

Hi Everyone -

Not all of you could attend Class Day yesterday so I thought I'd give some of my overall feelings of the day. Marty Jacobs, Jean Martin Fowler and her husband Michael, Vic Petriella, Sam Sudfield, Clara Roth and I attended - we missed all of you who couldn't be there with us!

Another IHS Class Day - It seems to get better each year!

As we entered the auditorium we heard the Jazz Ensemble playing on the stage! Remember how we walked into assemblies with the orchestra playing!! The junior ROTC let us in the pledge of allegiance and then one of our scholarship recipients sang the Star Spangled Banner and did a fantastic job!!

Dr. Hackett - the interim superintendent - opened the day with congratulations to all the students. She urged all the seniors and juniors who were there to remember that they represent Irvington High...and they should be proud of the high school and the work that they've done. They have to help spread the word that Irvington High School is a great place to be. She challenged all the juniors to take the SATs...just in case they want to attend college. When I gave the scholarship awards later on I told Dr. Hackett that the students had been helping us spread the word by being great students in college and having a real love of IHS. Our fund is growing because we are so enthusiastic..... because the students have been so inspiring.

Once again the Multipot Dance Company performed a beautiful dance which was well received by all!

The students really seem to love Principal Davis. One year at Class Day he shouted at the students...*Knowledge is....*and they all called back *Power!* They loved it. The one he did this year was *..Blue Knights...All Day!* There was a lot of spirit in the auditorium!!

We all went on stage for the presentation of our scholarships. Cassandre Louis and Dahannah Josias Sejour were there to receive their continuing awards. This year's winners - Shirlena Coke and Na'imah Spells seemed very surprised and happy when I called their names! Cassandre will be going to Drew and Na'imah will be going to Centenary. As we left the stage one of the Assistant Principals gave each of a blue and gold IHS label pin which also had the word Thanks!!

Last year at the end of the ceremony we were disappointed that we didn't sing the Alma Mater even though it was on the program. This year the program ended with the entire student body - led by the Junior Class President - singing the Alma Mater!! It was really loud....and well done!! Later on Principal Davis told us that he was embarrassed last year that only the alumni knew the words so he made it a priority this year for everyone to learn it!!! His plan worked!! It was wonderful.

Afterward we took pictures in the lobby. Shirlena's father was there and made it a point to speak to all of us to thank us for the scholarship. Na'imah remembered me from last year (she was one of the Honor Society users and I remembered her too!) and she was very, very grateful for the award.

Dahannah and Cassandre were able to join us so we went to lunch in Kenilworth and enjoyed hearing about all the girls college adventures. Dahannah spent a Semester at Sea so we heard about her visits to countries from Japan to Spain! Cassandre seems to be adjusting well to life in a rural campus setting in upstate NY!

Yesterday Marty, Sam and I took our first college graduate - Ron Josias - to lunch in Westfield and we presented him with our first Alex Trento Memorial award!! He has grown into such a wonderful young man and was so surprised by the award. He wants to help us and will become a liaison between us and our award winners.

We want to thank Russ Rasco and Vic Petriella for giving us gifts to pay for the lunches with the students without having to take money from the Fund. Thank you, Thank you!!! The students were amazed that you would do that for them!!

I think that's all for now....I'm still smiling!! Thanks so much to all of you!

Nancy Sieffert, June 8, 2013