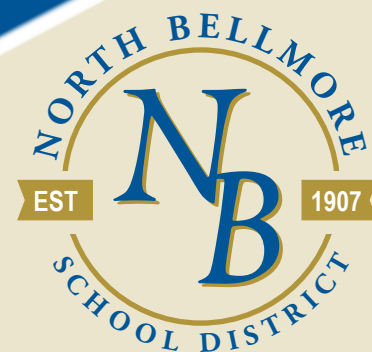


THE BEACON

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CLASS OF 2017 HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE

After seven years of growing as learners and as people, the district's 294 sixth-graders are moving on to middle school, prepared to take on new challenges and embrace expanded opportunities.

The graduates donned caps and gowns during evening ceremonies on June 21 attended by hundreds of proud family members. The programs featured speakers, musical presentations and the awarding of diplomas, and each ceremony had its own personal touch.

Student speakers shared their fondest elementary school memories and spoke of their excitement to make new friends when the graduates from all five elementary schools come together at Grand Avenue Middle School in September. Administrators and Board of Education members gave words of wisdom and wished the high school Class of 2023 much luck on the next leg of their educational journey.

North Bellmore's mission is to develop compassionate individuals who make

positive contributions to the local and global community. During their time in elementary school, the students donated to numerous charitable causes, participated in kindness challenges and learned to work with others through class buddy programs. Superintendent Marie Testa noted that the graduates are heading to middle school with incredible spirit and character.

"You can never go wrong by being kind," said Park Avenue Principal Eileen Speidel, whose graduation speech was inspired by the quotes that students selected for their sixth-grade yearbook. "There are so many things you can do each day to show kindness to others and to make someone else's day a good one."

Through the expanded use of technology, an individualized approach to writing instruction and activities that foster problem-solving, critical thinking and communication skills, the students are leaving North Bellmore as young men and women who are poised for great success.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire all students to be confident, passionate learners with the courage and skills to lead their lives with integrity, while contributing to our global community with creativity and compassion.

Core Values

Communities and individuals thrive when the talents and abilities of all are valued and fostered.

Each individual is responsible for his or her choices and the impact they create.

There is no limit to human potential.

Honesty, integrity and trust are essential to sustaining meaningful partnerships.

All people want to learn and succeed.

A safe and healthy environment optimizes learning.

Human life is precious.



MARTIN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



What will you miss most about elementary school?
"I know a lot of people in the school. When I'm walking in the hall I say 'Hi' to everyone and they say 'Hi' back. The community is really close and I know everyone."

Adhith Jacob

What accomplishment are you most proud of?
"The sixth-grade district track meet. I was trying very hard to come in first place and I did in the 200-meter and 400-meter races."

Mikahaila Hawthorne



NEWBRIDGE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Did you find something you are passionate about?
"I am very passionate about playing the trumpet. I think it's a lot of fun and there are so many tunes and songs that I can play. When I got into All-County band it was a big deal and gave me more confidence."

Nicholas Saunders



What is your fondest memory of elementary school?
"I have so many, but one of them is when we went to a farm in second grade. I love animals. My favorite part was when I got to feed a goat."

Gia Tzimas



SAW MILL ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

What important life lesson have you learned in elementary school?
"I learned to never give up and to try even harder when things are tough."

Maddie Decina



In Our Own Words

SIXTH-GRADE GRADUATES REFLECT
ON THEIR ELEMENTARY YEARS

PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

What accomplishment are you most proud of?
"Holding the Field Day torch this year for the opening ceremony. I watched other kids do it when I was little, and when I was picked I was so excited."

Riley Palmer



What skill did you learn that has best prepared you for the future?
"Communicating with other people, especially new people that I meet, to learn what they like. I like listening to what other people have to say and seeing what idea would be best for a situation."

Kosta Karousis



JOHN DINKELMEYER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

What was your favorite subject and why?
"Math because I'm very good with numbers. It comes easy and quick to me. Finding the area of triangles, I found that fun."

Julian Murcia



What important life lesson have you learned in elementary school?
"To be kind to others. We created hearts where each person wrote a nice word about another person and shared it. If you're not kind to others, they're not going to be kind to you."

Sydney Florio



What is your fondest memory of elementary school?
"Canoeing because I had a lot of fun and it was my first time. I went in a canoe with my teacher. It was easy to paddle and was like rowing a boat."

Jake Mauro



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JOHN G. DINKELMEYER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First-graders shared their desks with some special guests for the annual Mother's Day Tea. Children wrote stories titled "My Mom" which were read aloud. They made paper teapots, drew portraits of their moms, read the poem "Thank You Mommy" and created top 10 lists of reasons they love their mothers before sharing cake and iced tea.

MARTIN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Children participated in numerous hands-on activities at STEAM Night. Students in kindergarten through second-grade rotated through centers in the cafeteria where activities included math games, excavation of rocks and minerals, sunflower planting, a buoyancy challenge and gravity races. There were numerous workshops for

third- through sixth-graders including coding with Ozobots and circuitry with Makey Makey and Little Bits.

NEWBRIDGE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Children were on the move during Let's Get Healthy Day, which began with an assembly from bFit, featuring presenter Brian Richards who used magic to teach students how to make healthy lifestyle choices. Throughout the day, students visited fitness stations led by volunteers from the community. Medical professionals shared health tips and class parents provided healthy snacks.

PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The dance residency extended into its fifth year as kindergarten through second-grade students learned musical theater from local professional instructors while third- and fourth-graders mastered hip-hop. Fifth- and sixth-graders clicked and clacked their way across the stage when they learned tap dance. Each class performed a choreographed routine for invited guests.

SAW MILL ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The front driveway was a sea of red, white and blue as students participated

in a Flag Day ceremony. Children learned about history and evolution of the American flag, and what the stars, stripes and colors represent. After the flag was raised, students recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the "Star-Spangled Banner." The sixth-grade Select Chorus performed other patriotic tunes.

DISTRICTWIDE

Students in the ALPHA program have been trying their luck with Breakout EDU kits in an effort to promote the four Cs — critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration. The kits mimic the escape room concept, as students split into teams and have to work together to find and decipher clues to open a series of locks. Items that give clues include playing cards, code sheets and black lights that can help students find messages written in invisible ink.

NORTH BELLMORE ALUMNI

Rachel Jozwik, a 2011 graduate of Park Avenue Elementary School, was named the valedictorian of Wellington C. Mephram High School and plans to study biology at Johns Hopkins University. The salutatorian is Kristina Schwab, a Newbridge Road Elementary School graduate, who plans to study neuroscience at the Honors College at the University of Pittsburgh.