



TRAILBlazer

The time has come to say good bye to another senior class.

CONGRATULATIONS, BKW'S CLASS OF 2011

END OF THE YEAR MEANS MOVING UP FOR SOME STUDENTS

BKW seniors aren't the only ones who will be marking a new beginning this month. Students enrolled in the district's pre-kindergarten program, kindergarten and fifth grade will be recognized as they move forward in their academic journey at BKW.

At 9 a.m. Monday June 20 in the elementary gym, pre-kindergarten students, complete with hats and tassels, will walk across the stage to receive their "diplomas." Elementary Principal Brian Corey will kick off the event, which will include speeches from the teachers and performances by the students, followed by a year-end celebration.

"It's a nice celebration," Corey said. "We're excited to be able to offer the pre-K program in the district. Students who complete it have proven to benefit from it both academically and

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KATHRYN FORTI NAMED 2011 VALEDICTORIAN

BKW Valedictorian Kathryn "Katie" Forti is still a little uncertain about life after college, but as for life after high school, she will be heading off to SUNY Oneonta next fall where she will be studying biology.

"There are so many different topics included in biology, and I'll learn many interesting things," Forti said. "I'm not sure yet about my future career goals, but I want to really love my job!"

While at BKW, Forti was a member of the varsity soccer and track teams, Key Club, Students Serving Society, National Honor Society, the Chamber Singers, chorus, band, and she has been a participant in school musicals since sixth grade.

Forti said she will miss the closeness of everyone at BKW, especially the sports teams, and offered up some words of wisdom for the underclassmen:

"Take advantage of all the teachers and everything the school has to offer you, because they offer you so many free opportunities that you would have to pay for later in life," she said. "Enjoy your life! Have no regrets!"



VALEDICTORIAN
Kathryn "Katie" Forti

MARION WHITE NAMED 2011 SALUTATORIAN

BKW Salutatorian Marion White will be attending the University of Albany this fall, where she will continue on her academic path to receiving a doctorate in psychology.

While at BKW, she participated in karate, the P.T.A., Key Club, National Honor Society and Masterminds. She also studied the piano.

She advises students to take advantage of all that is offered at BKW.

"Don't let any opportunities or activities pass you by, because you'll look back and say, 'Why didn't I do that?'" she said. "Be yourself and live a little."



SALUTATORIAN
Marion White

THE COMPLETE LIST OF GRADUATES FOLLOWS ON PAGES 2 AND 3.



Students in Mrs. Tiffany's second-grade class explore the new elementary playground equipment.

Rebecca G Amedio
COLLEGE ONLINE

Chelsea Argiris
HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Whitney Marie Aveyard
FLAGLER COLLEGE

Marian Marjorie Bates
SUNY BROCKPORT
Cazenovia College, Founders Scholarship
Iona College, Academic Excellence Scholarship
LeMoyne College, Leadership Scholarship
Pace University, Trustee Recognition Award
University of Tampa, Presidential Scholarship

Lacey Catherine Becker
ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Emily Sue Bello
HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Geoffrey A Bentley
HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jessie Lynn Birdsall
SUNY COBLESKILL

Tuesday Ray Bishop
SUNY BROCKPORT
Dean Scholarship
Cazenovia College, 824 Scholarship
Hartwick College, Oyaron Scholarship
LeMoyne College, Dean Scholarship
Nazareth College, Presidential Scholarship
Niagara University, Trustees Scholarship
Western New England College, Presidential Scholarship

Joe Bogdanowicz
HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Meghan Marie Britton
SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Joshua Burgher
HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Devin Bryan Busch
SUNY OSWEGO

Allison Bushnell
CAPITAL REGION CAREER & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Joseph Dominick Capuano
ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Michael J Casullo
HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ian Tyler Chamberlain
FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hali Ann Clayton
MARIA COLLEGE

Tiara Taylor Conklin
SUNY COBLESKILL

Elijah James Crawford
MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Aderia Crawford Nunn
EMPLOYMENT

David Alexander Crevatas
SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Joshua Paul DeNyse
HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ronald Lee Edwards III
HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dana Jeanae Erickson
EMPLOYMENT

Brett Patrick Flansburg
SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kathryn Sierra Minnie Forti
SUNY ONEONTA
Presidential Scholarship
Elmira College, Presidential Scholarship
Siena College, Presidential Scholarship
SUNY College of Environmental Science and
Forestry, Presidential Scholarship
University at Albany, Presidential Scholarship
University of Vermont, Presidential Scholarship

Callie Francis
SUNY COBLESKILL

Morgan C Fronk
UNITED STATES ARMY

Brandon Vincent Galgay
COLLEGE OF SAINT ROSE
Provost's Scholarship
Catholic University, Alumni Scholarship
Catholic University, Parish Scholarship
Dominican College, Presidential Scholarship

Jordan D Gonyea
ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Jessica Grove
EMPLOYMENT

Matthew Halterman
EMPLOYMENT

Ciara L Harrington
EMPLOYMENT

Samantha Joyce Harvey
ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY & HEALTH
SCIENCES

Nathan T Hayduke
COLLEGE OF SAINT ROSE
Trustee Scholarship
College of Saint Rose Award

Marisa May Henkin
SIENA COLLEGE

Megan Lee Hoffmann
HARTWICK COLLEGE
President's Scholarship
Keuka College, Keuka Honors Award
Utica College, UC Achievement Scholarship

Elizabeth Marie Huether
CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM

Samantha Junco
CAPITAL REGION CAREER & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Joseph Brent Kalina
RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Brandon Kallner
SUNY COBLESKILL

Gloria Lynn Keal
HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Robert J Kelly

EMPLOYMENT

Patrick Van Keppler Jr

CAPITAL REGION CAREER & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Samantha J Kiegle

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Christy Janis Koban

SUNY COBLESKILL

Victoria Kocsis

CLARKSON UNIVERSITY

Clarkson University Scholarship

Amyjane Laplante

CAPITAL REGION CAREER & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Brittany Paige Larghe

EMPLOYMENT

Emily Catherine Mahoney

LEMOYNE COLLEGE

President's Award

Amanda Taylor Masterson

FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Victoria Ashley McCormick

THE CULINARY INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

High Impact Leader Scholarship
SAT/ACT Achievement Scholarship

Steven A McIntyre

ITT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Nicholas Joseph McSpedon

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Dean's Scholarship
SUNY Plattsburgh, Academic Excellence Award

Melissa R McSweeney

COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Giena Marie Mendez

SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

George B Moller

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jacob Ostrander

EMPLOYMENT

Vincent Michael Pasquini

COLLEGE OF SAINT ROSE

Presidential Scholarship
College of Saint Rose Award
LeMoyne College, Dean Scholarship
SUNY College of Environmental Science and
Forestry, Presidential Scholarship
University of New Haven, Presidential Scholarship

Kaitlin Sue Peck

CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM

Brittany Ann Pironi

AESTHETIC SCIENCE INSTITUTE

Ashley Elizabeth Porter

EMPLOYMENT

Rachel Sarah Raiti

MARIA COLLEGE

Alisa Nicole Raymond

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kelsey Anne Renko

COLLEGE OF SAINT ROSE

Corbin Repscher

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rachel Nora Rice

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nena Lynne Ruiz

SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ethan Hollis Sharp

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mike Skinner

EMPLOYMENT

Trisa Lynn Sluti

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

Dean's Scholarship Award
Trustee Scholarship

Megan Ashley Sprung

EMPLOYMENT

Akeem Quaree Stewart

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Troy J Sweet

EMPLOYMENT

Adam J VanAlphen

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Samantha Nicole VanInderstine

FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Devin Joseph Vinehout

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mary T Viscio

SUNY ONEONTA

Honors Program Scholarship

Amanda Marie Wager

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Edward Allen Weidman Jr

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO

Blake C Whitbeck

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Christopher White

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

President's Achievers Scholarship

Marion Rose White

THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Foundation Scholarship Award

Theodore J Wiederhold

UNITED STATES MARINES

Alon G Willing

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Cassandra Willsey

EMPLOYMENT

Stephen Edward Yakel

EMPLOYMENT



*Please join us in
wishing all of our
graduates the
best of luck in
the future.*





First graders Christopher Kempter-Robinson and Austin Gibson work on a magic trick in the elementary library.

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socially. We're quite proud of the program and the students in it."

Kindergartners will mark their transition to first grade in a similar moving up ceremony on Wednesday, June 22, at 9 a.m. in the elementary school gym.

"The ceremony marks the first step in their career at BKW as they go on to face the new demands of first through twelfth grades," Corey said.

On Thursday, June 23, fifth graders will have their chance to walk across the stage in a less-formal recognition ceremony.

"Even though these students aren't physically moving up next year, it's nice to be able to recognize them for their accomplishments throughout the school year," Corey said.

CAPITAL PROJECT MOVING ALONG AT BKW

Construction on the capital project at BKW is currently slightly ahead of schedule and still under budget, as workers labor day and evening to renovate the school.

Faculty and administrators have been diligent in limiting the impact of construction on the day-to-day activities and classes of the students.

"We appreciate the parents' understanding when it comes to elements we can't control, such as the weather," Secondary School Principal Tom McGurl said. "We are making sure we're meeting the needs of the students in phys ed and other areas during this transition."

Once school is out for the summer, the high school building will be closed. During this time, the high school guidance and administration offices will be relocated to the first floor of the middle school.

When school resumes in the fall, the new weight room is expected to be open. The gym is slated for completion in mid fall.

"Parking is still going to continue to be a crunch for students," McGurl said.

The construction is part of a \$12.7 million capital project approved by voters in 2007. The main impetus for the renovations was to bring the building into compliance with New York State's handicapped accessibility laws.

The project cost is currently \$1.4 million under budget. The plan bonds \$2,028,780 over 15 years, costing the district taxpayers an average of \$6 per year. Included in the high school portion of the project are:

- Heating and electrical upgrades
- A new secondary school gymnasium
- A new technology room
- A new handicapped-accessible cafeteria
- A new guidance office and conference room
- A new art room
- New locker rooms
- New gym stairs
- Conversion of the old boys locker room to a weight room
- Conversion of the old technology room to a new library/media center
- Conversion of the old girls locker room to a lobby for the new gym
- Upgrades for restrooms

In the elementary school, a new access hall is being built, storage space is being created and restrooms are being renovated. New playground equipment has been installed.

Construction is expected to be fully completed by September 2012.

DR. PAUL DORWARD
Superintendent of Schools

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