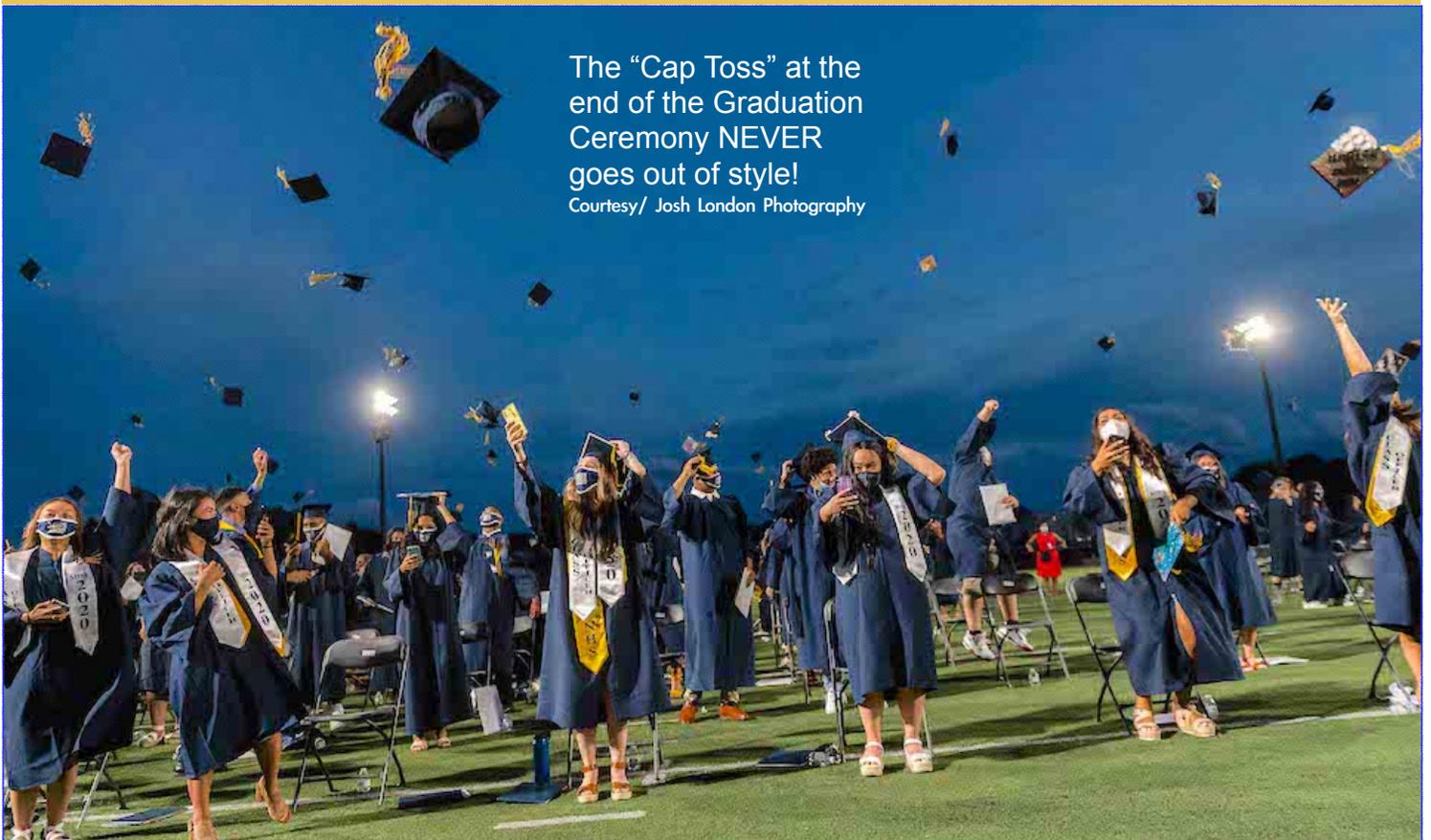




Volume IV No. 1  
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# THE NEDLAM NEWS

## THEIR DAY in the SUN!: MHS Class of 2020 beams on Graduation Day



The "Cap Toss" at the end of the Graduation Ceremony NEVER goes out of style!

Courtesy/ Josh London Photography

**#Black Lives Matter**

*More Graduation Photos are inside on Pages 4, 5 & 6*

# WELCOME BACK, EVERYONE!

***The Summer of 2020 seemed very short and very swift... but now we unite to face & embrace another new set of challenges***

To All Malden High School Educators, Staff, & Administrators:

Let me take this opportunity to welcome everyone back from what I hope was a restful and enjoyable summer break. Everyone certainly earned some quality time away “from it all” ... but knowing our Malden High School educators and staff, there is a better than good chance you spent plenty of time preparing for and looking forward to the beginning of another school year. It has not been an easy calendar year so far, we can all agree with that. Together, we have faced so many challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the many ways we had to re-think and even re-invent our teaching methods to adapt to the guidance we had to follow. We know that the school year ahead of us will likewise present us a whole new set of challenges and once again, we will have to adjust and recalibrate at many junctures. By continuing to work together and supporting each other, we will absolutely get through the obstacles and bumps along the road (and there will be plenty of both!). I just want to let you know that I am excited to start this journey with you. It is not going to be easy and we will learn and grow together as we navigate our way through this year's version of Distance Learning. Please remember that I am here for you. If I do not have an answer for you, I will find it. As always, the health and safety of students and staff is my top priority. Thank you for your passion and commitment to our kids. I appreciate you more than I could ever express with words. *Chris Mastrangelo-Principal*



Mr. Mastrangelo



## ***Malden High School Aspirational Instructional Focus Statement***

Malden High School educates an inclusive and equitable community of diverse learners whom we are preparing to be Communicators, Collaborators, Critical Thinkers, Innovative Learners, Empowered Citizens, and Persistent Individuals. As such, MHS instructional practices present authentic and relevant experiences that are intellectually engaging, student-centered, inquiry-based, cognitively complex, process-oriented, and encourage productive struggle. Furthermore, these instructional practices encourage students to pursue their interests, leverage their strengths, and explore unfamiliar concepts that prepare students for life in our ever-changing modern world.



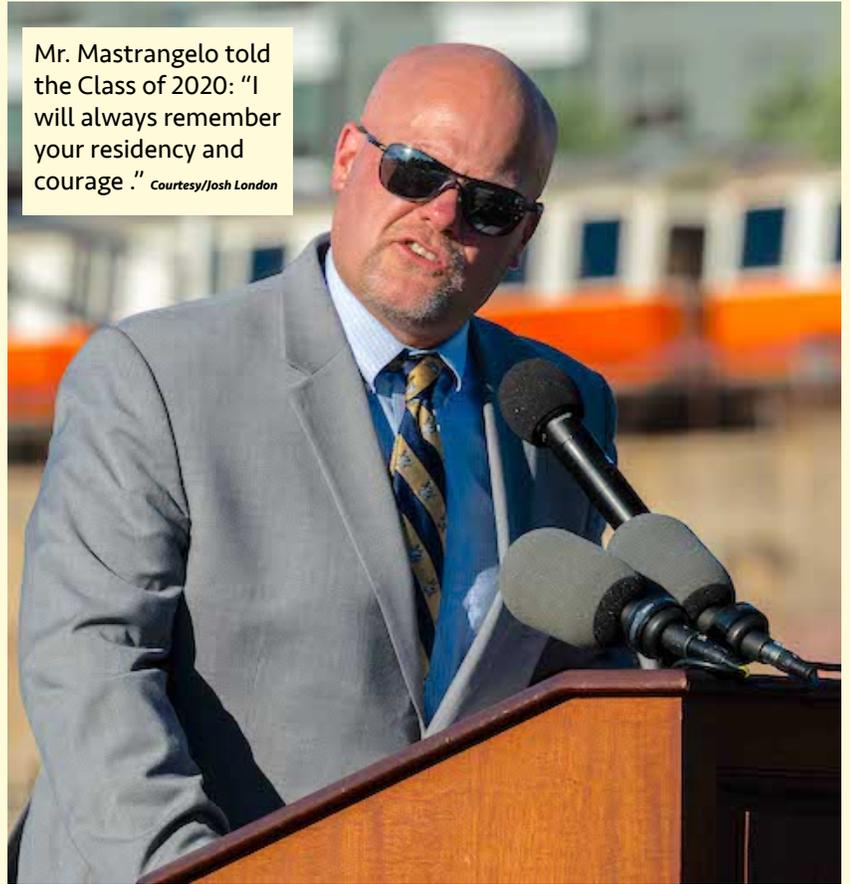
## UPCOMING @ MALDEN HS:

**SEPTEMBER 8-11** — Week Two of Professional Development and Training for Malden High School educators and staff. This week will focus on training in issues of Diversity and Equity as well as Social and Academic Justice. More Distance Learning initiatives as well.



## Malden High School Vision Statement

The Malden High School community believes in the potential of all students to learn, to grow and to become active, conscientious participants in the 21st century global society. We believe that students learn most effectively in a safe, respectful environment that encourages diverse viewpoints, promotes critical thinking and perseverance and establishes vigorous standards for all. We honor the diverse nature of our Malden community, promote social awareness and community involvement and strive to meet the needs of all students through innovative methods and continued professional development. We are committed to ensuring that Malden High School graduates are thoughtful, independent, purpose-driven, lifelong learners. We seek to equip all students with the skills and habits necessary to successfully navigate and contribute to our ever-changing world.



## Malden High Class of 2020 graduates 444 with a 'close to traditional,' in-person ceremony

By Steve Freker  
For the Malden Public Schools

For the over 400 newly-minted Malden High School alumni, the wait was worth it.

Under sunny skies with a very slight breeze, the Malden High Senior Class of 2020 finally finally got its due, with an outdoor, close to traditional graduation ceremony on Monday, August 3 at Macdonald Stadium, in a year where they were denied many of the traditions that customarily come with the completion of a 12th year of schooling.



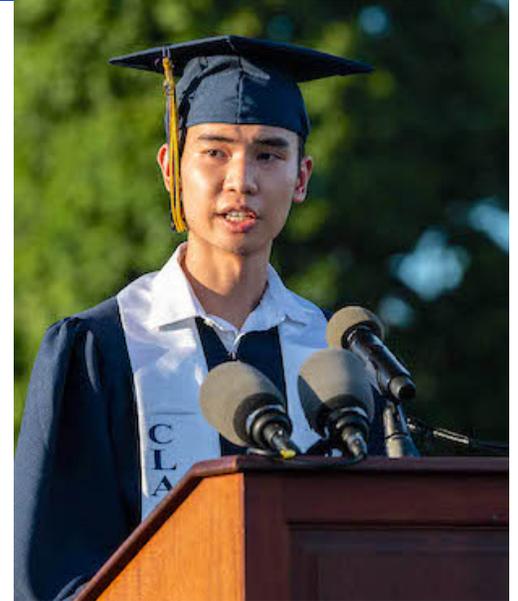
The coronavirus pandemic cut short the in-person school year for Malden students and those across the *See Page 6*

# CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2020: You faced many obstacles and made us all proud with your resiliency & spirit!

## Class of 2020 Valedictorian and President Jacky Luong's Address:

Good evening, everyone.  
I want to thank Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Oteri, and Principal Mastrangelo for allowing us to gather here today.  
I hope everyone is doing well. For anyone out there who is struggling through this pandemic, know that you're not alone, and we will all get through it together.  
It is unfortunate that COVID-19 has prevented more beloved staff and faculty as well as friends and family from attending our ceremony this year. In light of this, I would like to start with a moment of appreciation.  
Shoutout to Mr. Bowers for his great stories,  
to Mr. Morrison and Mr. Bazz for their dedication to the Robotics Team and making even a place like Norman, Oklahoma a little less dry,  
to Ms. Márquez for opening up my eyes to the social issues that plague our world and the importance of being aware of what's going on around me,  
to Mr. Marques, who seems to be busy more than 24 hours a day, for recognizing the talents and removing the limits of his students,  
to Ms. Quinn for not only being an amazing counselor but also for

*Continued, Page 7*



Jeyda Ward's Cap  
decoration says its all!  
*Courtesy/Josh London Photography*

# Good Luck, MHS Class of 2020: *It was a pleasure to to work with you!*



Left, faculty Erin Mazza and Todd Cole. Above, Rasmee Ky, Salutary address. Right, Bethann Taddeo. Josh London Photos

**PLEASE  
CONTRIBUTE TO  
'THE NEDLAM  
NEWS'!**

**LET'S SHARE THE  
GOOD NEWS  
ABOUT MHS!**

NEDLAM NEWS is published and distributed digitally every Friday. Past editions available at [www.maldenps.org](http://www.maldenps.org) under the Malden High School Resources Tab/Principal's Newsletter. Any questions? Contact Steve Freker, Editor @ : [sfreker@maldenps.org](mailto:sfreker@maldenps.org)

*Do you have some good news to share about students, teachers, administrators and other staff members? An extracurricular activity, club or sports team? There is LOTS of Good News @ Malden High School! Let's share it with EVERYONE! Mr. Mastrangelo encourages everyone to email Steve Freker: [sfreker@maldenps.org](mailto:sfreker@maldenps.org) with any news you like to share: stories, snippets, photos, announcement of meetings, events coming... and ones held. THE NEDLAM NEWS appears every Friday in your Inbox*

# MHS Class of 2020 seniors get right 'going away present'

**Continued from Page 3**

the nation, beginning in mid-March for most. Nothing has been the same since.

Monday night's ceremony was not a "return to normalcy" nor was it "the new normal". As Bill Belichick would say, "it is what is is".

But just over two months from its originally scheduled date, the 444 members of the Malden High Class of 2020 got to march to the strains of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" after all.

The Class of 2020 was praised and congratulated by Mayor Gary Christenson, Superintendent of Schools John Oteri and MHS principal Chris Mastrangelo for their perseverance, patience and commitment to completing their senior year.

Mayor Christenson made special note of the overlying events of the day, in addition to the coronavirus pandemic, which made it a much more difficult year. He referred to the killing of George Floyd, which sparked marches and protests nationwide, including one here in Malden, organized by MHS students.

He also referred to the political storm over many issues, which has swept the nation.

Supt. Oteri also noted the strength the members of the Class of 2020 have shown this year. "Through it all, in a year like no other, you have persevered, and for that we commend you," Supt. Oteri said.



Sebastien Blanc was one of the 444 members of the Senior Class of 2020 who received their diplomas in a close-to-traditional Graduation Day held in-person at Macdonald Stadium. *Josh London Photo*

Principal Mastrangelo also had heartfelt messages for his seniors. "I will never forget this class and it will always have special place in my heart," he said. "The MHS Class of 2020 has had to face obstacles and challenges that no other class in this school's long history have had to face, and you've come through it — together."

The ceremony was changed and shortened due to the regulations and stipulations due to safety and health concerns. Only two guests per student were allowed inside the stadium, with the usually jam-packed stands considerably less filled.

On the field, graduates were physically spaced out and instead of the traditional handshakes (and handouts of diplomas) at the podium, the graduates were verbally congratulated by the Mayor, Superintendent and Principal, but drew their own diplomas from bins set up on the lowered podium.

MHS Valedictorian Jacky Luong was the #1-ranked student as well as Class President for the Class of 2020. In his speech he thanked teachers, administrators, his family and others

"that made my four years memorable and for their devotion in teaching their students, not just knowledge, but how to be a better person."

Luong also noted the diversity of the populations in the city of Malden and at Malden High School, calling them a strength. "We are fortunate to be in one of the most diverse schools in the state and the country. Growing up and being with people from all different cultures and ethnicities, sometimes it is easy to forget about how socially unjust this country is.

"It may be because other people out there haven't had the same opportunity to be exposed to different peoples, and in that absence, they believe the stereotypes and reinforce them," Luong said. "It's up to us to educate others about the falseness of their stereotypes and correct them. It's up to us to break down the notions of power and privilege and to break down the social construct of race that is so frequently used to determine who deserves what."

# Jacky Luong's Valedictory Address on Class of 2020 Graduation Day

*Continued from Page 4*

all the time and effort she put into being our class advisor, even driving to Connecticut a few times for those Krispy Kreme donuts that sold so well—without her, my high school experience would not be the same.

I'd like to thank all of the wonderful teachers at Malden High School who have made my four years here memorable and for their devotion to teaching Malden students not just knowledge but how to be a better person, I would also like to thank my family for always loving me and working hard to give me their best, even when I didn't appreciate it until later, and most of all, I would like to thank God for getting me to where I am now and changing me to become who I am today.

Now to the Class of 2020,

It's time to move on. You guys know that.

We've had our fair share of locked bathrooms and lunch times that felt too short. From this point on, we're at the wheel and steering our lives ourselves. We're going to decide what bathrooms we can use, and when we want to have lunch. All of you have the potential to and will succeed, and if doubts stand in your way, then let that push you more to prove them wrong. We are moving on.

But don't forget where you came from. Don't forget the supportive friends and staff who made you laugh and helped you mature over the past four years. Don't forget the great food you had here, like at New York Pizza, or how much you wish you could go to New York Pizza but had to control yourself from the urge. And most of all, don't forget the people around you.

In the past several months, we've witnessed something unprecedented. In the midst of questionable leadership—if you want to call it leadership—and people standing up for themselves against racism in our justice system and our society, it's easy to lose faith in this country. Under all this conflict, 2020 has been anything but positive. We are experiencing history, but we must make sure our actions are not forgotten or rewritten like the twisted history that we've been spoon fed since a young age, a twisted history

that speaks only of America's successes, hiding its shortcomings.

My point is, we are fortunate enough to be in one of the most diverse, if not the most diverse, schools in the state and country. Growing up and being with people from all different cultures and ethnicities, sometimes it's easy to forget about how socially unjust this country is. It may be because other people out there haven't had the same opportunity to be exposed to different people, and in that absence, they believe stereotypes and reinforce them. It's up to us to educate others about the falseness of their stereotypes and correct them. It's up to us to break down the notions of power and privilege and to break down the barriers of race that are so frequently used to determine who deserves what.

Quarantine hasn't made life easy; keeping everyone apart, it's hard to connect to others and harder to go out to take action on these matters. However, we will pull through on the other side stronger. Even though we are physically separate, we stay connected through social media and Zoom calls. But more importantly, we are united by the fight against racism, and by our collective struggle in this pandemic. We've made it this far, through late nighters and tough teachers, and we're not going to let a crisis like this stop us from making our own mark on the world.

When you're out there—\*gestures towards some place far away\*—whether that's in college, in the workforce, in the military, or somewhere else, remember to make this society better. It doesn't take much to make a difference in your community. All around you, there are people who take care of their parents and siblings and people who help out at local events and proudly embrace and show their culture, as you might've seen at JVs. When you're out there, remember to be true to yourself, be inclusive, and welcome anyone who comes your way. Sometimes, just setting the right example is enough to help others do the same.

As the class of 2020, remember that we don't just see the future clearly—we are the future.