

# THE Banner

Graduation 2006

North Brunswick Township High School  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Volume 23, Issue 07

## Class of 2006!



*Adrian Haimovich*  
Valedictorian



*Shoham Bhadra*  
Salutatorian

*Pradhab Kirupaharan*  
Class President

*Anthony Mangia*  
Senior Class Speaker

# Julie Rose

It is said that when one window closes, another opens. We, the class of 2006, close the window on our four years of high school. After graduation, we will no longer be NBTHS students, we will be NBTHS

we've opened that door, we're on our way. We may not all be taking the same path, but we'll all bring with us the shared experiences and memories from our years at NBTHS.

So, before we close the

**" We may not all be taking the same path, but we'll all bring with us the shared experiences and memories from our years at NBTHS. "**

alumni. Those of us who come back to visit will find a bigger school without trailers, a school with an actual auditorium and a school that needs 6 minutes between the passing bell and late bell, instead of 5! We will marvel at how our alma mater has changed, and remember how it was when we were there.

For some of us, closing the door on NBTHS will be hard--for others, not so hard. Either way, we will all close this door together. And we will each carry many memories through that door--memories that we will keep for our lifetimes. Memories of eating lunch at the round tables in the commons, of great teachers that made a difference in our lives, of the teams we played on, the concerts we played in, and the clubs we joined, and most of all, memories of the friends we had made.

After graduation, the window opens on the rest of our lives. For many of us that window leads to college; for others it may lead to a job or to the military or maybe even to all of the above! One thing is certain: we'll be opening the door together, walking out of the graduation ceremony into our own individual futures. And once

door on dear old NBTHS, we acknowledge and thank those of you who have helped us to arrive at this threshold: our teachers, our parents, our coaches, the administrators and the staff of the school, and our friends from other classes.

As we open the door to the future, I'd like to congratulate my fellow classmates and wish you all well on your journey through life by reading an excerpt from one of those great philosophers—Dr.Suess:

Congratulations!  
Today is your day.  
Your off to Great Places!  
Your off and away!

You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes  
You can steer yourself  
Any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you know what you know.  
And YOU are the ones who'll decide where to go.

# Byron Goundrey



Congratulations Class of 2006! Our Mission is Accomplished! Four years ago, as we walked through the doors of the high school for the first time, our graduation seemed to be our "Mission Impossible." In the new *Mission: Impossible* movie, Tom Cruise's character faces plenty of action, suspense, and death-defying stunts. During our high school adventure, we, too, encountered similar action, suspense, and even a few death-defying stunts as we confronted teachers, tests, homework, friendships, and relationships.

But high school was only the preview of the real action film we are to star in – the action film called life. In this film, each of us is the star character. But what kind of characters should we be? In John McCain's new book, *Character is Destiny*, he profiles people who have demonstrated exemplary character, people like Mahatmas Gandhi,

Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela. One thing that all these people have in common is that they were like us: ordinary people on a mission – a mission to leave their mark upon the world.

As we begin our mission and star in our own action film of life, let us keep in mind that no matter how many death-defying stunts we face and how many evil villains we encounter, our mission to change the world is never impossible as long as we possess resilience, compassion, and strong character. Our character is our destiny.

So, my friends, as we celebrate and reflect on our successes and the missions we have already accomplished, let us also recognize the launching of our new mission and our new action film called life. Places, everyone! Action! Let the cameras roll and the adventure begin! Congratulations, my friends!

# Avery Foote

From our first day of kindergarten through our senior year, all of us can remember that special teacher or faculty member who encouraged us towards our best potential. That one person challenged and stimulated our minds through one subject or another. We must never forget the academic and educational bridges that have been there for us while we broke the barriers of academic illiteracy and defeated social ignorance. Whether they are here or not from the bottom of our hearts we want to say thank you.

To our parents, thank you for giving us life, hope, and encouragement. You have produced some of the most brilliant minds on the face of the earth. What you have produced is our energetic make up and bred into our environment is your gift to us. We know that how we build on that and what we do with it is a gift to ourselves. Most of you have dedicated 18 years and the sacrifice you will have to make for us to go to universities is just the beginning. We ask you to please persevere with us. Remember, we still have some growing and maturing to do. We still need you now more than ever to advise us towards making adult decisions

that will impact the rest of our lives.

To our mentors; we know that to graduate from high school is an honorable achievement, but we also know that a high school diploma is not enough to be able to compete in society today nor the world at large. Therefore, we must be educated in order to be prepared to meet these challenges. You have taught us this far, but we must continue our studies and education at professional level in order to be productive and worthwhile citizens. As the future leaders of America, we must be able to compete and keep our society strong. We are the future, and in order to keep America number one, we must be able to prepare ourselves to our fullest and highest level in all fields of study to make sure she remains that way. This class can and must make a difference.

To borrow from the words of the late President Kennedy, let us ask not what America can do for us, but rather, what we, Class of 2006 can do for America.



## Jennifer Perez



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us we had nothing before us." This line from Dickens' *A Tale Of Two Cities* represents our last four years together, as well as the years to come.

High School has served as a time to strengthen character, build relationships and prepare for life after graduation. While this day marks the end of an "era," at the same time it marks a fresh start. Who you are and what you believe in comes out in everything you say and do from this day on. We have been given an amazing opportunity to make a difference in the world. One person can contribute to a movement. One person can make a difference. Find something you're passionate about, and make it your life. I urge you to let go of your fears and apprehensions and become the next Martin Luther King, Jr., or Walt Disney.

There is a Spanish saying: "Dime con quien andas, y te dire quien eres." Directly translated it means, "Tell me who you walk with and I'll tell you who you are." I am proud to say that, I walk with the North Brunswick Class of 2006.

# Los D'Oleo

There is a phrase that you have heard many times over the course of your life: "There is a time and place." Perhaps when you were young, you were told it wasn't the right time for that new bike. Maybe you were fighting with a sibling at a family gathering and told that it was "neither the time nor place." There have been times where it was the right time and place, like when you needed advice about school and turned to a parent, teacher, or guidance counselor. Or when you sought out a friend and let him know you were worried about him.

The concept has helped shape some of the successful events in our lives. If what you do is at the right time and done in the right place, you raise your chances of success. What you have accomplished today--graduating from high school is the result of exercising the advice "The right place at the right time." When you leave here today, you will go off to work, while most of you will move onto college, but you won't be able to forget what has gotten

you there. You have created your own personal history over the past 17 or 18 years. Your education and the community of North Brunswick has shaped that history, and therefore will always be a part of your story. Remember the times of difficulty and times of great successes;

***"Remember the times of difficulty and times of great successes; they will help guide your next challenges."***

they will help guide your next challenges. As time passes, new experiences create new chapters to your personal history and they will start to play an increasing role in your future. But there will still be moments, especially when you may need it the most, you will come back to your time in North Brunswick to gather strength to push

forward. Because you need to know where you are, you only have to look at where you came from.

There is a story about a man who was angry with his 3-year-old child, for wasting a roll of toilet paper to wrap a holiday gift. The child wanted to wrap

a present for the upcoming holiday but couldn't find wrapping paper, so toilet paper was the solution. The father became infuriated on the waste of paper; nevertheless the child brought the gift to the father and said, "This is for you Daddy." He was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found the

box was empty. He yelled at the child, "Don't you know that when you give a present there's supposed to be something inside it?"

The child looked up at him with tears in his eyelids and said, "Oh Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses in the box. All for you Daddy." The father was crushed. He put his arms around the child and begged for forgiveness. It is told the man kept the box by his bed for the rest of his life and when he was discouraged, he would take out the imaginary kiss to remember the love of the child who put it there. Let your best experiences at NBTHS be that box next to the bed. Have the ability to recognize when I is the "right place and the right time" to do something. I hope that you will find great success in your future and I encourage you to come back and share your story with your family and your community. I wish the graduating class of 2006 the best of luck in the future.

# Sarah Levy

When you wake up on graduation day, you will shower, brush your teeth, primp your hair, and prepare yourself for commencement. But what led you to graduation is far more than what touched the surface. Years of experiences both big and small intertwined themselves, making you the person you are today. Your mentors, whether they are the parents or siblings you look up to, the boss who directed you and gave you new responsibilities, or your schoolteachers, who made you question your surroundings and broaden your mind, have

all been a part of this inter-related system that developed your knowledge.

Networks constantly expand, enlarging your scope of the world around you. While the environment is expanding our thoughts and beliefs, it is we who can change the world we live in. Each one of us has the power to speak up for what we believe in.

Although we may sometimes fail, it is our perseverance, which defines us.

Our social networks constantly expand and regroup. Every person that you meet will

ripple your social fabric, and new threads will interweave with the old. Some threads will be worn, only to be renewed or cut off. What you do will have effects on other people. It is our responsibility to take action and be able to blame ourselves rather than place it elsewhere. We must accept consequences as they come, good and bad, for

society to progress. Above all, it is up to us to take the knowledge we have and use it in a world that constantly demands change.

Congratulations, Class of 2006! We have completed high school and are ready to piece those things we have learned together to further develop who we are.

***"Although we may sometimes fail, it is our perseverance, which defines us."***

## THE BANNER

The Banner of North Brunswick Township High School is obligated to report all newsworthy events to the student body. The paper issues stories based on the interests of the school. Our newspaper will always be sure to report on time with the best coverage. It is our pledge

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# Farrah Zaidi

We never thought graduation would come. We prayed for its quick delivery, crossed days off our calendars, and counted hours, minutes, and seconds. Now that it's almost here, I'm sorry because it means saying farewell to a tremendous era in our lives. We're leaving behind friends who have inspired us, and teachers who have been our mentors; so many people have shaped our lives impermeably and forever.

Well this is it. The last pages of the scrapbook we call high school. This marks the end of an era. No more assemblies, pep rallies, yearbooks, plays, dances or sports that have led to this gratifying moment. When you crack open the dusty pages of your senior yearbook in ten years or so to take a trip down memory lane, you will laugh, maybe even cry at the person you were and wonder at the changes that have taken place since. When we walk across the stage to receive our diplomas, we will write the final pages to our first chapter. These are our last days as North Brunswick students; our last days together as a class. From here on out we will be identified as separate individuals. Once we leave here,

we will no longer be seniors, but the adults of our future. We are walking away from high school and into a much larger and more complicated world. We are splitting up and going on our own, away from this community; many of us will never see each other again.

I envision our graduating class: we are excited about what lies ahead, yet some of us are filled with uncertainty about our future. Among us I see a president, a renowned humanitarian, a professional football player, and a Nobel Prize winner. Despite the differences in our future we all have one thing in common, we have just begun the search for our hopes and our dreams. Although we leave North Brunswick High School, do not look at this as just the end of your high school years, look at today as the beginning of the rest of your lives.

Graduation is a matter of perception, it is both the beginning and the end. It is the end of our childhood and the beginning of our adulthood. Reality has caught up with us, and we are beginning to realize we really don't know everything. We will no longer be in high school anymore, but instead we will

be a part of the real world. The world we are about to enter may be different for all of us, but at the same time we will all be experiencing the beginning of life.

The lessons I learned from people are the ones I believe to be the most important. Those are ones that could never be taught from a book or in a lecture. You have to go out and experience them yourself. But before you run and take on the world of tomorrow, make sure you take a moment and let this time and place you are a part of sink in. It only happens once. The future is now and we are in it. And so my fellow classmates, this is my advice to you: this is our time... our day... and it is passing... take it on. Take your intellect and your talent, which you have discovered here, take your hopes and your dreams, but do not forget your passion, your honor, or your respect you have earned as students, athletes, artists, and citizens. The first act of your life is over, welcome to the next years of our life. I will now wish my classmates good-bye for the school days and hello for a new beginning.

Andrew Abdelmalek  
Undeclared

Kevin Abraham  
University of Sciences  
of Philadelphia

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Middlesex County College

Sarah Adamovich  
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Ashante Adams  
Undeclared

Raid Ahmad  
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Aisha Ahmed  
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Nadia Akhuzada  
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Douglass College

Jesus Albizu  
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Roody Alfred  
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Ruslan Aliev  
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Jefry Amponsah  
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Rachel Armstrong  
Kean University

Jayson Astel  
West Virginia University

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Sadaf Azeem  
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Corey Balint  
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Helen Bautista  
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Jasmine Byrd  
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Scott Cameron  
Marist College

Chavon Cancel  
St. John's University

Christina Carroll  
Middlesex County College

Kristopher Casey  
DeVry University

Richard Castro  
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# GRADUATI of 2

"Inspiration can come from anywhere"

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West Virginia University

Derick Boakye  
Kean University

Alyssa Bongiovanni  
Rutgers University

Brittany Bonura  
Monmouth University

Joseph Bonura  
Middlesex County College

Peter Boros  
Rutgers University  
Cook College

Maurice Bright  
Kean University

Gary Brown  
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Patrick Brown  
LaSalle University

Nicole Brush  
Middlesex County College

Jasmine Bryant  
St. John's University

Amanda Cathcart  
Middlesex County College

Ryan Cathcart  
Middlesex County College

Christina Caturano  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Mbemba Ceesay  
Kean University

Denise Checo  
Middlesex County College

Robert Chedid  
Georgetown University

Lisa Chen  
Rutgers University  
School of Pharmacy

Julianna Chiappetta  
Monmouth University

Christina Chung  
Undeclared

Kayleen Cier  
Undeclared

Kristen Cocco  
Rutgers University

Christopher Comninel  
Rutgers University

David Corbett  
Undeclared

Michael Costa  
Rutgers University  
School of Engineering

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Perlamar Csepes  
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Carlos D'Oleo  
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Corey Douglas  
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Michael Downey  
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Jose Galeana  
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Juan Gallego  
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Leslie Germain  
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Cassandra Giannotto  
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Devin Gillespie  
Undeclared

Richard Glassen  
Michigan University

Jonathan Glinzman  
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Craig Glover  
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Aditi Gogate  
New York University

Alexandra Goldenbaum  
Rider University

Melissa Goldenbaum  
Rider University

Jonathan Gonzalez  
Undeclared

Nadine Gonzalez  
Undeclared

Nicole Gorden  
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Byron Goundrey  
Rutgers University

Cesar Grau  
La Sierra University

Paris Gray  
Middlesex County College

Chenille Gumbs  
Rutgers University

Diego Guzman  
Middlesex County College

Santos Guzman  
Undeclared

Christopher Haddad  
Undeclared

# ING CLASS 006

keep your eyes open and you can achieve."  
- Adrian Haimovich

James Curran  
United States Air Force Academy

Claire D'Amato  
Rutgers University

Nicholas D' Angelo  
Undeclared

Glenn Davis  
Undeclared

Denise Davison  
Rider University

Tiana Day  
Hofstra University

Scott Decker  
Gettysburg College

Jessica DeGuzman  
Undeclared

Debra Delgado  
Middlesex County College

Thomas DePalma  
Middlesex County College

Nicole deVries  
Rutgers University

Justin DiPietro  
Pennsylvania State

Colin Dunne  
Hofstra University

Dominique Edwards  
Middlesex County College

Atirath Eleti  
Middlesex County College

Leigh Elko  
Swarthmore College

Brighton Eno  
Undeclared

Dariel Espinal  
Undeclared

Francisco Farina  
Undeclared

Jacqueline Farina  
Middlesex County College

Anthony Ferrer  
Rutgers University

Avery Foote  
Rutgers University

Justin Fowler  
Undeclared

Christina Fragioudakis  
New York Institute of Technology

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Alexandra Hampton Rutgers University	Anita Iyer American University	Tiffany Kinsey Shaw University
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Allison Healy Middlesex County College	David Jaffe Middlesex County College	Brett Koppel Undeclared
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Giselle Hinds Undeclared	Leodis Jefferson Undeclared	Sarah Kramer University of Maryland College Park
Samantha Hires Ramapo College	Tinaysha Jeter Kean University	Ann Kumi Undeclared
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Youlee Hong Undeclared	Christopher Johnson Bloomfield College	Sagar Lad Rutgers University
Alyssa Hornchak Undeclared	Kyle Johnson University of Denver	Jessica Laffey Marymount Manhattan College
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Jesse Hsia New Jersey Institute of Technology	Gustavo Jurado Rutgers University	Timothy Lanza Middlesex County College
Michael Hsu Rutgers University	Luz Justiniany Undeclared	James Lauber New Jersey Institute of Technology
Jung Hu Rutgers University	James Karas Middlesex County College	Erik Lawler Pennsylvania State University
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Yan Huang Seton Hall University	Stephanie Kennedy Middlesex County College	Clifford Leung New York University
Vincent Hughes Undeclared	Kiera Kenney Rutgers University	Sarah Levy United States Military Academy
Ogbemudia Igbimovia Undeclared	Hye Ri Kim Middlesex County College	Tynysa Lige Kean University
Murium Iqbal Rutgers University School of Engineering		
Olivia Iverson Katherine Gibbs School		



Victor Lindsey Undeclared	Devon McDonough Purdue University	Elizabeth Nunez Chubb Institute
Joseph Lipesky Undeclared	Corey Meagher Middlesex County College	Julia Nutter Rutgers University
Terence Little Undeclared	Allen Meretsky Middlesex County College	Kojo Obosu Undeclared
Jaleesa Lockhart Undeclared	Eric Mesa Rutgers University	Kehinde Odubote Raritan Valley Community College
Brianna Logan Fairleigh Dickinson Madison Campus	Mark Milazzo University of Hartford	Taiwo Odubote The College of New Jersey
Angela Lombardo Middlesex County College	Ronald Miller Kean University	Michelle Oguh Seton Hall University
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Christopher Marcec Undeclared	Joanitta Moses University of Hartford	Nicole Palovick University of Colorado
Diane Marray Undeclared	Justin Movafeghzadeh Undeclared	Amol Parekh Rutgers University
Jeffrey Martin Undeclared	Bharat Nain Undeclared	Lauren Parisi Lehigh University
Michael Martinez DeVry University	Avinash Narang Berkeley College	Michael Pateiro Montclair State University
Norelis Martinez Rutgers University School of Pharmacy	Jessica Nicoletti Undeclared	Amrita Patel Undeclared
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		Hasit Patel Rutgers University

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Rutgers University

Nilam Patel  
Pennsylvania State University

Vrunda Patel  
Florida Agricultural & Technical  
University

Francesca Pavone  
Fairleigh Dickinson University

David Peacock  
Middlesex County College

Soren Pedersen  
Rutgers University

Rohan Penmetcha  
Monmouth University

Daniel Peragallo  
William Paterson University

Christina Perez  
Nyack College

Jennifer Perez  
Rutgers University

Perla Perez  
Middlesex County College

Rachael Pietri  
Undeclared

Megan Pietrocola  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park Campus

Jairius Pollard  
Undeclared

Jaren Pollard  
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Jaclyn Porsolt  
Rutgers University  
School of Engineering

Sarah Porter  
Middlesex County College

Damien Powell  
DeVry University

Joseph Pulos  
Undeclared

Vishal Ramani  
Purdue University

Alison Rankin  
Brigham Young University

John Ravelo  
Middlesex County College

Matthew Rayner  
Middlesex County College

Ridhima Reddy  
Howard University

Almeera Reid  
Middlesex County College

Andreina Reyes  
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School

Yevgeniy Riffin  
Middlesex County College

Ian Ritter  
Tufts University

Joshua Rivera  
Undeclared

Nydia Rivera  
Chubb Institute

Yaritza Rivera  
Undeclared

Amanda Rizk  
Undeclared

Antoine Roach  
Undeclared

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Rutgers University

Christina Rodriguez  
Middlesex County College

Rahian Rodriguez  
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Juliana Rose  
Bucknell University

Maria Daniella Rubio  
Middlesex County College

Caitlin Salerno  
Undeclared

Mohsin Salim  
Rutgers University

Hilton Santiago  
Lincoln Technical Institute

Juliann Satz  
Rutgers College

Michael Scasserra  
Undeclared

Samantha Schimmel  
Ithaca College

Kelly Schnier  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Eric Schwager  
Dartmouth College

Amy Schwartz  
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Gennaro Scotto Di Clementi  
Undeclared

Rowell See  
Seton Hall University

Jessica Selby  
Rutgers University

Samantha Sellari  
Middlesex County College

Khushbu Shah  
Rutgers University

Prapti Shah  
New Jersey Institute of Technology

Pratin Shah  
Rutgers University

Tulsi Shah  
Rutgers University

Jeremy Shamy  
Undeclared

Justin Shamy  
Middlesex County College

Michael Shank  
Middlesex County College

Jessica Sholk  
University of Rhode Island

Kyle Shook  
Rutgers University  
School of Engineering

Ryan Shook  
Rutgers University

Pooja Shukla  
Rutgers University

Ruchi Shukla  
Middlesex County College

Christopher Signoretti  
Rutgers University  
School of Engineering

Jill Simmons  
Rutgers University

Garima Singh  
Middlesex County College

Randy Singh  
Undeclared

Alexa Taylor  
William Paterson University

Jessica Watson  
Undeclared

Rupeet Singh  
New Jersey Institute of Technology

Sorfieu Tejan  
DeVry University

Bo Wei  
Rutgers University

Kishalay Sinha  
West Chester University

Drew Templeton  
Rider University

Carly Weldon  
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Jane Slattery  
Middlesex County College

Eyob Tesfaye  
Middlesex County College

Joshua White  
Undeclared

Melissa Smirnow  
Rutgers University

Rebecca Tesfaye  
Montclair State University

Kadeshia Williams  
Undeclared

Jennifer Smith  
Berkeley College

James Thomas  
Undeclared

Lance Williams  
Virginia State University

Casey Snepar  
Union College

Janelle Thompson  
Delaware State University

Christopher Winchock  
Western New England

Sherrilyn Snyder  
Kean University

Jessica Thompson  
Undeclared

Olivia Wong  
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Melissa Socha  
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# Julianne Satz

A few weeks ago, I was cleaning out my room and came across some of my old yearbooks. They ranged from elementary school, to middle school, and some from high school. As I started flipping through the pages, what I thought was just a few minutes quickly turned into a few hours. I became immersed in pictures and memories, laughing at how silly we looked in elementary school with our cheesy smiles, mismatched clothes, and missing front teeth. From 5-year-old kindergarteners so excited to start school, to 18-year-old seniors who can't wait to finish—where has the time gone? It's hard to believe many of us have known each other since we started school, thirteen years ago. And as our final days of education in North Brunswick draw to close, most of us are feeling mixed emotions. We are sad to say goodbye to teachers and friends as we leave behind the comfort of a school we know so well, but it is also quite exciting to think about the future, and what new journeys await us.

Then I go to me thinking back to the first day of kindergarten—oh what a day! I remember the night before being so excited, I asked my mom if could wear my dress to bed, you know just so I could be ready. I have to admit, however I may have been a little too optimistic believing I could come home the first day of school and be able to read an entire book or even write one. Regardless, though, it was a very exciting year—constantly filled with new situation and adventures. Kindergarten was a year of coloring in the lines and being able to tell your right from your left. Of using your imagination and being told that noth-

ing was impossible- we could be anything we wanted when we grew up. And even though we may have been only 5 years old we had such high aspirations. We dreamed of becoming firefighters, astronauts, doctors, and athletes, teachers and presidents. Clearly we were not willing to settle. Back in kindergarten life was much simpler, too. The most important decisions we had to make were between using the blue crayon or the green one and who to play hop-

***“And there will be bumps along the way but it's getting back up, and getting back in the game that really counts.”***

scotch with at recess we didn't have to worry about fights and gossip, what clothes to wear, or who to go out with on Friday night. Life was simple, but to us it was great. It was fun and carefree, without the immense stress that most of us have been feeling these past few months.

When we were younger it was a lot easier to be optimistic. If something really terrible happened, like falling off the monkey bars and scraping your knee, all it took was a band aid and a hug from a friend and you knew things would be okay. Then the next day you would be right back out there, climbing the monkey bars once again, because it just wasn't as much fun to sit on the bench and watch everyone have fun.

As we got older, though life's problems could no longer be fixed with band-aids and hugs, it seemed like all we wanted to do was grow up. So the years started to go by—we

finished elementary school and moved onto middle school—a very scary place for a sixth grader. It was a time of fear and excitement, where the choices got much harder. We got to go to school dances and talent shows. We no longer had to walk in a line or have classes with the same people all day. We had the opportunity to be involved in after school sports or clubs. And when something really terrible happened, like we had a fight with a friend over something

ridiculous ( but it seemed like the biggest deal in the world ), it took a little more courage to put on a smile. But fights never lasted long and soon enough everything was fine.

So again we made it though our next set of years, and before we knew it high school was just around the corner. These years were filled with pep rallies and football games, driver's licenses and SATs, getting ready for proms and applying to colleges. The decisions became much more difficult, and it was no longer so easy to be carefree and optimistic—actually it was almost impossible. Between hours of homework, sports practice, school clubs, getting a job, and a few hours of sleep in between, our lives became busy and stressful. As we moved from freshmen to sophomore, juniors to seniors, we realized that there was much more to life than we thought when we started four years ago.

We've realized that beyond the familiar walls of North Brunswick High School—beyond the desks we've sat at for four years, beyond the track we've all walked around every Friday during gym, beyond the bleachers we've sat in cheering “0-6” at the pep rallies, a much bigger world awaits. We've realized that life isn't always happy, and it's not always fair. Our years of high school have taught us that it's okay to be scared of falling off the monkey bars, but with a band-aid and a hug from a friend there's no reason to not get back up and get back there—because if you don't, you may miss out on all the fun. No one's high school career has been a breeze, but we've all made it here today.

Today is the last day we will all be together before we venture out into the world as adults to start college or get a job, to join the armed forces or travel around the world. As you embark on your new journey I urge you to remember your days of Kindergarten when the possibilities were endless. We all have the potential to be doctors and lawyers, teachers and presidents, as long as we believe in ourselves. And there will be bumps along the way but it's getting back up, and getting back in the game that really counts.

To the graduating class of 2006, I wish you good luck and congratulations as we say goodbye to high school and begin a new chapter in our lives. This chapter is filled with opportunity and happiness, courage and success. I leave you with these famous words from Babe Ruth – “ Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.” Thank you.