

Schools of Thought

Newsletter of the Huntington School District

Summer 2006

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Class of 2006 Graduates

Threatening skies and a few raindrops failed to extinguish the energy and excitement that filled the air as 214 seniors finally reached the end of a long journey receiving coveted diplomas at the 145th Huntington High School Commencement Exercise.

As strains of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance No. 1" echoed across Blue Devil Stadium a crowd of more than 2,000 family and friends rose to its feet and cheered the Class of 2006 as it marched onto the athletic field and toward seats reserved for the group. Parents openly wept and flashbulbs lit up the sky as the students filed in wearing traditional blue and white caps and gowns.

Student Government President Theresa Bruno asked fellow graduates to be grateful for those who have helped them along the way. "The support you receive from your friends and family is irreplaceable," Ms. Bruno said.

Superintendent John J. Finello implored students not to leave behind something worth retaining. "As you leave take with you something that is very close to your hearts," Mr. Finello said. "They are the friendships that you share in your lives. Whatever you achieve, whatever great things you aspire to, the friendships you make and keep will be your dearest treasure in the years to come. Hold onto to them and they will be with you forever."

For valedictorian Katy Ann Lyons, "Graduation is more of a concept than anything else." Telling classmates that "now it's time for us to move on and to adjust to a completely different lifestyle," Ms. Lyons urged the graduates to "learn to appreciate each day in life, for with each day, comes the ability to re-define ourselves, to take risks and to learn from our mistakes."

Salutatorian Ariel Olson said she waited until the last minute to write her speech to find the right words. She hopes her classmates take the world by storm.

"Let's blow them all way," Ms. Olson said. "Let's exceed expectations because we can. It's our time to make waves, Class of 2006. It's our time to be epic."

Senior Class President Sarah Whitney announced the graduates were giving the high school various items to freshen up the main entrance area including new brickwork, flowers and benches. "We've given our all to this school and I hope this gift can add one more thing for everyone to remember us by," Ms. Whitney said.

U. S. Naval Academy bound Class of 2006 member John Lee savored the opportunity to introduce his father, Huntington School Board President Robert T. Lee. "I am who I am today because of his influence and I can only hope to be the role model for others that he has been to me," said the Blue Devil football, basketball and spring track star.

When it was his turn, Mr. Lee complimented the graduates on their successes thus far in life and urged them to continue to aim for the stars. "The great thing about excellence is that it tends to have implications far beyond the immediate success that it brings," Mr. Lee said. "Stay focused on your personal commitments to excellence and you will reap its rewards."



Katy Ann Lyons Pays Tribute to Teachers in Valedictorian Address

Katy Ann Lyons graduated Huntington on a high note, telling classmates "Today is our day for celebration." By any account, the valedictorian deserved to celebrate the night away, compiling a 102.669 grade point average over the past four years while taking an array of challenging courses.

While Ms. Lyons deserved her brief moment in the spotlight, she chose to use part of her address to thank Huntington's teachers. "In all our academic careers, there has been at least one teacher who made some type of impact on our lives," she said.

"There have been high standards and the expectations for us to come to class on time, to do our homework and to study for the big test," Ms. Lyons said. "Our teachers have helped us to develop certain aspirations and goals, though some of us would never admit this. So, to all those teachers who thought that we weren't listening, we always had one ear open and the suggestions you made influenced us in a positive manner. Without your support, there is no way that we could have made it to this point in our lives."

An accomplished artist, Ms. Lyons has been accepted into Syracuse University's honors art program. A graduate of the School of Fine Arts in Huntington, she served on the Executive Council of the National Honor Society, was secretary of the National Art Honor Society and corresponding secretary of the Spanish Honor Society.

Ms. Lyons has never been hesitant to work hard. Classmate Elese Berk said as much during her introduction of the Class of 2006 valedictorian. "I recall often telling Katy that she did not need to study any more, but she thought she did and look at how it paid off," Ms. Berk told the crowd. "Katy has truly proven what Aristotle said: 'The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.'"

The oldest of the three children of Leslie and Ted Lyons, Ms. Lyons has been an active member of the Key Club, Habitat for Humanity, Make A Wish Club and has volunteered at the Nassau/Suffolk Services for Autism and the Last Hope Animal Rescue.

A member of the Art Portfolio and Yearbook clubs, Ms. Lyons has also found the time to work as a docent at the Heckscher Museum of Art. Over four high school years she earned academic awards in every possible discipline.



Top Students: Class of 2006 valedictorian Katy Ann Lyons (left) and salutatorian Ariel Olson gave stirring and heartfelt addresses to classmates.

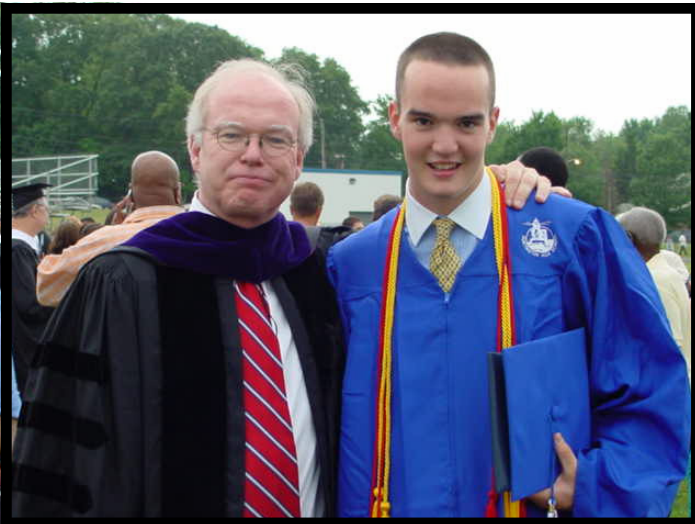
The Class of 2006 included many students who earned the prestigious designation of **Advanced Regent's Diploma with Honors** for their exceptional performance on a battery of state exams.

The honorees include **Wendy Bermudez** (Barnard College), **Caitlin Byrnes** (Trinity College), **Brittney Flynn** (Tufts University), **Christopher Grenier** (St. John's University), **Maggie Johnson** (Vanderbilt University), **Lindsey Joseph** (Fairfield University), **Jonathan Kaufstein** (New College of Florida), **Bennett Kuhn** (Tufts University), **Christopher Lavery** (Brandeis University), **Charles Leake, Jr.** (Briarcliffe College), **John Lee** (U.S. Naval Academy), **Barry Levin** (SUNY Stony Brook), **Brett Lipman** (Bucknell University), **Amyrose Lomele** (SUNY Geneseo), **Martin Lynch** (Eugene Lang College), **Katy Ann Lyons** (Syracuse University), **Patrick McCourt** (George Washington University), **Lisa Messineo** (Fordham University), **Kathryn Mitchell** (New York University), **Stephanie Moore** (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), **Lemar Nadi** (CUNY Hunter Honors College), **Ariel Olson** (University of Richmond), **Amy Rabinowitz** (SUNY Binghamton), **Elizabeth Rave** (Hamilton College), **Eric Rochman** (SUNY Buffalo), **Elizabeth Russell** (Manhattan College), **Robert Shannon** (Lehigh University), **Meghan Smith** (Cornell University), **Noah Studenroth** (Bard College), **Kathryn Titus** (Mary Washington University), **Margarita Varer** (Pace University), **Lee Verdecchia** (Boston University), **Sarah Whitney** (Penn State University) and **Jason Wirchin** (SUNY Stony Brook).



All Smiles: Huntington School Board member Jill Collyer, a member of the Class of 1968, is all smiles as she hands Leigh Boege a diploma. Ms. Boege, a star athlete and fine student, is headed to Marist College in the fall. She leaves behind many memories.

The Huntington football team won the Suffolk and Long Island championships last fall, boys' basketball won the Suffolk crown, boys' lacrosse won Suffolk, Long Island and New York State titles and ended the spring season with a 43 consecutive game winning streak and boys' track and field won first place in league competition.



Huntington School Board President Robert T. Lee has his arm around his son, Class of 2006 member John C. Lee, who will be attending the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. The new graduate left an impressive academic and athletic legacy in Huntington and his leadership will be missed by all.

Olson Speaks of Infinite Universe During Salutatorian Address

Ariel Olson knew for eight months that her stratospheric 101.866 grade point average had given her the opportunity to address classmates at Huntington High School's 2006 Commencement. While the new graduate has produced academic results that hover above all but one other student, she's a teenager just like her peers. So, she waited until the last minute to write her salutatorian speech.

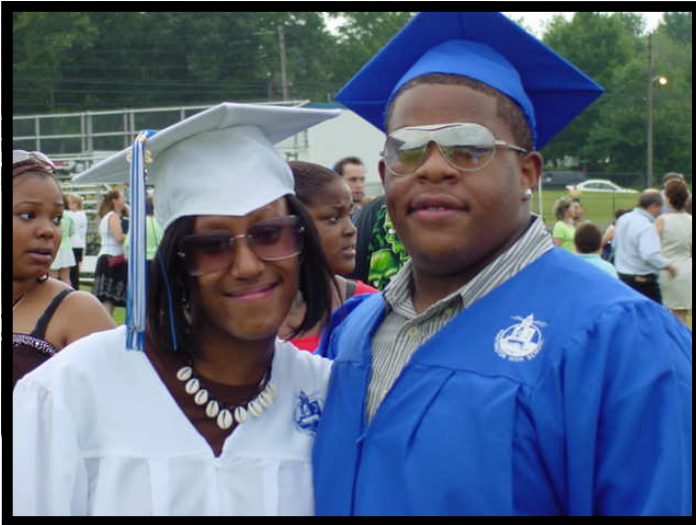
"I have thought about this moment a lot, what sentiments and wisdom I wanted to share, who I wanted to quote, what note I wanted to end on, however it seems I didn't find the right words until just recently," said Ms. Olson, who is headed to the University of Richmond this fall.

"I realize that as individuals we are only minuscule parts of an infinite universe, but consider this: 'A quantum particle doesn't have one path; it has a probability for an infinite number of paths,'" Ms. Olson said. "Jon Kabat Zinn said that, and I agree. We all have such probability; the possibility for any path we choose. It is our interest and our effort, our attention that likens us to a path of success."

Ms. Olson, who is a member of the National, Italian and Art honor societies, challenged her classmates to think big. "Let's graduate today not as seniors, but as adults poised on the brink of something brilliant," she said. "Let's take tomorrow and make of it what we want. After all, why not?"

Can Huntington's Class of 2006 change the world? Ms. Olson sees no reason why they can't. "I know it might seem like a daunting task, affecting positive change in such a chaotic world, and perhaps it is a lot to ask of recent graduates, but I have confidence that this class is up to the challenge," she said. "After all, we made it through high school, now it's time to bid adieu to this chapter and welcome the next."

A member of the varsity field hockey team, Ms. Olson served during her high school years as the elected treasurer and vice president of the Student Government, was secretary of the HOPE club and a member of the Habitat for Humanity and Make a Wish clubs. The oldest child of Kathy Sukenis and Jon Olson, she won the Women in Science Award, the Academic Excellence in Chemistry Award, was a New York State Scholar Athlete and has worked as a lifeguard at the Bay Club and Bay Crest.



Huntington Tradition: The Class of 2006 continues the long tradition of public education in Huntington, which saw six young men and women, Charles H. Baldwin, Ella J. Conklin, Emma F. Downs, James T. McKay, William G. Nicoll and John S. Sherrill receive the first diplomas issued by the district in ceremonies held on July 18, 1862 in the First Presbyterian Church across the street from the current town hall. That unbroken line has continued through the Civil War, two world wars, economic depressions, several social upheavals and natural disasters.



**Advanced Placement Scholars
of Distinction**

Bennett Kuhn Chris Lavery

**Huntington High School
2006 Graduation Briefs**

Superintendent of Schools John J. Finello urged graduates to embrace their new status. A 1968 Huntington High School graduate himself, Mr. Finello called on the Class of 2006 “to find what you love and be passionate about it.” He told students they were leaving behind a world in which others made decisions for them.

“From now on you will be making your own choices,” Mr. Finello said. “You will be making decisions, solving problems and doing things on your own. You are graduating at a time when the world is full of opportunity and challenge. In our technologically advanced world, new careers are opening every day. You can and will do wonderful things with your life.”

Mr. Finello asked the graduates to identify and acknowledge their strengths, talents and interests and to “nurture them and let them guide you.” He reminded students to respect, honor and thank their parents and to always make them proud.

“Make time in your life for others,” Mr. Finello said. “There is a great need for generous, caring people in our society and in our world. If you see a need or have a desire to make a change, volunteer your time toward that effort. You will derive great personal satisfaction from knowing that your contributions helped others.”

* * *

Student Government President Theresa Bruno used the word “appreciation” for the theme of her brief address to fellow graduates. “Take the time to appreciate the people in your lives who have guided you along the way,” she said.

Ms. Bruno, who will attend Eastern Connecticut Univ. expressed warm feelings for those who helped her through the years. “We do not only appreciate those who support us at home, we also want to show appreciation to every teacher who has taught us. They have made such an impact on our education, development and life. Find them and thank them.”

National Merit Commended

**Brittney Flynn
Chris Lavery
Barry Levin
Ariel Olson**

**Huntington School Board President
Robert T. Lee Exhorts Graduates to
Continue Commitment to Excellence**

Huntington School Board President Robert T. Lee experienced the joy of seeing his son, John receive his diploma at the 145th Commencement Exercises. During his brief turn at the microphone, Mr. Lee took the opportunity to tell members of the Class of 2006 that partly as a result of their accomplishments, district residents approved a new outdoor sports complex at Huntington High School, complete with a state of the art synthetic running track, all-weather athletic field and new bleachers.

“Through your hard work and commitment to excellence, both on the field and in the classroom, you made a difference,” Mr. Lee said. “That’s the great thing about excellence, it tends to have implications far beyond the immediate success it brings. Not only did you savor the victory, bring home the trophy and enjoy the accolades of your success, you also moved an entire community to want what we all want: An outstanding school.”

Mr. Lee cited championship football, lacrosse, basketball and track teams and the continued high esteem felt for the Blue Devil marching band for creating the era of good feeling in the community that led residents to support a variety of facility improvements. He urged students to continue striving to be the best they can possibly be.

“Continue your commitment to excellence in all that you do,” Mr. Lee said. “Stay focused on your personal commitments to excellence and you will reap its rewards.”

Recipients of 2006 Section XI Gold Key Awards for exceptional participation in athletics included: Theresa Bruno, Chris Fabio, Chris Grenier, John Lee, Liz Rave, Meghan Smith and Erin Turner.

Advanced Placement Scholars

Daniel Bishop	Brett Lipman
John Lee	Katy Ann Lyons
Barry Levin	Meghan Smith

**Advanced Placement Scholars
with Honors**

Brittney Flynn	Chris Grenier
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President’s Education Award Winners

Morgan Balzer	Elese Berk
Wendy Bermudez	Daniel Bishop
Jessica Boshko	Chris Grenier
Emmanuel Cedillo	Maggie Johnson
Lindsey Joseph	Bailey Kravitz
Bennett Kuhn	Chris Lavery
Charles Leake	John Lee
Barry Levin	Brett Lipman
Katy Ann Lyons	Lisa Messineo
Kate Mitchell	Lemar Nadi
Ariel Olson	Liz Rave



Senior Athletic Awards

Booster Club Female Scholar AthleteAriel Olson
Booster Club Male Scholar AthleteChris Lavery
William Class Memorial Scholarship John Lee
Fred Cambria AwardPatrick Millner,
Gerard Troisi
Ray Deren Memorial Scholarship
Scott Kocis, Erin Turner
Michael McCarthy Memorial Award
Lee Verdecchia



Class of 2006 Senior Academic Awards

A.L.I.V.E. Outstanding Student Scholarship Zachary Barrett

Associated Teachers of Huntington Scholarship Marissa Signorelli

Alumni Cups Brittney Flynn, Bennett Kuhn

Alumni Scholarship Robert Harris, Sarah Whitney

American Legion Citizenship Award Wendy Bermudez, Sean Duffy

American Legion Music Award Eric Rochman, Kathryn Titus

Art Honor Society Award Cindy Sandoval

Attorney General's Triple C Award Stacy Guzman, Gabriel Morales

Bausch & Lomb Science Award Meghan Smith

Blue Devil Band Service Award Bari Blumberg, James Feustal

Burger King Scholars Program Gabriel Morales

Cal Hansen Memorial Scholarship Michael O'Leary

Carmel Santorsola Provenzano Scholarship Kelly Dantuono

Class of 1956 50th Year Scholarship Dennise Torres

Congressional Merit Award Rachel Miller

County Executive Award for Public Service Louis Dell

Daughters of American Revolution Award Kelly Dantuono, Eric Rochman

Drawing & Painting Award Daniel Frank, Brent Gentile

E.C. McGaul Award of Huntington Fire Department Evan Rosenberg

Edna Van Wart Mathematics Award Barry Levin

Evelyn Daniels Memorial Award John Vasquez

Frances Bifulco Howley Memorial Scholarship Patrick Millner, Velindas Rubio

Frank Carino Award of Huntington Fire Department Scott Kocis

French Award Samara Andrieux

Gates Millenium Scholarship Wendy Bermudez

HARTE Scholarship Lee Verdecchia

Howard Munson Award of Huntington Fire Department Sean Rowland

Huntington Health Care Scholarship Bari Blumberg

Italian Award Kelly Dantuono, Lisa Messineo

Independent Insurance Agents, Inc. Bennett Kuhn

Jagoda Scholarship John Lee, Jason Wirchin

James Doty Memorial Scholarship Kathryn Titus

James Loebell Scholarship Louis Dell, Bennett Kuhn

Jane Sullivan Award Glenn Simmons

Joan Jorgensen Scholarship Kelly Dantuono

Joel H. & Selma D. Cohen Scholarship Sean Rowland

John Philip Sousa Award Jon Swengler

John F. Kellog Theatre Award Jon Swengler

Joseph Somodi Theatre Arts Award Eric Rochman

Josten's Recognition Award Lisa Messineo

Journalism Award Bennett Kuhn

Judi Gleicher Mathematics Award Jason Wirchin

Kurt Schaefer Memorial Award Peter Schilling

Latin Award Wendy Bermudez, Bennett Kuhn, Kendall Scott, Kathryn Titus

Lions' Club Scholarship Marissa Signorelli

Linda Shoemaker Blue Devil Band Scholarship Lukas Sosnow

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award Lukas Sosnow

Martin Schnittman Award for Physics Stephen Fennington

National History Day Excellence in Research Daniel Bishop, Travis Lee, Nicholas Ray-Keefe

NYS Lottery Leaders of Tomorrow Award Kelly Dantuono

Office of State Comptroller Amy Lomele

Orchestra Parents Scholarship Melissa Bezas, Kathryn Titus

Parent Appreciation Award Daniel Bishop, Velindas Rubio

Patrick Gilmore Band Award Eric Rochman

Photography Award Justin Waaland

Political Action Committee Sarah Whitney

Polytechnic University Margarita Varer

Principal's Award Emmanuel Cedillo

Promising Young Writer Brady Rose Black, Charles Leake

PTSA Scholarship Louis Dell, Patrick Millner, Michael O'Leary

Rensselaer Science Medal Barry Levin

Robert Buchanan, Jr. Award Ariel Olson

Robert K. Toaz Memorial Prize Katy Ann Lyons

Rotary Club Scholarship Meghan Smith, John Vasquez, Sarah Whitney

Sammis English Prize Rachel Miller

SCMEA Music Scholarship Melissa Bezas

Sempre Fidelis Marine Corps Band Award Michael O'Leary

SEPTA Continuing Education Award Velindas Rubio

Sons of the American Revolution Katy Ann Lyons

Sons of Italy Music Award Katherine Kacner

Spanish Award Kathryn Mitchell, Jason Wirchin

Spanish Honor Society Award Emmanuel Cedillo, Alexia Trujillo

Suffolk County Science Teacher Association Award Meghan Smith

T. Christopher Pettit Memorial Scholarship Robert Shannon

Technology Department Award Stephen Fennington

Teddy Roosevelt Renaissance American Maggie Johnson

Tri M Music Leadership Award Brett Lipman, Eric Rochman

Tri-Community & Youth Agency Anita Perez

U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award Christopher Grenier

U.S. Marine Corps "Semper Fidelis" Band Award Michael O'Leary

United Center of Healing Light Church Scholarship Glenn Simmons

Video Award Brady Rose Black, Travis Lee

Woody Herman Jazz Award Brett Lipman

York Iguchi Scholarship Brittney Flynn

Class of 2006 College Acceptances

Adelphi University Albright University Alfred University Allegheny College American InterContinental University American University Angelina Ruskin University (U.K.) Arizona State University Art Institute of Chicago Art Institute of New York Arts Institute at Bourne, U.K. Bard College Barnard College Bentley College Boston College Boston University Bowling Green Brandeis University Briarcliffe College Bridgewater State College Bucknell University Campbell University Carnegie Mellon Case Western Reserve Centenary College Clark University Clarkson University Clemson University Colgate University College of New Jersey Columbia College Columbus State University Cornell University CUNY Baruch College CUNY Brooklyn College CUNY City College CUNY Hunter College CUNY Hunter College—Honors CUNY John Jay College CUNY Lehman College CUNY Queens College CUNY York College Dickinson College Dowling College Drew University Drexel University Duke University East Carolina University Eastern Connecticut Embry Riddle (FL) Emerson College Eugene Lang College Fairfield University Farleigh Dickinson University Ferris State University Florida Atlantic University Florida Institute of Technology Florida International University Florida Southern College Florida State Fordham University Franklin Pierce College George Mason University George Washington University Georgetown University Gettysburg College Hamilton College Hampshire College Hartwick College Hofstra University Holy Cross College Illinois Institute of Technology Iona College Jacksonville University James Madison University Johnson & Wales University Keene State Kent State Laboratory Institute of Merchandising Lafayette College LaSalle University Lasell College Lehigh University LeMoyne College Lesley College Limestone College Lincoln University Long Island University—Brooklyn LIU—C.W. Post Loyola College Lynn University Manhattan College Manhattanville College Marist College Mary Washington Maryland Institute—College of Art Marymount Manhattan College McGill University Methodist College Miami University of Ohio Molloy College Morgan State Mount Ida College Muhlenberg College Nassau Community College New College of Florida New York Institute of Technology Northeastern University Oglethorpe University Ohio State University Pace University Penn State University Philadelphia University Pratt Institute Providence College Queensborough Community College Quinnipiac University Rhode Island School of Design Rider University Rochester Institute of Technology Rochester Polytechnic Roger Williams University Rollins College Rutgers University Sacred Heart University Salisbury University Salve Regina University San Diego State University Sarah Lawrence College School of Visual Arts Seton Hall University Siena College Southern Connecticut State University Southern New Hampshire Springfield College St. John's University St. Joseph's College St. Joseph's University Stevens Institute of Technology Suffolk Community College Suffolk University SUNY Albany SUNY Alfred SUNY Binghamton SUNY Buffalo SUNY Canton SUNY Cobleskill SUNY Cortland SUNY Delhi SUNY Farmingdale SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology SUNY Fredonia SUNY Geneseo SUNY Herkimer SUNY Maritime SUNY Morrisville SUNY New Paltz SUNY Old Westbury SUNY Oneonta SUNY Oswego SUNY Plattsburgh SUNY Potsdam SUNY Purchase SUNY Stony Brook SUNY Stony Brook—Honors Syracuse University Temple University The College of New Jersey Towson State Trinity College Tufts University Tulane University University of Massachusetts U.S. Air Force Academy U.S. Merchant Marine Academy U.S. Naval Academy Union College University of Science—Philadelphia University of British Columbia University of Connecticut University of Dayton University of Delaware University of Florida University of Hartford University of Maryland University of Michigan University of Minnesota University of New Hampshire University of New Haven University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University of Pittsburgh University of Rhode Island University of Richmond University of Rochester University of San Francisco University of Scranton University of Southern Florida University of Tampa University of the Arts University of Vermont University of Wisconsin Vanderbilt University Villanova University Virginia Commonwealth Virginia State Virginia Tech Voorhees College Wagner College Washington University West Chester University West Virginia University Western Connecticut Westwood College Wheaton College Wilkes University York College (PA)

About Huntington's College Office

The Huntington High School College Office processed 1,147 college applications this year. It offers students and parents many helpful services including application, essay and financial aid workshops, counseling, college searches and interest inventories, hundreds of individual college guidebooks and bulletins, high speed computers and internet connections to search for schools and even to file applications online and a place to meet with college recruiters. The office coordinates fall and spring college fairs and mini-college days throughout the year. To learn more about the College Office call 673-2131 during the school year.

Congratulations Graduates and Good Luck



Many thanks to all the local businesses and individuals who contributed to our school district clubs, teams and organizations this past school year!!!

Fall Sports Tryouts

Thursday, August 17—High school football at 8 a.m.
Monday, August 28—All other high school sports at 8 a.m.
Thursday, September 7—All Finley teams from 3—5 p.m.

Finley Sports Physicals

Tuesday, September 5 at 8 a.m. at Finley Middle School

**Huntington Union Free School District
P.O. Box 1500
Huntington, New York 11743**

Board of Education

Elizabeth Black
Jill Collyer
Charles Forte, Jr.
Robert T. Lee
Eunice Marchi
Richard McGrath
Emily Rogan

John J. Finello
Superintendent of Schools

Joseph Giani
Assistant Superintendent for General Administration and Personnel

David H. Grackin
Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services

Michael J. O'Brien
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**School Starts
Wednesday, September 6**

**** ECRWSS**
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