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2012~2013		
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**OPINION EDITOR** Shivangi Khanna

**Advisor** Joseph Trad

# From the Desk of the Editors-in-Chief

While we were brainstorming ideas for our final editorial, we decided that, if anything, we wanted to be original. As Editors-in-Chief, we realized the significance of our last piece. These few measly paragraphs are our last joint declaration, our final opportunity to relay some wisdom to the freshmen, leave an impression on a peer or teacher, and above all, spark curiosity in our readers. Hopefully, throughout the year, we've inspired some of you to think critically about **vour** own views, and **ours**.

Struggling to decide on an editorial topic, we dipped into The Lance's archives to see what our predecessors wrote about. We discovered that most of them wrote sentimental pieces about how much they learned in high school, how short these four years were, and how successful we'd all be in the future.

Although we totally agree with all of those things, we both recognized that we've heard enough of these graduation platitudes. Because too many people have gone through this rite of passage, nearly every possible viable angle has already been covered; it would be close to impossible to spin a graduation piece a different way without being too off topic, too overwrought, or too complicated.

So, instead of making you read some quasi-inspirational, tear-inducing essay, let's simply celebrate the experiences we've had together over the last four years. The good, the bad, the great, the incredible, the pain, losses and difficulties, the successes, the failures, the life changing and the mundane, and all of the miracles that have gotten us through this crazy ride-let's reminisce and remember. And even though we were trying to avoid it, we'll leave you with the biggest, truest cliché of them all, You Only Live Once. As we start this next chapter in our lives, let us truly live our lives to the fullest.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013! We wish you love, happiness, and the best of luck!

For the last time

### Bae and Gilberg An Interview with the Editors-in-Chief Emily Bae Ari Gilberg

#### What has been the most difficult thing being co-editor-in-chief?

The most difficult thing being co-editor-in-chief was learning to work and cooperate with different personalities. Being patient is truly a virtue! I've learned so much about staying calm, and how important it is.

#### Describe your co-editor-in-chief, Ari Gilberg, in one sentence.

Although our personalities clash all the time, Ari is a very hard worker, driven, and truly, unabashedly passionate about Journalism.

Describe Joe Trad in one sentence. Trad is crazy and stubborn, but he is super funny and a great advisor.

changed How have vou throughout high school? As a freshman I was so nervous about everything: my grades, appearance, and my future. I've definitely become more confident throughout high school.

#### Why did you start working on the newspaper?

I took Journalism on a whim in my sophomore year because I was interested in writing. It was never my intention to be so involved in The Lance and I never expected to become Editor-in-Chief! I'm really grateful that things fell into place for me.

#### Describe yourself in three words.

Enthusiastic. dedicated. and admittedly, a little bit scatterbrained.

#### What important lessons have you learned as co-editor-in-chief?

I have learned that mistakes happen all the time, but you can't let them get to you. If I freaked out over every misspelling, uneven line, or blurry picture in the paper, I would drive myself crazy. Don't get me wrong, I am definitely a bit of a perfectionist, but I've learned to let things go, move on from my mistakes, and try to do better the next time around.

#### What advice can you give incoming freshman?

Don't be too hard on yourself! A little bit of stress is okay, but being too self-critical can be stifling. Also, be fearless in your academics, your extracurriculars, and everything else that you do. Don't be afraid to try new things! Go for it, even it seems scary; you never know what may come of it.

#### Describe your co-editor-in-chief, Emily Bae, in a few words.

Emily is very intelligent and confident in herself and in her work. She expects the best from herself and from her peers. When she starts a task, she won't stop until it is completed.

Describe Joe Trad in one sentence. He is the Voice of Reason. Nothing else needs to be said.

#### Why did you start working on the newspaper?

I've always liked writing and was interested in sports journalism. After writing a few articles for the Sports section, I started to branch out and write News and Features articles and became an avid contributor.

#### What would you change about your experience working on the newspaper?

There are numerous restrictions we have to abide by. I would have liked a lot more freedom in the articles we can write, what we can say, etc. We try to emulate a professional newspaper but since The Lance is still a school-run news publication, it can be difficult to do that because of the limitations.

#### What was your favorite article you worked on?

Probably my "Can the Real Rappers Please Stand Up" article from junior year. I love music and especially rap, so it wasn't just a regular article for me. Also I loved the controversy it stirred up; any publicity is good publicity.

#### What is the one thing that you learned while working on The Lance that you will take with you after high school?

Commitment. In order to get each issue out you have to be committed; in order to succeed in life you must be committed to what you are doing.

#### Why is the newspaper and journalism in general important to you? And why should it be significant to others?

today's society In people associate journalism with TMZ, Twitter, and blogs. That isn't journalism. Journalism is the presentation of the facts, and the facts alone-with zero bias. People should know what is actually going on in the world, rather than being told what to believe by biased right and left-wing news outlets.

Statistics and Facts

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## *"I am unwritten, can't read my mind, I'm undefined. I'm just beginning, the pen's in my hand, ending unplanned..."*

-"Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield



Number of Students Leaving the Country: 5

Number of Issues of The Lance This Year: 7 AMAZING Issues

#### PLACE STUDENTS

NEW JERSEY	115
PENŃSYLVANIA	56
NEW YORK	51
MASSACHUSETTS	25
MARYLAND	19
CONNECTICUT	13
DELAWARE	9
Rhode Island	9
MICHIGAN	8
FLORIDA	7
WISCONSIN	7
VIRGINIA	6
WASHINGTON D.C.	6
INDIANA	6
ILLINOIS	5
CALIFORNIA	5
OHIO	5
Tennessee	5
GEORGIA	5
MISSOURI	4



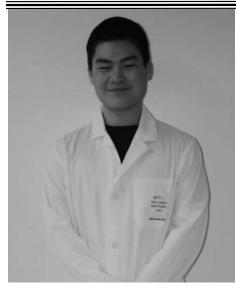


Image Source: Alexander Nie

Was it always your goal to be Valedictorian?

Of course! I almost had to ransom the lucky Giants sweatshirt Spencer uses for Calc tests.

#### What is the hardest class you've taken at LHS?

I'd have to say AP English 3. Nothing says challenging like half an hour spent picking out the right words for a one-sentence blurb, the infamous midterm project, or sprezzatura. That being said, it's a class that makes you grow as a writer and as a person.

#### In your opinion, what is your best feature? (Name one physical and one personality)

Physically, I'd go with my eyes because they're magic. (They disappear when I smile).

# **Alexander Nie** Meet the Class of 2013 Valedictorian

it's fun. You can never predict the places you go and the thoughts you have while pursuing an interest. I once ended up in Iowa for a chemistry program. Did you know you can *hear* corn grow?

#### If your life had a theme song, what would it be and why?

"Numa Numa." At some point, everyone has to unleash his or her inner Youtube star.

#### Most influential teacher?

Most influential would definitely be Ms. Houben. I think I learned as much about life as I did about calculus in her class. Hardworking, outgoing, and nurturing, she inspires through example.

#### What is one thing most people do not know about you?

I'm actually sharing a secret lab with Stewie Griffin. He's a bit of a card, but much better than the last two I was working with (some pompous kid named Dexter and his annoying sister Dee Dee).

#### Name one regret you've had in high school.

Joining every club under the sun. As challenging as AP English was, nothing comes close to coordinating a regularly conflicting schedule. To the freshmen: make time for the things you love; make wish lists for the things you like.

For personality, I'd say curiosity because Advice for the aspiring valedictorians? Never let a syllabus define what you learn. Question everything, and go beyond what's taught in the classroom. It makes a huge difference in motivation when you own your learning process. Oh, and Chicago is choice B. (You'd be surprised how often I've seen this one on the APs).

#### Be honest, are you nervous about graduating?

A little, but not as nervous as I should be. I don't think it's truly going to sink in how significant this is until I'm walking across the stage.

#### If you could have any food right now, what it be and why?

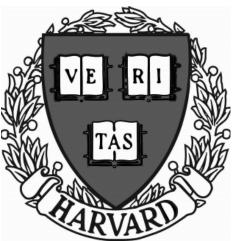
Nutella. You should never need a reason to eat Nutella.

#### What is one thing you'll miss at LHS?

The people. LHS is such a fun, nurturing, and accepting place because of its community. It's saddening to think that our years together draw to a close. But given how ambitious, fun, and amazing my fellow students are, I can't even imagine what stories we'll tell when we meet again.

#### Describe Salutatorian, Spencer Luster, in one sentence.

Pretzels: the next generation of performance enhancers.



Alexander Nie will attend Harvard University.

#### How bad is your senioritis?

I was one of the more fortunate; only a mild strain. After the outbreak I-- I did what had to be done. For such a potent and contagious infection, it's remarkable that it only affects people of a certain age.

#### Last, but not least, after all your success in high school, what do you plan on doing with the rest of your life?

As far as I'm concerned this life only comes around once, so I plan to make the most of it. That means pushing boundaries and exploring new places. Spending time with my friends and family. And most of all, gaining a better understanding of the world we live in. Live, love, learn.

# **Spencer Luster** Get to Know This Year's Salutatorian



Spencer Luster will attend the University of Pennsylvania.

#### What drove you to succeed in high school?

The possibilities LHS had to offer. I did my best to take advantage of the dedicated teachers and passionate staff. I tried to make the most of my time at LHS.

#### Be honest, how nervous are you about graduating?

Not too nervous, assuming the cicadas leave us alone. But in all seriousness, I think that LHS has prepared us well for the next part of our lives.

#### What is your dream job?

I haven't slept enough lately to know.

#### How difficult was it to balance your social life and your studying?

It certainly hasn't been easy, but I would say that it is a skill like anything else. As I have practiced it over the course of my four years here, I have gotten better at juggling the different parts of my life. Eventually, I found the balance I was looking for.

#### How bad is your senioritis?

On a scale of 1 to Amy Xu, about a 5.

#### **Favorite movie?**

Memento. That movie makes Inception look simple (and it's also directed by Christopher Nolan).

#### In your opinion, what is your best feature? (Name one physical and one personality)

Physically, my height has come in handy, especially on the tennis court. Otherwise, I think that my team mentality has made me a dedicated member of many of the groups and organizations I have worked in at LHS.

#### If your life had a theme song, what would it be and why?

Gangnam Style, and isn't it obvious?

#### What is the hardest class you've taken at LHS?

That's not a fair question. Each course is unique, and has a different aspect that makes it difficult. Though I will say that AP Bio has a reputation, and it's well deserved.

#### Which teacher has had the largest impact on you?

Mr. Page and AP Stat have had a very large impact on me. Because of his course, there's a roughly 45% chance that I study statistics in college. (And no Mr. Page, I will not show you the data).

#### What will you miss most about high school?

The people, without question. The friendships that I have made at LHS have meant a lot to me, and I can't imagine the



Image Source: Lors Studio last four years without them.

Describe Valedictorian, Alex Nie, in one sentence.

Bill Nye doesn't stand a chance.

If you could change one thing during your four years at LHS what would you change?

I would give everyone their five extra minutes of sleep back and start school at 7:55.

#### What is the one thing you're looking forward to most in college?

There are more than 90 food trucks on the Penn campus.

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Max Shevrin University of Tampa Tampa, FL

Emma Siegel Binghamton University Vestal, NY

Marta Silva Montclair State University Montclair, NJ

Samantha Silverman University of Wisconsin Madison, WI

Spencer Silverman Franklin and Marshall College Lancaster, PA

> Johanna Silvestri Bloomsburg University Bloomsburg, PA

Justin Slaughter Lincoln Technical Institute Union, NJ

> Lindsey Sokol Lehigh University Bethlehem, PA

Aria Soltani Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA

> Tyler Solter Widener University Chester, PA

Sue Son Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Kevin Song Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Laura Mae Sorio Seton Hall University South Orange, NJ

Elizabeth Spencer Susquehanna University Selinsgrove, PA

Philip Spiler University of Wisconsin Madison, WI Zachary Stark Stetson University DeLand, FL

Danielle Starr University of Maryland College Park, MD

Robert Stern William Paterson University Wayne, NJ

**Kyle Stetson** United States Marine Corps Parris Island, South Carolina

> Daniel Stone Boston University Boston, MA

Nicholas Striglia Rutgers University Newark, NJ

David Strumeyer University of Missouri, School of Journalism Columbia, MO

> Carly Suchoff Indiana University Bloomington, ID

Eric Sugarman Brown University Providence, RI

Carly Swenson Wesleyan University Middletown, CT

Jeffrey Tabankin University of Hartford Hartford, CT

Matthew Tamburri Ramapo College of New Jersey Mahwah, NJ

> Justin Tauber Syracuse University Syracuse, NY

Justin Tepper University of Tampa Tampa, FL

Joseph Terzian Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Lisa Thottumari St. Peter's University Jersey City, NJ

Karina Tjin Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA Alex Tofel Emory University Atlanta, GA

Alex Toma Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

Miki Tomotsugu Information Not Available

Christina Torrens School of Visual Arts New York, NY

Matthew Torres Information Not Available

Brett Traiger University of Delaware Newark, DE

Elizabeth Tran Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Daniel Tsioni Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Evan Tsioni Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Gavriel Tsioni Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Daijon Udeh Rowan University Glassboro, NJ

Morgan Unger Lehigh University Bethlehem, PA

Lauren Vaca The George Washington University Washington, DC

> Azyah Van Ness Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Viktor Vasylkiv Information Not Available

Kathleen Vaughn Coastal Carolina University Conway, SC

Katherine Vicente Montclair State University Montclair, NJ Andrew Vittoria County College of Morris Randolph, NJ

> **Taylor Wade** Hofstra University Hempstead, NY

Alec Wainberg Emory University Atlanta, GA

Andrew Wang Information Not Available

> Jane Wang Indiana University Bloomington, IN

Janet Wang Indiana University Bloomington, IN

Ximin Wang Northeastern University Boston, MA

Rachel Wasilak William Paterson University Wayne, NJ

David Weinberg The College of New Jersey Ewing, NJ

Heather Weinberg The College of New Jersey Ewing, NJ

Jessica Weinick Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

> Cooper Weisman Indiana University Bloomington, IN

Emily Weiss University of Wisconsin Madison, WI

> Angela Wen Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Alana Wickner Pratt Institute Brooklyn, NY

Emma Wightman Roger Williams University Bristol, RI

Zachary Wolkstein University of Arizona Tucson, AZ

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# Future Plans

Jerusha Woodruff Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

> **Jennifer Wu** Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN

**Kent Wu** Villanova University Villanova, PA

Jessica Xu University of British Columbia Vancouver, BC

> Stephanie Xu Binghamton University Vestal, NY

> > **Timothy Xu** Emory University Atlanta, GA

Amy Xu Columbia University New York, NY

**Tiffanie Yakum** American University Washington, DC

Samuel Yang Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Yilin Yang The College of New Jersey Ewing, NJ

Kenneth Yanga New Jersey Institute of Technology Newark, NJ

> Eric Yu Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA

Jeffrey Yu New Jersey Institute of Technology Newark, NJ

> **Jimmy Yu** Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

ManYee Yu University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA

> **Richard Yu** Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN

Elan Zebaida Binghamton University Vestal, NY

Christine Zhang Boston College Chestnut Hill, MA Frederick Zhao The College of New Jersey Ewing, NJ

> Lucy Zhou Brown University Providence, RI

Mingxi Zhou Information Not Available

> **Jeffrey Zhu** Brandeis University Waltham, MA

Austin Zudeck New York University New York, NY

Congratulations to the Class of 2013 on their Future Plans!

Remember	When
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"Freshman year we thought all of the seniors looked big "You needed a pass to go to the library during lunch" Jared Saltzman and scary" - Brett Birnbaum "WE FOLLOWED THE RULES....YEAH, ME NEITHER" "We were all freaking out about moving into high school" - Hasan Khan - KRISTINA BRECKA "We all played words with friends" - Ben Cardona "We obsessed over Naviance scattergrams" - Moshe Pasternak "One year we had more bomb scares than "Our administration had hair." - Gavriel Tsioni "We brought the town of Livingston together and won our first ever McInnis Cup." -Jonny Garfinkel "The senior project was a breeze...oh wait." snow days. "We weren't confined to one hall during lunch." . Tim <sup>Cece</sup> - Joe Samaan - Bridget McCormack "WHEN I WAS A 5 STAR GENERAL OF THE GREEN "School started at 7:55 and ended at 2:32" - Jenna Kaufman ARMY" - DAVID STRUMEYER "You were able to sign yourself out when you were 18" - Logan Corsello "We had to eat in the cafeteria" - Nick Striglia "We wanted to be in high school"- Alec Friedman "Lock downs used to be more than 2 minutes" - Matt Healy "WE DIDN'T HAVE TO RUN IN GYM" "YOLO was not a thing"- Margo Fleishman - TORI KARGMAN "Halloween was cancelled two years in a row" - Julie Berman "Your school schedule was ranked based on what period you had lunch"- Maddie Rosenfeld "Mr. Trad ate a head of lettuce"- Ari Gilberg

### "Sometimes my tries are outside the lines. We've been conditioned to not make mistakes, but I can't live that way..."

"Probably still fighting for a good "The tyrannical bells" - Jana Ruthberg parking spot' - Nick DePasquale "I don't know, hopefully something meaningful" "'Mr. Major' translates to five full minutes of "Friends" - Justine Jang wasted class time" - Allison Friedman - Kaitlin Peck "I will be a doctor" "The walk from the Madonna lot to the front door "Working" - Erik Katcher - Johanna Silvestri in the pouring rain"- Rebecca Myers "Relaxing on the beach in California"- Derek Lee "The campus"- Justin Garrel "Spittin bars all day"- Jesse Francione "The walls and hallways" - Vidita Gawade "The Lance!" - Emily Bae What will you be doing What will you miss when you are 50? most about LHS? "Retired and swimming in my own money"- Jen Berger "I'll miss the people and the memories more than anything" - Camarie Eaton "I'll be enjoying my life with friends and family while also making "The science wing water "Not having to see Mr. Trad's face fountains"- William Ng bank" - Matt Healy every day"- Tim Cece "I will be president"- Evan Schoenbach "Paying back student loans" - Willie Pauwels "The Green Army"- David Strumeyer "The teachers that had an impact "School spirit" - Rebecca Atlas "I'll be in Hawaii with my husband" on my future" - Jared Saltzman "I'll be a boss making bank" "The Pacer Test"- Philip Spiler - Nancy Liongson - Josh Mack "I'm in college"- Mike Russo "My cat ate my homework... he eats "Being accepted to college"- Stephanie Xu everything" - Kseniya Samsonik "Going out for lunch"- Evan Maltz "Doing nothing"- Stacy Santola "There are no bells due to AP testing"- Xander Edwards "Laughing at juniors and their SAT prep cards"- Justine Jang "I'm a senior"- Zach Stark "Knowing how you can pretty much do whatever "I threw it out"- Jacob Pollack "Calling my teachers by their you want"- Jesse Kirsch "My jeep ate my homework"- Andrew Psillakis first names"- Jessica Xu "It was a Jewish holiday" "Grilling in the senior parking lot"- Brandon Melvin - Mo Pasternak "Having Mr. Trad for English"- Rachel Bayer "I'm supposed to go still go to class?" - Sam Silverman What's your best excuse What's the best part of you can give to a teacher? being a senior? "The air conditioning" - Ryan Blum "YOLO"- Jillian Gaier "Wait, what homework"- Robert Clark "Have freedom, enjoy the year, build good relationship with teachers, and do little work" "Why you no speak english? I sorry"- Marta Silva - Cooper Weisman "Having like no finals" "You never answered my email"- Sam Alpert "Getting away with nonsense" - Kaitlin Peck - Rebecca Salerno "Don't worry about it"- Justin Tauber "Speedracing to Millburn Deli at lunch" "I wasn't really up to it" - Monica Conway Camila Correa "Grades don't matter once you get into "I was busy not doing homework"- Tiffanie Yakum college"- Derek Lee "Finally having a justified reason to take a twenty "The Voice of Reason told me not to do it" - Timothy Xu minute walk every period"- Nick Depasquale

"Drench yourself in words unspoken, Live your life with arms wide open..."

# **Farewell To Our Beloved Teachers And Faculty**

Ms. Falcone Office Secretary



How long have you worked at LHS and what is your position/job?

I've worked at LHS for 14 years as an administrative secretary who works for assistant principal, Mrs. O'Leary. Before LHS, I worked at Riker Hill Elementary for 16 vears.

#### What are your future plans?

I hope to spend more time with my grandchildren, extend longer periods of time at my shore home, and do all of the things I have put off because I didn't have enough time to do them.

#### What is your favorite memory at LHS?

I would say my interaction with the students when they arrived in my office. It was always refreshing to converse with them.

Ms. Pogach *Mathematics* 



How long have you worked at LHS and what classes have you taught?

I have worked at LHS for 19 years, and have taught all levels of algebra, pre-calculus and calculus. I have also taught HSPA math and basic math skills.

#### What are your future plans?

I plan to return to community activities and take a more active role in charitable organizations. I plan to take walks, each leisurely lunches, and read books. Most importantly, I expect to spend more time with my family.

#### Any advice for graduating seniors?

My advice to is to always be honest with yourself, to keep as many doors open as possible, and to maintain integrity even when making a poor decision is easier.

Ms. Muzikar Family Consumer Science



Muzikar has Ms. taught number of Family and Consumer Science classes, including: Sports Nutrition, Family and Child Development, Fashion I and II, Hotel and Restaurant Management, and Interior Design.

Muzikar has faithfully Ms. served Livingston High School community and Livingston school district for many years and The Lance would like to wish her great luck, health, and happiness in her future endeavors and plans.

Number One Teacher By Joanna Fuchs

I'm happy that you're my teacher; I enjoy each lesson you teach. As my role model you inspire me To dream and to work and to reach.

With your kindness you get my attention; Every day you are planting a seed Of curiosity and motivation To know and to grow and succeed.

You help me fulfill my potential; I'm thankful for all that you've done. I admire you each day, and I just want to say, As a teacher, you're number one!

# **Goodbye Class of 2013: A Letter From Class President Jennifer Wu**



Student Government President Jennifer Wu

We are the latest crop of millennials- the newest addition to "Generation Y." They call us "Generation Me," a lazy, entitled generation of overconfident young adults. We have been accused of redefining activism as merely changing our profile pictures on Facebook or sending a tweet or two. We measure ourselves in our number of followers and friends, and have mastered the art of the "selfie." It is no

surprise that some consider our way of life

to be shallow.

Our bodies and minds have developed amid a huge rise of new media, which has shaped our different lifestyle. This does not, however, necessarily justify calling our generation narcissistic and arrogant. The world simply has not seen what we are capable of yet.

As we leave high school, let us

expel such stereotypes. It's time for us to take action. We must stop dreaming and start doing. Our class will face the highest college tuitions and one of the lowest employment rates of all time. But just as we have worked tirelessly in school, we will work tirelessly during and after college toward success.

Let us prove to the world that we cannot be labeled. We are innovators, philanthropists, and leaders. Above all, we are fighters. We are up for any challenges the world presents to us. Teachers and administrators alike have lauded our class as one of the most impressive yet. Whether it's academics or extracurricular activities, we have performed beyond expectations.

Each one of us has tremendous potential. The newfound independence of college comes with many responsibilities and choices. We must be proactive and take advantage of all opportunities. Greater use of our own potential leads to greater happiness.

The label of "Generation Y" preemptively limits this potential. Why must they assume that our mindset will produce a negative outcome? They call us overconfident, but simply look around you on graduation day and admire your fellow classmates. Each one is unique, with an undeniable thirst to grasp onto new knowledge and opportunities in college and beyond. Let us be the ones to redefine Generation Y as the kids who shocked the world by embracing and overcoming challenges again and again.

As nostalgia sinks in on graduation day, do not forget to thank your teachers and administrators. We have been privileged to have such caring figures in our school who have constantly fought to improve our education and maintain our welcoming school environment. Thanks to our parents and family, whose selfless support has shaped this class of well-rounded, open-minded students.

It has been a true honor to serve this magnificent class. Thank you so much for this opportunity. Congratulations, graduates! See you soon. - Jennifer Wu

# *"Today is where your book begins, The rest is still unwritten."*

Dear Class of 2013:

I congratulate all of you for reaching a major milestone in your lives - high school graduation. The path that has brought each of you to this moment was individualized. You have explored opportunities, made choices, faced challenges, and found successes that you will take with you as you leave the everyday life of Livingston High School. For some of you, it was becoming Merit Scholars, published writers, State Champions and world class athletes, commissioned artists, professional researchers, applauded performers, and decorated business leaders of America. For others, it was attempting a course that you knew was going to be difficult before it began, but taking it because you knew you could do it, or dedicating countless hours of time and effort to make the team.

And then there were the moments that we shared as a community. Pep rallies, proms, Senior Picnic, and grumbling as you walked all the way to the front of building when returning from your open lunch are all memories we will keep with us throughout our lives. Yet, it is impossible to reflect on this school year, your senior year, and not think of the week we lost to Hurricane Sandy. That week apart was time that brought us closer than ever. While the school served as an emergency shelter, several students came by daily to check the status of LHS or to see how they could help. Stories were shared of families with power opening their doors to friends, neighbors, and classmates who remained without light and heat. When school reopened, we turned our attention to the larger community. You, the students, sprang into action, creating clothes drives, collecting emergency supplies, and raising money for students and families who were in need. Our "Stuff the Bus" campaign exceeded our expectations, as it was necessary to procure two additional buses to transport our load to southern New Jersey.

The community spirit from that moment carried us through your senior year. Students arrived in droves to support our Lancer teams through games and runs in state tournaments. Many of you took your time to write letters together, once again, to support families as they lived through the tragedy of Newtown, Connecticut. Faced with yet another weather-related consequence, you took the snow postponement in stride and gathered to catch rubber chickens with the greatest of enthusiasm during your Senior Games. For that, you will always be remembered.

On behalf of the Lancer community, I wish you all the best as you begin life after high school. Continue to strive to reach your individual best and discover more and more each day what you want that to be. At the same time, maintain and build the sense of community you established here at Livingston High School. Our gifts are greater when they are shared with those around us. Take a moment to reflect on all that you have accomplished together during your time at Livingston High School and thank those who have helped you find success along the way.

It has been an honor and a pleasure working and celebrating with you.

Síncerely,

Hard Stern