

# YOUR SCHOOLS

'06

Aurora City School District

## Class of 2006 gone, but not forgotten

Graduation 2006 was an emotional experience for many of the seniors who donned the traditional green and white caps and gowns on June 6, 2006. On stage to greet the graduates was School Board president **Jerry Kohanski** with superintendent **Russ Bennett**, whom many seniors came to know when he was their beloved middle school principal years ago.

As they received their diplomas, many seniors tearfully hugged school board vice president **Ann Morrison**, the preschool and day care teacher they grew to love decades ago when they were just beginning their school days in Aurora.

The closeness of this class to one another, and to those who have been a part of their school experience since childhood, made the 2006 commencement one of the most memorable.

Valedictorian **Jessica Tung** led her class with a witty and inspirational tribute, challenging them not to wait for someone else to promise them their dreams will come true, but instead to make that promise to themselves.

"If you want to change the world, then by all means, put on your Superman

shirt and do it," she said.

Salutatorian **Ruchi Sanghani** talked to her classmates of the many times in their lives when they may have felt they'd had, or not had, "enough." Reflecting on the difficulty of letting go of the friends they've made on their journey here, Sanghani reminded the

Senior Class President **Gary Vojtush** took his classmates on a nostalgic trip to the days when toys and games dominated their lives.

"When we were at Craddock, we were like Mr. And Mrs. Potato Heads, putting our lives together and molding ourselves into the people we are today," he said. "Life is a game of Chutes and Ladders, in which we'll climb and triumph, yet will slide back down and start again."

The AHS orchestra played the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" for the graduation procession and the AHS Advanced Choir capped the evening with a memorable rendition of the Beatles' "In My Life," and a solo by senior **Demi Privette**.

Tung was awarded 2006 Scholarship Award, **Shelly Giaino** received the 2006 Activity Award, and 225 proud graduates received their long-awaited AHS

diplomas in the spirit of the motto chosen by the Class of 2006: "So many roads we have crossed, so many hills we have climbed, so many dreams yet to conquer."



Class of 2006 of the friendships that await them in the days ahead.

"I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye," she said.

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## Class Acts

The **FRESHMAN CLASS** at AHS reached out to children abroad at the end of the school year, with a fund-raising activity that provided measles vaccinations for children in Africa and Asia. During a week-long collection, more than 50 freshmen assisted the Red Cross in its goal of helping to eradicate measles in developing countries, where 400,000 children per year die from the curable disease. Aimee Bricker, of the Summit County chapter of the Red Cross said Aurora's students helped save the lives of over 800 children.

Students in Senora Foster's **AHS SPANISH CLASSES** explored the increasingly important topic of immigration reform this spring by

clipping articles and discussing both sides of the controversial issue. Topics of study included America's guest worker program and the role and lifestyle of migrant workers who live and work in our country. The students made welcome baskets for 10 migrant workers who will be employed in Ohio from May to November this year.

Ten **AHS FRENCH STUDENTS** departed for France on June 9 with their teacher Madame Cook. While abroad, the students will practice their language skills in real-life situations while touring, shopping, visiting national landmarks, and enjoying authentic French cuisine with their class.

The **AHS BAND** performed this spring

at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom in Orlando, Florida. As part of Disney's Music Days Parade, the students marched down Main Street U.S.A., proudly displaying an Aurora banner, donated to the band recently by resident **Sara Schmader** in memory of her mother.

Students in Mrs. Stroy's **BUSINESS FOUNDATIONS CLASS** traveled to the Federal Reserve Bank and the Cleveland Money Museum at the end of the school year, where they were given a tour of the facility after studying the functions of money and the need for a centralized banking system in the U.S. One of the highlights of their trip was getting a sneak peak at the bank's new computerized vault.

### *Teachers and support staff lauded*

## Staff members honored for 'Excellence in Service'

The success of each school year, while shared by all who make it happen, is due in large part to the few whose service to others goes above and beyond expectation.

Each year, teachers and support staff nominate the best of the best among them for recognition of the outstanding work they do for others in the Aurora City School District. The recipients of this year's "Excellence in Teaching" and "Excellence in Classified Service" awards are: second grade teacher **Mary Anne Adkins**, high school teacher **Betty Marlar**, cafeteria worker **Kathleen Flick**, and custodian **Troy Zeman**.

Nominated by her peers, **Mary Anne Adkins** is known for the support she provides to new and veteran teachers

and her love of teaching. "She tackles new curriculum with enthusiasm and makes lessons come alive for her students," said one nominee.

High School business and special education teacher **Betty Marlar** was praised for "years of exemplary dedication to her students and her profession." In particular, Marlar was lauded for her dedication to students with special needs.

**Kathleen Flick** was nominated by her peers for her ability to put on numerous hats in her versatile role as a school cafeteria worker. She is credited with sometimes making over 700 pizzas a month for students, always "extending herself daily," and providing exemplary service to the students of the district.

Not only did **Troy Zeman's** peers nominate him for excellence as a custodian at AHS and Harmon School, but the teachers who work with him also cited his service as deserving of honor. "He is always willing to lend a hand and the first to ask if you need help with anything," said one colleague. "I can always tell when Troy is working in our area of the building," said another. "Everything looks professionally clean and smells great." It is this kind of finishing touch in the classroom, the hallway, the office, and the school cafeteria that makes a difference for everyone in our schools each year. For all they do for others every day, the recipients of this year's "Excellence in Service" awards have earned the praise of all of us in the Aurora City School District.

## *Ciccantelli to take AHS to 'the next level'*

# Ciccantelli given warm welcome as new AHS Principal

**A**lthough August 1 is Pat Ciccantelli's official first day on the job, Aurora High School's new principal is already a familiar face at AHS. Seen frequently in the building this summer, Ciccantelli has already been busy readying his office and the school staff for an exciting year under his leadership.

Formerly an assistant principal in the Solon City Schools, Ciccantelli was selected for his expertise in school improvement planning, student intervention and discipline, staff development, and facilities management, all of which Aurora Superintendent Russ Bennett said made his candidacy stand out among numerous outstanding applicants.

"Our pool of candidates was remarkably impressive," said Superintendent Russ Bennett. "That alone says so much about

the outstanding reputation of our school district," said Bennett.

In the end, the superintendent said



***New HS Principal...Pat Ciccantelli, chats with junior Alyssa Hale during a welcome reception held in his honor at AHS in June. Members of the Aurora P.T.O. served punch and desserts for the event.***

it was clear to him and to the board that Pat Ciccantelli's experience, background, and knowledge were

just what they were looking for to take AHS's already excellent programs to an even higher level.

A resident of Stow, Ciccantelli earned his B.S. in Health and Physical Education at Slippery Rock State College, where he minored in communications. It was at the University of Akron that he earned his master's degree and administrative certification.

In June, Ciccantelli met the school staff. In a separate reception sponsored by the Aurora P.T.O., the new principal met with students and parents in the high school commons, greeting them and thanking them for the opportunity to serve Aurora's students.

"Already, I am impressed with the people I've met and with the warm welcome I've received," said Ciccantelli. "I already feel at home here."



***Superintendent...Russ Bennett joined with the community in welcoming the new AHS principal.***

***Moving Up...Mark Abramovich, smiles at a reception welcoming the new AHS principal. The popular teacher and coach will begin his new duties as assistant principal at Harmon Middle School this fall.***



## 'Top Ten' seniors look back on years of success at Aurora High

**A**urora High School's "Top Ten" seniors were recognized for exemplary academic achievement during the 2006 commencement ceremony and lauded for the accomplishments that put them at the top of their class at AHS.

This year's "Top Ten" are valedictorian **Jessica Tung**, salutatorian **Ruchi Sanghani**, **Cheryl Chen**, **Daphne Chen**, **Allyson Denzinger**, **Ted Jeunge-Foa Lee**, **Terry Heung-Leurke Lee**, **Nicole Maisonville**, and **Cara Taber**.

**Your Schools** honors these outstanding members of the Class of 2006 with a glimpse of their future plans and a glimpse of people and experiences that made their success possible.



**JESSICA TUNG**, the 2006 valedictorian who made history when she earned a perfect score on the SAT test, will enter Duke University this fall where she will major in Pre-law and business. Her plans include earning a Master's degree in business and finance at the University of Pennsylvania. At AHS, Jessica was a

member of the track team and participated in numerous volunteer activities here and abroad. Besides her academic studies, her interests include art and design, classical and jazz piano, and chess. She recalls being shy as an underclassman, but credits AHS and her parents for her success. "I learned the confidence to present my opinions and promote my interests," she said.



**CHERYL CHEN** plans to major in biology and chemistry at Johns Hopkins University, with a minor in business. Her dream is to travel to several countries before completing her residency at a major hospital. At AHS she was a member of the Environmentally Concerned Students, Key Club, Leadership Team, NHS, Quiz Bowl, French Club and

Philharmonic Orchestra. She also plays piano and was a member of the AHS track team. She credits her parents and their devotion to their careers as instrumental in her success. "They weren't always around, and that instilled a significant amount of independence in me and a "do it yourself" attitude.



**RUCHI SANGHANI**, salutatorian of the Class of 2006, will major in biology at Case Western University this fall before moving on to dental school. She hopes one day to work as an orthodontist in a community like Aurora. A member of the NHS, Key Club and Philharmonic Orchestra, Ruchi says she enjoys tennis, playing the violin, watching

movies with friends, and hanging out with her mom. She credits her parents with her success. "They are the strongest and most supportive people I know. My dad has taught me practicality and reason, and my mom is my best friend."



**DAPHNE CHEN** will attend Princeton University in the fall with plans to major in finance or economics before going on to business or law school. While at AHS, Daphne was captain of the varsity tennis team and participated in Philharmonic orchestra, Quiz Bowl, and Leadership. An accomplished pianist since childhood, she was an active volunteer in Aurora at the Aurora Manor

Nursing Home and in our schools as an ESL and math tutor for our elementary students. Daphne is grateful to the IB teachers for their support and credits her maternal grandfather, a university English professor in China, as having the greatest influence on her life. "I don't get to see him often, but through our phone calls and e-mails he has broadened my horizons in so many ways," she said. "Through him, I've been able to gain a fuller understanding of literary works, of culture and history, and the many different ways to see our very different worlds."



**ALLYSON DENZIGER** will major in computer engineering at the University of Dayton and hopes someday to design technology for use by those who are disabled. At AHS, she played volleyball and participated in the Band, the Philharmonic Orchestra, Key Club and National Honor Society. She credits her parents for "teaching me I can

accomplish anything with hard work."

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**NICOLE MAISONVILLE** will attend the University of Western Ontario this fall to study business and social sciences. While at AHS, she enjoyed swimming, springboard diving, eating, and going out with friends. She says her greatest influence has been her friends at AHS.

"I will remember them forever," she said. She has also learned that "things

get better as time goes on, and it's important to step outside your comfort zone."

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**TERRY LEE** will enter the pharmacy program at Ohio Northern this fall with plans to pursue a career as a pharmacist. He says he has been influenced most by his "very caring" grandmother, with whom he lived for three years. "I learned that you cannot escape responsibility, and if you try,

you just end up feeling guilty."

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**SERAINA MURPHY** will major in physical and biological sciences at Case Western Reserve University before pursuing a career with the International Red Cross or another world humanitarian organization. She enjoys running, tennis, Frisbee, reading, music, making greeting cards and memorizing digits of pi.

At AHS, she said she enveloped a higher level of tolerance and became more patient and accepting. She credits the Muppets as having the greatest influence on her life.

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**TED LEE** will join his brother as a pharmacy major at Ohio Northern University, and credits his twin with having the greatest influence on him. "I entered the world two minutes after my brother did," and have been following him since, he said. On his last day of school at AHS, Ted says he learned that "the irresistibly cute black

squirrels are unnatural freaks of nature created from a lab experiment close to the area."

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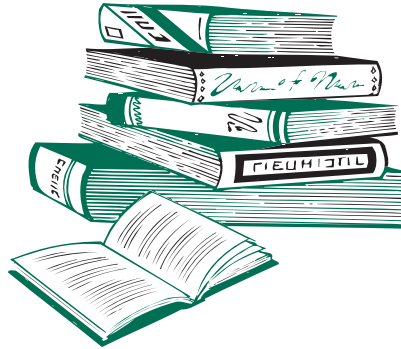
**CARA TABER** plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in applied physics at Grove City College, with hopes of working someday as a research scientist in the field of astrophysics, either for NASA or a private company. She enjoys researching "just for fun," in addition to horseback riding, archery, reading,

running and linoleum block painting. She credits her best friend Emily with changing her and shaping the person she has become. "Over the past eight years, we have been best friends," she said. "I cannot imagine life without her." At AHS, Cara says she learned that the world is huge and has many problems. "We must think outside our town, our state, and our country, and see the world and the ways we can help others."

*No more pencils... Many more books!*

## 'Summer Reading Challenge' keeps books alive

School's out, but that doesn't mean the joy of reading stops for Aurora's students. The Summer Library program has been up and running since June 12, encouraging students in grades K-5 to continue independent reading throughout the summer.



The 2006 Summer Reading Challenge, coordinated by teachers **Jodi Roscoe** and **Kim Armbrrecht**, runs through August 4 in the Craddock gym from 10 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, and from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Wednesday and 4:00-5:30 p.m. on Friday afternoons.



*Flowers Abundant... Flowers were abundant in the MILLER SCHOOL GARDEN this spring, thanks in part to the efforts of the Miller Daisy Troop, who helped in the planting. Here, pre-school students proudly display flowers specially selected for their mothers and grandmothers on Mother's Day.*

## Bits & Briefs.

### Those who make it happen...

Some of our student's most memorable experiences are made possible by the many citizens who volunteer their time each year to provide enrichment activities that make learning fun. Miller School's first "Vehicle Day" was coordinated by **TAMI MAZZELLA**. The success of Miller's "Ohio Reads" program was due, in large part, to the efforts of **DIANA MILLER** this year.

### A Facelift for Craddock...

Craddock Elementary School, the oldest facility in the district, received a facelift at the end of the school year. Parent **Debbie Mehallis** and Eagle Scout **KYLE ULREY**, led several boy scouts in a service project designed to bring the aging building back to life.

### In Service to Others...

The AHS Student Council placed first in the Portage County Big Brothers and Sisters benefit, which challenged areas students to raise pledges for children in need of the organization's support. Aurora students topped all other schools, raising \$1,718 in pledges in the 246th annual Bowl for Kids Sake at Twin Star Lanes in Kent.

## Who's Who and What's New

Harmon Middle School language arts teacher **MARK ABRAMOVICH** has been selected as Harmon's new assistant principal for the 2006-2007 school year. Formerly a teacher at Eastlake North High School, Abramovich is a familiar face in Aurora, having served the district as Harmon's seventh grade football and baseball coach and as the assistant varsity boys basketball coach at AHS.

AHS students excelled in numerous academic competitions in the final semester of the school year. The AHS team of **TED LEE, ANDREW SULLIVAN, and LINDSEY SHANKMAN** placed second in the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics competition this semester. **BRANDON HORST** and **MITCHELL ROMITO** were winners this spring in Level 10 of the challenging American Mathematics Competition test.

Numerous AHS athletes were selected this spring for All-Conference high honors. Selected for 1st Team All-CVC were **DANA BARTLETT, JESSICA WILL** and **C.J. CROW** for softball. **SCOTT HANEY**, baseball; **BRI HALL**, girls track; **CHRIS DENNISON, TOM HERAGHTY, ADAM**

**COLERITO, JAKE BAECHLE, MATT PERRY, ANTHONY BADALAMENTI, DAVE MOORE,** and **JOE CECH**, boys' track.

Aurora's student artists also brought honor to Aurora this spring. Eight AHS artists showed their works in the Governor's Youth Art Exhibition in Columbus through May 19: **DAPHNE CHEN, MICHAEL CIMORONNI, CARLI RAMAGE, JULIA DORFMAN, MONICA CRONIN, ALYSSA JOHNSON, NICOLE SEVEL** and **CARA TABER**.

Five AHS artists were recognized at the National Scholastic Art Awards: **RYAN LOVE** earned a Gold Key for a watercolor still-life he painted for his AP Art portfolio. **TAMRA SHIROCKY** earned two Silver Keys, and three students, **CASSIE BERRINGER, STEPHANIE LEWIS,** and **ERIN MEALING** were recognized for outstanding portfolios. A painting by **LEWIS** was selected by the Ohio Watercolor Society as the "Best in the State."

## Miller hosts first annual 'Vehicle Day'

One of the highlights of the end of the school year at Miller Elementary School was the district's first annual "Vehicle Day," designed to introduce Aurora's youngest students to careers that rely on specialized vehicles for the services they provide.

Students glimpsed the unique aspects of fire trucks, rescue vehicles, and UPS delivery trucks as part of their study

of careers and the transportation necessary for each.

'Sirna's colorful produce truck and the Cable 9 video truck were among the popular vehicles featured at the day-long event. So, too, was the Best Buy Geek Squad, an Aurora police cruiser, Serpentine's own SSR, and a Mobile Pet Groomer created to transport animals for a day of beauty.

With only days remaining in the school year, Miller students boarded their own unique vehicles for one of their last rides home this school year. Their beloved yellow school busses, down for a much-needed rest this summer, are being readied for a new year of transporting Aurora's students to another exciting year of learning.

# Good Luck Class of 2006!



**URORA CITY SCHOOLS**

**Committed to Excellence**

102 East Garfield Road, Aurora, Ohio 44202

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