

The Horizon

EARL L. VANDERMEULEN'S Newest Alumni



Nicholas Aiello
Julia Altebrando
Luca Amara
Kevin Anderson
Vincent Antonelli
Elayne Barrentine
Blake Bohlen
Joseph Booker
Steven Bosch
Bianca Butera
Cassandra Cafaro
Jorge Camoglino
Taylor Campbell
Jonathan Chun
Michael Colucci
Christopher Crandle
Connor Crovello
Emma Crugnale
Nicholas D'Auria
Melanie Dambeck
Gabriel Davis
Stephanie Davis
Caitlin Dennehy

Yufan Ding
Jaclyn Dombroski
Gianna Dvorak-Sisto
Samuel Eagan
Amber Edley
Jessica Eichinger
Erik Esposito
Chan-Wei Fan
Leanne Goldstein
Zachary Graziano
Michaela Griffin
Connor Guerin
Ashley Hiz
Katherine Hoey
Lauren Hoey
Justin Jones
Emilie Jourdain
Stanley Klasek
Gregory Klesaris
Todd Lewis Jr.
Katie Lochren
Jessica Loehr
Rachel London

Jacob Lovera
Kelsey Lyons
Miriam Marx
Steven Mastro
Ryan Mood
Angel Morrison
James Murphy
Grace Napoli
Rachel Nielsen
Cristian Nuñez
David Packer
Diana Perez
Alexandra Peskin
Julianna Pollina
Dana Prohovnik
Gerard Racanelli
Avalon Randi
Alexandra Raso
Kimberly Ruback
Patrick Rubenbauer
Amanda San Roman
Kayla Scandale
Reiner Scheurich

Austin Senesi
Hannah Sheinkopf
Constantine Spentzos
Rebecca Spinner
Sruthi Sridevan
Allicyn Takakjian
Matthew Taroli
Cailyn Teran
Dimitri Tseperkas-Falletti
Kelsey Van Houten
Joseph Vitrano
Holly Vulpis
Dennis Walsh
Meredith Wanersten
Chase Watkins
Samuel Watkins
Brian Woo
Sandi Woodhead
Julia Woznicki
Meredith Zeidler
Jason Zimmermann



From the BOE...

The Board of Education wishes the Class of 2013 much success and happiness in their future endeavors. This very accomplished and talented class is sure to continue to make all of Port Jefferson proud. Our thanks and appreciation go to their parents, who guided and supported this fine group of young people.

Our elementary and middle school students are poised to follow in the footsteps of our graduates. They are already preparing to explore new horizons and blaze a path of their own! We wish them continued progress and success.

With the graduation and moving up ceremonies behind us, we begin once again to plan for a new school year ahead. The 2013-2014 school year promises to be a particularly challenging one for our community. We will need to come together as a community to address multiple and complex issues, as we have done successfully in the past.

The Board of Education remains committed to providing our students with the best possible academic program while maintaining our fiscal responsibility to the residents of our district. We are grateful for the support of the community and we look forward to your continued involvement in the Port Jefferson School District.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer, and as the old song goes, "See you in September!"

**Kathleen Brennan,
BOE President**



A Note from the Superintendent...

Dear Parents and Community Members,



Summer is certainly notable for being the warmest time of year – but also a time in which we find ourselves celebrating the graduation of our seniors and recognizing the successes, accomplishments and triumphs of all students in a school year gone by. You will note ample evidence of this on the pages of this newsletter. Congratulations to all!

Dedication and effort not only lead to success, but also leave behind a pathway of excellence for those to come. The Class of 2012, for example, received a collective average score of 1,678 on the 2012 SATs, ranking the district as No. 11 on Long Island and No. 2 in Suffolk County. We are proud of this distinction and working to exceed it in the coming years.

While our faculty and students have recessed for the summer, the staff and administration at Port Jefferson School District see the summer months as a time to not only maintain what has been learned from the past school year, but to also use it as an opportunity to move forward. Specific challenges await us in 2013-14, and our experiences of the recent past can only help to inform how we build our future.

The central issue is the looming decision regarding the fate of the Port Jefferson power plant, which now appears closer to finalization. Though the recent legislation to remake LIPA does not address repowering nor the tax certiorari against certain power plants, LIPA has issued a letter to the Town of Brookhaven and the Village of Port Jefferson seeking to negotiate a resolution to the matter, and that negotiation is now underway. In addition, a letter from Governor Andrew Cuomo's aides urges similar consideration.

It is important to understand that while the school district will be affected by any outcome, the "deal" is being negotiated only between LIPA and the town assessor, since the heart of this matter is focused on the assessment of the plant.

Realistically, any decision made will inevitably lead to a loss of significant revenue to our district over a span of time. This challenge is something we will have to address in a deliberate, community-focused manner. I am confident that the full involvement of our residents in resolving a satisfactory outcome is well within reach, and I look forward to the collective effort to preserve our outstanding instructional program.

**Dr. Kenneth Bossert,
Superintendent of Schools**

A Familiar Face in a Different Place

Christine Austen Is New Assistant Principal Pre-K-12

At a public meeting of the Board of Education held July 2, 2013, the Board unanimously appointed Christine Austen as assistant principal Pre-K-12. Her commitment and dedication to the district has shown through her outstanding work as library media specialist, technology integration specialist and dean of students. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge in curricular and instructional areas, as well as district and building procedures, and is familiar with students, parents and the community – all of which bring stability and experience to the building team. Additionally, Mrs. Austen has a vast background and training in technology and will chair the district's technology committee.

She is replacing Leonard Bozza, who served with us in an interim capacity.

Join us in welcoming Christine Austen as she assumes her new role as assistant principal.

Earl L. Vandermeulen's Newest Alumni

On June 21, the district community gathered together to honor the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School graduating class of 2013. Attendees looked on as 88 esteemed seniors proceeded onto the high school's athletic grounds for a beautiful evening filled with pride, hope and joy.

Student Organization President Amanda San Roman spoke fondly of the Port Jefferson community and how its intimate size and setting allowed for the closest and most special bonds to be made. "I hope before you head off for the future that you take a step back from the busyness of life and realize how wonderful of a place this has been to grow up in," she said to classmates.

Zachary Graziano delivered a witty and inspirational salutatorian address in which he urged his classmates to embrace the moments in life that are most meaningful. Next, parent speaker and head custodian of the Port Jefferson Middle and High Schools Joan Lyons talked of her experience as an employee, student parent and community member of the district.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Bossert delivered his remarks in which he recounted the highlights and admirable characteristics of the senior class. "They are high achievers who have

raised the bar of excellence for all who follow," he said. "I am confident that they will continue to impress and be successful in whatever path in life they take."

Class President Gregory Klesaris announced the class gifts from the graduates to the school and assisted with the presentation of an honorary diploma from the high school to teacher Laurie McMillen for her 33 years of dedicated service to the district.

Valedictorian Gabriel Davis reflected on his time at Port Jefferson and the close bonds that were fostered within the loving and nurturing school community. "To the entire faculty of Port Jefferson High School – I thank you for not only bestowing upon us your wisdom and pouring your hearts into your curricula, but also for believing in us and supporting us," he said.

Interim Pre-K-12 Assistant Principal Leonard Bozza delivered the closing words on behalf of high school Principal Dr. Matthew Murphy.

The evening concluded with the traditional cap toss and bittersweet tears from many as the high school orchestra, led by Director of Music and Fine Arts Michael Caravello, gave a powerful instrumental performance of "Secrets" by the popular group One Republic.



Valedictorian: Gabriel Davis
College Attending: Washington University in St. Louis
Major: Political Science



Salutatorian: Zachary Graziano
College Attending: Tufts University
Major: Biochemistry



Stepping Up to High School



The 111 members of the eighth-grade class were honored at the school's annual moving up ceremony. The grade 7/8 orchestra, under the direction of orchestra teacher Christian Neubert, provided musical accompaniment throughout the evening. Middle school Principal Antonio Santana greeted attendees and introduced eighth-grade Class President Chandler Sciara, who reflected upon the year on behalf of his peers.

Members of the Port Jefferson Middle School faculty, PTSA and local community conducted the presentation of 30 awards that applauded students for their efforts in academics, athletics, music, fine arts, character and more.

Congratulatory remarks were delivered by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Bossert, who also presented the graduates with their diplomas. "You have accomplished a great deal up to this point and have given us many reasons to be proud and occasions to celebrate," he said.



MIDDLE SCHOOL Welcomes Newest Class

The 90 graduates of the fifth-grade class were honored at the annual moving up ceremony, beginning with the presentation of awards, which highlighted the effort and dedication of students in the areas of academics, citizenship, public service and character.

Port Jefferson parent Elisa Scott made remarks on behalf of the fifth-grade parents and encouraged the young graduates to find their dreams, knowing that they will always have the support of their families.

The fifth-grade graduation committee, represented by Karen Booker and Cheryl Knapp, revealed the class gift – the planting of trees at the elementary school to replace ones that were damaged during Superstorm Sandy. Additionally, the class made a \$1,000 donation to We Build New York.

Edna Louise Spear band instructor Mark Abbonizio delivered the staff remarks. "Try to learn from your mistakes," he said. "Try just being yourself around your friends and accepting others for who they are, and try to live a life without regrets." These sentiments were echoed in the remarks of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Bossert.

Edna Louise Spear chorus and music instructor Jessica Pastor then directed the class in their performance of the song "Count on Me," as made famous by Bruno Mars. Offering the closing remarks to the graduating class was Principal Thomas Meehan, who expressed his fondness of each and every student.



NJHS and NHS Inductions

The district honored its newest inductees into their chapters of the National Junior Honor Society as well as the National Honor Society. Members of the NJHS are required to maintain a 92 GPA throughout all of their academic courses and also demonstrate characteristics of leadership, scholarship and character in their everyday activities. During the school year, members of the high school's NHS participated in several service activities, such as letter-writing campaigns to service men and women overseas, raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, serving as guides to parents on back-to-school nights and peer tutoring.



Tri-M Inductees Hit a High Note



The high school's chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society hosted its sixth annual honors recital and induction. The evening began with a recital of 17 instrumental and vocal performances by students, including pieces by Mozart, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Bach. Requirements needed to become a member of Tri-M are based on the society's five points of distinction: scholarship, character, cooperation, leadership and service. The induction marks an individual's successful completion of a term of candidacy.

They Came, They Saw, They Conquered

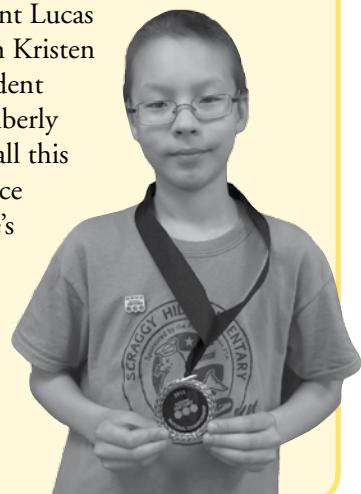
In April, the high school's Latin students, led by teacher Anne Algieri, performed at the Latin Certamen held at Stony Brook University, a fast-paced contest testing students' knowledge of Latin grammar, vocabulary, word derivations, Roman life, history, mythology and literature. Port Jefferson teams placed within the top three in every level in which they participated.

Additionally, more than 50 students from the middle and high school participated in the March 2013 National Latin Exam. Ten of the participants achieved perfect scores. Three of those students, Leah Neiman, Alberto Rescia and Kent Ueno, have achieved this feat for four consecutive years.



Top Three in the History Bee

Elementary school student Lucas Welinder, a fourth-grader in Kristen Boney's class and SEAL student in Paige Lohmann and Kimberly Pelkonen's class, impressed all this year when he took third place in the National History Bee's National Championship. Lucas was one of six students from the New York region who made it to the finals and was the youngest of the top three competitors.



Sports Wrap-Up

The Port Jefferson Royals had a terrific year! Below are some of the team highlights.

2013 OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR ATHLETES:

Gabriel Davis & Sandi Woodhead

CLASS "C" SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Boys Varsity Cross-Country, Boys Varsity Soccer, Girls Varsity Soccer

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Boys Varsity Cross-Country, Boys Varsity Soccer, Girls Varsity Soccer, Boys Varsity Track & Field

LONG ISLAND CLASS "C" CHAMPIONS

Boys Varsity Soccer

NATIONAL LETTERS OF INTENT

Baseball: Joseph Booker (Franklin Pierce University)

Lacrosse: Holly Vulpis (Niagara University)

Soccer: Blake Bohlen (Fordham University)

NEW YORK STATE CLASS "C" CHAMPIONS

Boys Varsity Soccer

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Boys Varsity Cross-Country, Boys Varsity Soccer, Girls Varsity Soccer



Board of Education Welcomes *Adam DeWitt*

The Port Jefferson School District Board of Education would like to welcome its newest member, Adam DeWitt, who received 615 votes during this May's election. Mr. DeWitt has served as an assistant principal at Longwood High School for six years and has nearly a decade of experience as a teacher. He joins his four fellow trustees as well as Kathleen Brennan and James Laffey, who were both elected to the positions of Board president and vice president, respectively.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kathleen Brennan, President

James Laffey, Vice President

Ellen Boehm

Mark Doyle

Adam DeWitt

Robert Ramus

Vincent Ruggiero

Dr. Kenneth R. Bossert
Superintendent of Schools

Janice Baisley
District Clerk

