

THE BANNER

June 2014

North Brunswick Township High School
98 Raider Road North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Volume 29, Issue 05

WANTED VALEDICTORIAN



CONAN CHEN

\$110,000 REWARD

**CRIME: BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
LAST SEEN: JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
"MAKE IT UP AS YOU GO."**

WANTED SALUTATORIAN



JENNIFER SALVATORE

\$95,000 REWARD

**CRIME: ECONOMICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
LAST SEEN: LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
"SHOOT FOR THE MOON. EVEN IF YOU MISS,
YOU'LL LAND AMONG THE STARS."**

WANTED CLASS PRESIDENT



ZIL NAIK

\$50,000 REWARD

**CRIME: BIOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE
LAST SEEN: RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
"LIFE'S LIKE AN ARROW—YOU HAVE TO PULL
BACK BEFORE YOU CAN FLY."**

WANTED CLASS SPEAKER



JULIEE MALAVADE

\$25,000 REWARD

**CRIME: BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
LAST SEEN: RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
"YOU'RE BRAVER THAN YOU BELIEVE, STRONGER
THAN YOU SEEM, AND SMARTER THAN YOU THINK."**

Megan Brewi



Hello teachers, staff, Board of Education, parents, grandparents, siblings, and North Brunswick Township High School Class of 2014. As Steve Jobs once said, “Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s life. Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.”

In a few minutes, we will officially be independent adults, separated from the high school world we have known for four full years. For the first time in our lives, we will be graduating from North Brunswick Township High School, parting ways with friends and acquaintances, some of which we have known since we were six years old. It seems like yesterday. Unfortunately, there will be no more Chicken Bowl, no more Bleacher Creatures, no more getting lost in the triangle upstairs, and no more “WE ARE NORTH BRUNSWICK” heard every day. One thing we will never forget is where we came from.

The great thing about North Brunswick is I can look out into this crowd and recognize all of you some way or somehow, whether we cheered at a football game, danced at homecoming together or greeted each other in the hallways. North Brunswick has a vast abundance of cultures, religions, and lifestyles

which makes the school so great for young adults like us. Through all of this, we must take these experiences and use life’s lessons to our advantage. Each of you has the freedom to shoot for the stars; your opportunities are endless. Remember, being young does not last forever. The time to show what makes up the phrase, “WE ARE NORTH BRUNSWICK” is now.

Is life perfect? No. If you fall, stand back up. Now is the time to make mistakes, but learn from your mistakes. This is the time to have the courage to be who you want to be, not anyone else. I dare you to dream. Dream to change the world and conquer every fear you may have about life or the world around us. So as you venture into your future endeavors, remember all that you have learned at NBTHS. Don’t be the one to sit in a crowd, but stand on top of a chair so everyone can see you. Scream at the top of your lungs until you are heard. Success is not measured by the money in your bank account but by the change you make not only for yourself, but for the world.

I wish everyone the best of luck in your future endeavors. It is my hope all of you will not only change the world, but be the person you want to be. Congratulations Class of 2014! And remember: WE ARE NORTH BRUNSWICK!!!!

Katie Kingsley



Many years ago, when I was very young, my mom worked in East New York, Brooklyn. Not the best neighborhood, but that is where she taught. Each morning, she would strap my brother and I in our car seats, leave North Brunswick while it was still dark, drop us at my grandmother’s house in Queens, and then go back into Brooklyn to work.

One day, as she often did, she walked up to the local Chinese restaurant to have lunch with her friends. It was a quick lunch and she jumped up after a half hour and ran out so she wouldn’t be late. As she hurried back to school, she saw a car that looked very familiar, exactly like the maroon Toyota that she owned – only it couldn’t be hers because it was on the wrong block. It was only when she saw the New Jersey license plate did she realize that two strange men were sitting in her car and they had stolen it. She rushed toward the car fully expecting them to get out and give it back. It didn’t go as she hoped. Instead they tore off, clipping her leg with the front bumper as they sped away.

Distraught, she made her way back to the school. The next few minutes were a

blur. The police were called and while she waited for them, she told the story to several people, including her good friend Drew. As she relayed the story to him, she started to think of all the things she had lost besides the car: my car seat, her cell phone, my stroller, and most importantly, any means of transportation home to New Jersey. She was upset, yet even as the words left her mouth, she realized to whom she was talking and the huge mistake she had just made. She was speaking with her friend Drew who had just been diagnosed with terminal cancer. She felt incredibly foolish. But that feeling paled in comparison to how she felt after Drew said “If all I had to worry about was my car being stolen, I would be so happy. You have to keep things in perspective.”

Drew passed away three months later, but his words served as a guideline for the rest of my mother’s life. And just as she passed the story and its meaning on to me, I am passing it onto you. The only things that are worth your energy are the things that will still matter in five, ten, or twenty years. So when things don’t go as expected, don’t get upset; don’t waste your energy. Just keep life in perspective.

Jasmin Yarborough



September 8, 2010. That is where we started. That was the first day of school our freshman year. Most of us were 14 and overwhelmed with feelings of fear of the unknown coupled with excitement of the new freedoms we were promised. That was when life was good. We had 6 minutes between classes, the same 9 classes each day, and 4 lunches. We had the same friends from middle school coming up with us into this exciting new world and we thought we were set. We thought the next four years of our lives were going to be a breeze. We were wrong.

Sophomore year, things began to change. Loyalties were tested, social circles got smaller, and classes got harder. Instead of hearing about arguments and fights between the older students that we barely knew, we were the ones in them, and it all happened in 5 minutes of passing time instead of 6.

Junior year came and our world was turned upside down. Two lunches. 8 periods. Rotating schedule. SAT's. ACT's. Speeches about how it was our "most important year of high school" and what we do now determines our future. What? We were only 16. We couldn't even drive, and we had to decide what

we were going to do with our lives. But we became adjusted to the new lunch schedules, we managed to stay awake through the longer 8 periods. The rotating schedules became easier to handle, and with a series of all-night-ers, we made it.

Finally, September 4, 2013 arrived. Our last first day at NBTHS. We walked in like we owned the school, because we knew we did. We knew what the freshman had yet to experience. We had grown, matured, and were more sure of ourselves than ever. 282 days. We survived 282 complete days full of fear of the future, life decisions, and excitement for graduation. Now, 282 days later, the countdown is done. We are finally sitting here in our caps and gowns waiting to get our diplomas, and thinking back on all of the good and bad memories, the things we have realized, and the changes we have made. We might not know it now, but North Brunswick made us. When we heard "We are North Brunswick" on the announcements each morning, it was true. Whether we like it or not, North Brunswick will always be part of us. We can say we survived, we made it, and we are finally moving on to bigger and better things.

Kate Lonczak



A wise group sang, "I don't know where this road is going to lead." I chose to share this lyric with you after noticing a predictable theme in graduation speeches: advice for the future. Yes, I could stand up here and give you advice for a successful life, but let's face it, I'm barely old enough to buy a lottery ticket...and we all know that's the real way to success! Instead, I like to think of graduation as a day to reminisce about the past, and the memories we have shared throughout high school. The same group sang, "It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday." Okay, I've kept you guessing long enough. The wise group is actually a boy band named Boyz II Men. Maybe they were talking about their actual transformation, you know, from boys to men, but in any case, they were right; it is hard to say goodbye to yesterday.

Speaking of yesterday, it seems like just yesterday when we stepped into the halls of North Brunswick Township High School for the first time. On that very first day, we hiked really far to find that practical money skills classroom, and instead landed in a language class. We finally figured out our mistake when the teacher began speaking gibberish, which we later found out was French. That first year, everything changed. We made new friends, attained a new sense of freedom, and had a six minute passing time – well, at least for half of the year. We were introduced to some of the most intriguing people, even the person who invented the Post-It note; yes - North

Brunswick is famous for the best substitute teachers around. And just when we started to get comfortable, the school introduced the rotating schedule.

We were all up in arms. No, we weren't up in arms because of the fifty-five minute classes; we were up in arms about lunch. How could we all eat in thirty minutes? Well, guess what Class of 2014? We did it. We survived the shorter lunch without starving. And, the bigger concern...was thirty minutes enough to support the lunch line on Chicken Bowl day? Yes it was! We will also never forget, that NBTHS is Home of the Chicken Bowl. It was that Chicken Bowl that made people stampede through the halls just to get their place in line. There was only one lunch period better than chicken bowl day. It was the "happiest day of the year" – the day before winter break. The band played holiday music, everyone exchanged gifts, hugs, and took lots of selfies.

These traditions kept us close. These traditions are what we looked forward to, year after year. These traditions are our memories, which we will cherish forever.

With time going by, it is only natural to think about what may happen in the future, but graduation is about celebrating your accomplishments and understanding what has shaped you into who you are today. So celebrate, have fun, and laugh at those crazy times you had with your friends. Oh – and one last thing – congratulations Class of 2014!

We are North Brunswick!

Imani Ali



I remember watching the underclassmen run around hopelessly during the first few weeks of September. It's hard to believe that was us once upon a time ago. I have come to realize how much we have grown and matured since then. I know a lot of us feel as though high school hasn't taught us anything about the things we'll need in the real world. We are all guilty of asking why we are studying this or that. But these, quote unquote, useless classroom experiences continue to mold us into who we are today and who we will be the next day. There's a lot of pressure on us right now. Adults asking questions about our future and what we're going to study and who we plan to become, and truthfully? I can't even tell you what I want for dinner tonight.

Yes, we're all still young and stupid. We tend to look before we leap and sometimes avoid the jump completely if there's no one there to catch us. We're barely functional individuals without a clue of how to change the world or make a difference. But somehow we will.

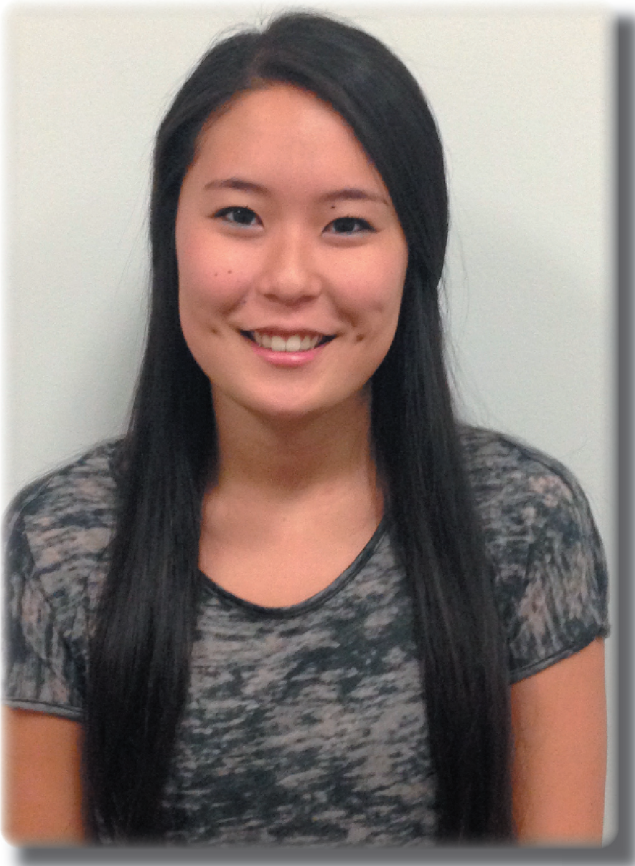
There will be obstacles and challenges that may cause hesitation. There will be

people who tell you otherwise and make you feel doubtful of the decisions you make. Do not assume defeat. You will never know your abilities until they are tested by adversity. Be conscious, be aware, and pay attention. You need to absorb everything the world has to offer and speak up- be heard. Tell yourself every day that you cannot and will not be broken. Nothing will stop you from chasing your dreams unless you allow it. Things change, and people move on, but life does not stop.

Continue to thrive relentlessly with passion and unstoppable motivation. Appreciate those who have always loved you and accepted you whole. Remember those who have made a difference. Now you inspire someone else. Don't overlook any of the reasons you've ever smiled or did something good for someone without expecting anything in return. Don't ever forget who you are and where home is. Although we have no power to change our past, you can control where you go from here. What matters is not the first, but the last chapter of our lives which shows how well we ran the race.

Thank you, and congratulations!

Cindy Lee



One: I don't remember. I was a few months old for goodness sake!

Two: Nope, still don't remember. Cut me some slack, ok? This is difficult.

Three: I could probably talk by now, right?

Four: Entered pre-K.

Five: I still matched clothes with my sister.

Six: We moved from Highland Park to North Brunswick.

Seven: First got glasses. My eyesight went downhill from there.

Eight: First discovered how great I was at math.

Nine: Recess. What more could you want?

Ten: Middle school. I'm a big girl now!

Eleven: The year I first ran cross country.

Twelve: Am I going to art class or computer class? Or band class?

Thirteen: Had the worst bangs. History will most definitely NOT repeat itself.

Fourteen: The icky, immature freshman stage

Fifteen: I worked hard this year. It was worth it.

Sixteen: Stress, homework, stress...oh wait... did I mention stress?

Seventeen: One of the best years of my life. A year I'll never forget.

I have made so many mistakes in high school. I've failed tests, I've forgotten homework assignments, and I am guilty of slacking off on one too many occasions. (I'm sure we can all relate to that!) But when I think about my four years here at NBTHS, I feel nothing but pride. The memories I made make me smile, make me laugh, and make me happy that I spent my four years trying my hardest in the classes I love, with the people I love. Through the failure, through the sadness, and through the tough times, my parents never criticized. They are my biggest fans and today I attribute

my success to the very lesson they implanted into my mind at an early age. They taught me that effort is 99% of success and that if you don't love what you are doing, you cannot truly succeed and gain happiness. Each class I took, each club I joined was because I genuinely felt interest and devotion towards each activity. Life grows so much easier when we fall in love with our lives and routines that others would simply classify as mundane daily activities. Therein lies the greatest method of success. Therein lies the reason I stand here today, proud of my accomplishments and proud to take the next step in life.

Eventually, high school fades from a reality to a memory. The dirty school bathrooms, the long lunch lines, or the lunch detention we had to sit through eventually become some of the most memorable parts of high school. These were the times I appreciated my friends most as we endured the smelly bathrooms together, as we waited in the agonizing line to buy lunch, or as I sat in the cold, white lunch detention room, simply missing them. Other high school memories aren't for sharing. They're special secrets I'll hold onto and think about every time life gets hard. I know that in college I'll make new friends, have new professors, and experience a whole new life. But that doesn't mean the memories I created and the lessons I learned in high school grow irrelevant. New memories don't replace old ones. They'll simply add onto my list:

Eighteen: Finally an adult.

Twenty-five: Living in Chicago.

Twenty-eight: Happily married.

Forty-six: Helping my child apply to college.

Fifty: Watching my child graduate from college.

Sixty: Utter bliss.

Sabrina Abada Middlesex County College	Silvana Awad Rutgers University	Kevin Brefo Middlesex County College	Meghana Choubey Drexel University
Tina Aboagye Middlesex County College	Carlos Azcona Undeclared	Megan Brewi University of South Carolina	Rohini Choudhury University of Michigan
David Abraham University of Minnesota	Simran Bahl Farleigh Dickinson University	Dana Brooks University of Delaware	Nashaba Chowdhury Seton Hall University
Skyler Acevedo Florida Atlantic University	Akram Baig Rutgers University	Devonte Brown Middlesex County College	Luis Cisneros Undeclared
Jessica Adams Middlesex County College	Briana Bailey Burlington County College	Samantha Brys University of Alabama	Oliver Cisneros Middlesex County College
Dominique Adevai Gordon College	Malik Bailey Anthem Institute	Whittany Burgess Clark Atlanta University	Ryan Clerge Middlesex County College
Joshua Adevai Undeclared	Asante Balaam Centenary College	Walli Butte Mercer Community College	Madison Coe New York University
Setareh Afshar-Bagheri Middlesex County College	Zeinna Barber Middlesex County College	Katya Caballero Garcia Undeclared	Fiiifi Coffie-Owusu New Jersey Institute of Technology
Jade Agudosi Howard University	Joycelyn Barnett Howard University	Bryanna Calderon Middlesex County College	Cristian Collado Stevens Institute of Technology
Viraj Ajmera William Paterson University	Habib Barrie Central Piedmont Community College	Shelby Camarillo Undeclared	Adrian Colon Middlesex County College
Ehsan Akhtar Rutgers University	Luis Bautista Coyotl Middlesex County College	Lesslye Cantu Prado Middlesex County College	Joseph Ryan Columbano Middlesex County College
Rafieu Alharazim Middlesex County College	Brandon Becerril Middlesex County College	Christopher Cardoso University of Michigan	Patrick Cooper Middlesex County College
Imani Ali Pace University	Kendall Beckles Spelman College	Cassandra Carlino Middlesex County College	Justin Corpuz DeVry University
Neriah Almahdi Rutgers University	Frank Benanti Middlesex County College	Jaclyn Carlsen Middlesex County College	Karina Cruz Middlesex County College
Antonio Alston Middlesex County College	Elise Bender Rutgers University	Rachael Carlsen Middlesex County College	Matthew Curry Middlesex County College
Noor Amin Middlesex County College	Donovan Berryman Middlesex County College	Kevin Carpenter Undeclared	Kellina Curtis Berkeley College
Thomas Annam Rutgers University	Tyler Betsch Middlesex County College	Kiara Carpenter Undeclared	Joshua Danful Undeclared
Stephen Arcamone Temple University	Samit Bhujange Drexel University	Joel Castillo-Sanchez Kean University	Danielle Daniel Louisiana State University
Tyla Archer Morgan State University	Apoorva Bhupathi New Jersey Institute of Technology	Swapna Chakraverthy Rutgers University	Avishek Datta Rutgers University
Edgardo Arciniega Undeclared	Kenneth Bongiovanni Union County College	Kartik Chaloo Rutgers University	Shaalayah Dawson Undeclared
Mark Arcure New Jersey Institute of Technology	Adonis Bonilla Undeclared	Kyle Chapman Middlesex County College	Lynette DeLeon Middlesex County College
Victor Ariza Middlesex County College	Adelainy Bourdierd Middlesex County College	Conan Chen Johns Hopkins University	Darius Delk CAP 21
Habibah Arshad Rutgers University	Michael Boyd Middlesex County College	Taryn Chinich Stevenson University	Seth Demirjian Undeclared
Michelle Ascencio University of New Haven	Kyla Boyer Middlesex County College	Gagan Chopra Middlesex County College	Najee Denis Middlesex County College
Elias Attal Middlesex County College		Anthony Chou Rutgers University	Anuj Desai Rutgers University

Hartejpal Dhesi Middlesex County College	Nicole Fosko Stevens Institute of Technology	Sai Gundlapalli Georgia Institute of Technology	Javon Jacobs Morgan State University
Jason Diaz Middlesex County College	Haley Francis Kean University	Michael Gutierrez Undeclared	Brandon Jacome William Paterson University
Jordan Drinks Rutgers University	Kyle Gallas Middlesex County College	Anika Hamilton Howard University	Gaurav Jadav Rutgers University
Crystala Drosos Middlesex County College	Marc Garcia Middlesex County College	Brianna Hanson Rutgers University	Gabrielle Jarvis Pace University
Rebecca Duarte Middlesex County College	Michael Garcia Middlesex County College	Sara Harb Middlesex County College	Jacqueline Jarvis Temple University
Khalif Dubose Middlesex County College	Roberto Genao-Medina Undeclared	Darryl Harper Undeclared	Lashai Jenkins Middlesex County College
Joanna Dzielska Middlesex County College	Jasmine Gentry Middlesex County College	Devin Harris Middlesex County College	Arturo Jimenez Farleigh Dickinson University
Lazaro Ebanks Middlesex County College	Mariah Gibson Laboratory Institute of Merchandising	Essence Harris Middlesex County College	Luis Jimenez Middlesex County College
Karim El-Shoubary Middlesex County College	Jonathan Girello Farleigh Dickinson University	Amanda Hartel Stevens Institute of Technology	Lance Johnson Farleigh Dickinson University
Treasure Eno Middlesex County College	Amanda Glebus Middlesex County College	Elizabeth Hartel Emerson College	Maury Johnson II Pennsylvania State University
Itzel Escamilla Middlesex County College	Shivani Gohel Northeastern University	Naymah Hashmi New Jersey Institute of Technology	Michael Johnson Undeclared
Shirley Escobar DeVry University	Esther Goldstein University of Texas at Dallas	Dina Hassan New Jersey City University	Shaquille Jones Undeclared
Rony Espinal Middlesex County College	Yadir Gomez-Madrid Middlesex County College	Austin Hernandez Rowan University	Jonasia Jones-Spears Morgan State University
Isabella Evangelista Rutgers University	Felix Gonzalez Middlesex County College	Edwin Herrera Middlesex County College	Damani Jordan-Fuller Undeclared
Lolade Fagbewesa Rutgers University	Chandler Gorda Middlesex County College	Lorena Herrera Everest College	Wali Kamran Rutgers University
Sara Faghani Montclair University	Haley Gorda Middlesex County College	Lindsay Hoagland Elizabethtown College	Jeffrey Kang New Jersey Institute of Technology
Nicholas Fareri Middlesex County College	Matthew Gorda Middlesex County College	Michael Hock Mercer County College	Amadu Kanu Undeclared
Danial Farrukh Rutgers University	Janell Gould Middlesex County College	Alyssa Hoke Pennsylvania State University	Isatu Kanu Morgan State University
Imran Fayazi Rutgers University	Robert Goulding Middlesex County College	Kevin Huang Rutgers University	Kayla Kapler Anthem Institute
Jasmine Ferguson Middlesex County College	Peter Grace Middlesex County College	Matthew Ignacio Middlesex County College	George Kassouf Union County College
Joanny Ferreiras Rutgers University	Taylor Grady-London Union County College	Stephen Ignacio De La Salle University	William Kaula Montclair State University
Brian Fisher Middlesex County College	Marissa Gravesande Rutgers University	Christopher Iocca Undeclared	Kahkasha Khan Middlesex County College
Kianna Flemmings Middlesex County College	Quimani Gray Rutgers University	Taylor Irizarry Laboratory Institute of Merchandising	Kulsum Khan Rutgers University
Jose Flores-Alejo Middlesex County College	Jorge Grijalva Undeclared	Norbert Ivanyi Rutgers University	Rabeesa Khan Middlesex County College

Victor Konstantinovsky St. John Fisher College	Benjamin Luciano Undeclared	Ashley McKoy Howard University	Jonathan Oyuela Undeclared
Marina Koroma Middlesex County College	Amanda Luk Rutgers University	Stephany Mensah-Narh Rutgers University	Pathik Oza Rider University
Yeawoma Koroma Middlesex County College	Eva Lundeen Rutgers University	Karina Mercado Middlesex County College	Stephanie Palko Middlesex County College
Molly Kuchler Rutgers University	Lawrence Lung Rutgers University	Emily Mercedes-Geronimo Middlesex County College	Robert Pallein The College of New Jersey
James Kulik Middlesex County College	Bonazya Lunn Ramapo College of New Jersey	John Meyer Cazenovia College	Yash Panchal Middlesex County College
Deepesh Lad New Jersey Institute of Technology	Abigail Lynch Rutgers University	Chandler Middleton Northeastern University	Jane Panitch Rutgers University
Sabrina Lajtos Middlesex County College	Christopher Lynch Montclair State University	Kianah Middleton Middlesex County College	Ambar Paredilla American University
Darren Lau Rutgers University	Shrutika Madda New Jersey Institute of Technology	Ana Miljkovic New York University	Ethan Pardun Rowan University
Elizabeth Lavielle Middlesex County College	Juilee Malavade Rutgers University	Peggy Miller Middlesex County College	Vishwa Parekh Seton Hall University
Cindy Lee University of Notre Dame	Jonathon Maldonado Middlesex County College	John Minguet United States Armed Forces	Michael Parrilla Middlesex County College
Jonathan Leonardo Rowan University	Nathaniel Malone Undeclared	Adhnanu Miri Undeclared	Brianna Pastrick Middlesex County College
Erica Lepinsky Rider University	Joseph Manley Rutgers University	Himani Modi Rutgers University	Aditi Patel Rider University
Jason Levash Rutgers University	Renan Marques Middlesex County College	Ryan Moore East Stroudsburg University	Aesha Patel Rutgers University
Kimberlee Levash Westchester University of Pennsylvania	Tiffany Marquez Middlesex County College	Tamara Morris Undeclared	Anish Patel Rutgers University
Andrew Lewis Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Bryan Marte Middlesex County College	Lucas Moss Middlesex County College	Dhaval Patel New Jersey Institute of Technology
Tyler Ligenzowski Rowan University	Zarrail Martinez Undeclared	Robert Murillo Ramapo College of New Jersey	Divya Patel Rutgers University
Lesly Llavilla Middlesex County College	Cody Martins United States Army	Tobin Naduparambil Rutgers University	Karan Patel Rutgers University
Kate Lonczak University of Southern California	Isaiah Mason Westchester University of Pennsylvania	Zil Naik Rutgers University	Maitri Patel Rutgers University
Alexander Lopez Middlesex County College	Ajit Mathews Rutgers University	Jessica Ning Montclair State University	Pratik Patel Rutgers University
Carina Lopez Undeclared	Kadijah Mathews Wesleyan University	Yanni Nunez DeVry University	Ryan Patetta Middlesex County College
Ricardo Lopez Middlesex County College	Nazheir May William Paterson University	Kanyinsola Olateru-Olagbegi Amherst College	Brian Pelszynski St. John's University
Crysol Lopez Perez Middlesex County College	Jessica Mazzeo Rutgers University	Alexus Omowole Undeclared	Timothy Penick University of Kentucky
Alexis Lopez Tapia Undeclared	Joshua McArdle Penn State University	Daniel Ortega Caceres Middlesex County College	Irving Peralta DeLaLuz Middlesex County College
Jennifer Lopez-Acevedo Undeclared	Liam McGearry Rutgers University	Yesenia Ortiz-Gonzalez Middlesex County College	Bernardo Perez Middlesex County College

Jonathan Picone United States Navy	Denis Rodriguez Everest Institute	Daria Seaman Montclair State University	Andre Sousa Fairleigh Dickinson University
Dean Pidgeon Rutgers University	Hilary Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Jaid Seel Middlesex County College	Carizama Stateman Middlesex County College
Joel Pierre Middlesex County College	Jadil Rodriguez St. Peter's University	Vickram Seenarine Middlesex County College	George Stilwell Middlesex County College
Alanna Piper Kean University	Mike Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Imani Seung Rutgers University	Michael Stone Fairleigh Dickinson University
Simrat Plaha Drexel University	Rendy Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Pooja Shah Rutgers University	Jahniece Styles Middlesex County College
Shreya Preeth Middlesex County College	Yaneyris Rodriguez Fairleigh Dickinson University	Roshni Shah Rutgers University	Stephen Szakacs Rowan University
Jacob Pryce Middlesex County College	Jared Rogers Middlesex County College	Sneh Shah Rutgers University	Abanoub Tadrousse Rutgers University
Joshua Pryce Middlesex County College	Brianna Roman Rutgers University	Urmil Shah Rutgers University	Sadat Taylor Undeclared
Marco Quintero Undeclared	Jannah Sabbahi Rutgers University	Brandon Shamy The College of New Jersey	Paul Terrell United States Armed Forces
Inayah Rafi Rutgers University	Jennifer Salvatore Lafayette College	Siddanth Shetty Rutgers University	Emad Ud-Din Tirmizi Middlesex County College
Saikrishna Ramesh University of Michigan	Erika Sanchez Middlesex County College	Mariam Shohdy Rutgers University	Erica Tlapa Middlesex County College
Kimberly Ramos Rider University	Maria Sanchez Middlesex County College	Abdul-Rehman Siddiqui Middlesex County College	Collin Tomlinson Fairmont State University
Erica Razzano Middlesex County College	Itzigueri Sanchez-Delgado Middlesex County College	Imad-Uddin Siddiqui Rutgers University	Mehak Toor Rutgers University
Cassidy Regan Middlesex County College	Luz Sandoval College of St. Elizabeth	Omaima Siddiqui Rutgers University	Alexa Torrado Middlesex County College
Anthony Reyes Rutgers University	Morgan Santiago Middlesex County College	Tiffany Silva Middlesex County College	Alexis Torres Middlesex County College
Faviola Reyes Middlesex County College	Jonathan Santos Middlesex County College	Gurwinder Singh Undeclared	Tristan Tushinski Middlesex County College
Kervis Reyes Middlesex County College	Sapna Sanyal Rutgers University	Shaina Skelton Richard Stockton College of New Jersey	Gisel Umanzor Middlesex County College
Kiara Reyes Middlesex County College	Saptieu Savage Middlesex County College	Daryl Smith United States Armed Forces	Oscar Valdez Middlesex County College
Lissette Reyes Middlesex County College	Hannah Sawyerr Middlesex County College	Tiffany Smith University of Scranton	Abner Valentin Binghamton University
Sara Reyes Middlesex County College	Marisa Schenkel Mercer Community College	Alexander Solis-Arias Lincoln Technical Institute	Kaila Vannoy Howard University
Mike Reynoso Middlesex County College	Rachel Schroeder Scranton University	Edwin Jahirson Solorzano Middlesex County College	Sabrina VanVliet Mason Gross School of the Arts Rutgers University
Aliyah Rich Middlesex County College	Dominick Scialabba Rochester Institute of Technology	Jennifer Sorto Anthem Institute	Freylin Vargas Middlesex County College
Samantha Riemann Georgia Tech	Emily Scialabba Rochester Institute of Technology	Jose Sosa Middlesex County College	Gabriela Vargas Middlesex County College
Kathryn Riley Montclair State University	Joseph Scimone Rutgers University	Leilani Soto Middlesex County College	Michael Vaynshteyn Middlesex County College

Hakeem Walker Kean University	Ellen Wesley Rowan University	Talyah Winston University of Maryland	Abhilash Yerra Rutgers University
Meghan Wanyoike College of St. Elizabeth	Ceirah Westmoreland United States Marine Corps.	Jake Wolfe Middlesex County College	Christine Yip Rutgers University
Sarah Warda Rutgers University	Leo Whalen Mercer Community College	Christopher Womble Mercer County College	Anyely Ynfante Middlesex County College
Kaevon Weaber Middlesex County College	Christopher Wilson Ramapo College of New Jersey	Jeffrey Wright Middlesex County College	Gregory Zinnikas United States Army
Nathaniel Weiss Rutgers University	Isaiah Winjobi Middlesex County College	Jazmin Yarborough University of Central Florida	

Liam McGeary

“True Terror is to wake up and discover that your high school class is running the country.” Kurt Vonnegut said that, and I think he hit it right on the head.

One moment, we’re in the cafeteria standing on line for Chicken bowl and the next moment we’re here standing on line for our diploma. Granted, it may be debatable which of these is more exhilarating, but it’s no doubt that it’s a terrifying feeling to realize how fast time moves, how quickly things can change, and how fast the future approaches.

Luckily, to help cope with this fear, we are given a beautiful gift: the present.

To really understand, let us use our imagination for a moment.

Imagine you wake up one morning and you’re given \$86,400. It’s a lot of money. It’s not a million but it’s a pretty good amount. But now imagine you’re given \$86,400 every morning for the rest of your life. That’s pretty nice.

There IS a small catch. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening the bank deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day, and you can’t use tomorrow’s money.

What would you do? Draw out every cent, right? In today’s world, I bet we’d would have no problem looking for things to spend it on. Naturally we wouldn’t want to waste any of it. It’d be an incredible situation to find yourself in. It would be pretty nice to be that rich.

Well, what if I told you that everyone here is rich, with something significantly more valuable than money? Time.

Every morning, we’re given 86,400 seconds of life. Every night it writes off as lost. Whatever you failed to invest to a good purpose is wasted. You must live in the present on today’s seconds. Invest it in health, happiness, love. The clock is running. Make the most of today.

I first read of this hypothetical proposal

my freshman year in a novel by Marc Levy

It was a very illuminating moment, just like this moment. Graduation. It’s illuminating for all of us. It really sheds light on the real value of the present and how well we live in it. Maybe we use it to spend our time preparing for the future instead of stressing over it. Maybe we spend the present on improving upon our past instead of worrying and wishing we could go back and change it. And maybe we spend



it on enjoying where we are and what or who is around us at that present moment instead of burying our face in our iPhones to send a snapchat of our new Flappy Bird score or whatever we feel is more important.

I think the limits we set for ourselves sometimes negatively affect the decisions we make in our present moment.

When you’re seven or eight years old and you first learn of the men that landed on the moon— anything is possible. And that is something we tend to lose sight of, the inspiration and permission to dream big.

We make excuses for ourselves. What

gets in our way? We already ruled out time, what else?

Money? That’s silly too. An empty wallet never held anyone back. Only empty brains and empty hearts.

Things turn out best for people who make the best out of the way things turn out.

Life has absolutely no obligation to give us what we expect.

If you are willing to do only what’s easy, life will be hard. But if you are willing to do what’s hard, life will be easy.

I’m sure there are plenty of people here who say, “Well I haven’t figured out what I want to do yet. I have absolutely no idea.” This scares a lot of people but really, not knowing just leaves you with that many more possibilities.

So don’t let that limit you. Aristotle can always help.

“Aristotle: Where your talents meet the needs of the world, that’s your calling. And it’s the present that give you this power of decision.”

It is in your decision of what you do with this present moment that will shape your destiny and contribute to those around you.

When a woman in 1950’s Alabama stands up and says, “no I won’t go to the back of the bus.” She didn’t just affect her life, that decision shaped our culture, our whole world. (Rosa Parks) affected those around her.

See what you can bring to the table;

Try not to become a person just of success but of value.

Stop worrying and complainin about the problems and bumps in the road and enjoy the journey.

Don’t go through life, grow through life.

A major part of the meaning of life is contained in the very process of discovering it. Discovering yourself. What makes you happy, what you’re passionate about.

One you discover that, there’s not a thing on this earth that can hold you back.

Kanyinsola Olateru-Olagbegi



We were dreamers as we walked through those high school doors. Some of us were timid, some confident, but most of us were just faking in. No, not our personalities, but faking the little ounce of confidence we, as freshmen, had back then, but those clear front doors reminded us that getting through middle was a far cry from getting through high school. Back then, could we really say that we knew what we were doing? Were you fully sure of yourself when you first wandered through this brick, steel and cement jungle called North Brunswick Township High School? What about when you first saw those skyscrapers called seniors whose maturity, regardless of height, was palpable? The answer was no, and for most of us, the answer is still no. We haven't fully figured it out yet, but getting to know some of the greatest, talented, teachers, and personalities that have "clicked" with us like magic, have definitely guided most, if not all, on the path to becoming what we want to be, as well as the best of what we will be.

Of course, we couldn't have made it without capturing a couple of memories on the way. I think we're pretty lucky if you think about it. We witnessed the beginning and ending of Twilight and Harry Potter, the start of the Hunger Games and those beautiful phenomenon called Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, the remake of every possible action movie you could think of, the birth of Snapchat, Kik, Ask.fm, the explosion of memes and the death of MySpace.

On a more personal level, I think North Brunswick Township High School, over the couple of years, boasts of even better memories than that. How many of us made that morning

speed walk past the glass cafeteria hallway only to hear that magic student number that would give every student a get out of jail free card? Who can forget the commencement of rotating schedule, that dwarfed freshmen and senior alike, the vanishing act of Izzes, and how we are may never getting back together with those sweet, sweet, sweet 50 cent cookies. Let's not forget Hurricane Sandy that taught us that missing school can also be extremely miserable. I'm also pretty sure we set records this year with the amount of kids in the hallway after 7:35. All those things reminded us indeed that "We are North Brunswick"

You know what probably doesn't remind you of North Brunswick? It's the little blessing that we overlook. It's the teachers who became our friends as they made an overwhelming academic impact that set the tone of our future aspirations. It is the amount of racial diversity that many of us have yet to see another high school. It's the friends who moved that always came running back to see students with just enough drama and social connection to haul them right back through NBTHS's doors, or at least on to sit on its bleachers. It is the ties and the authenticity of the people here that will keep the strings we have to North Brunswick, attached forever.

As we move on the next phase of our lives, please don't be afraid to take a look at the person to the left or right of you. You should see the flashy colors of a high school graduation uniform. But if you look close enough, you can see the smiles of the students wearing them or at least their anxiety as they hope for me to finish the speech, get on with the ceremony, and eventually toss their caps.

Nicole Fosko



Good morning Dr. Zychowski, Mr. Clark, teachers, administrators, staff members, family, friends, and my fellow students. It's been a long four years, but we are finally here. It seems like just yesterday we were those annoying freshmen who thought we were all that-and look at us now; we're those annoying seniors who still think we're all that.

Regardless, we have climbed the social ladder of our secondary education, gaining insight and maturity as we dealt with a variety of challenges. When we look back at our high school experience, we won't just remember those late nights of studying or getting honor roll for the first time. We are not defined by our GPA or SAT score; instead, we have each enjoyed our own unique form of success through our experiences. It is my personal philosophy that there are lessons that must be

learned outside of the classroom. High school is about getting involved, taking risks, and trying something new. As graduates, we will pursue our interests, confident from the variety of opportunities we explored in high school.

So I am fully aware that half of you have been staring into space this whole time, and the other half is worried about your lunch reservations after this. But if there is something I want you to retain from this speech, it's this: you can take the kid from North Brunswick, but you can't take North Brunswick from the kid. No matter how excited we are to start our lives as adults at college, the values and experiences we gained from NBTHS will always be with us. I am honored to have shared the past four years of my life with such an enthusiastic, intelligent, and passionate group of individuals. Thank you, and congratulations, graduates.



Anuj Desai

Welcome teachers, family members, and most importantly, the graduating Class of 2014. I would like to congratulate you all for making it to this milestone in your life and receiving your diploma in a few moments. To quote the famous lines from Robert Frost's *Road Not Taken*:

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and-
I took the one less traveled by,
And that made all the difference."

Ironically, we are all sitting here today because we all took the same road to success by graduating from NBTHS, and that WILL make all the difference as we embark into the next stage of our lives. Nevertheless, we would not be where we are today without a little guidance.

As much as we may dread homework, tests, and projects that our teachers assign, the teachers are the reason we are as knowledgeable as we are. Teachers (looks at teacher section), on behalf of the class, I would like to thank you for all that you have done and I hope that you continue to enrich the minds of students throughout their high school years and nurture them to maturity as did to us. (Looks back at students /rest of audience) At any given time, the teachers could have given up on us but they made it a priority to insure we succeed so let's

make them proud and strive for excellence.

If not for your educators, succeed for your family. No matter the amount of yelling, screaming, or groundings, your family has and will always be there for you. Not everyone comes from the same type of family but at this point, the people to your left and right are practically blood. I know my high school experience would not be the same without the wonderful friends I have made and some I now consider as brothers and sisters. Our family and friends helped us become excellent human beings we are today and even though most of us are headed onto different roads, the impact our family and friends have had on our lives will always be there.

As bittersweet as this day may be, graduation is a time of beginning rather than a time of end. We are now entering the real world without any restraints and limitations. It is what we do from this point onward that will define our success and demonstrate the potential our generation has to better the world. Now we all must do whatever it takes to excel in whatever we choose, even if that means taking the road less traveled. I hope you all continue to make your dreams, a reality because I know you all have the potential to do well and make a name for yourselves as long as you dare to dream.



Kadajah Mathews

It's hard to believe that four years ago this race was only beginning. It seems like just yesterday, we were freshman, taking our mark. It was time to take on the stressful challenges of finding our classes, opening our lockers, and keeping up with our ID's. We learned quickly that these would be the least of our problems but only in hindsight would we realize just how silly they were.

It wouldn't be until the night before finals, when we would all be completely distressed, that we'd learn the true definition of the word cramming; Or prom night, where we'd understand that it wasn't about how good we looked (although we did look good), but about how much fun we had that would stay planted in our memories forever.

As we paced ourselves year after year, we discovered what it takes to move forward. Whether it be a support system from home, a favorite teacher, or becoming a part of a team or club; whatever and whoever it was that kept

us running served as a coach will be forever appreciated and remembered for doing so.

Coming into our senior year was ultimately bitter sweet. Reaching our final straight away with the few breaths we had left we could finally start to see the finish line. The pressure began as we prepared ourselves to pass the baton to our underclassman and move on to our next event.

Proudly, I stand before you at this moment to say that time is finally here. Every friend we gained or lost and every test we passed or failed all served as hurdles we somehow managed to jump. We've endured the power and skills to become successful adults and we will cross the finish line understanding that this is only the beginning of our accomplishments. No matter where we venture to in the near future never forget that, we had and will always have what it takes to be a raider.

Congratulations North Brunswick High School Class of 2014, we made it!

Dominique Adevai



Wow, look at us, the Class of 2014. We made it. We conquered the unimaginable; we found the cure to an illness once thought incurable. An illness we have all fought at one point or another: senioritis. Doctors all around the world have tried to explain this phenomenon, and they have come to a general consensus that senioritis can be clinically defined as an “affliction of students, characterized by a decline in motivation and performance.” Despite the doctors best efforts in research and testing, a remedy was never found.

Until today.

Today, Class of 2014, we celebrate an end to senioritis: graduation.

Now, many of you may be wondering, how does senioritis spread? Well, we have always had the virus in us, but it remained dormant for many years.

In fact, we all seemed to begin our academic careers with such vigor. Recall elementary school - our eagerness to learn and explore the world around us. From macaronic projects in kindergarten, to cursive writing in third grade, to exploding volcanoes in fifth grade, elementary school proved itself to be a beacon of hope for our future - which never looked brighter.

From there, we progressed into middle school by attempting to open our first lockers in sixth grade, writing our (short) autobiographies in seventh grade, and experiencing our first slow dance at semi-formal in eighth grade.

And then, by stepping foot onto Raider Road on that fateful September day, the once dormant senioritis virus began to rear it's ugly head. The symptoms were hidden at first, as hopeful as we were during our first pep rally, we soon began to grow weary of vying for

the spirit cup and fretting over the rumored “freshman beatdown”.

Sophomore year, we longed to learn the rules of the road in driver's ed, but soon became bored by the endless memorization of obscure fines - did you know that if you litter on the turnpike you can fined \$500?

In Junior year, senioritis lapsed as we resumed our intensive studies for the SATs. But after our fourth test, we soon realized that there was little we could do. Senioritis had returned, and it was here to stay.

Senior year brought the main evidence of the dreaded ailment - a drastic decline in our motivation. As our standards fell in education, so did our standards in fashion. An influx of sweatpants and t-shirts had taken over the halls of NBTHS, and we began to look only to the future as we got accepted to trade schools, colleges, jobs, and the military.

And, just when we thought we could not hold on any longer and we would succumb to this crippling disease, we reached this day, June 23rd, 2014, this moment in time that we will forever remember, and discovered that all long the only remedy was graduation.

And now, my fellow classmates, we must move on into the recovery stage. The stage where relapse is not an option, and wellness maintenance is a must. We must keep up with our prescription: success. Yes, just what the doctor ordered. A healthy dose of success in whatever position we advance to - whether it be running for political office or raising a family - success is what will keep us from relapse.

So, Class of 2014, promise yourselves never to let senioritis prevent you from following your dreams.

About The Banner

As a news publication of North Brunswick Township High School, *The Banner* serves to provide students with interesting, timely and important information about the school and community. Its staff covers events and stories that are pertinent to the student body at NBTHS.

While honoring the provisions the school has established to maintain a safe environment for its students, the staff upholds freedom of speech as ruled in *Tinker vs. Des Moines*.

The Banner runs in black and white. Throughout the year, the staff maintains a circulation of both a print and electronic publication among NBTHS, the Board of Education and other areas in the community.

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