



# THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

## VALEDICTORIAN **RAYMOND W.**

SCHOOL ATTENDING: COOPER UNION-FULL SCHOLARSHIP

Academic Team - 4 years, Senior Captain  
 Math Team - 2 years, Assistant Captain  
 Math Club - 3 years  
 Environmental Club - 2 years  
 Peer Tutoring  
 All-County Band  
 NYSSMA Level 6  
 Varsity Tennis, Track  
 Junior Achievement High School  
 Heroes Program  
 Eagle Scout, Volunteer/Fundraiser for Community Clean-up and Breast Cancer Walk



## CO-SALUTATORIAN **SEAN H.**

SCHOOL ATTENDING: PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Academic Team - 4 years  
 National Honor Society Member  
 Senior Class Officer  
 Varsity Swim Team  
 Outstanding Achievement in French Study  
 NYS Scholar - Athlete Award  
 Bronze Medal Math Fair Winner - 2006  
 Eagle Scout  
 Senior Patrol Leader



## CO-SALUTATORIAN **ARSENIO M.**

SCHOOL ATTENDING: RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

National Honor Society  
 College Software and Spanish Courses  
 Varsity Leaders Club  
 Math Club  
 Gold Honor Roll  
 Foreign Language Award  
 Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble  
 Varsity Soccer Sportsmanship Award  
 Varsity Baseball, Varsity Spring and Winter Track  
 NYS Scholar-Athlete Award



## A Heartwarming Send-off

### *Congratulations to the Class of 2008*

Deer Park High School seniors paraded onto the school's athletic field before an audience of family, friends, administrators, Board of Education members, and government officials, led by the musical talents of Co-Salutatorian Sean H. playing the Gaelic Pipe Bags and admiring underclassmen in the Deer Park High School Concert Band.

Senior Class President Jennifer M. kicked off the senior speeches, taking a nostalgic look back at the experiences and times shared between the Class of 2008. She spoke of her time at Deer Park High School where students developed into young adults. She spoke of the future with optimism and excitement, wishing all of her classmates well on their new journey.

Valedictorian Raymond W., Co-Salutatorian Sean H. and Co-Salutatorian Arsenio M. credited the diversity of the Deer Park community with making them better young men and women and preparing them to collaborate with all cultures in today's global society. They thanked family and friends that have been with them through their triumphs and defeats and recounted the events that have led them to graduation day.

Commencement speaker and Board of Education President Dennis Ryan spoke to the students on a personal level, sharing his insight and anecdotes regarding the Class of 2008. He expressed his gratitude in being an intricate part of the students' lives as a Board member and friend, watching the class mature into accomplished young adults and respected citizens. Guest commencement speaker Lina D'Orazio, the Class of 1998 Valedictorian, spoke about her successes and the familiar road she traveled as a Deer Park graduate. She encouraged students to see the world and embrace and learn from everyone and everything they encounter.

Board of Education President Ryan, Vice President John Gouskos and trustees Robert Marino, Keith Rooney, Ron Wayne, Frank Wilkinson, and Rose Bruner awarded diplomas to the Class of 2008. Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino conferred the diplomas and sent the Class of 2008 into the next phase of the their lives with the love, support and wisdom of the Deer Park community.

*(To learn more about the Class of 2008, see pages 4-5).*

# A Message from *Your Board of Education President*



Dear Resident,

The community's approval of the 2008-2009 School District Budget this spring will help ensure the success of our students as we continue to move forward in this challenging and competitive global society. On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I thank you all for your continued support of District initiatives aimed at providing the best education possible for the children of Deer Park.

The past several months have been busy. As you will read in this edition of *The Standard* we continue to improve the learning environment through various facility projects. Many of these are designed to maximize our school buildings and grounds, make them comfortable and convenient for students and staff, conserve energy, produce less emissions, and save our taxpayers

money while promoting the preservation of our earth. I plan to report back to you this fall with more good news as we progress further.

As with every summer, there are new staff appointments. Under the leadership of Dr. Jared Bloom, we expect our instructional technology program to grow and further enhance teaching and learning, while we hope Aramark Foods will raise the bar on health and nutrition, delivering a higher level of food service to our children.

This newsletter also gives a final farewell and salute to the Deer Park High School Class of 2008. I again congratulate and wish all of you the Board's best as you enter this latest chapter in your life. I would also like to congratulate our undergraduates who are moving on to the next level of their educational careers.

I look forward to addressing all of you in the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

Sincerely and God Bless,

Dennis P. Ryan, President  
Deer Park Board of Education  
631-274-8891

## Sitework Projects at May Moore a Plus for Many



The District continues to work through the summer on enhancing the schools. Parking lot and driveway improvements were conducted at May Moore Primary School this July (as seen here). While parents and staff at the school will benefit from this, the entire community, specifically student-athletes, will benefit from the creation of a new athletic field at May Moore. Field construction will be completed by the spring where the new field will primarily be used by the Girl's Varsity lacrosse team in order to alleviate scheduling conflicts between first season program Robert Frost Middle School 7th and 8th grade girl's lacrosse team and Deer Park High School. It will also provide additional recreation options for the community when the fields are not in use by District teams.

# DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL

---



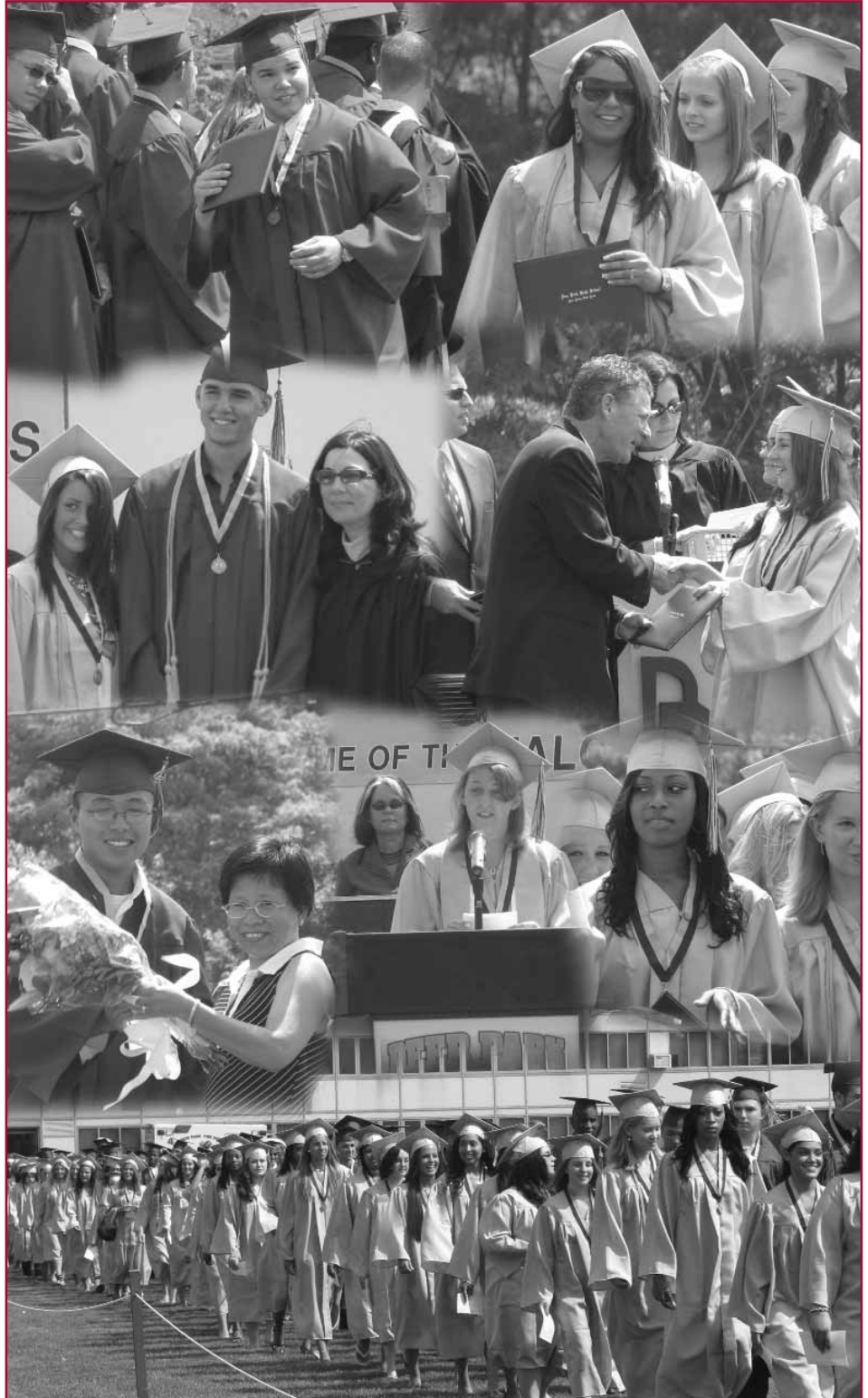
*The Deer Park Community came together to celebrate the multitude of athletic, academic and extracurricular achievements of the Graduating Class of 2008. Scholarships, gifts, plaques, award certificates and savings bonds were presented to over 100 students as their names and impressive résumés were announced in front of friends, family, Board of Education members and Deer Park Administrators.*

*Each department leader presented a multitude of students with awards tailored for their individual excellence. Awards included the Science and Technology Department's Bausch & Lomb Honorary Scholarship, World Languages Department Spanish Embassy Award, and Family and Consumer Science Department's Human Development Award.*



# Seniors Shine

*Schoolwide awards were presented by Deer Park High School administration and supported by alumni, community businesses, local politicians and in-district organizations. Congressman Steve Israel, Town of Babylon Supervisor Steven Bellone, Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro and Suffolk County Legislator Steven Stern sponsored community service, citizenship and political awards for students who give back and reach out to their school, community and beyond. The night also paid tribute to Deer Park students who have passed on, including scholarships in memory of Bryan T. Manigault and Ryan T. Horodnicki, as well as alumni who continue to support Deer Park's education and outstanding students.*





## DEER PARK STUDENTS Growing & Moving Up

The Deer Park School District celebrated the end of a productive school year with moving-up ceremonies throughout the District. Robert Frost Middle School, John F. Kennedy Intermediate School (JFK), John Quincy Adams (JQA) Elementary, May Moore Elementary (MM), and Abraham Lincoln Pre-Kindergarten students joined with family, friends and administration to showcase their accomplishments.

Robert Frost eighth-grade students donned the traditional Falcon gowns of maroon and white, celebrating their time at Robert Frost as they looked toward their future at Deer Park High School. The graduates touched on many memories and accomplishments during this year's Moving-Up ceremony.

Board of Education members presented awards for exceptional academic and extracurricular achievements, including the Presidential Academic Achievement Award, National Junior Honor Society and various departmental awards. Student Council President Diana C. and Robert Frost Class of 2008 members Nirvana G., Casey M. and Lateefah H. spoke about the unity of their class, and how they have grown both as individuals and as a group, learning from their teachers as well as one another. They set goals and hopes for the upcoming years and reflected on their time at Frost as a place that provided educational opportunities and valuable life experiences.

John F. Kennedy fifth-grade students advanced in their academic careers with a Moving-Up Ceremony signifying their graduation to the secondary level of their K-12 education, beginning at Robert Frost Middle School this fall.

The JFK Select Band entertained their peers, families, Board of Education Members and Administration with selections including, *The Australian Sea Ballad* and *We'll Meet Again*. Fifth Grade Student Council President Nicolette Votta gave welcoming remarks and recapped the educational experiences and extracurricular opportunities that JFK has provided to the fifth-grade class.

JFK Student Government Officers spoke on behalf of the school to thank the JFK PTA for all of their fundraising efforts and the programs that helped to make the school year a more rewarding experience. Principal Susan Bonner, Assistant Principal Kathleen Griffin and Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino completed the ceremony with a presentation of awards as each classroom teacher announced their students and school-year anecdotes.

May Moore School second-grade students sported their Class of 2008 shirts and illustrated the diversity of Deer Park by singing *The May Moore School Song* in English, Italian and Spanish. Principal Alicia Konecny presented awards to a select group of students who have completed the school year with perfect attendance and the New York State Office of the Attorney General's Triple "C"

award, given to students who demonstrate outstanding character, courage and commitment to their school and community.

John Quincy Adams School second-grade students were applauded in front of friends and families as teachers recapped the projects, crafts and field trips they shared throughout the year. Students also shared their musical and artistic talents with the audience through a choreographed song and dance.

Both elementary schools were sent into the summer months after a motivational welcome from John F. Kennedy Intermediate School Principal Susan Bonner, who will be their next principal.

Abraham Lincoln Pre-Kindergarten students celebrated their advancement with a performance entitled, *Our Garden of We Believe*. Accompanied by their classroom teachers, students performed a unique poem and song representing their "growth" of friendships and knowledge during the school year. A stage brightly lit, decorated with blossoming flowers crafted by each student, served as the foreground for a photo presentation to illustrate the year's events.

Each ceremony showed the pride, hard work, and growth that Deer Park youngsters experienced throughout their time at these schools, which has left them beaming with optimism for the future ahead.



# Creating More Efficient, Environmentally Friendly Schools

---

## BOARD OF ED INITIATIVES WILL CONSERVE ENERGY, YIELD FISCAL SAVINGS

---

An energy audit was completed at all nine District buildings at no cost to taxpayers. The Board of Education also approved an agreement with Keyspan Energy to secure four new high-efficiency boilers at Deer Park High School, producing thousands of dollars in LIPA rebates and saving the district a projected \$400,000 per year in utility expenditures.

The new boilers will be provided at no cost to taxpayers and will reduce natural gas and fuel oil consumption (going from a 70% efficiency rating to 95%). In addition, the recommissioning of six cogeneration units, already in place at District buildings, will utilize natural gas to generate electricity. These changes will also reduce the amount of carbon emissions by 752 cubic tons (current levels meet EPA safety standards), which is the equivalent to planting 1,000 trees.

The Board of Education is also exploring opportunities for solar energy and improved heating and ventilation, working with its Green Committee and Johnson Controls. The benefits are also being weighed of converting (not replacing) the existing bus fleet to “clean air” buses that run on natural gas.

Light sensors will be installed at every school in the District, beginning with the largest schools: the high school and Robert Frost Middle School next year. The sensors will automatically turn off lights when a room is unoccupied, conserving electricity. This project will pay for itself after just two and



*(L-R) Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro and Congressman Steve Israel visited the high school boiler room to learn from BOE President Dennis Ryan about the District's energy efficiency movement.*

a half months. Energy-efficient gymnasium lighting has also been installed at JFK Intermediate School.

Most recently, Deer Park High School hosted Congressman Steve Israel, as he joined school officials in announcing the results of the *Long Island Superintendents Survey on Rising Energy Costs*. The survey, conducted with National Grid,

examined 17 Long Island school districts' energy costs, usage, equipment and efficiency, and concluded that energy expenditures for schools have doubled since the 1999-2000 school year.

Congressman Israel was also given a tour of the high school's boiler room. Many of the school districts on Long Island, including Deer Park, have future plans in the works to “go green.” Congressman Israel has been leading the effort to secure federal funds for renovations that would enable schools to operate greener. He previously authored federal legislation to provide federal matching funds (up to 50% of a project's total cost) to school districts implementing state guidelines through investment in energy-efficiency upgrades and renewable energy technology.

---

***In addition to installing cleaner, more efficient boilers, the Board of Education is exploring opportunities to utilize solar energy and improve heating and ventilation systems.***

---

## DISTRICT APPOINTS NEW ADMINISTRATOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

The District welcomes the new Administrator for Instructional Technology Dr. Jared Bloom. Dr. Bloom gained expertise in the field while working in various expanding technology companies. He later became a high school and middle school English teacher, a position he held for the last seven years both in New York City and on Long Island.

Possessing a strong educational résumé, Dr. Bloom received a PhD in Administration from Capella University and a Master's in Secondary English from Hofstra University. He has authored scholarly articles for the prestigious New York State English Council, for which he served as the Chair of the Technology Committee, combining his passions for literacy and technology.

Dr. Bloom's dissertation focused on extending the classroom by utilizing technological advancements to connect students, parents and teachers with an entire educational community in order to reinforce daily lessons and provide supplemental information. An Adjunct at Hofstra University since 2005, his work at the University helped create the Sunset Seminar Group, a staff development program for school teachers to learn the latest computer and digital technology for classroom instruction. A language arts and technology consultant for elementary and secondary programs, Dr. Bloom has introduced technology education and English best practices at workshops throughout the United States.

As a new administrator in Deer Park, Dr. Bloom plans to improve the entire technology infrastructure of the District by rebuilding the system from the back end. This will include server upgrades to improve backup, reduce power consumption, and improve the speed of the District's entire computer network. He also intends to add 130 new Dell computers for instructional and administrative purposes, plus additional computers for the elementary classrooms and will look to build a more functional District website to be utilized by students, parents, teachers, administrators and community members as a unifying resource. Dr. Bloom also looks forward to working with the teaching staff to support their efforts and help students capitalize on the available technology and productively utilize their knowledge in today's global society.



## JFK Students Spur Biodegradable Action

Inspired by their class curriculum, John F. Kennedy environmentally conscious students Gabriella M. and Taylor K. brought their green ideas to the Board of Education. Combining common concerns of healthy lunches for students and a healthy environment for the world, the girls employed their knowledge of math, science, and English to investigate Deer Park and New York State's waste production and waste management resources.

Gabriella and Taylor researched official state materials online, reviewed printed literature, analyzed statistics, and conducted student surveys and interviews to propose a scenario where the District could participate in a global green movement. With the help of their teacher, Jennifer Arella (pictured here with the Gabriella and Taylor), they prepared a detailed visual presentation for the Board of Education, which documented the amount of nonbiodegradable Styrofoam used by the district annually. As a result, in its Request for Proposals for a new food service provider, the Board included a provision that prohibits qualifiers from using Styrofoam food trays, or any Styrofoam products in the Deer Park schools.



Aramark Food Services, which has an excellent history of working with public K-12 school districts, colleges and universities, conference centers and professional sports complexes, and parks and resorts, was ultimately selected.

"It makes us all proud to see two young students use their curriculum knowledge and motivation to launch a grass-roots campaign and research project to better their community and effect positive change," said Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino. "Deer Park is moving towards becoming a 'greener District' and it's nice to see students getting into the act."

# MEETING THEIR CIVIL DUTY

## 14 DPHS Students Place 1st in Jury Service Competition

Fourteen Deer Park High School Business Law students have been awarded first place in the New York State Court System's Annual Media Contest. Business teacher Annemarie Lenio and her students attended an awards and recognition ceremony held at the District Courthouse in Central Islip. In honor of the winners, jury duty was cancelled for the day.

This year's contest centered on "Jury Service." Ms. Lenio's class submitted entries in a comprehensive set of categories, including a public service announcement which was created by Chris O., a poster designed by James D. and Mark S., a juror orientation video produced by Alicia M., Ben X., Alexa S., and Chris R., and slide show presentations by Sydney B., Briana J., Justin B., Ekta P., Mojdeh G., Jerome W., and Michael R.

The goal of the program is to encourage high school students to raise public awareness about the importance of serving as a juror. Students created in-depth projects to help increase citizen participation in our jury system and ensure that New York juries reflect the rich diversity of the state and nation.

Upon arrival to the Courthouse Central Jury Room, students were greeted by key figures in New York State's judicial system including Judge W. Gerard Asher, Commissioner of Jurors Michael D. O'Donohoe, Deputy Commissioner Gerald Hemendinger, and Senior Court Analyst Annette Kalotkin. Students had the rare opportunity to visit Judge Asher's courtroom while it was in session and observed the legal proceedings in a live format.



Judge W. Gerard Asher (far left) gave a welcome speech and handed out Award Certificates while Commissioner of Jurors Michael D. O'Donohoe (far right) addressed the students in Annemarie Lenio's class (pictured) at Deer Park HS and awarded prizes. Winning entries were displayed on monitors throughout the jury room at the Central Islip courthouse.

The class also met with Police Liaison for the courts and jail Lieutenant William Hasper, who described how he became a police lieutenant and arranged for students to witness the latest electronic fingerprinting technology process.

## Helping People Back on their Feet



Class of 2008 graduate Kristen C. was honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a New York State Certificate of Excellence from the 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Kristen was nominated and selected for this award due to her dedication and commitment to helping others in the community.

Inspired by a magazine article that described the staggering number of children who cannot afford shoes that fit them properly, Kristen developed a program that collects shoes for needy families in her community. Working with District social workers, Kristen compiled a list of shoe sizes and spoke at local meetings to encourage others to

participate in the "giving trees" she arranged throughout the District. Since launching the effort years ago, Kristen has helped more than 300 families and collected and distributed over 1,000 pairs of shoes.

Presented annually by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honors young people across America for outstanding community service activities. Kristen also has received a President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, which recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country.

## DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

High School student Kelly M. received a distinguished honor from the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Recognized for her superior academic achievements and sponsored by district teachers and councilors, Kelly was named a member of the Society, which only admits top scholars throughout the country. Membership in the NSHSS entitles students to a variety of educational benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, publications and online forums. Kelly joins more than 300,000 high school students in the Society, which is represented by over 120 countries. NSHSS President James Lewis described the Society's vision to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources and opportunities.



School news and photos compiled by Terry Gilberti and Marissa Sanseverino.

### Board of Education

Dennis Ryan, President • John Gouskos, Vice President  
Rose Bruner • Robert Marino • Keith Rooney  
Ronald Wayne • Frank Wilkinson  
Lisa Brennan, District Clerk  
Elizabeth Marino, Superintendent of Schools