



Inside Islip Schools

Committed to Excellence

SUMMER 2016

ISLIP COMMUNITY CELEBRATES AN EXTRAORDINARY Class of 2016



Proud in purple and white, the high school's Class of 2016 marched into the stadium for their June 23 commencement to the traditional strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," played by the Islip High School Wind Ensemble and Concert Band and conducted by Steven Campanella. Savannah Beckford sang a strong rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," while the school's chorus ensemble performed "Best Day of My Life."

Board of Education Vice President Philip Dineen, whose sons, senior class officers Schuyler Dineen and Sean Dineen, were among the graduates, talked about NASA's successful 1960s moon-landing mission and the challenges it faced, noting the foundational qualities for professional excellence of discipline, competence, confidence, responsibility, toughness and teamwork. "Whatever career path you choose, make it your passion," he said. "Remember, you will be challenged just as the NASA team was challenged. NASA was faced with setbacks, but failure was not an option with NASA, and failure is not an option for all of you."

"Whenever we spend so much time in one place at a very crucial

stage in our development as adults, it is inevitable that we will meet people who are near and dear to us," said salutatorian Brian Lithen, lauding school leaders and staff for their dedication and integrity. "On behalf of the Class of 2016, I would like to thank the excellent educators, coaches and advisers who taught all of us so much. They impacted so many students on a great scale. Because of their dedication, this class is prepared to achieve anything."

"We have finally made it to the crowning moment of our high school careers," said valedictorian Amber Yildizel. "One of the most valuable lessons I've learned from Islip is the importance of community," she said. "During difficult times, having a supportive environment is crucial to surpassing, overcoming and growing. And we have the type of community that becomes stronger when faced with loss and struggle. What holds us together is stronger than what pulls us apart. I am grateful to have such happy memories. Thank you, Islip High School, for the life lessons, the laughs and the memories."

"This has been a special group of young men and women," said their principal, Michael Mosca, citing the Class of 2016's perseverance

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Spotlight on the Class of 2016

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Total Advanced Regents Diplomas..... | 67% |
| Total Regents Diplomas..... | 98.1% |
| Four-Year Colleges..... | 52.7% |
| Two-Year Colleges/Cert Programs..... | 37.6% |
| Students Entering the Workforce..... | 6.2% |
| Students Entering the Military..... | 2.7% |

COLLEGES 2016 HS GRADS ARE ATTENDING

- Bard College
- Binghamton University
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brown University
- Castleton University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Charleston
- The College of New Jersey
- Columbia-Greene Community College
- CUNY Hunter College
- Dowling College
- Eastern Suffolk BOCES - Adult and Continuing Education
- Farmingdale State College
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Florida Atlantic University
- Franklin Pierce University
- Hartwick College
- High Point University
- Hofstra University
- Johnson & Wales University (Providence campus)
- LIU Post
- Lynn University
- Manhattan College
- Marist College
- Marywood University
- McNally Smith College of Music
- Mercy College
- Molloy College
- Monmouth University
- Mount Saint Mary College
- Nassau Community College
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Pace University (New York City campus)
- Palm Beach State College
- Pennsylvania State University (all campuses)
- Quinnipiac University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Roger Williams University
- Sacred Heart University
- School of Visual Arts
- Shenandoah University
- St. John's University (Queens campus)
- St. Joseph's College (Long Island campus)
- St. Thomas Aquinas College
- Stony Brook University
- Suffolk County Community College
- SUNY at Albany
- SUNY at Brockport
- SUNY at Buffalo
- SUNY at Cortland
- SUNY at Delhi
- SUNY at Geneseo
- SUNY at Potsdam
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- SUNY Maritime College
- SUNY Morrisville State College
- Union College
- United States Naval Academy
- University of Delaware
- University of Hartford
- University of Maine
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Miami
- University of New Haven
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Virginia
- Villanova University
- Wagner College
- Wells College
- Western Suffolk BOCES
- York College of Pennsylvania

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and uniqueness. "I have spoken to a great deal of your parents and teachers," he said, "and they have always described this group the same way, as having the 'it' factor. What is the 'it' factor? 'It' is having a group of intellectuals unlike any other graduating class I have ever known. 'It' is having the poise, modesty and compassion to carry yourselves like the champions you are. 'It' is having unwavering school spirit and Islip pride. You have proven to this school and this community that you have what it takes to make an impact in this world."

"This year's graduates are very special, some would say

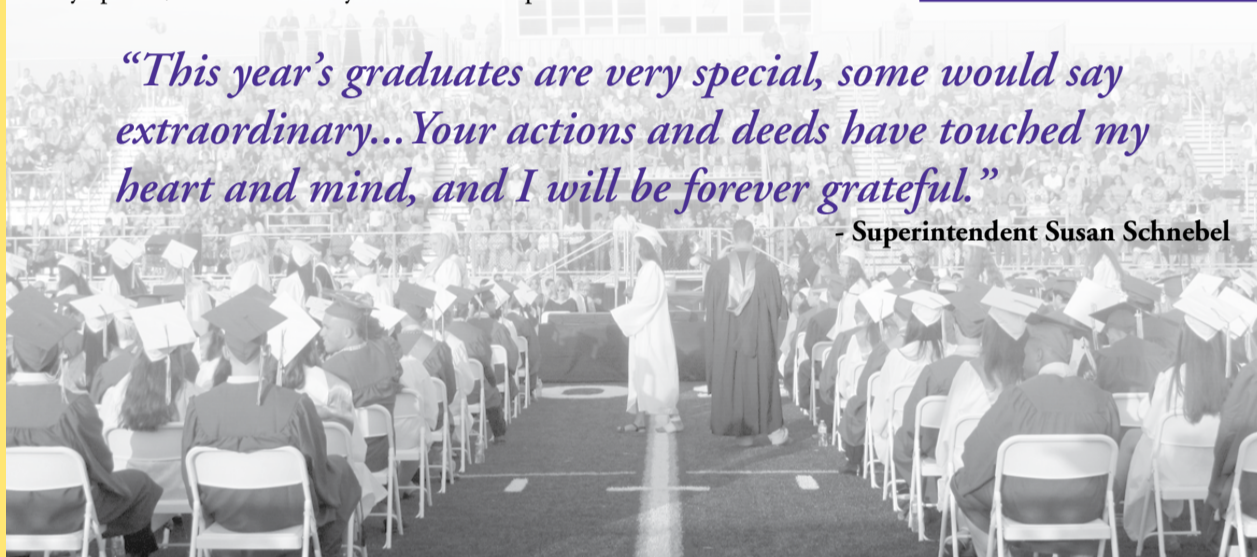
extraordinary," said Superintendent Susan Schnebel, continuing the theme, before listing their many accomplishments in the arts, athletics and academics. She quoted columnist Thomas Friedman, sharing his five tips for success in today's world, before telling the graduates, "Your actions and deeds have touched my heart and mind, and I will be forever grateful."

After the speeches were over and the caps had flown and the new graduates had filed out to meet their families, the sun began to set as they said their goodbyes and began a new and surely equally extraordinary chapter.



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- Superintendent Susan Schnebel



Seniors Take WING WALK

The graduating seniors of the high school's Class of 2016 began a new tradition on June 21, taking a "Graduation Walk" down the hallways of Wing Elementary. Following that morning's graduation rehearsal, the students put on their caps and gowns, were bused over to Wing and paraded through the halls in an effort to encourage the importance of an education for the enthusiastic younger students. The new initiative was spearheaded by Michael Mosca and Dr. Christopher Smalley, the schools' respective principals.

"We wanted to start this tradition to allow the whole educational experience to come full circle," said Mosca. "Many of our seniors began their educational careers in the classrooms of Wing. For them, it's an opportunity to revisit the place it all began and see how far they've come; for our kindergartners and first-graders, they get to see how their public school journey will end. This is an experience both our youngsters and graduates will remember for the rest of their lives."



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