



SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DIGEST

SUMMER 2016

CLASS OF 2016 Celebrates Success



The more than 800 members comprising the Class of 2016 from Smithtown High Schools East and West proudly marched onto their schools' respective football fields as they took part in the 101st annual commencement exercises on June 22.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Grossane greeted graduates and guests at the High School East ceremony. Dr. Grossane advised students to find balance as they move to the next phase of their lives. "Remember to dedicate yourself to your passions and beliefs," he said. "Our job as educators is complete, but you will need to rely on your roots here as you spread your wings and be the best person you can be."

During the High School West commencement, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration Jennifer Bradshaw acknowledged the support system that had helped students on their educational journeys. "There are few times in life when hundreds of people come together to celebrate your accomplishments the way they have today," she said. "The joy

and pride out on this field are the result of years of hard work. This audience is filled with throngs of supportive families, friends and school personnel."

Honor speakers Benjamin Dolowich from High School East and Alexander Lusak from High School West, who were chosen by fellow Gold Cord recipients in lieu of a valedictorian or salutatorian, reminded peers that although high school may be complete, the evolution had just begun. Take time to enjoy life, but also, know that hard work will pave the way to a bright future, they said.

High School West's senior class president, Cameron Bonhurst, spoke about navigating his way through high school and the personal growth each graduate had made during his or her journey. "I am standing here before you to let you know that the decisions you make and the attitude you possess toward others will truly define you as an individual," he said. "Success is limitless."

High School East's senior class president, Julia Esposito, offered a brief look back on the years spent in the district and reflected

on the possibilities that lie ahead. "Let's make this new chapter the best one yet," she said. "Be true to yourself, work hard and dedicate yourself, and your dreams will come true."

West Principal John Coady and East Principal Edwin Thompson, who retired after a 10-year tenure at HSE, offered a few words of wisdom before presenting diplomas to the Class of 2016. "All the doors are now open for you to go in whichever direction you choose," Mr. Thompson said. "You have certainly left your mark here in Smithtown, so go leave your mark in the world and create your own destiny."

Before turning their tassels and throwing their caps high into the sky, West's senior concert choir and jazz choir performed "The Sweetest Days" as a tribute to parents and graduates. At East, the senior concert choir honored parents and graduates with a performance of "With a Little Help from My Friends."

Congratulations and best of luck to the Class of 2016!



Spotlighting *Honor Speakers*

Class of 2016 speakers Alexander Lusak from High School West and Benjamin Dolowich from High School East were selected by Gold Cord recipients to address the audience during their respective commencement exercises.

ALEXANDER LUSAK

Alexander, who completed his time at HSW with a weighted GPA of 4.47, will attend Yale University in the fall to study engineering. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society and French Honor Society and participated on the Mock Trial team. He also played in the symphonic band and brass ensemble and was a member of the cross-country team.

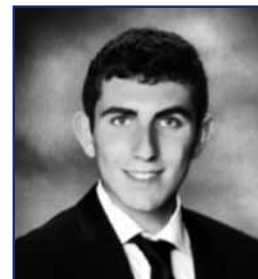
Addressing his fellow graduates during the commencement in June, Alexander said, "We will be exposed to a ton of new ideas, new cultures, new viewpoints and new connections. If we work as hard as we did during the past four years going forward, I have no doubt that we will all be featured for doing something amazing; we will impact this world."



BENJAMIN DOLOWICH

Benjamin, who graduated with a weighted GPA of 4.30, will be attending Binghamton University to study neuroscience. During his time at HSE, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and English Honor Society. But, he said, serving his community as a member of the Interact Club and as a Boy Scout had the greatest impact on his high school years. Benjamin also played the saxophone in the symphonic band and was a member of the track team.

"I am proud to have been a part of this graduating class, and I hope you are all proud of being a Smithtown Bull," he told his fellow graduates in his commencement address. "During our years here, we learned how to lead, so let's go out and teach those lessons to the next generation."



The Next Chapter Begins...

Closing out the middle school chapter, eighth-graders from Accomsett, Great Hollow and Nesaquake said farewell during their respective moving up ceremonies. Celebrating their final days in elementary school, fifth-graders also said goodbye as they prepare for the next step in their academic journeys.

Principals and assistant principals offered words of encouragement as the students move to new schools in September. "Change your high

school for the better," said Accomsett Middle School Principal Paul McNeill. "Stay involved in high school and in life and strike a balance between the two. There will be times you will fail, but don't be afraid to fail. Step up when others want to stand by. It's OK to struggle, but don't ever give up."

Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Karen Ricigliano, who retired at the end of June,



also offered bits of wisdom for students. "Take the lessons you learned and use them with confidence; they will support you," she said. "People will

remember you for who you are and how you treat them. The measure of your character will be determined by how you treat others."

CONGRATULATIONS!



High School East

ABOUT THE HSE CLASS OF 2016

Intel Science Semifinalist: 1
 National Merit Letters of Commendation: 14
 NYS Awards of Academic Excellence: 2
 Class Statistics:
 Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation: 63.45%
 Regents Diploma: 32.99%
 Total Regents Diplomas: 96.44%
 Local Diploma: 3.55%
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math: 5.84%
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Science: 3.3%
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math & Science: 17.77%
 Cohort Graduation Rate: 97.51%



The Journey Continues...

This fall, the Class of 2016 from HSE and HSW will be attending some of the top colleges and universities across the nation. Below is just a sampling of where you will find these recent graduates continuing their academic careers:

Binghamton University, Boston College, Boston University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Harvard University, High Point University, Ithaca College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Quinnipiac University, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John's University, Stonehill College, Stony Brook University, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, University of Georgia, University of Maryland, University of Texas, Austin, University of Vermont, University of Virginia, Wellesley College, Williams College and Yale University



ABOUT THE HSW CLASS OF 2016

National Merit Winner: 1
 National Merit Letters of Commendation: 8
 NYS Awards of Academic Excellence: 14
 Class Statistics:
 Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation: 71.7%
 Regents Diploma: 25.9%
 Total Regents Diplomas: 97.6%
 Local Diploma: 2.4 %
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math: 6.24%
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Science: 6.47%
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math & Science: 27.82%
 Cohort Graduation Rate: 97.18%

High School West



NOTABLE *Accomplishments*

The academic and artistic accolades of Smithtown students didn't go unnoticed this school year. In fact, several students were recognized for their achievements on the state and national level. Here is just a sample of some of their achievements:

NATIONAL MERIT WINNER

Ryan Scheinberg from HSW was named one of 7,400 National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship Program winners. Merit Scholarship winners are selected among the 15,000 finalists based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments. The National Merit Scholarship Program evaluates participants on their academic record, school's curricula and grading system, two SAT scores, school official's written recommendation, the finalist's extracurricular activities, leadership and personal essay.

"We are honored that Ryan Scheinberg is the recipient of a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship award," said West Principal John Coady. "Ryan is receiving this award in recognition of academic promise and distinguished performance in the National Merit Scholarship Program. This is an honor of the highest distinction and we are so very proud of Ryan and all of his accomplishments."



PROUD POSTER DESIGN

High School East senior Gina Figliozzi was the grand-prize winner of PBS's Meet Me in DC Contest for her poster design featuring the U.S. Constitution.

The contest tasked students with designing and creating an election poster that outlines important issues in the community.

Gina was awarded a trip to Washington, D.C., for two that included roundtrip airfare, a hotel and spending money, along with stops at the White House, a session of Congress, the National Archives and the set of "PBS News Hour." Her poster design has been printed and sent out across the country.



REFLECTIONS DANCE

Tackan fourth-grader Sydney Poulis received a New York State PTA Award of Merit for her project in the National PTA Reflections Program.

After receiving an Award of Excellence at the elementary school level, Sydney earned an award at the county level of the competition. Moving on to the state competition, her dance choreography submission was one of the top four chosen in New York State in her age group among 455 entries.

This year's PTA Reflections program theme was "Let Your Imagination Fly." Sydney choreographed a lyrical

dance titled "Go Free," using the song "Stitches" by Shawn Mendes. Her winning entry will be on display in the Reflections Art Gallery at the PTA National Convention in November.

The National PTA Reflections Program encourages students of all grades and abilities to explore and be involved in the arts. Students reflect on a theme, create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts, and earn positive recognition for their achievements.



RESEARCHERS THINK BIG

Two HSE students were awarded top prizes in the American Society of Human Genetics National Essay Contest. Jillian Pesce and Sanjana Eranki, who are part of the THINK Science Research Program under the direction of HSE research coordinator Maria Zeitlin, submitted their essays for inclusion into the contest against more than 1,400 entries representing students in 44 states and 23 foreign countries. More than 250 geneticists from the ASHG membership volunteered to judge the students' essays on the basis of scientific accuracy, creativity and writing quality.

This year's topic required that the students not only learn important details about an adult-onset genetic condition, but also take a stance on the ASHG's position that adolescents who may be at risk for these diseases should defer predictive, genetic testing during such delicate, formative years.

Both Jillian and Sanjana chose to write about Huntington's disease, an inherited degenerative nerve condition emanating from a mutation of the HTT gene for the huntingtin protein.





Caring for Community

Throughout the district, students forged strong bonds with their community, taking time to volunteer and connect locally.

The district's robotics team visited the Family Service League homeless shelter in Brentwood earlier this year. Members of the Mechanical Bulls team spent the afternoon introducing the field of robotics to homeless children. The children learned some basics about robotics and were shown three different types of robots created by the team.

The Habitat for Humanity Club from High School East participated in two builds in May. The club

fundraises throughout the year and donates the money to help purchase materials for the homes. Members are actively involved with helping build portions of the home, participating in activities such as painting, siding, installing sheetrock, landscaping and more.

In recognition of Memorial Day, Nesaquake students crafted handmade cards for soldiers. Members of the Friendship Club made thank-you cards for local soldiers and presented them to Smithtown resident Kevin Pymm, who just returned to the states from deployment overseas.

At Mills Pond, the Cares Club is dedicated to helping the community, not just locally but overseas as well. In May, the club held a walkathon to raise money to purchase a playground set for the children at a hospital in El Salvador.

Each year, the Cares Club chooses one organization for its fundraising efforts. This school year, the club chose Medical Mission International in El Salvador. Close to 60 fourth- and fifth-graders participated in the walkathon and raised \$4,242, above their initial goal of \$3,900 to cover the cost of the playground set.



****ECRWSS****

SMITHTOWN POSTAL CARRIER

Teacher Spotlight: TIM NEEDLES

Artistic abilities, creativity, education and a bit of fun come together at High School East in art teacher Tim Needles' class. The 2015-2016 school year was a busy one for Needles and his students, who received accolades for their artistic endeavors.

One student-artist, Gina Figliozzi, earned national recognition for her poster design featuring the U.S. Constitution.

A hands-on collaboration with a famous artist was another high point this past year. In April, Needles coordinated a visit with U.K. artist Jon Burgerman. Art Honor Society students had the chance to work with Mr. Burgerman to create an art project that not only gave them the opportunity to beautify their school, but also to work with a famous artist. Mr. Burgerman and



HSE students created two murals using his famous doodles, incorporating imagery from Smithtown such as the Smithtown bull, and students worked together to paint the murals based on his design.

Mr. Needles is known for his innovative teaching, merging art and technology. In the beginning of 2016, he was named the recipient of the National Art Education Association's 2016 AET Outstanding Teaching Award. This award honors an art educator/teacher who applies exceptional

instructional applications in K-12 classrooms, museum education, higher education or alternative settings.

Most recently, he was named a recipient of the PBS Learning Media Digital Innovator Award. Each year, PBS presents awards to tech-savvy K-12 educators with a passion for using digital technology and media. Nominees are considered leaders in their field with a desire to empower their peers and share strategies around digital media integration.

Farewell to Retirees

The district extends its best wishes to the 2015-2016 staff retirees. These individuals have dedicated themselves to the students and their education, and they will be greatly missed. With more than 1,000 years of combined dedication to the Smithtown Central School District, the district bids farewell to the following retirees:

Toby Abel (HSW), reading teacher, 18 years
Jacqueline Archer (GH), home economics/family teacher, 18 years
Karen Armellino (NMS), senior clerk typist, 30 years
Bernadette Bartolotto (SJ), special education teacher, 18 years
Cheryl Brown (SJES), elementary teacher aide, 29 years
Jane Seckel Cassidy (GH), special education teacher, 26 years
Carole Coloe (HSE), business teacher, 31 years
Thomas Conte (HSE), custodial worker, 37 years
Marie Cotignola (HSE), senior clerk typist, 27 years
Elizabeth DiStefano (HSW), food service worker, 23 years
Donna Eulau (DE), elementary teacher aide, 22 years
Jane Feller (GH), special education teacher, 26 years
Robert Fracalvieri (GH), head custodian, 27 years
Roseann Gagliardi (FAC), driver/messenger, 25 years
Laurie Garofolo (District), nurse, 25 years
Lori Gottheim (HSW), special education teacher, 37 years
Joann Groves (GH), senior clerk typist, 17 years
Lorraine Hande (NYA), tech support representative, 25 years
Frances Holloway (NYS), principal account clerk, 22 years
Nancy Koch (AMS), guidance counselor, 20 years
Kathy Kortmann (SJ), nurse, 18 years
Gloria Kortright (SJE), food service worker, 13 years

Joan Lopardo (NMS), elementary teacher, 13 years
Robert Lynn (HSW), custodial worker, 26 years
Louise Mahler (SJ), elementary teacher, 26 years
Terrence Martin (GH), industrial arts/tech teacher, 15 years
Cynthia McCready (HSW), teacher assistant, 13 years
Sal Mortorano (AEL), custodial worker, 18 years
Theresa Mountzouros (NYA), clerk typist, 25 years
Rosemary Naughton (District), elementary teacher, 53 years
Lee Nocero (NMS), teaching assistant, 18 years
Kathryn Palazzo (HSE), senior stenographer, 34 years
Joan Pappacena (NYA), senior office app. specialist, 24 years
Claire Patalano (SJE), computer lab assistant, 25 years
Eileen Pereca (AMS), art teacher, 30 years
Karen Ricigliano (NYA), assistant superintendent for personnel, 23 years
Deanne Rollins (NYA), principal clerk, 27 years
Jennie Sardone (HSW), sign language interpreter, 12 years
Camille Schreiber (HSW), food service worker, 28 years
Edwin Thompson (HSW), secondary principal, 14 years
Linda Topf (SE), special education aide, 16 years
Joan Turner (AMS), secondary duty aide, 18 years
Linda Valerio (SJE), special education aide, 27 years
Elizabeth Waldvogel (SJ), elementary teacher, 22 years

SCHOOL COMMUNITY DIGEST

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