



## Superintendent's Column

As we approach the end of the school year, there are many memories that reflect the greatness of our schools. Cale Clinton, a senior at Manhasset High School, captured the essence of his years as a Manhasset student when he said "We are one big family!" I believe Cale's comments are applicable to students throughout the entire school district while they also suggest a wonderful point for reflection at the end of June.

Most recently, Munsey Park's kindergarten students participated in a moving up ceremony during which they celebrated their immense pride and love for Munsey Park. What a beautiful sight watching the entire kindergarten conclude the program singing "Best Day of My Life" as their teachers, parents and grandparents watched in amazement. Everyone in the auditorium felt that this certainly was going to be "the best day of their lives" as the audience truly appreciated the great sense of joy and innocence among our delightful kindergarteners.

At nearly the same time in our "big family," sixth grade students at Shelter Rock were rehearsing for their promotional assembly. Genuine enthusiasm was at a very high level as the sixth graders sang "Count Me In." Every student seemed to be approaching peak form when, turning to the student next to them and grasping their classmates' hand, they sang:

"You can count on me like one two three

I'll be there

And I know when I need it I can count on you like four three two

You'll be there

'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah"

As these sixth grade students sang, their Team 6 teachers were beaming with love and pride for their children.

At the Secondary School, the Class of 2015 is gearing up for their high school graduation ceremony, which is being held on Friday evening, June 26. Many of the seniors recently shared fond memories of their experience in the Manhasset Schools dating back to the elementary school years.

Jack Wesson reflected that “Shelter Rock was the ideal school, the iconic elementary school.” Lindsay Rule said “Elementary school is supposed to be fun and make friends. I had a great time, I love Shelter Rock.” Griffin Hyde shared that “I still feel that I am a member of the Munsey Park family.” Kendall Glynn recalled her elementary school days and said “I loved going to Munsey Park.”

Similar positive feelings were shared by other members of the graduating class regarding their experience at the Secondary School. Will Charbonneau commented, “Everyone is so welcoming. The teachers always had us prepared. I couldn’t have asked for a better high school experience.” Alexandra Tatarian indicated that “Manhasset is not your typical public school. There is so much support from the community. Manhasset gives every student every opportunity (to succeed).” Brian Bock reinforced Alex’s comments when he shared that “Manhasset is such a great community, everyone is involved. There are so many opportunities for involvement – from sports to clubs to theatre, music and art—all of which is meaningful. The teachers are all very knowledgeable and helpful – particularly to the students who need support.”

Graduation day brings a range of great emotion for students and their families; for everyone, it is a day to celebrate, while for some it is also a bittersweet day as the students move to the next phase of their lives. Along these lines, Thomas Duran indicated that “I will miss my friends who have been so important –seeing them every day. I will miss my family. This is my hometown.” What can you say about Richie Lombard whose love for Manhasset is second to none? Richie reflected, “I love the people and the town, so I am not excited about leaving (for college).”

Caitlin McCormack summed up these sentiments when she said that “Manhasset is picture perfect suburbia. Everyone knows each other. Familiar faces, it feels like a happy home. Everyone cares for one another.” As many of us know, this ‘big family’ in Manhasset displayed a great sense of caring and compassion during the time when a senior classmate, Karie Sit, fought and lost a courageous battle with cancer in February 2015. Following Karie’s passing, the Class of 2015 raised \$2600 for the memorial plaque, rock, bench and tree in front of the high school dedicated to Karie’s memory. This memorial area was unveiled during a very touching tribute to Karie in early June when the entire senior class and the Sit family celebrated her life and spirit.

As we conclude this school year, we hope that all the children in each of our schools have experienced their own special Manhasset memories and that each student, from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, has felt a very special part of being a member of our “big family.” To the Class of 2015, best wishes to each of you. We thank you for your contributions in the 4A’s – academics, arts, athletics and afterschool activities – which have allowed the Manhasset School District to be recognized as one of the premier school districts in the country. Please remember that our door will always be open to each of you. We will miss you; take good care! To all our Manhasset families, best wishes for a summer of good health, and plenty of rest and relaxation.

Charlie Cardillo