

## Class Day 2104

It just gets better and better! I still get such a warm feeling when I walk up the stairs and into IHS.

We were warmly welcomed by the guidance counselors – they had wonderful refreshments for us in the guidance office. It is so obvious that they have pride in the school and in the students. In fact all the teachers and administrators who participate in the program are enthusiastic and energetic. They truly seem to enjoy teaching and interacting with the students! I noticed in the hallway across from the office there were two uniforms hanging on the wall.....khaki pants, a khaki skirt and white shirts with the IHS Blue Knight logo. I noticed during the day that a lot of the students were wearing the uniform.

We entered the auditorium and walked down to our front row seats to the sounds of a great band on stage. The band was much larger than last year and really sounded good!! When I presented our award I commented on how good the band was and how it brought back memories of our Friday assemblies with our band in the front pit!!

IHS has a very active JROTC and they presented the colors and a talented senior - Ebony Torres – sang the Star Spangled Banner. Keep your eye out for her....she's very talented and has a wonderful personality. She came up to all of us after the assembly and thanked us for coming and introduced us to her family!

Once again we were so impressed with the students. As the award presentation was starting the Senior Class Administrator (who was the master of ceremonies) asked four students to come to the front of the stage. He wanted everyone to know what these students had accomplished and what bright futures they had. The four students – two boys and two girls – each had full scholarships to top notch schools. One is going to Dartmouth, one to Princeton, one to Rutgers and one to Monmouth.

We had another large contingent of alums at Class Day and Marty recognized everyone on stage. As usual when our class years are announced the students all gasp and then laugh a little! Attending this year were Clara Roth '59, Vic Petriella '59, Sam Sudfield '57, Carla Schwab Rodriguez '62, Marty Jacobs '60, Nancy Hetz Sieffert '60, Pat Garrity Posner '60 and Larry Klepner '60. Our award winner is Sallita Singh....she was very surprised and very grateful for our scholarship. She has only been in the US for three years but has accomplished so much. We were very impressed with her essay where she talked about the sacrifices her parents have made for her and for her siblings. She is very active in clubs – including the marching band! – and in community service projects. She will be attending Montclair State in the fall.

The Multipot dance performance is always so enjoyable and this year it was better than ever. I captured some of it on video so check out our website to see it!

The NJ Consumer Bowl has been active in NJ for 18 years and Irvington is the only school to have won top prize for three years! Medals were given to the top student in each of the major academic areas – Math, Science, English, History, French and Spanish - and the students seem proud to wear them.

The valedictorian – Rafael Nunez – spoke briefly and thanked all the teachers, guidance counselors, administrators and staff who helped plan the day and helped the seniors get through four years!! Several of us commented that the students all just looked terrific!!

Our only disappointment was that they asked the guests to leave the auditorium first at the end of the program so we weren't there when they sang the alma mater!!! I think they thought we wanted to avoid the crowding at the end but we wanted to sing!!!

All in all ....another great day at IHS