Towson University |
| Ithaca College | Tufts University |
| Johns Hopkins University | U.N.C. Chapel Hill |
| Lehigh University | University of Pennsylvania |
| Loyola University | University of Virginia |
| Marist College | Washington University |
| New York Institute of Technology | Williams College |
| New York University | Yale University |

NEW BEGINNINGS

Class of 2008 Reaches New Milestone

On what was a picturesque Sunday afternoon, family, friends, members of the district's Board of Education, administration, staff, and other special guests from the Three Village School community shared an important milestone in the lives of the members of Ward Melville High School's Class of 2008 – graduation day for the school's approximately 620-member senior class.

The ceremony, which was held on Sunday, June 29, began with the traditional procession as members of the High School Symphonic Band, under the baton of Laura Gustavsen, serenaded the graduating class with "Pomp and Circumstance." Marching past the event's attendees, the students, who formed a sea of green and gold, were met with boisterous rounds of applause before taking to their seats on the set of bleachers that blanketed the front of the building.

Students listened attentively as retiring Principal Thomas Colletti, Superintendent of Schools Frank J. Carasiti, Class President Michelle Gulino, Co-Valedictorians Kalyan Ray-Mazumder and Yang Li, Salutatorian Ethan Solomon, Board of Education member Carol Leister, and Student Government President Matthew Wilkins addressed the audience, sharing their memories and bestowing some advice upon the graduates that sat before them.

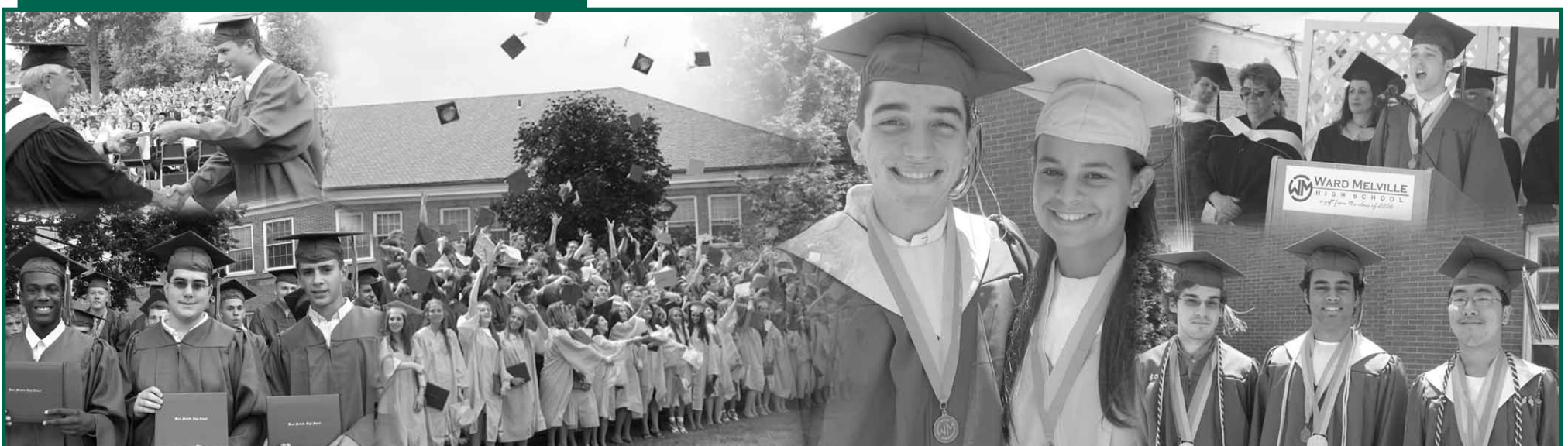
In her address, Michelle stated, "No matter where we go from here, no matter what changes we make, we will always have one thing in common – we are all a part of Ward Melville. Life is too short to wake up with regrets....no one said it would be easy, but just that it would be worth the ride." With many speakers focusing their addresses on how the students' backgrounds and pasts have worked to shape them into the nation's future leaders, one recurring message was shared – the need for students to embrace the challenges that lie ahead and continue to strive for excellence. "Today marks our generation's first step toward shaping the world we see fit," stated Yang. "After 13 years here, you have worked, studied, practiced, and played....you are ready to take the next step, the next step toward your future," added Superintendent of Schools Frank J. Carasiti.

In addition to the young group of scholars, this year's commencement exercises held a special place in the heart of 87-year-old Elmer Driscoll who, after waiting more than 70 years, officially graduated from high school this year with the Class of 2008. Mr. Driscoll, who has been finishing his studies at the Middle Country Public Library in Selden for the past two years, hoped that his determination to finish what he started many years ago serves as a source of inspiration for others who wish to return to school.

After receiving instruction from Matthew, Mr. Colletti presented the class to the audience and the high school's newest alumni turned their tassels and tossed their caps into the air to the cheers of their family, friends, and other special guests.

"After 13 years here, you have worked, studied, practiced, and played....you are ready to take the next step, the next step toward your future."

- Frank J. Carasiti, Superintendent of Schools



MOVING UP THE ACADEMIC LADDER

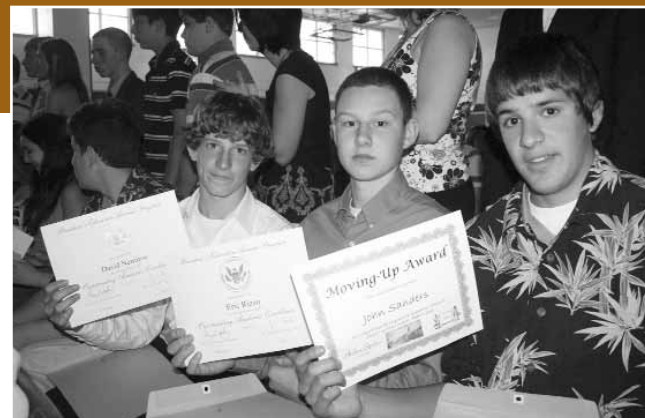
In celebration of their three years of hard work and dedication, P.J. Gelinas and R.C. Murphy Junior High recently paused to celebrate the accomplishments of the schools' ninth grade Class of 2008 and presented them with their moving-up certificates during the buildings' Annual Moving-Up Ceremonies.



"We are here together to celebrate this wonderful occasion in your academic journey," stated Murphy Principal Vinny Vizzo. "I knew when you came into seventh grade that you were a group of students that would set high standards for your fellow peers here at Murphy, and you have gone above and beyond what I could have dreamed for you."

Sitting according to their homeroom assignments, the students were announced and proceeded to the front of the gymnasium to receive their official moving-up certificates and other academic, athletic, and music awards.

"I admire your commitment and perseverance," stated Gelinas Principal Gus Huber. "You are leaving here more enriched, enlightened, and self-confident. I encourage you to dream on, dream big, and be proud of who you are."



A Bright FUTURE AHEAD

Sixth-grade students across the district had many reasons to celebrate this June as they embarked upon the next part of their academic journey and participated in their schools' moving-up ceremonies. Parents and invited guests gathered at each of the district's five elementary schools to share in this momentous occasion in the students' academic careers.

In addition to hearing remarks from the schools' administrators and faculty, selected student representatives took to the podium during the

ceremonies to share the memories they created during their time at their respective buildings. Talks of class trips, making new friends, and the teachers who made an impact on their lives were just a few of the topics shared during the ceremonies.

One-by-one the students proudly walked across the auditoriums' stages to receive their commemorative certificates, receive various awards, and shake the hands of the esteemed guests in attendance.



Welcoming NEW TRUSTEES

On May 20th, when the community voted to approve the district's proposed 2008-2009 budget, they also voted to fill four seats on the Board of Education. After the polls closed and the results were announced, the district welcomed new Board of Education Trustees Glen T. Whitney, Diane Peritore, and Jonathan Kornreich, and reelected member Frank McIntosh.



Mr. Kornreich began serving on the Board following the election, as he was appointed to fill the remaining term of a Board vacancy, while Mr. Whitney and Ms. Peritore joined the Board following the district's July 8 reorganization meeting.

With Deepest Appreciation



During the last Board of Education meeting of the school year held in June, the Board of Education and administration had the honor of celebrating and thanking retiring Superintendent of Schools Frank J. Carasiti for his dedication and leadership to the district for the past five years.

"On behalf of the Board of Education and community, we thank you for your time and service to our district," stated Acting Board of Education President John Diviney. "Your leadership during your time here and the experience you brought with you was very valuable to our school system."

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN ED



During the Three Village June 10th Board of Education meeting, more than 50 teachers and administrators were recognized throughout the school district for their dedication and commitment to the profession and to the students of Three Village and presented with tokens of appreciation in their respective areas.

Board of Education President John Diviney stated, "We commend you for all that you have achieved and the commitment you have shown during your time in Three Village. We wish you the best of luck in your future of education in the district."

Receiving individual praise and congratulations from each of the members, the newly-tenured teachers and administrators were announced and proceeded to the dais to receive a token of appreciation. Following the ceremony, light refreshments were served.

Cheer, Cheer Setauket Students Hatch Chicks

Little yellow and black-feathered chicks were the talk of Setauket Elementary School this June when the first-grade students in Jen Barnao's class received hands-on training on what it is like to hatch and take care of baby chicks.

As an extension of their science curriculum on lifestyles and with the help of school science teacher Eric Gustafson, the students monitored the eggs daily, observed any changes that occurred, read books about them, and wrote songs and letters about their science lesson for Principal Dr. Anne Rullan. Finally, after a 21-day incubation period, the class watched in awe as the 18 little birds broke through their protective shells and hatched on June 17 and 18.

Once hatched, the students were able to visit the chicks in the playpen and prepare them for their trip to Cornell Cooperative Extension's farm.



Will The 'New Year's Eve Celebration Be Canceled?

Minnesauke Students Work to Find Out



As an extension of their classroom science lessons, Minnesauke Elementary School fourth-grade students in Brian Harvey's class had the chance to put the lessons they learned about meteorology to the test when they participated in an e-mission exercise with NASA called STROM-E.

The engaging program enabled the school's science classroom to be transformed into a command center and charged the students with becoming experts in the field of meteorology and making and reporting weather predictions to a NASA professional using interactive webcasting technology.

Working in groups, the students analyzed air pressure, humidity, temperature, and wind data outlined in a packet in order to make a determination as to whether the annual New Year's Eve celebration in New York City should be held as planned. Prior to the e-mission program, the students completed three days of comprehensive lessons on weather and climate patterns to learn about nor'easters, the storm that was predicted to interfere with the celebration.

"This is a great way to expose students to a project that enables them to use the lessons learned in the classroom to solve a problem that could arise in the field in real life," stated Math, Science, and Technology teacher Maria Elena Mazza.

Science Olympiad Team Skyrockets to the Top



As a result of countless hours of practice and work, P.J. Gelinis Junior High School's Science Olympiad team triumphed over the competition during the 2008 National Science Olympiad Tournament held at The George Washington University in Washington, DC, and placed 10th among the approximate 2,400 Division B (grades 6-9) and Division C (grades 9-12) competitors from around the country. Gelinis qualified for the national tournament by placing first in the New York State Science Olympiad tournament last April and became the first middle school team from New York State to finish in the top ten for three consecutive years at the annual science competition. Earlier this year, Gelinis also placed first in the Eastern Long Island Regional Tournament.

In recognition of this outstanding honor, Congressman Tim Bishop recently attended the organization's celebratory party to bestow his words of congratulations. "I know that a lot of hard work went into achieving this accomplishment," stated Congressman Bishop. "You have brought a great deal of honor and pride to the State, Long Island, and to your school. It is not easy to put yourself out there in a competition...but you have made victory look almost effortless."

CELEBRATING THE PAST, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

What was life like at R.C. Murphy Junior High School back in 1983? Well, that is just what the school's current students were looking to find out when they discovered that there was a time capsule from that year buried on the school's grounds. In 1983 the Student Council organization, advised by Paul Heischman, created a lasting memory and put together a time capsule comprised of some of their favorite items and mementos and buried it at Murphy in recognition of the 300th anniversary of Suffolk County.



As noted on the marker left symbolizing the previous capsule, this June, 25 years after the 1983 time capsule was fashioned, R.C. Murphy Junior High School students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the community gathered together for an evening event to celebrate the occasion and unveil the school's plans to create a new capsule, filled with memories from 2008. Included in the evening's attendees were Murphy's 1983 principal Sai Bixhorn, Student Council Advisor Paul Heischman, and a 1983 student and one of the main contributors to that year's capsule, Carol (Bentivegna) Vansoestbergen.

After enjoying some delicious food from local vendors, the more than 1,500 attendees gathered on the school's front lawn to watch a video describing the 1983 capsule and hear from those who took part in its creation. "While technology has advanced over the years, we all share common threads," stated Carol. "When we created this capsule we hoped that the future generation would see how, as ninth graders, we all have the same worries, are interested in the same types of things, and get an idea of what it was like not only in 1983, but also what was going on at this school during that time."

All in attendance were eager to discover the plans for the school's new time capsule, which was organized by the school's current student government. Included in the capsule is an Ipod, a cell phone with a text message, a Nintendo DX, some samples of popular music, a copy of a Harry Potter book, and a few student essays.

Throughout the evening event, attendees also enjoyed listening to some hits from the 80's performed by a live band led by school chorus and theater teacher Anthony Pollera, and were treated to a performance of the School Colors Song, an original piece of music written by 1983 music teacher Frank Vaccaro.

MEET THE MUSICIAN

While many students have the chance to meet some of today's up-and-coming and famous people in the areas of art, literature, music, and science, the students at Arrowhead and Nassakeag elementary schools had the chance to meet one of the most famous musicians from the 18th Century – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. During a cultural arts program provided by the two schools' Parent Teacher Associations (PTA), Dennis Kobray, a traveling actor and musician, visited with the schools' students and spoke with them about the life of the famed musician in the first person, all while dressed in period clothes and assuming Mozart's identity.

During the program, which was called Meet the Musician, Mozart (a.k.a. Mr. Kobray) spoke with the students about his astonishingly prolific and creative body of work, how they defined the Classical Era of European music, his life growing up as an aspiring child musician, and how he wrote his first minuet at five-and-a-half and first symphony when he was eight years old.

"Music is a lot more than just notes and melodies," stated Mr. Kobray. "Music tells a story, a story the composer wants to share. When you hear music, think about what the story is telling you."



A Sneak Peek At the Grown-Up Work World

Ever wonder what it is like to look inside an eyeball? How about what it takes to be a police detective? Or even a television producer? Well, those are just some of the highly interesting careers that third through sixth graders at W.S. Mount Elementary School had the chance to learn about during the school's Second Annual Career Lab program.



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The program, developed and produced by Dr. Pam Hurst-Della Pietra with the help of the school's career lab committee comprised of faculty, staff and parents, was designed to allow students to experience a number of careers that are of interest to them.

"It's never too early to start thinking about the future," stated Dr. Hurst-Della Pietra. "The Career Lab puts all of the skills that the students are learning into practice. It also opens many doors to careers that they might not have thought of and makes thinking about their future a fun proposition."

During the program, students visited with the presenters in preselected workshop settings to gain a deeper understanding of what the profession was like, what type of training was needed to work in that career, and gather advice on how to be successful in the career path. More than 30 professionals were on hand to teach students about 17 different career fields.