



Advisories and friends line up outside for one last group photo on graduation day 2011 at Souhegan High School before proceeding inside for ceremonies

Class of 2011: Egg Salad Sandwiches... Back Packs... Quotes

BY CLIFF ANN WALES

Friday, June 17th, was graduation day at Souhegan High School. With the threat of inclement weather, the Commencement Exercises were moved indoors to the gymnasium with overflow capacity in the auditorium. The 224 graduates filed into the gym by advisory greeted by their proud families and friends. Not only was the gym full of happy graduates but also with the energy and enthusiasm that only graduation day generates.

Jill Parolin, salutatorian, addressed her classmates reminding them that Souhegan High School has altered and shaped their personalities "for the rest of our lives." They have learned patience, collaboration, determination and friendship. Crediting another classmate, Julia Kenney, she said, "Be the Souhegan in a world that is full of high schools."

Now we get to the egg salad sandwiches. In Principal Jon Ingram's message he shared with the graduates his lessons learned in his first year as principal at Souhegan. From his advisory students he had learned to lighten up, keep it brief and eat more egg salad sandwiches. Why egg salad sandwiches? Because they are a simple pleasure in life, not to be forgotten. That lesson came from one of his students who ate egg salad sandwiches every day at lunchtime ... don't miss the simple things in life.

Wellness instructor John Dowd was the chosen faculty speaker. Arriving at the podium carrying a backpack, he related two stories of forgiveness to the graduates. He ended his speech saying, "You're about to head off on a journey away from here. I would strongly encourage you to travel light. Are there things that you are carrying that you would be better off laying down and leaving behind? Is there someone besides you who could benefit from your forgiveness? I'm challenging you to consider it and I look forward to hearing about your journey."

Valedictorian Katrina Jacobs started her address with a joke by Steven Wright, "I wish the first word I ever said was the word 'quote,' so right before I die I could say 'unquote.'" Katrina went on to say, "Life is a series of quotes. We're here today to celebrate our graduation from high school: the end of a quote that began in kindergarten and the beginning of our quote as adults." Asking her classmates to think about their quotes, she said, "My wish for all of you is that, no matter what path you take, your quote will be memorable."

The beauty of the Souhegan Commencement program is defined by the personalities of the students who participate. The Souhegan Concert Band under the direction of Carl Benevides performed "Andromeda" and "The National Emblem March." "Pomp and Circumstance" by Elgar was directed by Alexandria Kibbie. Morganne Bent sang our National Anthem; The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tucker Brown who will enter the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado.

The Masters of Ceremony were Aly McKnight and Michael Cinque.

The concert choir conducted by Pat McMullen performed "In My Life" and "Lean on Me."

The Turning of the Tassel and the mortar board toss were ably lead by Liam Murphy.

Congratulations to the 224 graduates of the Class of 2011!



The processional in the the halls of Souhegan High School



Graduating Class of 2011 is all smiles



Patrick O'Mara, center, smiles for the camera



Soccer player?



Tucker Brown led Pledge of Allegiance



MC's Michael Cinque and Aly McKnight



Souhegan Concert Choir



Vice Chair, Souhegan School Board Mary Lou Mullens and retiring Superintendent Dr. Mary Athey Jennings

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