

Schalmont News

CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Students Shine Bright at the Top of the Class of 2010

Schalmont High School has named Megan Lesperance as valedictorian and Kelly Piotrowski as salutatorian of the Class of 2010. They both delivered speeches at the high school graduation ceremony in June. Lesperance and Piotrowski joined 18 other students in making it to the top 10 percent of their class of 174 students.

Valedictorian



Megan Lesperance

Lesperance is a multi-talented student who has pursued a variety of academic, athletic and artistic interests.

In high school, she participated in organizations such as the National Honor Society, where she served as vice president for a year; the Tri-M Music Honor Society, where she served as vice president for two years; and the English Honor Society. She also played on the Varsity Volleyball Team, which she captained during her senior year.

Lesperance spent the last three years in concert choir and was selected for All-State choirs both her junior and senior years.

Her full schedule makes it difficult to pick a favorite high school moment. "It was all too good to chose," said Lesperance.

She has earned numerous awards and honors thanks to her many interests. During her junior year, she earned a Bausch and

Lomb Science Award, a Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Award, an invitation to attend the Congressional Student Leadership Conference, and a nomination to the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. This year she received awards from the Schalmont math and science departments, a scholarship from Dollars for Scholars, and a U.S. Air Force Math and Science Award.

Another of her interests is volunteerism. Her most recent volunteer activities include helping run a volleyball camp, making blankets for children in Honduras, participating in fundraising walks for breast cancer and diabetes, and working at blood drives.

Next year, she'll pursue her interest in biology at Siena College, where she looks forward to "making friends and Siena basketball games."

Salutatorian



Kelly Piotrowski

Piotrowski's academic success didn't make her too busy to have a rich high school experience.

Over the years, she found time to join the varsity swimming, cross country and basketball teams; the Diversity Club; Key Club;

► What's inside

pg.2 ■ **Schalmont High Achievers**

Students and sports teams

pg.3 ■ **HS Alumni Honored**

pg.5 ■ **2010-11 School Budget Vote Results**

pg.6 ■ **Combined Class at Mariaville**

• Sixth-graders Explore Poetry with Published Author

Young minds are full of the question, "Why?"

At Schalmont Middle School, sixth-graders recently learned why studying poetic techniques is important during a visit from Darren Sardelli, an award winning poet and children's book author.

In sixth grade, students study a poetry unit that covers techniques such as similes, metaphors, personification, and alliteration. They read a variety of works and write poems in different styles. They also create poetry books that include their own poems, some published poems and poet studies.

continued on page 4 ----►

continued on page 5 ----►

2009-10 Schalmont High Achievers

Thank you to all of the organizations and individuals who made the following awards and scholarships possible.

Schalmont High School

Army Scholar-Athlete Award

Will Gavin, Hilary Swift

Bausch & Lomb Science Award

Marissa Fortman

Bruce Bouck Memorial Scholarship

Michelle Cuomo

Christopher Nicholas Memorial Award

David Troiano

Clarkson University High School Award

Lori Caldera, Haley DeCarlo

Colonial Council Principals Award

Cassandra Brown, William Gavin

Daughters of the American Revolution Award

Stacy Scheffer

Dignity for All Award

Brooke Ruchalski

Distinguished Athlete Award

Ashley Miley, Vincent Gallo

Dollars for Scholars Award

Cassandra Brown, Chelsea Diana, Alyssa Jackey, Megan Lesperance, Shelby Taylor, Christine Volans

Dominic Cusano Memorial Scholarship

Alisha Catino

Easy Method Driving School Music Award

Alyssa Jackey

Edwin Martin Memorial Scholarship

Benjamin Fontana

Elmira Key Club Award

Zachary Saccocio, Haley Evenden

Friends of Music Award

Vocal: Maithily Chakraborty, Jackie Ranieri
Instrumental: Marc Whitman, Cassandra Brown

GE STAR Award

Kelly Piotrowski, Brittany Berrian

George Eastman Young Leaders Award

Bethany Biernat

Gifford Grange #1549 Award

Aicha Catino

High School Departments/Clubs Awards

Art: Bianca Bojarczuk

Art Honor Society: Bianca Bojarczuk, Gregory Olsen, Kelsey Russell

Business: Jasyn DeHart

Computer Science: Christian Blakely

Drama: Angela Bove

Family and Consumer Science: Alysia Hladik

English: Chelsea Diana

Language: Kaitlyn Perkins, Shelby Taylor

Mathematics: Megan Lesperance

Music: Angela Bove (vocal), Sarah Banker (instrumental)

PE: Christine Volans, Aaron Pommer

Science: Megan Lesperance

Social Studies: Benjamin Fontana

Jeffrey Brockenborough Memorial Scholarship

Ethan Berberich

Knights of Pythias Lodge #540 Award

Gabriella Marsh

Ladies of the Rotterdam Elks Scholarship

Brittany Berrian, Alysia Hladik

Lawrence Tech University Award

Renee Dufek

Michael Sarandrea Scholarship Award

John Cipriani

Mont Pleasant Lodge #717 Award

Amanda Gardiner

Mother Rose of Lima Award

Zachary Borst

NYS Comptroller Achievement Award

Kayla Countermine

Outstanding Career & Technical School Student Award

Ezekiel Brasmeister

Perfect Attendance Award

Shelby Taylor, Benjamin Fontana

Principal's Leadership Award

Maria Mastroianni

RIT Computing Medal

Mariah Baldwin, Nicolas Older

RIT Innovation and Creativity Award

Katherine Brudos, Alex Sroczyński

Rotterdam Kiwanis Club Scholarship

Gabriella Marsh

Rotterdam Policemen's Benevolent Award

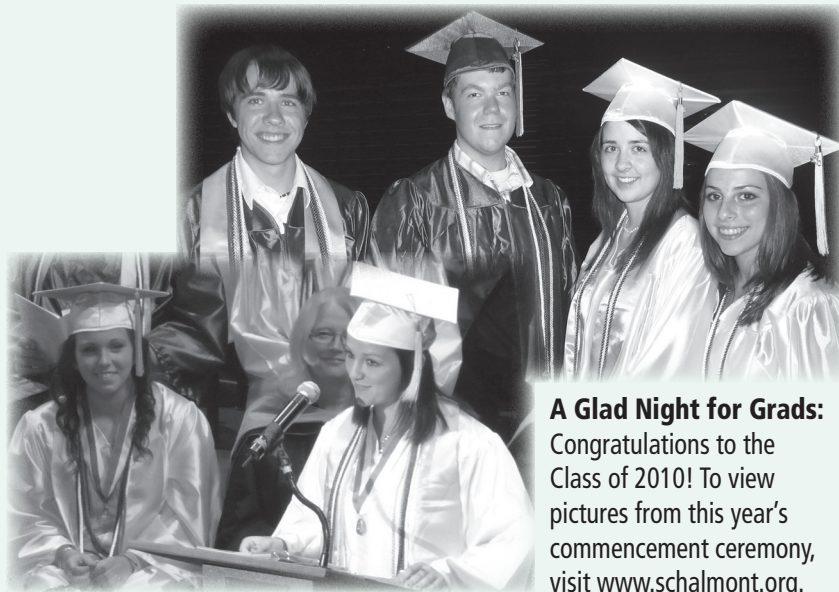
Cassandra Armstrong, Sarah Banker

Rotterdam Republican Club Scholarship

Amanda Mastroianni, Adam Lawyer

Rotterdam Republican Committee Award

Maria Mastroianni, Joe Falcone



A Glad Night for Grads:

Congratulations to the Class of 2010! To view pictures from this year's commencement ceremony, visit www.schalmont.org.

High School Faculty Award

Kelly Piotrowski

HOBY Youth Leadership Award

Victoria Longo

Hudson River Bank & Trust Co. Award

Carla Mastroianni, Greg Olsen

Jack McDonald Memorial Scholarship

Ian Webster



Rotterdam Senior Citizens Assoc. Award

Nicholas Caputo, Nicole Maura

RPI Medal, Math & Science Award

Meredith Juers

Ryder Scholarship

Calire Fisher, Joseph Falcone

SADD Award

Karra Mancini

Sandie Stryjek Memorial Scholarship

David Kolakoff, James Carroll

Santabarbara Scholarship Fund

Cassandra Brown

Schalmont Alumni Reunion Scholarship

Kristen Cusano

Schalmont Athletic Assoc. Award

Joseph Amorosi, Sarah Banker, Juan Bejarano, Christian Blakely, Bianca Bojarczuk, John Cipriani, Brian Constantino, Michelle Cuomo, Kristen Cusano, Ben Fontana, Vincent Gallo, Will Gavin, Alysia Hladik, Adam Lawyer, Carla Mastroianni, David Mastroianni, Kelly Piotrowski, Aaron Pommer, Jacquelyn Ranieri, Kelsey Russell, Kristina Strang, Hilary Swift, David Troiano

Schalmont Elementary PTO Award

Jake Ballmes, Angela Bove, Brian Constantino, Ben Fontana, Claire Fisher, Matt Gogis, Kim Manikas, Brooke Ruchalski, Stacy Scheffer, David Troiano

Schalmont Food Service Award

Ashley Capitummino

Schalmont Scholar Athlete Award

Kelly Piotrowski, Ben Fontana

Schenectady Masonic Lodge #1174 Award

Jasyn DeHart, Katie Montanaro

Scholastic Excellence Award

Maithily Chakraborty

Schonowe Volunteer Fire Co. Award

Elizabeth Blakely



Alumni Honored: Schalmont Central School District recently honored a teacher and an engineer on the Schalmont High School Alumni Wall of Distinction: Cheryl Ann Isles, Ph.D., class of 1970 (represented by her sister, Debra Bradt, left) and Angelo Santabarbara, PE, LEED® AP, class of 1990 (right).

The Wall of Distinction honors alumni who have made significant contributions to their school, community and/or country. If you nominated someone who was not selected this year, his/her nomination will be kept on file for reconsideration next year. Nominees and those who nominated them are encouraged to submit additional information for consideration in spring 2011.

Visit www.schalmont.org/HS/alumniwall.htm to learn more about all of the honorees on the Wall of Distinction.

Schonowe Volunteer Fire Co. Auxiliary Award

Arielle Nicoletti

Semper Fidelis Award

Marc Whitman

Society of Mayflower Descendants

Chelsea Diana, Ben Fontana

St. Michael's College Book Award

Bridget Frank, Anthony Notar

STA Award

Matthew Gogis, Alysia Hladik

STA Memorial Scholarship

Kristen Cusano

Student Progress Award

Kara Mancini, Aaron Pommer

Student Sage Award

Bree Koetznar

Timothy Slider Memorial Scholarship

Angela Bove

Triple "C" Award

John Cipriani, Cody Csontos

University of Rochester Frederick Douglas & Susan B. Anthony Award

Kiana Pollacek

U.S. Air Force Math & Science Award

Megan Lesperance

Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award

Korin Sichak

Xerox Innovation & Information Technology Award

Danielle Hayden

Schalmont Middle School

Daughters of the American History Award

Maire Grace Hewitt

Geraldine Corrigan Award

Haley Fallon

Paula Selkis Award

Jared Freeman, Marlena Mareno

Presidential Award

Rachel Babor, Anna

Benaquisto, Samantha Bergami, Margaret Brudos, Meghan Burns, Nicole Calkins, Alex Chiaravalle, Lauren Chrysler, Lucas Curtin, Evan DellaVilla, Matthew DesChenes, Olivia Desmond, Francesca DiGiacchino, Deva Donofrio, Austin Elliott, Haley Fallon, Matthew Fisher, Dominick Friello, Gabriella Gazzillo, Luigi Gazzillo, Sean Glennon, Taylor Gould, Alexandra Harvey, Steven Haws, Maire Hewitt, Emily Hilton, Krista Hirsch, Sarah Hladik, Sarah Hollister, Jeffrey Houck, Austin Jasenski, Elayna Johnson, Gabrielle Juers, Sydney Kriz, Kyle Lancto, Justin LaRue, Bradey Liverio, Lauren Mahar, Marlena Mareno, Nicholas Marotta, Alyssa Marzella, Julianna Mastroianni, Katelyn Masullo, Paul Mattick, Catherine Morton, Devin Murphy, Yelena Nichols, Corin Noga, Ryanne Olsen, Shawnee Olsen, Nicholas Pareis, John Pascarella, Jonathan Ricciardi, Egidio Rossi, William Ryder, Madeline Saccocio, Monica Shatley, Tyler Smith, Kevin Stearns, Courtney Suito, Emily Testa, Amy Thompson, Dominic Toma, Briana Tote, Jordan Vanosky, Andrew VanWoert, Brittany Vojnar, Lydia Ware, Taylor West, Joseph Wignot, Alexis Zalewski

continued on page 4 ---->



■ **2010 Top Scholars** – *continued from pg.1*



Schalmont Top Scholars:
The 20 seniors in the top 10 percent of the Class of 2010 all had more than a 94 percent grade point average.

and Class Council. This year she was the class treasurer, secretary of the National Honor Society and English Honor Society, co-editor of the newspaper, and captain of the Girls Varsity Basketball Team.

Her drive started at home. “My parents have taught me to always try my absolute hardest, no matter what the circumstances are. I think that this is what has taught me to put forth my best efforts in high school,” she said.

That attitude helped her earn several athletic and academic honors. Most recently she was selected for the Colonial Council Leadership Summit at Siena College, named the Schalmont Girls Varsity Basketball Team MVP, and given an Eastman Young Leaders Award. She also earned a Schalmont Scholar Athlete Award, a Schalmont Athletic Association Award and a High School Faculty Award at this year’s Senior Awards Night.

Piotrowski regularly shares her time with organizations that help her community. She has participated in several fundraisers, such as Relay for Life, and volunteered to help with Earth Day clean ups, a regional food pantry, coaching basketball clinics for youth, and tutoring middle school students.

Next year will find Piotrowski at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she hopes to study mathematics.

“My goal is to learn as much as I can in college, to truly enjoy the experience 100 percent, and to get a job that makes me excited to go to work every day after college,” she said.

Top 10 Percent

Students in the top 10 percent of the Class of 2010 all had more than a 94 percent grade point average. On June 1, they were honored during a ceremony to which each student invited someone who had been personally inspiring during high school.

Several of these students are pictured above (left to right): in the front row, Cassandra Brown, Angela Bove, Kristen Cusano, Kayla Countermine, Kaitlyn Perkins, Chelsea Diana, and Zachary Borst; in the back row, Benjamin Fontana, Kelly Piotrowski, Kimberly Manikas, Maithily Chakraborty, Maria Mastroianni, Carla Mastroianni, Stacy Scheffer, Megan Lesperance, and Gregory Olsen.

Top scholars not in the picture include Claire Fisher and Adam Lawyer.

■ **High Achievers** – *continued from pg.3*

STA Award

Anna Benaquisto, Samantha Bergami, Margaret Brudos, Meghan Burns, Evan Della Villa, Taylor Gould, Maire Grace Hewitt, Krista Hirsch, Sarah Hladik, Gabrielle Juers, Brady Liverio, Lauren Mahar, Marlena Mareno, Julianna Mastroianni, Katelyn Masullo, Corin Noga, Egidio Rossi, William Ryder, Madeline Saccocio, Tyler Smith, Kevin Stearns, Dominic Toma, Jordan Vanosky, Taylor West, Alexis Zalewski

STA Student of the Year

Katelyn Masullo

Scholar Athlete Teams

Fall Teams

- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Golf
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Tennis
- Girls Volleyball

Winter Teams

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Bowling

Spring Teams

- Boys Baseball
- Girls Softball
- Boys Tennis
- Boys Track and Field
- Girls Track and Field

■ Exploring Poetry – *continued from pg. 1*

Sardelli's visit, which was sponsored by the MS PTO, capped this year's poetry unit. The goal for his visit was to help students see the real world application of poetry and that writing poetry can be fun, according to English teacher Mary Beth Flatley.

"It is important for students to hear from professionals so they can make the real world connections to what they are learning. It is one thing to learn about poetry in the classroom, but to see someone making a living by writing poetry was a great educational lesson to our students," she said.

During an assembly, Sardelli entertained students with his poems and shared the story of his success.

He told them that he actually didn't enjoy reading and writing when he was young. It was a dream that eventually

The Fun Side of Poetry: Author and poet Darren Sardelli (bottom) recently spoke with sixth-graders about being a professional writer.



helped him realize that

writing was a way to express himself and entertain others.

"His lesson about working hard and

it paying off one day was something the students really related to," said Flatley.

After the assembly, smaller groups of students participated in workshops with Sardelli. In each session, he spoke to the students about limericks, which are humorous poems with five lines. He then showed them a famous example and guided them as they created a poem as a group. Students came up with some funny lines, such as one limerick that began, "There once was a witch on a broom..."

"Not only did Darren inspire our students during his presentation, but also in the workshop when they had a chance to write a poem as a class. The students had a very worthwhile day," said Flatley.

Voters Approve 2010-11 School Budget

On Tuesday, May 18, Schalmont Central School District residents voted by a margin of 768 to 404 to pass the proposed \$42,325,000 budget proposal for the 2010-11 school year. The budget will not increase the overall budget for the current school year, but it will increase the school tax levy by 1 percent.

"We're grateful for everyone who took the time to vote," said Superintendent Valerie Kelsey. "It was a difficult budget year, especially with no official decision on the Governor's state aid cuts before the vote. This budget will help ensure Schalmont students continue to receive a quality education."

Four candidates – Sandra Beloncik, Michael DellaVilla, John DiCocco and Robert Sheehan – submitted petitions to run for the three three-year seats available on the Schalmont Board of Education.

- Beloncik received 749 votes and was elected to her sixth term on the school board.
- DellaVilla received 815 votes and was elected to his third term on the school board.
- DiCocco received 628 votes and was not elected to the school board.
- Sheehan received 832 votes and was elected to his third term on the school board.

By a margin of 667 to 500, voters passed the school bus purchase proposition asking voter permission to purchase three 66-passenger buses for \$294,000. Schalmont is eligible for state aid reimbursement on a portion of that cost, so the real cost to the district will be \$117,600. Schalmont's current fleet will not increase because older buses will be traded in towards the purchase of new buses.



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Schalmont

CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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WHAT'S INSIDE? Top 10% of the Class of 2010, Schalmont High Achievers, Sixth-graders Work with Published Author

School Board Calendar

The 2010-11 Schalmont Board of Education public meeting dates were not available at the time that this newsletter went to print. They were to be set at the annual reorganizational meeting on Tuesday, July 6, in the District Office, 4 Sabre Dr.

Reunion Calendar

Class of 1985

Nov. 27, 2010, at 7 p.m.
Mallozzi's Restaurant
1930 Curry Rd. (location change)
rbikowicz2000@yahoo.com
jsquires11@aol.com

Class of 2000

Nov. 27, 2010
Settles Hill Tree Farm
1123 Settles Hill Rd.
Altamont
cney9501@hotmail.com



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"Camp Learned a Lot" Eases Transition to Combined Class at Mariaville

From singing songs around a campfire to cheering for their peers and sharing s'mores, kindergartners and first-graders at Mariaville Elementary School showed off their camaraderie during the last day of school.

The students will become part of a combined classroom next year, in which first- and second-graders share the same teacher. To help ease the transition, students began attending a mock camp at the end of this school year under the direction of kindergarten teacher Lynette Miller and first-grade teacher Kari Berg.

"We wanted to integrate the students as much as possible in preparation for the changes that will occur next year," said Berg.

At "Camp Learned a Lot," students engaged in learning centers where small groups of students from both grade levels participated in simultaneously occurring activities.

Students earned merit badges for their

participation in the camp-like activities, which included storytelling, arts and crafts, and fishing, among others.

"They had so much fun, they almost didn't realize they were learning," said Berg. "It was an extremely motivating, exciting and engaging learning experience for them."

The activities also helped students forge new friendships with future classmates.

When they return to school in the fall, students will be taught by Kim Knapik with additional support provided by a teacher's assistant or aide.

The new classroom configuration was included in the 2010-11 school budget due to low enrollment at both grade levels.

"During these difficult financial times, we just couldn't justify a classroom of only ten students," said Principal Brian Hunt.

For more information about a combined classroom, visit the district Web site.



A Fun Combination: A student shows off the merit badges he earned during a camp for students who will be in a combined first- and second-grade class next year.