



Inside Islip Schools

Committed to Excellence

SUMMER 2015

GRADUATES START 2015 a New Chapter

At the high school's commencement ceremony on June 25, skies were cloudy but hearts were clear and full of joy as the 271 members of the Class of 2015 celebrated the start of a new chapter in their lives.

This was the first class to graduate at the new, state-of-the-art stadium, which began construction a year ago and was completed just in time for homecoming last October. Close to 1,800 seats were filled with proud family members as the seniors walked through the stadium gates, led by flag bearers, while the high school's wind ensemble and concert band played "Pomp and Circumstance."

To begin the ceremony, the school's Swing ensemble provided a sublime choral rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," leading into a speech by salutatorian Kody Miller.

"I am the author of my own tale now," declared

Miller, who touched on his longtime battle with social anxiety and how the senior trip to Spain this year renewed his confidence. "The past is written in pen, but who's to say we can't change our future?" he asked. "As we head into the next chapter, remember it is you who are in control of your own life."

Continuing the literary theme, retiring Board President Mary M. Dennis told each senior to picture his or her life as a book, with a page now



"You are about to write the next chapter...but don't forget you have a chapter deeply rooted here in Islip."

Board President Mary M. Dennis

being closed. "You are about to write the next chapter," she said. "But don't forget you have a chapter deeply rooted here in Islip."

In his first graduation ceremony as principal, Michael Mosca talked of his discovery of the Islip school community. "I have now learned what it means to be a Buccaneer," he said, citing numerous positive traits found in this year's seniors, a group that has persevered and overcome every obstacle. "Trust in everything you have learned so far, and



most of all, trust in yourself," he told his charges. Before leaving the podium, Mosca called up senior Alana Singh to take a selfie photo, to the delight of the audience.

Valedictorian Ethan Fields began his speech with a well-deserved list of thanks, expressing gratitude to the teachers, administrators, counselors, Board of Education, and his friends and family. Referencing author David Foster Wallace, Fields challenged his classmates to change their life perspective to a less subjective, more rational and positive outlook that will help them better adapt to adversity. In closing, he told them, "My fellow seniors, I would like to thank you for an incredible four years here at Islip High School. I will never forget the time spent here, and I know we will all go on to do amazing, incredible things."

Pumping up the energy level even higher, the high school's senior choral ensemble were backed by a rock trio for an exultant rendition of Van Halen's "Right Now," preceding one final address, from Superintendent of Schools Susan A. Schnebel.

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Spotlight on the Class of 2015

Total Advanced Regents Diplomas.....	57.9%
Total Regents Diplomas.....	98.9%
4-Year Colleges.....	47.4%
2-Year Colleges/Cert Programs.....	45.1%
Students Entering the Workforce.....	6.7%
Students Entering the Military.....	8%

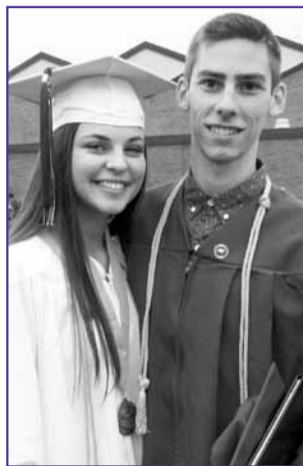
COLLEGES 2015 HS GRADS ARE ATTENDING

Adelphi University
Albright College
Alfred University
Arizona State University
Binghamton University
Brooklyn College of the CUNY
Champlain College
City College of New York CUNY
Clark Atlanta University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Staten Island
Curry College
Daemen College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Daytona Beach
Fashion Institute of Technology
Fitchburg State University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Fordham University - Lincoln Center Campus/
Rose Hill Campus
Full Sail University
Hartwick College
Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Ithaca College
Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
Keiser College
Lake-Sumter Community College
Lee University
Long Island University, Brooklyn
Manhattan College
New York Institute of Technology
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Purchase College State University of New York
Queens College of the CUNY
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Southern Vermont College
Springfield College
St. John Fisher College
St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus
State University of New York at Albany
State University of New York at New Paltz
Stony Brook University
Suffolk County Community College
SUNY at Farmingdale
SUNY College at Brockport
SUNY College at Cortland
SUNY College at Geneseo
SUNY College at Oneonta
SUNY Delhi
SUNY Fredonia
SUNY Maritime College
SUNY Morrisville State College
SUNY Oswego
Temple University
The George Washington University
The University of Alabama
The University of Tampa
Towson University
University at Buffalo The State University of
New York
University of Delaware
University of Hartford
University of Maine
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Oregon
University of Rhode Island
University of the Cumberland
University of Vermont
Utica College
Vassar College
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Widener University

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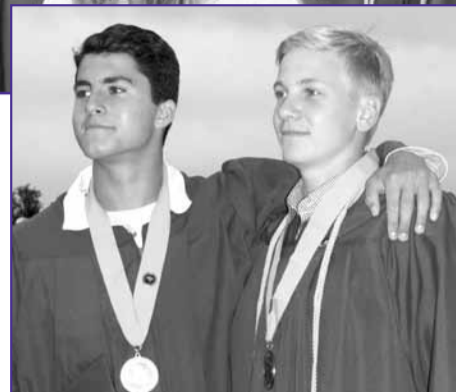
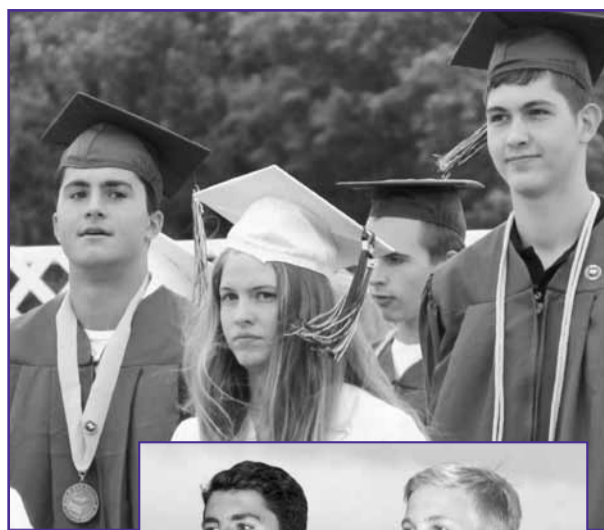
“This is an excellent point to begin fashioning new goals for your future,” Schnebel told the seniors, whom she described as talented, dedicated, fun-loving and respectful. “Today is your moment. Capture it, celebrate it – you’ve earned it.” Fighting back tears of emotion, Schnebel closed by saying, “Class of 2015, thank you for letting me be a part of your life for so many years. We are so proud of who you have become.”

Diplomas were then handed out to each student,



tassels were turned and caps were tossed. As the wind ensemble and concert band played Sousa’s “Fairest of the Fair,” the beaming graduates strode out of the stadium in a proud procession.

“It took a really long time, but we finally did it,” said one of the newest Islip alumni, Steve Calderon, as he celebrated with his friends, all of whom were now ready to turn the page and begin the next part of their life story.



Seniors Go Back in Time at ‘Throwback Thursday’ Post-Prom

“Throwback Thursday” was the theme of the 2015 post-prom, an imaginative and ambitious event that helped make the attending seniors’ last night at the school a memorable one.

Upon arrival, the students were greeted by a “time tunnel” and walked past a clock that spun time backwards, taking them back to 1997, the year they were born. As they entered the school, volunteers guided them along a giant game of Life, and images of pop culture and historic events that defined their youth were visible everywhere. Bringing back many fond memories for the students, nostalgic scenes around the transformed cafeteria included movie, TV and video game favorites. At the center was a dance floor and game show where students could compete for prizes. Throughout the night, raffle giveaways were handed out to attending seniors, including the grand prize – a Kia Rio car – won by Melanie Mayer.

“It was awesome,” said valedictorian Ethan Fields. “I had heard about post-prom for years, but I had to go to see how great it actually was.”

For the past 15 years, the post-prom event has been a group effort between the Islip Drug Education Awareness – Compass IDEA Task Force



Coalition, the district and community organizations. Planning for next year’s post-prom will begin in the fall.

“Thanks to the wonderful work of many volunteers and generous donations from the community, this year’s post-prom was a great success that will be cherished by all who attended,” said organizer Ken Phalen.



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