



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Class of 2014 Steps Forward

VALEDICTORIAN KYLE DEVINE

School Attending: Harvard University

Awards & Recognition:

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Honor Society President
- Math Team Captain
- Italian Honor Society
- Gold Honor Roll
- American Mathematics Competition Winner
- Suffolk Section Outstanding Senior Science Student



SALUTATORIAN ANDREAS STAMATAKIS

School Attending: Undecided

Awards & Recognition:

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist
- National Honor Society
- Suffolk County DECA President
- Academic Team President and Captain
- Science Olympiad Co-President
- DECA Business Competition First-Place Winner



Extracurricular Activities & Community Service:

- Student Council
- Chess Team
- DECA
- Ronald McDonald House Volunteer
- Varsity and JV Baseball Team

Extracurricular Activities & Community Service:

- Brookhaven National Laboratory Research Intern
- Math Team
- Boys Varsity Swim Team
- ESL Tutor
- Homeless Outreach Volunteer



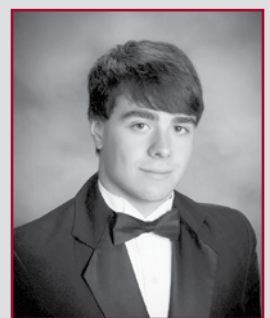
3. Yasameen Saleem



4. Nasratullah Sultany



5. Victoria Trovato



6. Richard Jacullo III



7. Christina Catanzaro



8. Daniela Zabbatino



9. Nicholas Vitale



10. Ebne Rafi

A Message from Your *Superintendent of Schools*



Dear Residents,

As we bid farewell to another successful school year in Deer Park, and offer continued congratulations to our newest alumni and the many students moving up to new schools and increased rigor at the high school, Robert Frost and JFK, the summer offers us a chance to recharge for the coming 2014-2015 school year. We continue to focus on achieving excellence both inside the classroom and throughout the educational community.

From a staff perspective, our

paramount goal is enhancing all levels of communication – both within the district and outside it – to keep parents and the community more informed and aware of innovations and activities.

Another priority is continued professional development for staff in regards to the state’s Common Core Learning Standards. To that end, I am attending the New York State Network Team Institute session in Albany this summer to help train our teachers to prepare for a new year of Common Core implementation, building instructional skills and deepening

content knowledge.

Back at Deer Park, as the season progresses, we will undertake capital projects work around the district to repair sidewalks, driveways and buildings, ensuring that all is ready for the return of all students on Wednesday, Sept. 3. I wish you a happy, healthy and productive summer.

Sincerely,
Eva J. Demyen

SCENES FROM A *Shakespeare Festival*

Students from the high school and Robert Frost as well as North Babylon High School, Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School and Ss. Cyril and Methodius School participated in the third Long Island Student Shakespeare Festival, hosted by Deer Park. At the event, students from these high schools and middle schools participated in Shakespeare-related activities and performed scenes from William Shakespeare’s plays “King Lear,” “Hamlet,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “The Taming of the Shrew,” “Macbeth,” “Julius Caesar” and “Antony and Cleopatra.” Guest artist and off-Broadway actor Ian Gould performed excerpts from “The Tempest,” accompanied by the high school’s baroque ensemble playing selections from Matthew Locke’s incidental music for the play.



Students from the high school and middle school participated in the district’s annual Long Island Student Shakespeare Festival.



The high school’s two relay teams competed in the 4x400 relay at the debut Deer Park Falcons Track Invitational.

Debut Track Invitational

The high school hosted the debut Deer Park Falcons Track Invitational on the school’s brand-new track facility, featuring participation by seven girls teams and five boys teams from Suffolk County. Events ranged from the 100-meter dash and 3,200-meter race to pole vault, high jump, long/triple jump and various throwing competitions. “This is an event we will look to build on and, hopefully in the future, turn it into one of the more popular track invitationals in Suffolk County,” said Tom Brouillard, boys track and field coach.

DEVINE HONORED AS OUTSTANDING SENIOR SCIENCE STUDENT

Senior and valedictorian Kyle Devine was honored as the school's Outstanding Senior Science Student at the 39th annual Awards Dinner of the Suffolk Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State. Devine, a well-rounded and extraordinarily gifted student, was chosen for the award by the school's science department based on his outstanding science achievements throughout his high school career.

This year's Suffolk Section awards ceremony, held at the Hyatt Regency Long Island, showcased honorees from 30 different school districts, each of whom received an engraved plaque to commemorate their achievement. More than 100 attendees were on hand to congratulate the students, including Devine's mentor, science teacher David Knuffke.

"Kyle is one of the most academically talented students whom I have ever worked with, and he is also more loved and respected by more facets of our community than I can recall any one student ever being," said Knuffke.



Kyle Devine, honored as the high school's Outstanding Senior Science Student at the STANYS Suffolk Section Awards Dinner, with STANYS Suffolk Section board member Glen Cochrane (left) and science teacher David Knuffke (right).



Sibling Scientists Compete at BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LAB'S SCIENCE FAIR

Two of the district's dedicated young scientists, siblings Brendan Eising and Kayley Eising, won honorable mention at Brookhaven National Laboratory's annual Elementary School Science Fair. To compete in the BNL Elementary School Science Fair, the 500 participating students from 120 different Suffolk County schools were

required to win first or second place in their own school's science fair. At JFK's science fair, Brendan won first place in the fifth grade, while his sister Kayley was the second-place winner for the third grade.

Brendan's project, "Pink-Eye Pad, a Touchy Subject," explored his hypothesis that since an iPad can only be cleaned with a lint-free cloth, it would contain more germs than a computer keyboard because the latter can be sanitized with a cleaning agent such as bleach.

Kayley's project, titled "My Brother and Matt Harvey, Torn Apart," inspired by injuries to her brother and the Mets pitcher, sought to determine how an injured ligament affects throwing distance.



Siblings Brendan Eising and Kayley Eising, both students at JFK, earned honorable mention at Brookhaven National Laboratory's annual Elementary School Science Fair.



Class of 2014's Moment in the Sun

As the sun shone brightly and a refreshing breeze moved through Al Centamore Football Field, members of the high school's Class of 2014, led by the American Celtic Pipe Band, marched in for the school's 51st commencement. Student Council President Daniela Zabbatino led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Jaclyn Miano singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and a lovely performance of Deer Park's alma mater by members of the school's girls chorus.

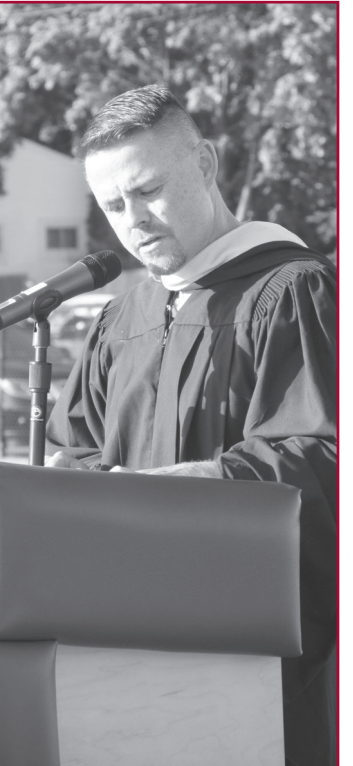
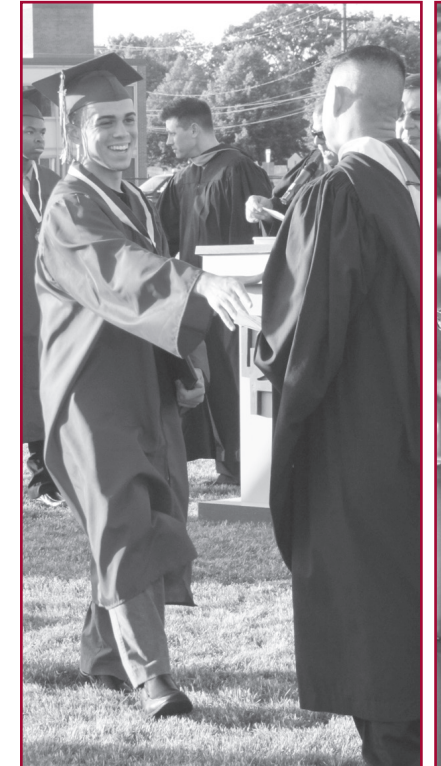
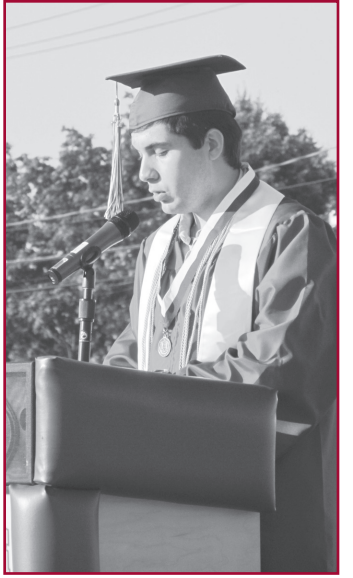
The graduating seniors were congratulated by laudatory speakers including Class President Gina Hock, Superintendent of Schools Eva J. Demyen, who urged the students to listen more to their parents than to their friends and played them Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy," and Principal James Cummings, who expressed immense pride in the students who had been under his supervision for the last four years. Continuing a longstanding Deer Park tradition, Class of 2004 valedictorian Nicholas Porcaro returned as a guest speaker, offering Rocky Balboa as a model of determination and providing this year's graduates a synopsis of Porcaro's rise, fall and eventually successful career reinvention in the business world.

Salutatorian Andreas Stamatakis told his peers that what they learned in their studies would not be enough to prepare them for adult life beyond

high school. "Today we take a step toward a unique period of our lives, a time when our lack of preparation is our greatest strength," he said. "When challenges come, and they undoubtedly will, we have the greatest chance to do something unique and innovative in the face of adversity."

In his speech as class valedictorian, Harvard-bound Kyle Devine discussed the value of uncertainty and adversity in forging the future. "Here we stand on the outskirts of adulthood, but no matter how we approach the future, there's so much of it that remains a mystery," he said. "While we may know who we are today, we still are yet to discover who we'll become, but it's nothing to worry about – we have a lifetime to figure that out. You can set as clear a path as you want right now, but never panic if there's an obstacle blocking your way or you decide that you want to take a left instead of a right. Instead, immerse yourself in the possibilities that the world has to offer you and that you have to offer the world."

After the candidates for graduation were introduced and diplomas conferred and awarded by district administrators and members of the Board of Education, the excited new graduates flung their caps skyward, and proceeded out to the strains of Elmer Bernstein's "The Great Escape," performed by the Deer Park High School Symphonic Band.





Eighth-Graders Anticipate High School

Friends and family filled the gymnasium at Robert Frost as its Class of 2014 moved up and onward to high school in a recent ceremony filled with pride and excitement for the future. Superintendent Eva J. Demyen and members of the Board of Education were on hand to present various student awards and graduation certificates to the future members of the high school's Class of 2018.

National Junior Honor Society President Celine Marino led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Student Council President Lynne Gbadamosi addressed her classmates. "No matter what you become in life, perfect it, because nobody can take your dreams away from you," she said.

Principal Eliana Levey encouraged her 345 outgoing eighth-graders to continue to do what is right instead of what is popular, and to not allow others to put them down. As she wiped away tears, she told the students, "It's time to take all you have learned at Frost and apply it at the high school. Don't wait for life to happen to you – go out and make life happen."



FIFTH-GRADERS

Celebrate Memories and the Future

Fifth-graders at JFK celebrated both their happy past and their ascendance to middle school during a recent moving up ceremony.

"You are ready to leave your fifth-grade teachers and JFK and meet the challenges of middle school," said Principal Susan Bonner, after the Pledge of Allegiance had been recited and "The Star-Spangled Banner" sung by Camryn Lefebvre. "Your hard work, amazing teachers and supportive parents have led you to today."

After the presentation of several academic, attendance and civic awards, the 309 proud students received their graduation certificates and congratulations from Bonner,

their teachers, Associate Principals Celeste Archer and Shaun McLeod, Superintendent of Schools Eva J. Demyen, and members of the Board of Education. A trio of music teachers provided the backdrop for the students' touching group vocal performance of Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me."

"Let's take all our great memories to Robert Frost with us," said Student Council Vice President Daniella Belotti. Congratulating what she called the future eighth-grade Class of 2017, Frost Principal Eliana Levey said, "Watching you today, I can see there are many great things awaiting us in September."



Second-Graders Move Up

At John Quincy Adams and May Moore, the youngest Falcons left their nest in recent moving up ceremonies that celebrated their transition to third grade next year at John F. Kennedy.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the 166 graduating second-grade students at JQA sang a medley of inspirational songs amidst colorful balloons. “I am so proud of all you have accomplished here at JQA,” Principal Christine Criscione said in her greeting. The children sang a medley of inspirational songs before their names were called, one by one, for

the traditional presentation and words of praise from their teachers.

“We all could not be prouder of their growth and development.”

At May Moore, the 138 students moving up from second grade raised their voices with joy, performing “America,” “The May Moore Song,” “This Is the New Year,” “Fly a Kite” and “Wavin’

Flag.” Principal Alicia Konecny recounted all of the year’s highlights for the assembled families and friends. “Today is a day to mark the efforts of our second-graders,” she said. “We all could not be prouder of their growth and development.”

Celeste Archer, associate principal at JFK, was a special guest at both schools’ ceremonies, congratulating the future third-graders on their achievement. “We are excited for you to be joining us at JFK,” she told them. “Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing your bright, smiling faces in September.”



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Winners for the Environment

Robert Frost eighth-graders Samuel Escobar, Samantha Howe and Alan Korsiak were selected as finalists in the Babylon Covantage EcoTech Scholarship Competition and presented with awards at Babylon Town Hall. More than 50 projects by students in grades 7-12 from districts across the town were submitted, and only 10 prizes were awarded.



Robert Frost eighth-graders (from left) Alan Korsiak, Samantha Howe and Samuel Escobar were selected as finalists in the Babylon Covantage EcoTech Scholarship Competition.



JFK students (from left) Hannau Rau, Jayden Pasco and Christine Nguyen were honored as Covanta recycling poster contest winners.

Event sponsor and energy-from-waste operator Covanta offers the scholarship opportunity each year as part of an initiative to encourage young scientists to research renewable energy sources, greenhouse gas reduction and the development of alternative building materials.

Covanta also recognized three artistically ambitious JFK students as prize winners in the company's recycling poster contest, which required Long Island elementary-level students to illustrate the importance of recycling. Third-grader Hannau Rau won the contest's grand prize for K-3 students. In the grades four to six category, Jayden Pasco placed second and Christine Nguyen took third.

Spring Athletes Recognized

Nine high school sports teams were honored at the spring athletic awards ceremony, with eight of these teams – varsity baseball, varsity softball, varsity boys lacrosse, varsity girls lacrosse, varsity boys golf, varsity girls golf, varsity boys track, and varsity girls track – named Scholar/Athlete teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, a recognition that requires teams to have at least five players and earn a cumulative team GPA of 90 percent or higher. The teams as a whole included 19 athletes awarded the All-League designation. Baseball player Anthony Fiorentino earned All-Academic, lacrosse player Jarrett Bonser received All-Division recognition, and tennis player Faran Nazir was named All-County. Additionally, the varsity boys lacrosse, varsity boys track and varsity girls track teams all earned their respective leagues' Sportsmanship Awards.



Members of Deer Park High School's varsity girls and boys golf teams were recognized at the school's spring athletic awards ceremony.



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