

Summer 2017

Lynbrook School News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LYNBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

BEGINNING A *Bright New Chapter*



It was a Hollywood ending for a senior class who deserved nothing less. Bright skies greeted guests as they assembled for the Lynbrook High School Class of 2017 commencement ceremony. But as the speeches progressed, ominous thunderclouds began rolling in. Little raindrops could be felt as Principal Joseph Rainis made his way through the alphabet, and it looked like everyone might soon have to run for cover. But the rain held out, the last graduate received his diploma, mortarboards went flying and cheers rang out. The graduates dashed from the field, as the storm miraculously passed them by, hinting at a promising opening to "Class of 2017: The Sequel."

In her salutatory address, Hannah Burton spoke about achieving the seemingly unachievable. Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was in kindergarten, Hannah learned to cope and overcome the struggles she faced. "Everyone has different struggles, different obstacles and different distractions," she said, "but there is no challenge too big to overcome if you remain focused, motivated and zealous."

Valedictorian Thomas Postiglione recalled memories of high school and looked ahead to new beginnings. Speaking of life lessons they learned in high school, he said, "Success is not attributed to one individual. We all need each other to succeed. Don't try to be someone you

are not. Instead, find your passion and pursue it." Looking ahead to the future, he said, "Dream big and never give up. Shoot for the moon because you will land among the stars."

Using a clever acronym, Principal Joseph Rainis addressed the Class of 2017 about sticking to the FACTs. He advised them to face their fears, have a positive attitude, show good character and use their time wisely. "Do not let fear limit your dreams or crush your goals," he said of fear. "Life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it," he said of attitude. When speaking of character, he told them to "live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you." And of time, he said, "Get busy investing in your greatest asset because, in the game of life, time runs out and we never know when the buzzer will sound."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Melissa Burak encouraged the graduates to take inspiration from the life and work of Louis Armstrong and his famous rendition of "What a Wonderful World."

"The world is waiting for what these graduates can offer," she said. "You already possess the passion to help others. Follow your passions. Sharpen your skills. Don't let others dampen your spirit. Please continue to make the world a better and more wonderful place for all of us."

Class of 2017: By the Numbers

Academics

- 94 percent received Regents diplomas, 75 percent received Advanced Regents diplomas, 44 percent received Advanced Regents diplomas with honors, 18 percent received Advanced Regents diplomas with mastery in math and science, 6 percent received Regents diplomas with a Nassau BOCES Career and Technical Endorsement and three students graduated with Career Development and Occupational Studies credentials.
- Accepted to more than 225 colleges and universities.
- Offered more than \$13 million in scholarships.
- 78 National Honor Society members.

The Arts

- Six All-County and two All-State musicians named.
- 12 All-County artists named.
- Offered more than \$1 million in art scholarships.
- 35 National Art Honor Society members.
- 17 Tri-Music Honor Society members.

Athletics

- One All-American, two All-State, one All-Long Island, 10 All-County, two All-County honorable mention, 13 All-Conference, three All-Division players.
- One Nassau County Player of the Year and one Conference Player of the Year.
- Two Nassau County Scholar-Athletes and one Academic All-Conference player.

Community Leadership

- Eight Girl Scout Gold Awards.
- Five Eagle Scouts.
- One National Finalist in the AXA Achievement scholarship program.
- One Distinguished Finalist in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.



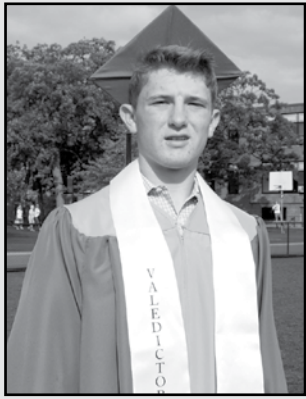
LHS VALEDICTORIAN THOMAS POSTIGLIONE: *The Real Deal*

With a GPA of 101.72 and 10 rigorous college-level Advanced Placement courses under his belt, Lynbrook High School valedictorian Thomas Postiglione has had an impressive academic career, but he has also proven that he is more than the sum of his GPA.

"Grades are important, but your sanity is more important," said Thomas. "Make sure you're happy and do things you enjoy. Everyone is different and no one is perfect, find your niche and enjoy high school."

An AP Scholar with Honor, he was the 2015 school winner in the American Mathematics Competition and a 2016 silver medalist in the Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair. As captain, he led the high school team to a fourth place finish in the 2016 Brookhaven National Laboratory Long Island High School Regional Science Bowl. Thomas said that his most memorable experiences in high school came through his participation in the science research program. He received honorable mention from the 2015 Long Island Science Congress, and submitted research to the Regeneron Science Talent Search.

But with all this success to his credit, Thomas says he has come to realize that failure is also a part of life. "We are meant to learn



from these experiences," he said. "If you haven't failed at something at some point in your life then you're either not pushing your limits or you are extremely lucky."

Outside of school, Thomas attended special programs in engineering and mathematics at Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University and SUNY Old Westbury. His interest in technology inspired him to become a volunteer for e-Nable,

an online community that assembles 3-D printed prosthetic hands for people in need. He also volunteered at MercyFirst, helping struggling Long Islanders improve their lives by expanding their knowledge of robotics and 3-D technologies. In addition to all of these interests and accomplishments, he was also a member of the varsity baseball team.

"I would like people to remember me for who I am as a person rather than my grades," said Thomas. "Through my high school years, I have always tried my best to be kind, caring, and considerate. I would like to be remembered as a friend to all."

This winning combination of character and commitment to excellence will surely serve him well as he heads off to Yale, where he hopes to pursue a dual major in mechanical engineering and economics.

LHS SALUTATORIAN HANNAH BURTON: *Working to Fulfill a Dream*

Salutarian Hannah Burton has that rare gift for turning adversity into opportunity. Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was in kindergarten, Hannah has been actively involved in furthering diabetes research and education. As she heads off to Cornell University in the fall, she has dreams of continuing what has become her life's work by becoming an endocrinologist.

"Ever since my diagnosis, I have had a passion for helping others who are just like me," said Hannah. "My doctors have made such a huge impact on my life and I want to do the same for other children with diabetes."

She has been honored for her involvement in Winthrop University Hospital's Pediatric Diabetes Program, where she proposed a research idea that she worked on developing with the pediatric endocrinology department. She also volunteers as a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation youth advocacy leader, was a four-time JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes team leader, and mentors children with Type 1 diabetes.

Hannah, who has a natural mind for math and science, was the school winner in the



2016 American Mathematics Competition, and has participated in the DuPont Challenge Science Essay Competition, the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Competition, the Long Island Science Congress and the Nassau County Science Competition. A student leader, she was a four-year member of the Student Government Association and served as class president her sophomore through senior years.

In addition, she was a member of the varsity tennis and track and field teams.

But all of these accomplishments did not come effortlessly to Hannah. "If you want to succeed, you have to work at it," she said. "You have to bypass the obstacles, ignore the distractions and remain focused on the work in front of you."

When asked to offer words of advice to entering freshmen, she said, "Try out everything that interests you and narrow down your activities to the ones that you feel most passionate about."

This formula has provided Hannah with a recipe for the sweetest kind of success—the kind that comes from working hard for causes true to the heart.



IN THEIR *Own Words*

Graduates look back with pride and ahead with hope

"My most special memory was the first day of school because I met all my new friends and teachers. My hopes and dreams for the future are to become a scientist." Riley Aragon, Kindergarten Center

"Next year I am most looking forward to using tablets, working in teams and harder math at middle school! I hope to become a teacher one day." Lily Ginsberg, Waverly Park School

"I am most looking forward to using tablets in middle school. I have watched my sisters use them over the past few years and they look so organized and have everything they need in one place. I would like to work with animals when I get older and maybe become a veterinarian. I dream that our future will be one without bullies and all kids will treat each other nicely always." Logan Benvenuto, Marion Street School

"My favorite memory of high school is performing in Class Night skits each year. As a kickline member, I helped choreograph and teach the dances to my classmates. I bonded with my grade and made great memories with my friends. In college, I can't wait to be exposed to new experiences and new cultures, as I make friends on campus and in my classrooms. I hope to graduate Tulane University with a double degree in marketing and digital design. My dream is to work in the fashion industry and live in New York City with my husband and children, and ultimately be happy." Sarah Swerdin, Lynbrook High School

"My most special memory was winning the West End Student Council President election. Next year, I am most looking forward to changing classes and having lockers. Someday I hope to become an actress and walk the red carpet." Chelsea Chico, West End School

"My most special memory of North Middle was meeting so many new people and learning new things from all my different teachers. Next year at the high school I am looking forward to taking electives and going out for lunch. My hope for the future is to have a wonderful life with my family." Julio Sarin, North Middle School

"The thing I enjoyed the most about middle school was changing classes and having the experience of learning from so many different teachers. Next year I am looking forward to a whole new environment at the high school, with new teachers, new opportunities and new challenges. I am especially looking forward to getting involved in the drama club." John Kelhetter, South Middle School

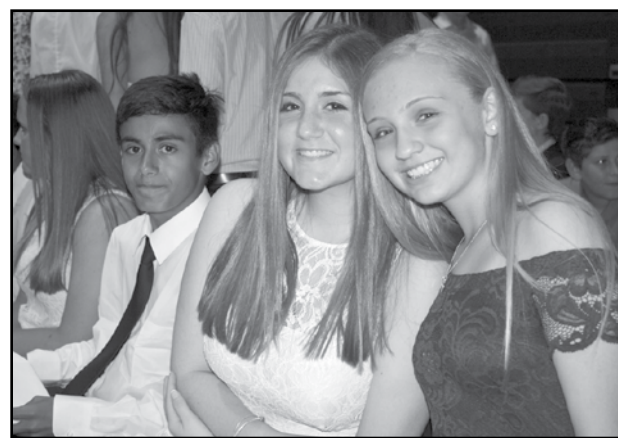
High School, Here We Come!

North and South Middle School eighth-graders gathered on the evening of June 21 for two graduation ceremonies to mark the successful completion of one more leg of their educational journey. Looking back on their



middle school years, the graduates took pride in their accomplishments, confident in their abilities to face the challenges that await them in high school. Principals Caryn Blum and Sean Fallon offered words of encouragement, and student speakers Kathryn Postiglione, Ashley Roth and Julio Sarin reminisced about their shared experiences and expressed their common hopes for their future in high school.

As they look forward to take on the challenges that await them over the next four years, this cohort of graduates is perhaps uniquely prepared to succeed in an increasingly technological world. When they entered middle school, they received their first tablets as part of the One-to-World Tablet program. Students and teachers at both schools agree



that the use of tablets has revolutionized teaching and as the program follows them to the high school, they will continue to blaze new educational trails aided by the power of technology.

Elementary Extravaganzas

TAKING THEIR NEXT SURE STEPS ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

Lynbrook's Littlest Graduates

What could be more touching than graduating from Lynbrook's very own Kindergarten Center, which has been dubbed the "happiest place on Earth." Wearing mortarboards in every color of the rainbow, students put on a festive show of song and verse to mark the end of their kindergarten careers. The ceremony ended with a big finish as Principal Ellen Postman presented them as the Lynbrook High School Class of 2029.

Good-Bye Marion Street

The entire school gathered on the Marion Street field to give a heartfelt sendoff to this year's graduates, as they proudly accepted their certificates of promotion. Graduates Logan Benvenuto and Leigh Caponi presented speeches looking ahead and looking back. Principal Theresa Macchia said, "You are ready for middle school. Don't be afraid to fail.

Don't give up until you are proud." Then in a tradition dear to many generations of Marion Street graduates, the school's moving up song began to play. The graduates filed out of their seats as the underclassmen moved up, preparing to take their place in the next grade. As they bid a final farewell, the soon to be sixth-graders held up letters that spelled out "Good-Bye Marion Street."

These are the Things that Make Us West End

"The start of something new brings the promise of something great," said Principal Cindy Lee, as she bid a final farewell to West End fifth-graders. After viewing a slide show presentation of fifth-grade memories, the graduates proudly crossed the stage to receive their certificates of promotion. Special academic awards were also presented. Then the proud graduates turned to face the audience to sing

a song they had written, titled "These Special Things," highlighting all the things they will remember most about West End.

Leaving a Legacy of Memories

Satisfied smiles filled the faces of Waverly Park fifth-graders as they proceeded onto the stage to a rousing round of applause. Principal Lucille McAssey reminded the graduates of five simple rules. "Treat others the way you would like to be treated, always do your best, believe in yourself, be thankful and be grateful for family and friends." Dressed in their finest, they recited an original poem recounting five years of fond memories. Adding a personal touch to their ceremony, they read their "last will and testament," with each graduate bequeathing a treasured memory or talent to their school. They concluded with a musical slideshow, which brought smiles and tears of joy to their proud parents.



Rising to New Heights

Looking Back on a Year of Achievements

SEPTEMBER

- Seniors Amy Ogura and Kai Weinkauff earned All-State music honors.
- A total of 87 students earned Advanced Placement Scholar honors.
- Seniors Spencer Kaminsky, John Long and Jack Sullivan were named National Merit Commended Students.
- Senior Kerrin Montgomery was selected as a student representative to the NYSPHSAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
- South Middle School seventh-grader Petra Roberts was named a NYSSMA Young Composer.

OCTOBER

- 22 district orchestra students performed in the Long Island String Festival Association concerts.
- Senior Molly Carter made Inside Lacrosse magazine's list of Top 50 freshmen for 2017.

NOVEMBER

- A record total of 109 district musicians performed at the All-County Music Festival.
- North Middle School students earned a second-place team trophy and three individual awards at the Long Island Chess Nuts Fall Scholastic Tournament.

DECEMBER

- The high school student newspaper, Horizon, received 27 individual awards, plus a Gold Award for Best All-Around Publication from Empire State Scholastic Press Association.
- High School students Gina Giovenco and Erin Loonie earned All-State honors in girls soccer.
- The girls varsity tennis team won the conference championship and the girls cross-country team clinched the division title.
- The girls and boys varsity soccer teams earned Section VIII Team Sportsmanship Awards.
- Six fall varsity teams earned NYS Scholar-Athlete status.

JANUARY

- All four high school robotics teams qualified for the Long Island FIRST Tech Challenge.

FEBRUARY

- One high school team finished in first place in the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest at the Cradle of Aviation Museum.
- High school students John Costello, Sloan Keller and Stephanie Syrota won honorable mention in the 2017 Nassau County Drug Alternatives PSA Contest.
- Senior Matthew Swanson placed second in the 2017 Eastern States Classic Wrestling Tournament.

MARCH

- 30 district students were selected to participate in the Nassau All-County Art Exhibition.
- Three teams of fifth-grade Voyagers and two high school teams earned Honorable Mention status in the Toshiba/NSTA 2017 ExploraVision competition.
- Senior Sarah Moelis was recognized as a Distinguished Finalist in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. She was also named one of 10 national finalists in the AXA Achievement scholarship program.
- Horizon earned a first-place award for most outstanding newspaper at Adelphi University's 2017 Quill Awards. The staff also earned a first-place award for Best High School Newspaper from the LIU Post Media Arts Best of High School Journalism Awards and 19 top prizes from the Long Island Press High School Journalism Awards.
- Three North Middle School groups earned awards at the Nassau Community College Honors Program Science Fair.
- The girls varsity basketball team and varsity wrestling team both won conference titles.

- Eight winter varsity teams earned NYS Scholar-Athlete status.
- Kerrin Montgomery and Sophia LoCicero earned All-State and Academic All-State honors in girls basketball.
- Wrestlers Joseph Becker and Matthew Swanson qualified for States. Matthew went on to win All-State honors.
- Jamie Adams was named the Boys Basketball Conference Coach of the Year.

APRIL

- The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada awarded the district a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
- The NAMM Foundation named the district a Best Community for Music Education.
- Junior Walter Paskoff attended the All-County Day of Percussion.
- High school students Alex Mertz and Zach Lee earned first place and honorable mention awards at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair.
- A team of high school art students were among the Top 50 semifinalists in the Vans Custom Culture art competition.
- North Middle School sixth-grader Alexandra Spector earned a second-place trophy at the Long Island Chess Nuts Spring Regional Tournament. The boys team took third place.

MAY

- The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association recognized Board of Education trustee Alicemarie Bresnihan with the Outstanding School Board Service Award.
- The Association of School Business Officials International awarded the district a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting.
- 12 high school science research students earned top awards at the Long Island Science Congress.
- Marion Street chorus members performed the national anthem at Citi Field.
- North Middle School eighth-grader Ian Bifet was recognized as a Promising Young Writer by the National Council of Teachers of English.
- Waverly Park student Mindy Leu was named the Grade 5 Grand National Champion in the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Contest. Rachel Stein was named the Grade 4 State Winner and Miley Leu was named the Grade 3 State Winner.
- The varsity baseball team earned their first conference championship since 2006. Al Marrazzo was named the Conference Coach of the Year. Senior Nick Tuzzi earned All-State honors.
- The girls varsity softball team won the Nassau County Sportsmanship Award
- 10 spring varsity teams earned NYS Scholar-Athlete status.
- Senior Molly Carter was selected to compete in the Under Armour All-America Lacrosse Game.

JUNE

- The South Middle Select Chorus earned a Gold with Distinction Award at the NYSSMA Majors competition. The Elementary District Orchestra, South Middle Chamber Orchestra and High School Jazz Ensemble all earned Gold awards.
- Seniors in the Art Portfolio Preparation class were offered more than \$1 million in scholarship awards.
- Lynbrook High School was named a New York State Reward School.
- Senior Molly Carter was named Lynbrook's first All-American girls lacrosse player. She was also named Newsday's Nassau County Player of the Year in that sport.
- Waverly Park fourth-grader Coral Roditi was a winner in the Humane Society essay contest.

Lynbrook Public Schools
Lynbrook, NY 11563

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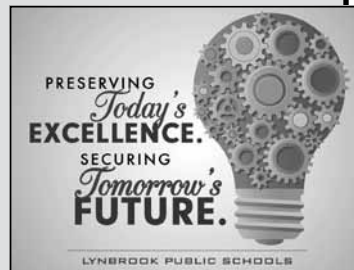
Communication Corner

BOND VOTE: OCT. 3

The Lynbrook Board of Education passed a resolution to move forward with a bond proposition, which will be put before voters on Oct. 3. After community residents rejected a previous bond proposal in March of 2016, a revised proposal reduced the size of the bond by \$15 million, while still maintaining elements that were deemed important by the community. For complete details, visit the Bond Follow Up page at www.lynbrookschoools.org.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

Scheduled summer projects will include boiler replacements at North Middle and South Middle schools, as well as a bathroom renovation at North Middle. LED lighting replacement will take place at the high school, Marion Street School and Atlantic Avenue. The tennis and basketball courts at North Middle will be resurfaced and new fencing will be installed. Asphalt replacement will also take place at Waverly Park. Various other maintenance projects will take place throughout the district, with many performed in-house.



#GIVEAHOOTFOR...

Follow Dr. Burak's Twitter account, @LynbrookSupt. Look for weekly tweets with the hashtag #GiveAHootFor....



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