



THE ISLANDER

Official Publication of the Island Park Board of Education
ISLAND PARK SCHOOLS • Summer 2017 News



NEW BEGINNINGS for Island Park Students

Throughout the district, Island Park students celebrated a successful school year, and in many cases, the end of one chapter and beginning of countless others. Members of the district's Board of Education, administration and staff, along with students' families, gathered to express their pride in graduates at the eighth-grade, fourth-grade, kindergarten and pre-K levels.

Lincoln Orens Middle School's eighth-graders were honored during a traditional graduation ceremony. Francis X. Hegarty's fourth-graders signified their transition to middle school during a moving up event, and kindergarteners and pre-K children participated in similar promotion activities.

On the evening of June 21, eighth-graders achieved an educational milestone as they concluded their years in the Island Park Public Schools and looked forward to high school. Donning blue gowns, they entered Lincoln Orens' 55th annual commencement ceremony to the graduation orchestra's performance of "Pomp and Circumstance."

Principal Vincent Randazzo provided welcoming remarks and introduced eighth-graders Morgan Polete, Vianka Calderon and Robin Xiao, who discussed the past, present and future, respectively.

Members of the chorus performed a medley that encompassed this significant moment, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosmarie Bovino and Board of Education President Jack Vobis presented diplomas. The Color Guard conducted the Transfer of Colors with music from the Color Guard Band.

Dr. Bovino focused on goals and important values and shared excerpts from the students' own autobiographies. "I encourage each and every one of you in this terrific graduating class to dream the life you want to live and live the life you dream," she said. "To do this, however, you must begin by seeing yourself as the person you want to become. Then, you must do everything you can to develop the skills and knowledge that you will need. Finally, you must remember that you cannot achieve your goals without developing the character that will be required of you."

The fourth-grade, kindergarten and pre-K celebrations featured performances by students who represented the bright future and possibilities ahead. At each of these events, Francis X. Hegarty Elementary School Principal Jacob Russum addressed the students and encouraged them in the exciting years that are yet to come.



Vincent Randazzo *Named* Assistant Superintendent



After four years of serving as Lincoln Orens Middle School Principal, Vincent Randazzo has been appointed to the Assistant Superintendent role. Mr. Randazzo has made many significant contributions to the education program during his time in the district.

An integral part of the positive growth and change in the culture at Lincoln Orens, Mr. Randazzo helped to introduce the Student of the Month recognition program, the LOMS Core Values system, Lego robotics opportunities, makerspace resources and Spirit Week. These initiatives have enhanced the district's emphasis on character education, STEAM learning, collaboration and 21st Century instruction. He has also been involved in department team planning and the roll-out of many new curricula and curricular projects.

Mr. Randazzo holds a Bachelor's Degree from St. John's University, a Master of Science Degree in School Building Administration from Touro College, an Advanced Certificate in School District Leadership from Queens College, and is currently enrolled in the Hofstra Doctoral Program in Teaching and Learning with a concentration in Human Development and Educational Psychology.

NEW Principal Appointed



The district is pleased to introduce Dr. Bruce Hoffman as the new principal of Lincoln Orens Middle School.

Dr. Hoffman joins Island Park from the Lindenhurst Public Schools, where he served as an assistant principal at Lindenhurst Middle School for the past 11 years and initiated a science research program.

As Lincoln Orens prepares for science lab improvements, Dr. Hoffman will be involved in the addition of a science research program in Island Park.

Dr. Hoffman obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from SUNY Old Westbury, his Master of Science degree in Technology, Education and Multimedia from LIU Post and his Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration, Leadership and Technology from Dowling College. He focused his dissertation on the effect of cooperative learning on bullying in the middle school setting, and his research found correlations between cooperative learning and positive experiences in the school environment.

Capital Projects Update

With summer underway, capital projects to improve facilities around the district have commenced. Some will be completed for the 2017-18 school year, while others are long term.

District members, bond counsel and architects and engineers have been working

to finalize plans for the items in the bond referendum. Unrelated to the bond, the district has received State approval to reinforce a substructure to part of Francis X. Hegarty School through its capital fund, and to execute a set of storm mitigation projects fully funded by FEMA.

Another initiative, still in its development phases, would be carried out through the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR). The goal is to improve transportation access to Hegarty School during flooding either at the front or back entrance in proximity to Warwick Road.

STEAM *Learning Leads to Success*

Island Park students have benefited from new technology and resources that enhance learning in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. Now, the district anticipates new opportunities that will be introduced in the 2017-18 school year thanks to monies from the Smart Schools Bond Act Grant as well as others.

This past spring, Lincoln Orens Middle School was selected to receive a 2017 Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant from The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. The \$5,000 grant will allow the school to enhance the makerspace in its library.

The school's current makerspace includes a 3-D printer, free online limited software and small inexpensive programmable robots. The grant will be used to add an additional 3-D printer, more sophisticated coding software and hardware supplies and tools that the school does not have.

Through the 2017-18 budget, Lincoln Orens will obtain new LEGO robotics kits. Students have earned many achievements through their robotics opportunities, including successes at the sixth annual Adelphi University Statewide Middle



School LEGO Robotics Competition.

The statewide contest, which included 36 teams of students from public and private schools, presented a single challenge where contenders were required to compete directly against another group through various rounds. It also included a 15-minute presentation component. Students used LEGO EV3 kits and designed their own robots with LEGO parts and programming.

One group, Team Scorpion, placed 12th and was comprised of Computer Club members William Adler, Fabiana Boncina, Julio Clavijo, Sebastian Diaz, Delia Fallon and Scott Perez. Discovery students participated on the other two teams. Aidan Briody, Samantha Fiallos, Kayla Hayduk, Samantha Kolb, Maxwell Lake and Michelle Winderman competed on the team, Technologic, which came in 15th (William Adler also contributed his expertise to this team during Discovery time, but competed with Team Scorpion). Annamarie Aebly, Michael Contreras, Katelyn Doyle, Katie Flaniken, Thomas Murphy and Gabriel Tejada served as members of Los Patos Poderosos and placed 26th.



Their Journeys Continue...

Sixty-seven eighth-grade students culminated their experiences at Lincoln Orens Middle School during a graduation ceremony on June 21, and will enter high school in September. Additionally, a total of 79 seniors from Island Park graduated from Long Beach High School and West Hempstead High School. The district congratulates all of these students with pride and wishes them the very best in the new chapters ahead!



LINCOLN ORENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

ANTHONY ADAMES
EMILY AITCHISON *
VANESSA ALONZO
MARLENE ALVARADO
JUSTIN AYESTAS
DYLAN BACIGALUPO
GRACE BARATTA
BROADUS BROWN
VIANKA CALDERON *
MICHELLE CANDIOTTI
MARYROSE CARNAZZA
CASSANDRA CHAMIDES *
GABRIELA CHAVEZ *
ERICK CHOY
DAVIS COCHERO
ANTHONY CONDE
ERICA D'ARIA

LANA PATRICE DABU
DILLON DASILVA
ALEXA DELACH
SCOTT DERGARABEDIAN
ANDREA DISPO *
SYDNEY FAIVRE *
ORQUIDIA GARCIA *
WILLIAM GELISH
JESSIE GONZALEZ-PEREZ
MOISES GUARDADO
MICHAEL HAGGERTY
STEVEN HERAN
MACKENDY HOGARTH
CHRISTINA KILLEN *
MEAGAN KOGAN *
SHANE LERNER *
EDUARDO LIRIANO JR.

SILVANA LLERENA
KIMONI LOCKWOOD
ELLEAN MALDONADO *
ISMAEL MALDONADO *
JOSUE MALDONADO
MATTHEW MAY
MEGAN MCMAHON
IAN MININNI
ANDREW MORAN
DYLAN PASCOE
LAURELAI PELINSKY *
JOVANNI PESANTE
MORGAN POLETE *
ANGELINA POMPA
JAHMEKE PRIMER
MADISON RIVERA *
ABEL RODRIGUEZ *

RICHARD ROGERS
BENEDICT SALAZAR
MADISON SANTIAGO
MERCEDES SANTIAGO
MORGAN SHAPIRO
JOSEPH SHAW
JAMI SUSI
RAPHAEL TAN
STERLYN TANON
EMANI TEEMER *
ADRIAN TEODORO *
ROBERT TIBERI
BENJAMIN UPBIN *
JAKE VOBIS
ROBIN XIAO *
NICHOLAS YIKA -CUADRA*

* NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

LONG BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

JOSEPH AEBLY
JESSIE AMBROSIA
ASHLEY ARENAS
MICHAEL BADASH
DOMINIQUE BASSI
JOSEPH-GANNON BERT
TYREEK BROMLEY
CASSIDY BURKHARDT
ALISON CAJAVILCA
LEONARDO CAJAVILCA
MICHAEL CAMPIONE
CASEY CASTROVILLA
SALVATORE CLIFFORD
MITCHELL CROWLEY
BRANDON DEVIVIO
JOSEPH DONOVAN
TAMIA EVANS
MARINA GARCIA

JOSEPH GIORLANDO
BRANDON GONZALEZ
JESSICA GRAEPEL
HEATHER GUTHRIE
BROOKE HARRINGTON
BIANCA HAYES
ANDREW HEGMANN
DARA HOFF
ASHLEY LEO
WOODROW MENDOZA
OYOLA
MARGARET O'MALLEY-
REBOVICH
HARRY PERSAUD
RAFFAELE PUPA
SEAN REILLY
ANTONIO RIVIERE
ALEXANDRA ROCA

JOSEPH ROGERS
ANDREW ROLON
JORGE ROMERO
THOMAS RUTHERIG
KRISTEN RUZICKA
FARRAH SALAZAR
AMBER SANTOS
LAURYN SANTOS
RYAN SCHUELER
JAZMIN SHANLEY
DEVIN SHIN
RUANY SOCA
ARONI TERRONES
GIAN VALLES
FEY VILLAGOMEZ
SHANNON WARD
AMOS WU



Carly Sills (above) had the highest GPA of Island Park's West Hempstead High School 2017 graduates, and Joseph Aebly (right) graduated Long Beach High School with the highest GPA out of Island Park seniors.



WEST HEMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

ASHLEY ALONGI
ANTOINETTE ARAGONA
JAMES AUPIED
JOHN BENIGNO
MOLLY DONOVAN
RHIANNON DUFFY
SANDRA GARCIA AMAYA
DENNYGARCIA
MARIA GRACI

ANTONINA KALYUSKIN
ZACHARY KOSTER
DAYHANA LOPEZ
FRANKLYN MACARIO
ALEX MALDONADO
MADELINE MARTINEZ
MICHAEL MATUOZZI
JAMES MCSPEDON
NATALIA MORTON

HEAVEN ORTIZ
ABRAHAM PEREZ
ZAYNE PETROSINO
ANTONIO PIMENTEL
ROY PINANGO
TAYLOR RANDOLPH
DESPINA RIZIK
VANESSA RODRIGUEZ
CARLY SILLS

Visit www.ips.k12.ny.us for a list of awards these high school graduates received!

AWARDS

Well-Earned

Many students were recognized for their academic strides, musical talents, athletic skills, school involvement, volunteer efforts and overall good character during awards presentations held in June. Congratulations to all who achieved these acknowledgments, which result from much effort and dedication to learning.

On June 14, seventh- and eighth-graders received awards for their excellence and improvements in a variety of academic subjects. To view their full list of achievements in English Language Arts, mathematics, social studies, science, technology, second language learning, English as a New Language, art, music, physical education, health, home and careers, local assessments, computer learning and accelerated courses, please visit www.ips.k12.ny.us.

Additionally, 25 eighth-graders received special distinctions from district and community organizations at their June 21 graduation ceremony. These awards are as follows:



**Office of the State Comptroller
Academic Excellence Award
Scholar with Highest Grade Point Average
Robin Xiao**

**Academic Excellence Award
Scholar with Second Highest
Grade Point Average
Vianka Calderon**

**Academic Excellence Award
Scholar with Third Highest
Grade Point Average
Morgan Polete**

**Academic Excellence Award
Island Park Scholar with
Highest Grade Point Average
West Hempstead High School
Carly Sills**

**Academic Excellence Award
Island Park Scholar with
Highest Grade Point Average Long Beach High
School
Joseph Aebly**

**Award for Perseverance and Resiliency
Maryrose Carnazza**

**Town of Hempstead Councilman's Award for
Perseverance and Resiliency
Michael Haggerty**

**Attorney General's Office of NYS
Triple "C" Award: Character,
Courage & Commitment
Orquidia Garcia**

**Krista Schuelein Award
Exemplary Responsibility
Sterlyn Tanon**

**Perfect Attendance Awards
Ellean Maldonado
Robin Xiao**

**Newton Garrie Memorial Award
Community Service through Music
Abel Rodriguez**

**Recreation Award
Exemplary Social,
Communication & Leadership Skills
Emily Aitchison**

**Helen Williams Memorial Award
Consistent & Considerate
Use of Public Library
Dillon DaSilva**

**Helen Williams Memorial Award
Consistent & Considerate Use of Public Library
Shane Lerner**

**Island Park Fire Department Award
Service to School
Gabriela Chavez**

**Incorporated Village of Island Park
Service to School
Ismael Maldonado**

**Island Park Kiwanis Club Award
Civic Virtue, Service & Contribution to
Community
Benjamin Upbin**

**Island Park Little League Award
Sportsmanship
Ellean Maldonado**

**Island Park Little League Award
Sportsmanship
Vanessa Alonzo**

**Island Park American Legion Post
1029 Award
School Leadership & Patriotic Spirit
Christina Killen**

**Island Park American Legion Auxiliary
School Leadership & Patriotic Spirit
Emani Teemer**

**Junior Public Service & Leadership Award
in the 9th District
Nicholas Yika-Cuadra
Silvana Llerena**



Emani Teemer accepted the Island Park American Legion Auxiliary School Leadership & Patriotic Spirit Award at her eighth-grade graduation.

**Ellen Breslin Memorial Award
Problem Solving & Resolution Skills
Andrea Dispo**

Island Park Public Schools

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The Community Connection

Island Park's annual Community Day event brought residents of all ages together at Lincoln Orens Middle School for a spring celebration of community pride and connection. Coordinated by the Island Park Faculty Association and the Island Park Public Schools, the event raised thousands of dollars for scholarships that were awarded to local high school students.

The day featured a variety of family-friendly activities such as carnival games, food, raffles and even the highly-anticipated dunk tank. Alumni and faculty members of the district faced off in a friendly basketball game competition.

Each year, Community Day benefits the IPFA's Scholarship Fund, which provides graduating seniors from Island Park with support for their future ventures. Fourteen students received scholarship awards this year.

Joseph Aebly, Bianca Hayes,

Steven Partland, Kristen Ruzicka, Carly Sills and Shannon Ward each earned the President's Award for maintaining an overall GPA of 90 or higher and demonstrating commitment to community service. Daniella Anzalone, Brooke Harrington and Argyro Papathanasiou each earned the IPFA Artist Award, which goes to students who plan to pursue a career in the arts or arts education. Raffaele Pupa received an Achievement Award for continuing education, and James McSpedon and Margaret O'Malley Rebovich were presented with the Dorothy Ryan Memorial Scholarship as they pursue careers in education. Ashley Alongi and Joseph Giorlando were awarded the John Gould Memorial Scholarship as athletes who have demonstrated leadership, unselfishness, dedication, respect and perseverance.



Students and Teachers Team Up at Hegarty

More than 40 Francis X. Hegarty Elementary School Student Council members experienced a day in the life of an educator during Student/Teacher Exchange Day. This annual event has proven to be a favorite among student council participants, who continue to request it year after year as one of the many initiatives they coordinate.

Each participant was paired with a teacher or staff member and met so that the students could plan, organize, review and prepare what they would like to teach or do for the day.

Members of the student council gained a greater insight into the responsibilities that their teachers, administrators and other staff members carry out and the qualities that it takes to be a positive leader.

