

# Merrick Messenger

## MERRICK SCHOOLS MARK Moving-Up Ceremonies

Sixth graders across Birch, Chatterton and Lakeside celebrated their respective moving-up ceremonies in a sea of school-color pomp and circumstance.

Students helped lead emceeing duties while school principals, Board members and teachers offered positive remarks and advice for the future.

Birch Principal Kerri Galante connected her speech to YouTube.

"Think back to your first day of elementary school," she began. "It was a bit like joining or creating a new YouTube channel. You were excited and maybe a bit nervous, but ready to explore a whole new world. Just like starting a channel, you started with a blank slate; ready to fill it with your unique personality, creativity and hard work. Each day was like a new video full of learning, fun and sometimes challenges. You've gained subscribers in the form of friends and your views have increased with every project, every test and every new experience."

Lakeside Principal Libby Trencheny addressed graduates, explaining that they are on the brink of an exciting new chapter of their lives.

"You faced challenges with determination and embraced new opportunities with enthusiasm," she noted. "Your achievements span the realms of

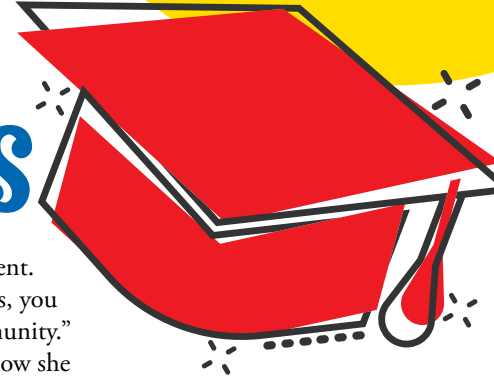
academics, arts, sports leadership and involvement. And by participating in various events and clubs, you have brought joy and pride to our school community."

Chatterton Principal Dana Bermas noted how she has "watched you develop from our tiniest students into mature, well-rounded young people ready to take on the world."

"Along the way, you have learned foundational and academic skills that will serve as a springboard to your continued success," she added. "But more importantly, you have learned invaluable lessons about collaboration, problem-solving, and how to be caring and compassionate citizens."

Board President Jill Levine addressed each ceremony as well, noting that "we always say that a Merrick Education is the beginning of a bright future."

"You have shown that you are strong, you are flexible, you are resilient, and you are courageous," she added. "These qualities are now a part of you forever, and I have no doubt that they will help you succeed in the future."



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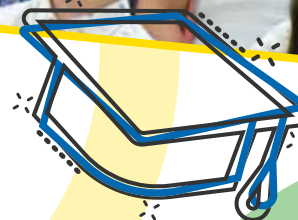
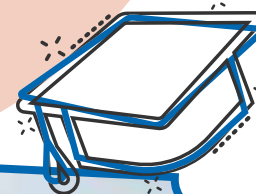
# MERRICK GRADUATES CLASS OF 2024

In ceremonies filled with pomp and circumstance, celebration and song, Birch, Chatterton and Lakeside schools graduated their sixth grade classes of 2024.

## BIRCH



## CHATTERTON



## LAKESED





# Peace & Friendship Days

## Shine Bright with Smiles



Students at Birch, Chatterton and Lakeside enjoyed games, activities and treats during Peace & Friendship days at the end of the school year.

On June 7, Birch students donned colored shirts according to their grade level to notch up the school spirit. From a silent DJ, dancing and carnival games to indoor and outdoor sports and relay races, students in all grades were engaged and entertained.

At Chatterton's Peace & Friendship day on June 21, students made tie-dye T-shirts and spray-painted canvas art, danced the day away during a DJ glow party, tried their hands at various carnival games, maneuvered around blow-up obstacle courses and blaster zones and attempted to hit the dunk tank target. Temporary tattoo and face/body painting stations were set up, as well as popcorn and Italian ices.

Dressed in grade-level-colored t-shirts at Lakeside on June 21, students raced to hit their buzzers during an educational quiz game show, "The Brain Show," shimmied to a DJ dance party, tried their hand at lawn and carnival games, competed in relay races and more.

Friendship Day started in 2001 after the attacks of September 11. It is celebrated as a day of school unity and community at each respective building.

The days were organized by each building's PTA and school staff.



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