

# Huntington High School's 150<sup>th</sup> Commencement

## G.O. President Alexandra Kiley's Address and Introduction of Class Advisors

In eighth grade, I was the Finley Middle School President. One of my priorities was to organize a school dance. I had this grand “inclusion illusion.” It would be a glitter-coated, dimly-lit extravaganza. Our entire class would attend. Every few months, I persuaded administration to give it a go. I made flyers and accosted my poor unsuspecting classmates, urging them to buy tickets. And without fail, before each dance, we'd sell like twenty. Needless to say, each time the dance was canceled.

Only within my last year of high school did I come to terms with the truth behind those unsold dance tickets. It wasn't apathy. I'm sure that at some schools, dances are pretty happenin'. Huntington is not one of those schools, but that isn't bad. Huntington students are eclectic and don't all fit the same mold. I've realized that everyone has their own thing – even if it's not the same. I'm happy that we're all so different. I'd much prefer to support my classmates in their various games, concerts, food drives and plays than to have everyone at one dance.

The good thing about the Class of 2011 is that we're so diverse. I don't mean that “redistricting has given us a cross section of varied economic and racial groups”. I mean that we're all different and it's great! How boring would it be to live in a world where everyone was exactly the same? I know that it's cliché, but we really do represent the “best of the best” in so many different ways.

As our high school years have progressed, I've seen us embrace our differences and become more supportive of one another. Our classmates have distinguished themselves in a variety of disciplines. Not only are we comprised of all-state athletes, nationally recognized musicians, renowned artists and national merit scholars but we have shared these talents with the school. The activities we have run, as a class, through clubs and

through the school have not been limited to dances and parades (which I do still like by the way). They have been a true reflection of our separate talents, skills and identities.

The success that we have achieved as a Class cannot be mentioned without recognition of Mrs. Lori Kenny (Ms. Pyzocha as we still may know her) and Mrs. Eliana Oranges. These two extraordinary ladies have been our advisers from the beginning of freshman year and have led us tirelessly through Homecomings, Playfests, Car Washes, Movie Nights, Safe Halloweens, Breast Cancer Walks, a Talent Show and, of course, Prom. Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Oranges are a perfect representation of our grade – showing our diversity. Though a ninth grade biology teacher and eleventh grade Spanish teacher may seem to have nothing in common, well...they don't have much in common. But, they sure have made a perfect team. With their different backgrounds and varied passions, our advisers have always pushed us to utilize our talents and creativity and celebrate this diversity. Not only are Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Oranges incredible leaders, they are also wonderful mentors and friends.

Before I welcome them to the podium, I'd just like to say goodbye. I couldn't have picked smarter, kinder, wackier or better group to spend high school with. I know that the Class of 2011 will bring its spirit, diversity and enthusiasm to the world. Next year in travels, colleges and careers, I'm sure that you will all be a force to be reckoned with. Good luck Class of 2011 and thanks for everything. Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Oranges will you please come up to graduate us.