Elementary school may be over for the 341 graduates of the North Bellmore School District, but they are excited about the new opportunities that lie ahead in middle school and beyond. Graduation ceremonies were held for the five elementary schools on June 24, celebrating seven years of academic success.

Sixth graders reflected on their elementary school memories and discussed the important life lessons they will take with them in the next chapter of their lives. Student speakers at Saw Mill Road School highlighted the school’s core values: responsibility, friendship, creativity, cooperation and perseverance.

Principal Jeff Rosof told students they are well prepared for the next step and to “go through the middle school door with confidence.”

Said Martin Avenue Principal Leyna Malone, “When moments like this bring big emotions, remember to breathe and be mindful of the moment. It is moments like these that create the story of your life.”

Park Avenue Principal Eileen Speidel drew inspiration for her speech from the many lessons students have learned in the last seven years: friendship, grit, hard work, respect and teamwork. “All of these lessons combined have given you the tools to be a scholar and a person of good character in middle school and beyond,” she said. “You have a strong foundation for continued success.”

Newbridge Road Principal Denise Fisher urged the graduates to make the most of school, telling them, “Your education is what gives you the opportunity to do admirable things for yourself, your family, your friends, your community and your country.”

John G. Dinkelmeyer School Principal Danica Brugge presided over her first graduation ceremony, joined by Faith Skelos, who retired in December. She recounted a conversation the two had during the transition.

“Mrs. Skelos, when you retired,” Ms. Brugge said, “you said that you were giving me a gift. You were so right. Graduates, you have been such a gift to all of us. John G. Dinkelmeyer is a treasure of a school and you are the beautiful gems within that treasure.”

Mission Statement
Our mission is to inspire all students to be confident, passionate learners with the courage and skills to lead their lives with integrity, while contributing to our global community with creativity and compassion.

Core Values
Communities and individuals thrive when the talents and abilities of all are valued and fostered.

Each individual is responsible for his or her choices and the impact they create.

There is no limit to human potential.

Honesty, integrity and trust are essential to sustaining meaningful partnerships.

All people want to learn and succeed.

A safe and healthy environment optimizes learning.

Human life is precious.
Sixth Grade Reflections

What will you miss most about elementary school?
“I will miss all of my teachers and all of my friends because they all helped me.”
Miley Rivera
Newbridge Road Elementary School

What is your fondest memory of elementary school?
“All the concerts that I’ve been in, because they’re very special. It takes a lot of practice to get up on the stage to play a song.”
Riley Adams
Saw Mill Road Elementary School

What is your fondest member of elementary school?
“Making friends as soon as I got here in fourth grade. I made best friends I think I’m going to have for the rest of my life. Even though our school is so small, we’re all so caring and friendly to each other.”
Maggie Fitzgerald
Martin Avenue Elementary School

What important life lesson have you learned in elementary school?
“To be kind to others and don’t judge people by how they look.”
Ethan Adjei
Park Avenue Elementary School

What achievement are you most proud of?
“Getting into the AYP4A program. I never knew how much I could learn from it. I had an amazing teacher and we were always learning something new.”
AriElla Wolfstein
John G. Dinkelmeyer Elementary School

What skill did you learn that has best prepared you for the future?
“One of my best skills is effective writing, because when I get older, I am going to have to write a lot of essays and emails to communicate effectively. Problem-solving and imagination will come in handy, too.”
Dalia Yarim Morelli
Park Avenue Elementary School

Did you find something you are passionate about?
“I found that I really like to sing. I’m in the select chorus, and it’s fun to be a part of a group and learn new songs.”
Basilia Mekhaiel
Saw Mill Road Elementary School

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What important life lesson have you learned in elementary school?
“To be kind to others and don’t judge people by how they look.”
Ethan Adjei
Park Avenue Elementary School

What was your favorite subject and why?
“Science, because my teachers always helped me and we did cool science experiments. We had projects that we had to do in groups, and I love doing something with a team.”
Steven Bisulca
Martin Avenue Elementary School

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JOHN G. DINKELMEYER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
To mark Autism Awareness Day, students and staff dressed in blue on April 2. Members of the Students Against Destructive Decisions Club created posters promoting Light It Up Blue, which is observed nationally. The school also donated tissues, notebooks and other supplies for the Center for Development Disabilities in Woodbury.

MARTIN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Sixth graders became the teachers as they picked topics of personal interest and created lessons. Every spring, teachers Rachel Graber and Stephanie Schwartz give this opportunity to their students through the Walk in My Shoes program. The content and design of the lessons, which were approximately 30 to 40 minutes long, was up to each student and could include digital presentations, worksheets and hands-on activities.

NEWBRIDGE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
The Student Council had a goal of raising $1,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society through the Pennies for Patients program. When all of the money was counted, the grand total was $8,038.13. Collection boxes were placed in each classroom, and students and staff could drop their loose change or dollar bills inside during a three-week period. The school celebrated its successful fundraiser at an assembly to present the donation to the organization.

PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
The Amazon rainforest came alive in third grade classrooms as a culminating project for a lesson on Brazil. Students worked in teams and built models of rainforest huts with Popsicle sticks, cloth, clothespins and felt, along with natural materials such as grass, leaves and twigs. Before building, each team had to share ideas and discuss the pros and cons of different designs, in addition to deciding which materials would work best.

SAW MILL ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
First graders in Michelle Mittler’s class put together spring treat bags for children at Cohen Children’s Medical Center. Teachers and parents donated fruit snacks and candy, and the students were then enlisted to fill bags with 10 treats each. They even put together several peanut-free treat packages. There were enough donations to fill about 150 bags to benefit children undergoing medical treatment.

STAFF RECOGNITION
Eileen Speidel, principal of Park Avenue Elementary School, was named an Administrator of the Year by the Council of Administrators and Supervisors. She was among 15 highly skilled public school administrators from Nassau and Suffolk counties recognized at an awards dinner.

John G. Dinkelmeyer Elementary School fourth grade teacher Jean Patterson received the Applebee’s Above and “BEE’yond Teacher award. She was one of four Long Island educators honored by Doherty Enterprises, the local Applebee’s franchisee, with a $500 prize for classroom supplies.

Jenna Stack, a sixth grade teacher at Park Avenue Elementary School, was accepted into the Apple Distinguished Educators Class of 2019. She was one of only 550 educators from across the world chosen this year, and will attend a full week of workshops in the summer.

NORTH BELLMORE ALUMNI
David Collins, who attended John G. Dinkelmeyer Elementary School, was the valedictorian of Wellington C. Mepham High School Class of 2019. Gabriela Daza, a former Saw Mill Road Elementary School student, was named salutatorian.