

# BAYMEN REPORTER

HOME OF THE BAYMEN

## HAMPTON BAYS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.hbschools.us

SUMMER 2009

phone 723-2100

## Moving Toward the Future

Administrators at Hampton Bays School District couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day for the High School Commencement Exercises, which were held outdoors on Saturday, June 27, at 11 a.m. in a tent behind the school.

At the start of the ceremony, District Superintendent Joanne Loewenthal told the Class of 2009, "We wish you calm seas and gentle winds, we're proud of you." After the graduation, she reported that this year was one of the most successful and moving ceremonies she could remember.

"Take a deep breath ...we made it!" Class Vice President Justyna Sokol said to her fellow graduates during her greeting speech, adding that the Class of 2009 was the first class to graduate from the official Hampton Bays High School since the Middle School opened in 2008.

In his salutatory address, Thomas Pandolfo reminded his classmates that "we've been working hard here the last four years so we can be ready out there." He also told his co-graduates the most important lesson he learned during his years at Hampton Bays, "be who you are because life is too short to be someone else."

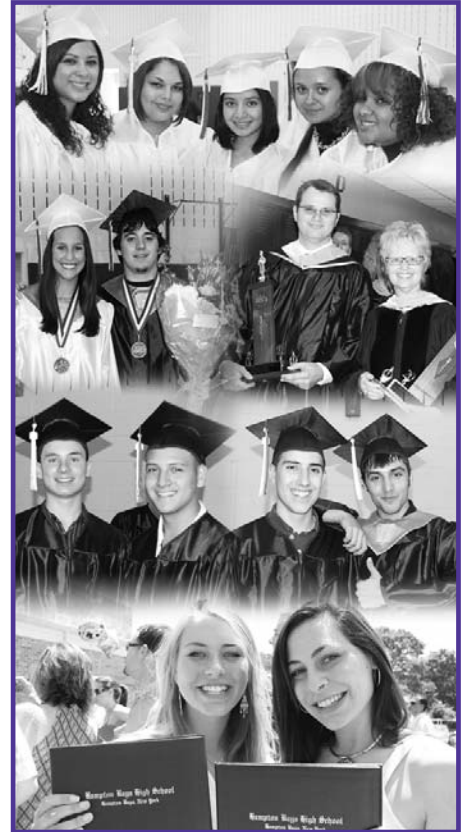
Class valedictorian Brittany Tedesco said she had a hard time in creating her speech, that is until she looked up at the sign on her street, Bittersweet Avenue. "No words better describe today," she said. "It's hard to believe something we've wanted so badly is

now over ... It's time to start new and say goodbye to our past." She later serenaded her classmates with the song "Please Remember," which earned her a standing ovation.

Additionally, graduating senior Ashley Bennett sang the National Anthem and a group of seniors performed the song "The World's Greatest" during the moving ceremony.

Commencement speaker Janice Berglin, who was the valedictorian of her class in 1973 and now works in the security department at the White House, told the soon-to-be graduates that she learned life skills at Hampton Bays that have helped her as an adult ever since. "I love being from Hampton Bays, that's where I learned my work ethic," she said. She concluded her speech with two of the most important lessons she has learned in her job vetting those who wish to work for the United States government. "Don't mess up your credit and don't lie on forms!" she admonished.

High School Principal Christopher Richardt, who earlier received some good-hearted ribbing from Mr. Pandolfo for his overuse of the word "guys," said that graduation was the only time of the year where he could get the last word. He advised the students to assume nothing, invest in their education, and to be the catalysts for good things to happen in their lives.



## Alma Mater

Amanda Cooper, a member of the Hampton Bays High School graduating class of 2005, graduated from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. this past May. During the commencement ceremony, Amanda was awarded the President's Award for outstanding student leadership and scholarship.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in philosophy and has been selected as a Teach for America corps member. Amanda is currently teaching summer school in Atlanta Public Schools.

## VALEDICTORIAN

With an impressive weighted average of 104.12, Brittany Tedesco has earned the distinction of being the Hampton Bays High School Class of 2009 Valedictorian. Throughout her high school career, Brittany has challenged herself with an extremely competitive course of study while participating in virtually every co-curricular activity Hampton Bays has to offer.



Brittany has undertaken numerous honors, college-level, and Advanced Placement courses, including AP Physics, Calculus, and English Literature. While the list of courses, is impressive, it does not begin to speak about the time and effort she continues to dedicate to her intellectual growth. As the President of the Class of 2009, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and a desire to serve her community. In addition to her involvement with Student Government, Brittany was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, SADD, and the Town of Southampton Youth Board. Additionally, Brittany had performed in the school's spring musicals and with the choral performing groups.

Brittany will attend Stonehill College in Massachusetts in the fall, majoring in elementary education.

## SALUTATORIAN

This fall, Thomas Pandolfo, Salutatorian of the Hampton Bays High School Class of 2009, will attend The Olin School of Engineering in Massachusetts.



During his years at Hampton Bays High School, Thomas has accumulated a 103.7 weighted grade point average, and has built an impressive student resume filled with co-curricular and academic accomplishments. As a junior he scored a perfect five on the Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Physics examinations, as well as perfect scores on the Math B and Comprehensive Spanish NYS Regents exams. In his senior year, Thomas was named a finalist in the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Program, which placed him in the top 1% of high school students in the nation.

Thomas has been a student leader and a key member of the musical and thespian performing groups throughout his high school career. He is the president of the band and can play the piano, alto saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, and trombone with exceptional skill. He is also an accomplished vocalist in the choral program and actively involved in the Math team, Mock Trial team, Key Club, National Honor Society, Chess Club.

## INDUCTING EXCELLENCE

To recognize students for their outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, and character, Hampton Bays High School inducted 23 juniors and one senior into the National Honor Society.



The new members were ushered into their Honor Society roles by the 13 graduating 2008-2009 members (who wore special Honor Society gold braids on their gowns for graduation) during the stirring ceremony.

"I apologize for being emotional but I've spent a couple of years watching you grow and it's been a gift," said District Superintendent Joanne Loewenthal. "These qualities that you have shown here are predictors of who you will be. You are the strength of this school and I am proud of my association with you."

High School Principal Chris Richardt said that this year he would break his own "speech rule" by quoting someone else, which happened to be first said by the movie character Ferris Bueller. "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it," he said, adding that the students up on the stage routinely put in what would be a 70-hour work week in the adult world once all their school and community commitments were added up.

Congratulations to the students who were inducted:

Elizabeth Blevins, Anna Blydenburgh, Hope Brosnan, Samantha Carey, Reyna Cruz, Caitlin Duffley, Meridythe Donnan, Jessica Dubowski, Maraya Ferreira, Alanna Frayne, Caitlin Hansen, Maya Himmelsbach, Julia King, Nolan Leeman, Katharine Ludwigsen, Kyle McDonald (senior inductee), Monica O'Connor, Morgan Orego, Oskar Ramirez, Marcus Shams, Allison Streeker, Katherine Tenasaca, Ryan Walker and Sarah Young.

## Honor and Prestige

A total of 43 eighth-grade students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Hampton Bays Middle School on Monday, June 8.



The annual candle-lighting induction ceremony was held at 7 p.m. in the middle school cafeteria. After receiving their official Honor Society certificates and a single white carnation each, the student leaders then honored their loved ones in the audience with the flowers.

"You are the best of the best," said Middle School Principal Lars Clemensen, adding that this year's class was the largest group ever inducted from the eighth grade. "It is our hope that these young people will blaze a trail for this new school."

District Superintendent Joanne Loewenthal praised the students in her speech as well. "You already embody all the attributes we look for in leaders ... You are critical to this school and to our community."

To be eligible for membership consideration, students must have a cumulative average of 90 or better. In addition, candidates must meet the high standards of leadership, service, citizenship, and character, which are the keystones of the national organization.

### Congratulations to the following inductees:

Matthew Agolia  
Ashley Ahnert  
Danielle Alberti  
Analiene Algieri  
Samantha Aube  
Timothy Berglin  
Katherine  
Constantopoulos  
Seth Donnan  
Jesse Dubrowsky  
Felix Elizondo  
Austin Ferreira  
Itzel Figueroa  
Harry Fotopoulos  
Jesse Gruner

Daniela Gutierrez  
Emma Hansen  
Shannon Heaney  
Jason Kozofsky  
Colleen Lawrenz  
Jennifer Linares  
Spencer Lohr  
Madeline Maitland-Walker  
Klaudia Maslowska  
Shpresa Mati  
Jackeline Mogollon  
Frederick Nydegger  
Nicholas Picataggio  
Dorothea Primavera

Tyler Reimer  
Dereck Rey  
Nicholas Romagnoli  
Davianna Romer  
Carly Rosenberg  
Stephanie Salomon  
Natasha Scheuring  
Tetyana Senchishin  
Chessa Sheppard  
Lukasz Sokol  
Brenda Soto  
Dennis Sullivan  
Johann Tran  
Megan Walker  
Brandon White

## SUNWISE IN SIXTH GRADE

Crystal Mintz, a sixth-grade student at Hampton Bays Middle School, was recently chosen as the New York State SunWise with SHADE poster contest sixth-grade winner. With more than 2,000 entries from across the state, this is a great achievement. As a grade-level winner, Crystal was presented with a \$50 savings bond by Nathalie Pierre-Phillippe from the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Chronic Disease Control at the school's annual DARE graduation.

Crystal's hand-drawn art piece had to include at least five of the SunWise action steps for sun safety such as: seek shade, cover up, wear a hat, wear sunscreen SPF 15+, wear sunglasses, check UV index, do not sunburn, and avoid suntanning and tanning beds. The mission of the SHADE foundation is to eradicate melanoma through education of children and the community in the prevention and detection of skin cancer and the promotion of sun safety.



*Pictured left to right: Hampton Bays Middle School art teacher Kathy Dayton, Crystal Mintz, and Nathalie Pierre-Phillippe from the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Chronic Disease Control*

## Going Green, Getting Green

Not only is the Hampton Bays Middle School the first green school in New York State, the district was also the recipient of a very green \$300,000 rebate check from the Long Island Power Authority on Wednesday, June 10.



LIPA President Kevin Law presented an oversized check made out to the district during an Energy Rebate presentation at the middle school cafeteria. "You guys are very lucky to have this school," he said. "Your school is a shining example of what we can do for energy efficiency."

In response to being presented with the rebate check, District Superintendent Joanne Loewenthal remarked, "This rebate, give back, is about dreams come true and promises kept."

U.S. Green Building Council Long Island Chapter Chairman Art Desen was also present at the presentation. He said that the fact that the middle school project was completed as a LEED-certified building overwhelmed him, in a good way. "This is a very big day, one we've been trying to accomplish for five years," he said. "We are here today in the spirit of teamwork." He then presented Ms. Loewenthal with a commemorative plaque to be placed on the middle school walls.

Mr. Law and Mr. Desen did not leave the presentation empty-handed. They were both presented with Hampton Bays sweatshirts, which Middle School Principal Lars Clemensen quipped were "energy-efficient sweatshirts" to be worn instead of turning up the heat in the wintertime.

## SADD Receives Grant Money

The Allstate Insurance agency kept its "good hands" promise to members of the Hampton Bays Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) by granting the school \$1,000 as part of its "Helping Hands" teen driving program.



According to faculty SADD advisor Tim Tenaglia, who teaches physical education and health, the grant was one of 1,000 grants given out to schools by the insurance giant. He reported that Hampton Bays used the grant money to bring motivational speaker Bobby Petrocelli back to the school for an inspirational and informative talk about "Changing the World ... 10 Seconds at a Time."

Mr. Petrocelli, who has written the book "10 Seconds Will Change Your Life Forever," told the story about how a drunk driver smashed into his bedroom and killed his wife. Subsequently, he became an author and speaker who shares his story with students and tries to illuminate how the power of their decisions can affect their lives and the lives of others.

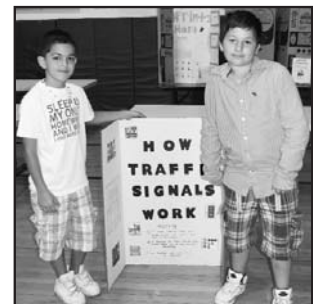
The entire ninth and tenth-grade classes heard Mr. Petrocelli's talk. He had previously spoken at the school approximately a half dozen times.

Also on hand for the discussion was local Allstate agent Kenneth Pagano, who owns the Ken Pagano Agency in Hampton Bays.

## It's Scientific

The entire Hampton Bays Elementary School student body recently participated in a series of science-related projects and then competed in a Science Fair, which was held on Wednesday, May 20, in the elementary school gymnasium.

This year fourth-grade teacher Adam Fritzen organized the event. Mr. Fritzen reported that a total of 200 projects were entered in the Science Fair and nearly 100 parents and students attended the judging event. Students from each grade level were awarded top honors.



**PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN:** Emma Naclerio (Xylophone Water Play), Cassidy Moore (Sink or Float), Jack MacNamara (Mentos and Soda), and Matthew Hughes (To Slide or Not: Friction).

**FIRST-GRADE WINNERS:** Phillip Luce (What Do Sharks Eat?), Ava Aube (Stages of a Butterfly), and Gabrielle Cain (Rose-Colored Glasses).

**SECOND-GRADE WINNERS:** Chris Scott (Apple Halves), Riley Tupper and Haley Troyan (Can a Battery Work on a Piece of Fruit?), and Kevin MacNamara (Mentos and Soda).

**THIRD-GRADE WINNERS:** Meghan Long (Germs), Shelby Hughes and Morgan Phillips (Crystals), and Nicky Fotopoulos (Bee Speak).

**FOURTH-GRADE WINNERS:** Josh Aube (Bridges), Michael Del Rey (Magnetic Raceway), and Julia and Gary Tetrault (How Different Liquids Affect Enamel).

**Hampton Bays School District**  
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**86 East Argonne Road**  
**Hampton Bays, NY 11946**

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**Reminder: School Starts for  
 Students Tuesday, September 8**

## *Celebrating Community Pride*

Residents of Hampton Bays had a lot to rejoice about on Saturday, May 9, when it seemed like most of the hamlet's residents turned out for the daylong Community Pride Celebration.

Continuing on with the theme established during last year's Centennial Celebration, which was held on May 17, 2008, the members of the Hampton Bays School District invited local businesses and organizations to participate in the second annual party to commemorate life in Hampton Bays.

Live music, food, games for the kids—including a bouncy castle and other blow-up rides—a 5K Race, vendors and a dunk tank manned by Hampton Bays administrators were all enjoyed from the morning through the afternoon. Elementary School Principal Marc Meyer was the first person in the "hot seat" at the dunk tank. He got to take his first swim a mere 10 minutes after settling in.

Board of Education President Doug Oakland, who owns the local restaurant Oakland's, was also on hand, serving up crab cake sandwiches and chowder to the hungry revelers. Other merchants and organizations were represented, including: Scotto's Pork Store, the Hampton Bays Public Library, members of the local Girl Scouts troop, World Village Fair Trade Market, various Hampton Bays school groups, and others.

A large group of runners also turned out for the second annual Hampton Bays 5K, including several families with multi-generational entrants. In all, it was a fine day for the Hamlet of Hampton Bays!



## **Class of '73 Graduate Returns for Commencement and Advises Class of '09 to "Learn and Don't Stop"**

Several years ago, the Hampton Bays School District began its distinguished speaker series at the High School Commencement Exercises. This year, 1973 Hampton Bays High School graduate Janice Lee Berglin spoke to the Class of 2009 on Saturday, June 27.



During her years at the high school, Ms. Berglin was involved in a variety of activities, including Student Council, National Honor Society, field hockey, chorus, and serving as yearbook editor. In her senior year she was class president and valedictorian.

Following her graduation, she went on to be a student at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, after which she began a long and distinguished career in law enforcement support and security with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Since 2007, Ms. Berglin has worked with the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness in the Executive Office of the President. As Branch Chief for Personnel Security for the White House, she has served under both President Bush and President Obama.

In addition to her duties as commencement speaker, Ms. Berglin also enjoyed the graduation of her nephew, salutatorian of the Class of 2009 Thomas Pandolfo.

In her inspirational speech to the graduates, Ms. Berglin spoke to the students about how she traveled from the Hampton Bays High School Class of 1973 to Washington D.C. She recalled working at Allen's Acres, the Holiday Grill and the Pancake Cottage, talked about her high school biology teacher, Alice Squires, who introduced her to the University of Virginia, and how she still receives the local paper. She also offered words of advice and of wisdom.

"I asked a lot of people at the White House and FBI what advice they would pass on to high school graduates," said Ms. Berglin. "Almost everyone said, 'tell them to be prepared to start at the bottom.' They also said, 'do what you love.' And everyone said 'learn, learn, learn and don't stop.' I could not agree more. You are walking into a very competitive world and you need to be prepared to take on the dirty jobs to get ahead. You need to show people you will try to excel at everything you are assigned. Show up to work every day, ready to work."

In her closing, she advised the students to "have fun and laugh. It is all going to work out at some point;" and to "learn to be independent and make [their] own decisions," but to remember their family is always there to support them.