

Safety Sally Rides into Copiague

For two days in May, kindergarten through second-grade students at Deauville Gardens Elementary School in Copiague participated in the safety bus visitation program known as Safety Sally, sponsored by Eastern Suffolk BOCES. A certified safety instructor spent time teaching students how to keep themselves safe while riding on a bus and when walking around the vehicles.

Equipped with television monitors, a wheelchair lift and a video camera that are all used during the training, the bus was parked outside the school while students took turns visiting. The children were also taught about the roles of the bus driver and the students, seat belt safety and procedures for evacuating the bus.



First graders at Deauville Gardens Elementary School learn the proper safety procedures for evacuating a school bus during Safety Sally's visit.

Pennies for Patients

Great Neck Road Elementary School students participated in the "Pennies for Patients" campaign, raising \$1000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which was \$350 more than the original goal of \$650.

The collection was used to encourage students to donate their spare change and reinforce the school's character education program. The money raised will go towards supporting the society's mission, which is to help find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and Hodgkin's disease.



Megan's Law Notification

A link to Parents for Megan's Law has been established on the District's website. Sex offender information can be accessed by clicking the Parent Resources link on the District's website, or by going directly to www.parentsformeganslaw.com. The District's internal practices, implemented to ensure the safety of students and staff, will continue.

Residents who do not have Internet access may utilize computer facilities at the Copiague Public Library or may send a letter to the District Clerk requesting paper copies of the sex offender notices. In addition, notices will still be available for pickup at the District's Central Office located at 2650 Great Neck Road.

TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

For the 2009-2010 school year, all transportation eligibility requirements will be strictly enforced. In order to qualify for busing, students must meet the following criteria: Gr. K-6 must live more than 3/4 of a mile from school; Gr. 7-8 must live more than 1 mile from school; Gr. 9-12 must live more than 1-1/2 miles from school. Students who do not meet these criteria will not be permitted to use District transportation.

A new childcare and/or medical transportation request must be submitted for the 2009-2010 school year. Information is not carried over from year to year. Please contact the Transportation Office at (631) 842-4015, extension 529 as soon as possible for a new application. These applications can also be downloaded on our website at www.copiague.k12.ny.us. Additionally, these forms can be received via fax and completed forms may be faxed to (631) 841-4601 or (631) 789-8991.

If a student needs to change a bus stop for any reason during the school year, please contact the Transportation Office in writing at least 48 hours prior to your requested start date. Also note that a request for a bus stop change due to a change in residency, within the District, must be accompanied by proof of your new address.

TITLE IX AND SECTION 504 NOTICE

The Copiague School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, or disability in the educational programs or activities it operates. It is required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), not to discriminate in such a manner. This policy of nondiscrimination includes the recruitment, employment, and promotion of employees; salaries, pay, and other benefits; counseling services to students; and student access to course offerings, educational programs, (including vocational educational opportunities), and other district-sponsored activities.

Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Copiague Public Schools and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, Copiague Public Schools, 2650 Great Neck Road, Copiague, NY 11726 (842-4015, extension 520).

The U.S. Office of Civil Rights has requested that the following be included in this publication:

AVISO PUBLICO

El Distrito Escolar Copiague por la presente hace saber a estudiantes, padres, empleados, y publico en general que ofrece empleos e instruccion academica, incluyendo programas vocacionales, sin discriminacion de sexo, raza, color, nacionalidad, o incapacidad fisca. Si desea mayor informacion sobre esta practica no-discriminatoria puede dirigirse al:

Coordinador del Titulo IX y Seccion 504
Copiague Public Schools
2650 Great Neck Road
Copiague, New York 11726
Teléfono - 842-4015, extension 520



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Issued by the Copiague Board of Education as an information service to taxpayers and parents



Copiague Public Schools

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

www.copiague.k12.ny.us

SUMMER 2009

Leading By Example

Honored for Excellence

On June 15, the Copiague Board of Education recognized students in kindergarten through twelfth grade who embody the qualities and characteristics the District and Copiague community value most.

During a special semi-annual awards program, the Board of Education and administration honored students who have overcome personal adversities, placed the well-being of others before themselves, brought distinction to their school and community through their academic and/or athletic achievements, and who serve as role models for their fellow students throughout the school district and community.

"The students being honored tonight truly exemplify the qualities and characteristics we value most in the Copiague School District," stated Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig.

The entire Board of Education, central administration, building principals, teachers, families, and invited guests attended the student recognition program, at which 27 students were recognized during the evening.

Congratulations to the following students: Deauville Gardens: Shannon Corr, William Feldman, Kayla Quenzer, and Marcus Weeks; Great Neck Road: Isaiah Davis, Tyrese Glenn, Katherine



Abreu, and Michael Buckley; Susan E. Wiley; Christopher Cordero, Brianna Gardner, Eileen Gutierrez-Rivas, and Juan Jose Arango-Tobon; Middle School: Olivia Vickers, Isaac Garcia-Cassani, Andrew Marino, Miguel Gomera, and Jocelyn Romero; Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School: Maxwell Woelk, Emily Hall, Daniel Handy, Purvi Shah, Michael Vandermark, Linette Estevez, Thomas Bland, Richard Pongvitayapanu, Ting Chen, and Holly Silva.

Artistically Accomplished

In 1996, the District's art teachers selected several pieces of student artwork to inaugurate the Superintendent's Art Gallery. Over the years, the collection has grown to provide a permanent showcase for student artwork in corridors and offices throughout the District.

Achieving a place in the Superintendent's Art Gallery is a unique distinction. While the selection criteria are very flexible and do not focus only on "the best," the artwork must reflect the artist's efforts as much as the quality of the finished piece. The selected artwork is then professionally framed, and the student-

artist's name, grade level, and school year are engraved on a brass plate.

At the Superintendent's Art Gallery Annual Reception, this year's selected artists each received a framed certificate of achievement acknowledging their outstanding artistic talent. Members of the Board of Education, administration, staff, parents, and invited guests were on hand to view the artwork and to congratulate the newest student-artists chosen to exhibit their work in the Superintendent's Art Gallery.



Jamal Hyman, Christopher Falci, Liza Foley, Kevin Nieto, Jessica Pearson, and Amani Rivers; Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School: Carolyn Cruz, Keiana Hanson, Samantha Valle, Angelo Diaz, Michael DiPalermo, Agnieszka Osemlak, Anna Sacerdote, and Brian Conroy.

In addition to being chosen as part of the Superintendent's Art Gallery, Nicholas Vetere, Dylan Chen, and Michael DiPalermo were chosen as the winners of the Fine Arts Festival. With more than 1,000 votes cast by District residents, each student was awarded a \$100 savings bond from COPTA, the Copiague Teachers Union.

Copiague School District
Copiague N.Y. 11726

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Resident
Copiague School District

A MESSAGE from the Superintendent

Dear Residents,

As I reflect back on this school year, and my first year as Superintendent of the Copiague Public Schools, I feel extremely proud of all that was accomplished by our students and staff. This year we again realized significant improvements in our New York State Assessment results in grades 3-8 as well as Regents Examination participation and success. We also saw increased student and staff participation in clubs, other co-curricular activities and sports. I take my hat off to our teachers, administrators and all staff members who work so hard every single day to make a difference in the lives of our children and help them realize their potential. With the support of the Board of Education and community, our

school district has been able to continue its steady annual upward trend of academic improvement.

This year, we were faced with the great challenge of operating our schools in an economy that went into a steady decline right from the beginning of the school year. Our Board of Education and Administration very carefully and surgically took the difficult, yet necessary steps to contain costs where possible while continuing to offer the comprehensive quality educational program that our community has grown to expect over the years.

This past May, our residents signaled their confidence in those actions, their support and appreciation for what the Copiague Schools do by overwhelmingly approving our School Budget with the largest margin (67%) ever in the fifteen years I have been in Copiague.

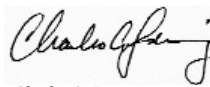
Despite the economic woes being experienced around the globe, we can now look forward to a new school year marked by stability and the goal of reaching greater heights of academic achievement. I

believe that this trend will continue despite the challenges we face, as a result of having such an extraordinary talented teaching and administrative staff and a community that is behind its schools.

This newsletter highlights but a few of the many, many accomplishments of our students during the 2008/2009 school year. After taking a few minutes to read through the various stories, I believe you will realize why Copiague continues to be a "great place to live and learn." I look forward to joining with you in the coming year in working to make our schools the best they can be for our children.

I hope you enjoy a safe, happy and restful summer and I will see you in September.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Leunig
Superintendent of Schools

Farewell to Retirees

The Copiague School District extends its best wishes to the 2008-2009 staff retirees. These individuals have all exhibited much dedication to the students and their education, and we wish them a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

- Lynn Atlas, HS Health Teacher – 33 years
- Loretta Barbetti, MS Science Teacher – 36 years
- Theodore Bristol, HS Assistant Principal – 36 years
- Virginia Daly, DG Teaching Assistant – 19 years
- Ester Davila, HS Foreign Language Teacher – 8 years
- Michael Dervin, HS Science Teacher/Chairperson – 31 years
- Trudy Felicetti, MS English Teacher – 45 years
- Allan Frank, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations – 14 years
- Lynda Friedman, SEW Teacher – 20 years
- George Grasso, Maintenance Mechanic – 37 years
- Carmela Hufnagel, Clerk Typist – 24 years
- Constance Immes, HS Teaching Assistant – 17 years
- Lawrence Judd, DG School Psychologist – 29 years
- Arthur Koch, MS English Teacher – 27 years
- Suzanne LaPorte, MS Guidance Counselor – 31 years
- Gil Link, HS Guidance Counselor – 39 years
- Lynn Lipsky, Teaching Assistant – 18 years
- Jane Lombardo, ES Teacher – 38 years
- Vincenza Longo, GNR Teaching Assistant – 24 years
- Michael Magnani, Chief Custodian – 37 years
- Margaret Martinsen, SEW Guidance Counselor – 22 years
- José Osorio, SEW School Psychologist – 13 years
- Todd Rauch, MS Physical Education Teacher – 38 years
- Joan Rebholz, Clerk Typist – 37 years
- Thomas Reeve, HS Math Teacher/Coordinator C.A.R.E. – 34 years
- Jean Rettura, HS Foreign Language Teacher – 30 years
- Robert Scully, Coordinator of Attendance & Transportation – 32 years
- Glenn Sinatra, SEW Art Teacher – 33 years
- Rosario Surline, Teaching Assistant – 35 years
- Regina Velcenbach, DG Elementary Teacher – 25 years
- Joseph Vricella, HS Social Studies Teacher/Chairperson – 16 years
- Thomas Witko, MS Science Teacher – 24 years



Copiague Teachers Present at Local Conference

On Friday, April 17, three teachers from Copiague Middle School presented at the Long Island Language Arts Council/Nassau Reading Council's (LILAC/NRC) Annual Conference. The theme of this year's conferences was "Believing in Literacy," and featured two keynote speakers, Irene Fountas [of Lesley College & literacy collaborative fame] and poet Kwame Alexander. The Copiague presentation was entitled, "The Modified Reading Workshop in the Middle School."

The reading workshop model was developed by teachers Kim Henson, Staci Melnick, and Dr. Julie Tedeschi at the middle school over the past three years. It meets the needs of both remedial and developmental readers at the middle school grade level. "Our presentation explained the creation and execution of our program," said Dr. Tedeschi. "Our model takes the traditional elementary balanced-literacy block, and modifies it to meet the time restraints of the middle school instructional day in grades 7/8. It combines ELA test prep with differentiated instruction, read-alouds, and guided reading for our seventh and eighth-grade students."

Coordinator of Reading K-12 Stephen Greenwald and Middle School English Chairperson Neil Schweitzer also assisted with the presentation by answering questions from administrative and scheduling point of views.



Stephen Greenwald, Coordinator of Reading K-12, Staci Melnick, Dr. Julie Tedeschi, Kim Henson, and Neil Schweitzer, MS English Chairperson

Sharing Ideas on a National Stage



Pictured left to right: Middle School Social Studies Chairperson Lisa Dunn, and high school social studies teachers Michelle Penney and Allison Weller

For the second consecutive year, Copiague Middle School Social Studies Chairperson Lisa Dunn, and high school social studies teachers Michelle Penney and Allison Weller, were invited to present at the National Council for History Education Annual Conference. Presenting a professional workshop entitled "Teaching Revolutions through Popular Art, Music, and Literature" to teachers from across the country who are interested in creating and implementing lessons designed around multiple learning styles, the workshop focused on the cultural components inherent to all social and political revolutions. The primary emphasis of the workshop was on the revolutions of America and Latin America, and participants were offered a variety of pedagogical strategies that effectively incorporate such primary documents as art, poetry, music, and literature into the social studies curriculum.

In addition to presenting at the conference, Mrs. Dunn, Ms. Penney, and Ms. Weller were given the invaluable opportunity of meeting with teachers from all over the nation, and sharing ideas and teaching styles.

HONORING SPRING SPORTS

More than 145 high school students from Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School were honored at the school's Spring Sports Awards Night. The evening, sponsored by the Booster Club, was filled with praise for members of the track, baseball, softball, and lacrosse teams for their commitment to teamwork, school, and themselves.

In addition to honoring the Most Valuable and Most Improved Players, as well as giving out the Coaches Award for each team, this year marked the 40th Anniversary of the Daniel O'Connell Memorial Award. On hand to present the award were Daniel's brothers – Walter, Francis, Joe, and Patrick – to a baseball player who has demonstrated the outstanding virtues of sportsmanship, character, and conscience. This memorial award is presented each spring in memory of Daniel, who attended Copiague High School and was killed in action serving his country in 1969. This year's recipient was Kirk Yackel.

The Jarred Pennington Memorial Award and Walter Reese Award were also presented to two members of the Boys Lacrosse team. This year Joseph Pulido and Daniel Steigert received the awards, respectively.



The Section XI Gold Key Award, the highest Section XI honor that an athlete can receive, and Golden Eagle awards were also presented at the ceremony. The Gold Key is awarded to student athletes who letter in eight Junior Varsity or Varsity seasons in grades 10-12. This year's recipients were Danielle Dickson, Shaana Headley, Akeem Hill, Brandon Hunt, Joseph Pulido, Henry Reyes, Nevel Ruddock, and Deana Smith.

The Golden Eagle Award is given to a student on each team who had the highest cumulative grade point average for the season. For the spring season, Samuel Cirola (Boys Track), Jonli Falk (Baseball), Jessica Murphy (Girls Lacrosse), Amber Perrier (Girls Track), Corey O'Brien (Boys Lacrosse), and Jessica Taveras (Softball) received the Golden Eagle.



Honored For Sportsmanship

The Copiague School District is pleased to announce that 19 teams have been commended by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for having best exemplified the spirit of sportsmanship during the 2008-2009 school year. The promotion of good sportsmanship is one of the major goals of NYSPHSAA, which recognizes schools annually for their commitment to building exemplary sportsmanship programs. A Sportsmanship Committee established by NYSPHSAA selects teams for this prestigious distinction.

Congratulations to the following teams:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| FALL: | Varsity Girls Bowling |
| Varsity Cross Country | J.V. Wrestling |
| M.S. Cross Country | M.S. Wrestling |
| Varsity Football | |
| Varsity Gymnastics | SPRING: |
| Varsity Girls Soccer | Varsity Baseball |
| J.V. Girls Soccer | Varsity Boys Lacrosse |
| | Varsity Girls Lacrosse |
| WINTER: | M.S. Lacrosse |
| Varsity Boys Basketball | Varsity Softball |
| J.V. Boys Basketball | M.S. Softball |
| J.V. Girls Basketball | Varsity Girls Track |

Take a Player to School Day



It was an exciting day on April 22 for fourth grader Javier Benitez and his classmates at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School, when New York Jets wide receiver Jerricho Cotchery made a special visit. As part of the NFL's Take a Player to School Day, Javier won the opportunity to spend the morning with #89, have him conduct an assembly program on the importance of health and fitness, hard work and staying in school, and participate in a physical education class.

"The Jets are my favorite team," stated Javier. "The best part of today was [Jerricho] coming to my school and gym class."

The NFL Take a Player to School sweepstakes selects one winner in each of the 32 NFL markets and two non-NFL markets. Additionally, the NFL and JCPenney will donate funds to Susan E. Wiley, giving children the chance to benefit from programs that encourage the development of healthy lifestyles, improved social skills and enhanced academic performance.

SPRING SPORTS WRAP-UP

Spring 08-09	Name	Grade	Award
Baseball	Christopher Emmart	11	Academic All-League
Baseball	Jonli Falk	11	All-League
Baseball	Donovan Gonzalez	12	All-League
Boys Lacrosse	Joseph Pulido	12	All-County/Exceptional Senior All-Star Game
Girls Lacrosse	Kaitlyn Denby	11	All-Division
Girls Lacrosse	DeAnna Smith	12	Unsung Hero Award
Boys Spring Track	Tyrek English	11	All-League in High Jump, Long Jump & Triple Jump
Girls Spring Track	Danielle Dickson	12	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Druscilla Dickson	10	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Janel Francis	9	All-League

Fall Sports Physicals

On Wednesday, August 12 from 10 am – 12 noon, in the high school nurse's office, sports physicals will take place. Any high school or middle school students, who wish to participate in a fall sport, must receive a physical before being allowed to play.

Moving Up and Moving Forward

The Copiague School District's fifth and eighth-grade students, parents, and staff were filled with pride during the recent moving-up ceremonies held at the three District elementary schools and the middle school.

Parents, staff, district administrators, and invited guests proudly attended the elementary moving-up ceremonies at which the students were recognized and presented awards for their outstanding academic achievements. In between segments of the presentation for the elementary school students, the fifth graders demonstrated their talents and entertained the audience by performing special musical selections.

At each school, the students heard words of encouragement from their respective principals, as well as Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "We are very proud of your academic achievements," stated Mr. Leunig. "This is one of the highest achieving classes in the history of [Copiague fifth graders]. You've set the bar at a higher level for future fifth graders to follow."

Amongst a sea of students, family, friends, administrators, Board of Education members, teachers, and members of the PTA, the Copiague Middle School graduated its largest class in recent memory. With close to 350 students receiving their diplomas, Middle School Principal Andrew Lagnado addressed the students stating, "Moving up is never easy. Change makes all of us nervous; the high stakes of being in high school can be stressful, but don't let that make you anxious or be a cause for trepidation. The opportunities you will have are exciting; being in a new place is exciting and meeting your new teachers will be a wonderful experience. Seize every opportunity to learn, take elective courses that interest you, stay involved in after-school activities and athletics. Stick to things and see them through."



Following the presentation of diplomas, the newly anointed graduates gathered with parents, family members, and friends to take time and rejoice in their accomplishments and prepare for their move on to the next level of education.

Congratulations to the fifth- and eighth-grade graduates.



COPIAGUE MIDDLE SCHOOL INDUCTS 60 INTO National Junior Honor Society

Continuing a longstanding tradition of excellence, the Copiague Middle School inducted 60 seventh and eighth-grade students into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), which marks the largest number of students ever inducted into the MS NJHS at one time.

On hand to congratulate the students for this special achievement were Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, members of the Board of Education, Middle School Principal Andrew Lagnado, NJHS co-advisors Suzanne LaPorte and Kimberly Henson, and middle school science teacher and special guest speaker Thomas Witko, along with other middle school administrators. The students being inducted were honored for their leadership, character, school and community service, as well as their high academic achievements.

"Induction into the Society is both an honor and an obligation," said Ms. LaPorte. Added Superintendent Leunig, "Becoming a member in the National Junior Honor Society is a privilege. It means you are the best of the best at Copiague Middle School."



The Sound of Music

Musical-theater students at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School brought a slice of Broadway to Copiague with a memorable production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's, *The Sound of Music*. Kudos to the entire cast, crew and pit orchestra, who delighted audiences with their professional directing, acting, vocals, music, staging, sound and lights.

Based on the memoir by Maria von Trapp, *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, the stage production featured such musical favorites as "My Favorite Things," "Edelweiss," "Do-Re-Mi," and the title production "The Sound of Music."

Under the direction of Gina Occhiogrosso, the students rehearsed every day for months to ensure that *The Sound of Music* was one for the ages.



Seniors Shine Brightly at Awards Night

Students, parents, teachers and community members enjoyed an evening of well-deserved awards and scholarships at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, Thursday, June 4. Sixty-nine graduating seniors received the President's Award for Educational Excellence and Achievement, including a letter of recognition from President Barack Obama. Other scholarships and proclamations were presented by the Kiwanis Club, the PTA, the U.S. Marine Corps, the offices of Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney and Steve Levy, and other legislative departments. Students also received awards for their academic excellence in Foreign Language, Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies, Fine and Technical Art, Music and Physical Education. In all, \$45,000 in local community scholarships and \$30,000 in New York State Academic Excellence Scholarships were received by the seniors.

Principal Albert H. Voorneveld proudly presented the last two awards to Richard Pongvitayapanu, Salutatorian, and to Khang Nguyen, Valedictorian.



Student Creativity and Knowledge Showcased at Education Fairs

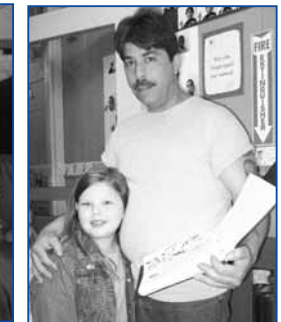
Students in the District showcased their creativity, knowledge, and a year's worth of hard work during the District's annual Education Fairs.

Students at Deauville Gardens, Great Neck Road, and Susan E. Wiley Elementary Schools and Copiague Middle School created projects based on numerous topics and subjects learned throughout the course of the year. The hands-on learning enabled the students to broaden their horizons and witness firsthand how the concepts learned in the curriculum can be applied to the outside world.

The exhibits featured ranged from a dance demonstration from third, fourth, and fifth graders at Susan E. Wiley to a game show-themed night at Great Neck Road, during which students showcased their trivia knowledge playing games such as "Wheel of Fortune," "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," and "Jeopardy."

In addition to showcasing student work, the middle school hosted its first-ever International Night. Throughout the event, the school featured fashions, food, and artwork from countries around the world including Argentina, Ireland, Japan, Puerto Rico, and Poland. All of the food for International Night was donated by 16 local restaurants, as well as prepared by teachers and students.

"What I witnessed at International Night was over the top and the true definition of potential realized," stated Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "By our estimates, well over a thousand people attended, which may be the largest ever crowd attending a middle school event. I left at the end of the evening thinking, once again, how great a school district and community we have in Copiague. Everyone stepped up; the result was overwhelming."



Honor and Prestige

To recognize students for their outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, and character, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School inducted 14 students into the Isabella M. Driscoll Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Throughout the ceremony, the inductees and their parents listened to words of advice and congratulations by Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, the executive board of the National Honor Society, their advisors, Rose Ann Fuss and Denise Raimondi, and special guest speaker Science Chairperson Michael Dervin.

"As members of the National Honor Society you are now role models for members of the Copiague community and beyond," said Mr. Dervin. "My challenge to you is to be a role model who will inspire others to be a better person. Lead the way in such a manner that will improve the character and

lives of those who follow you." Added Superintendent Leunig, "By virtue of your outstanding performance, you've become part of an elite group."

Congratulations to the newest members of the National Honor Society: Christina Bayonne, Christina Conlon, Emily Hall, Daniel Handy, Nicole Mangels, Shanice McKenzie, Jacob Ohrnberger, Amber Perrier, Elvira Razzano, Jessica Schweit, Jessica Tavarez, Max Woelk, Lindsay Wunsch, and Jacqueline Zisman.



Congratulations Class of 2009!

Caps Off to the Class of 2009!



Mother nature could not dampen the spirits of the 368 graduates of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School or their family members during the 50th Commencement Exercises. Gathered in the high school gymnasium, the students were surrounded by members of the Board of Education, administration, teachers, parents, and friends as they prepared to collect their high school diploma and move their tassels from left to right.

During the graduation ceremony the Class of 2009 was recognized for their many outstanding accomplishments, including being the largest graduating class and having earned the highest percentage of Regents diplomas. "Over the years, this class has become a family of students, teachers, and parents," stated Principal Albert H. Voorneveld. "You've made us all proud in the classroom and on the field and we look forward to your future successes." During his speech, Mr. Voorneveld took the opportunity to honor retiring Assistant Principal Theodore Bristol and the other high school retirees and wish them a long and happy retirement. A moment of silence was also held for the three members of the Class of 2009 who had passed away.

During the ceremony Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, Board of Education President Brian J. Sales, Valedictorian Viet Khang Nguyen, Salutatorian Richard Pongvitayapanu, and Class Co-President Asia Drew addressed the crowd and offered their congratulations and words of advice and wisdom. "We are not the future," said Asia, "we are the present. In a time of "yes, we can" and "yes, we will," we are a generation of "yes, we are"...Yes, we are the Class of 2009."

After Mr. Voorneveld conferred the last diploma, he presented the Class of 2009 and the elated graduates tossed their caps into the air while the cheers of family and friends could be heard in the background.

WHERE WILL THE CLASS OF 2009 Be Continuing Their Education?

Members of the Class of 2009 will be attending some of the finest colleges and universities in the country including:

Academy of Art University
Cornell University
Dowling College
Drexel University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Fordham College

Hampton University
Hofstra University
New York University
St. John's University
SUNY @ Albany
SUNY @ Farmingdale

SUNY @ Geneseo
SUNY @ Stony Brook
University of North Carolina @ Chapel Hill
University of Connecticut



Did You Know?

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CLASS OF 2009

Total Number of Graduates: 368

Amount of Scholarship Money Received by Seniors from the Copiague Community: \$45,000

Total Amount of Scholarship Money Received by the Class of 2009: \$1,895,095.