

SCHOOL NOTES – JUNE 30, 2005

During the last week of school, sixth grade students celebrate the end of the school year with moving-up ceremonies and other activities. Church Street School was no exception. The guest speaker, Carleton L. Highsmith, a local businessman and owner of The Specialty Packaging Group, Inc. gave the students some sage advice when he told them "Your achievement will never exceed your preparation." The message was clear that students should pursue their dreams, strive for excellence, and education is the key to achievement.

The sixth grade students were asked to write an essay entitled "My Plans for the Future." Three students were selected to read their papers at the Recognition Ceremony. While their aspirations vary from designing video games to pursuing a career in obstetrics, all three students stressed the importance of higher education.

Jamel Ozenne wants to become a video game designer. He told the audience "I hope to make games for little kids and adults or combine them so kids and adults can enjoy them together. The game that inspired me to choose this career is Metal Gear Solid. The graphics are great and you need to know how to operate marine stealth ops. In school I will have to take classes in math and computer science along with trying my best. After high school, I will go to a college that specializes in computer design. I hope that my game hits the number one spot and I can start my own company."

Becoming a fantasy writer is the dream of Andrew Gambardella. Inspired by the world-renowned author J.K. Rowling and the Harry Potter series, Andrew wants to "write and publish books that will attract children and adults." In order to achieve this goal, Andrew told his classmates "I have big plans for college. My dream college is Yale University. It is near home and one of the best schools in the nation. College will get me closer to my dream. When I finish college it will be with satisfaction. My final goal is to start a career in writing. I'll work hard on my books and hope to retire with some wealth. Finally, my dream will hopefully come of being a writer. I want to thank my brother Justin for inspiring me to write, and who can forget their parents? Thanks Mom and Dad. I'll miss Church Street School!"

Finally, Divinia Hardy shared her ambition of becoming an obstetrician. Like the others, she said "I know will have to work very hard in school to accomplish my goal. I must take a lot of science courses. After high school, I want to attend the University of Connecticut and then medical school at Yale University." She went on to stress the important of prenatal care. "I think it is important to teach pregnant women about eating the right foods and getting the right amount of exercise and rest." She concluded by saying "This will take many years of studying but I am determined to finish and pursue my dream of being an obstetrician."

Listening to these three students share their dreams and hopes for the future was an inspiration to everyone in attendance. Although they have just completed the first phase of their journey, I believe they are committed to achieving their goals, dedicated to becoming life-long learners and destined for greatness.

If you would like more information about this article or any other topic concerning the Hamden Public Schools, I can be reached at 407-2000 or by email at alida.begina@hamden.org

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