

BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Seniors honored with awards

By Danielle McLean

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Dozens upon dozens of awards and scholarships were handed out to Class of 2014 seniors Friday, recognizing students for everything from community involvement, high marks in the classroom, to exceptional performances on the athletic fields, the orchestra pit and the stage.

The awards were presented to students inside the high school's cafeteria, in front of teachers administrators and parents.

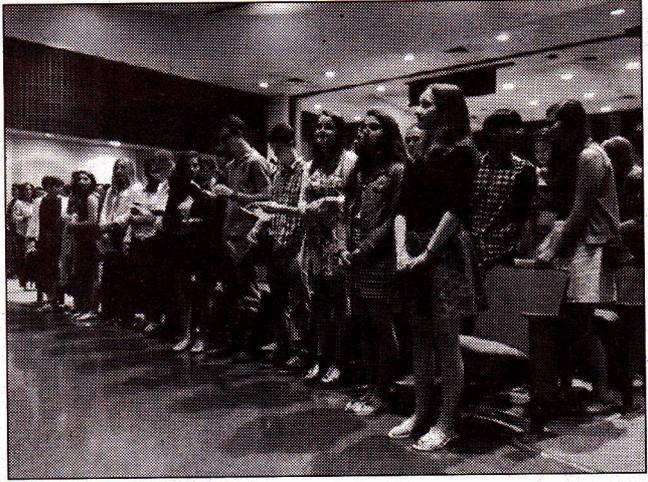
Many of the awards were presented by department heads or administrators, however others were presented by organizations, businesses and local residents who were presenting memorial scholarships.

Belmont High School Guidance Councilor James Brown said at the event eight graduating seniors earned a perfect score on one or more of the sections on the ACT exam. He said 29 graduating seniors scored an 800 or higher on at least one section of the SAT exam. The students who earned those marks were recognized at the event.

Belmont High School Guidance Councilor Stacie Ross presented senior Virginia Hardy with the Eleanor Roberta Walker Scholarship for her intention to earn a teaching degree at college.

Ross said Walker was a former Belmont elementary school teacher who taught in the district for 41 years. "She had a love of children, a curious mind, and an enthusiasm for teaching," said Ross. "This scholarship is given to a worthy student who plans to continue her education and major in education."

Hardy went on to win several other awards including the R. Gerald Kelly Memorial



Approximately 100 graduating seniors were honored with awards and scholarships at a ceremony at Belmont High School on May 30. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO/DANIELLE MCLEAN

Scholarship, which was also given to a student pursuing a career in education.

Belmont schools METCO Director Diane Wiltshire presented the Thelma Burns Scholarship to Andreana Jones and Natasha Trotman.

Wiltshire said Burns was the Belmont METCO Director for 20 years. She said each year the award is given to students who have "demonstrated academic and athletic achievement and who have been actively involved in the BHS community," she said.

Senior Christopher Kelly took home the James Tinker Memorial Scholarship for his team spirit, willingness to help others and led by example while competing in football and wrestling.

The award presented by Brenda Donovan, the sister of the 1990 Belmont High School graduate James Tinker who died a few years ago. She said Tinker excelled in football and wrestling during his years at Belmont High. He later went on to lead the Marauders football team as an assistant coach.

"I can think of no better honor his memory than to give to others the way that Jaimie continued to

give during his life," said Donovan. "He was never one to take the attention or spotlight. He just loved being part of a team, loved sports and loved helping others."

Peter Leofanti and Erich Ippen, members of the Alumni and Friends of Belmont High School presented \$2,500 scholarships on behalf of the local charitable organization to students Jones, Hardy, Ibrahim Abutaleb, and Tony Gao.

Students Madison Bailey and Julia Starr won the Belmont Women's Club's Unsung Hero Awards. The awards were presented by Women's Club member Maryann Scali who said the girls helped a local woman who is legally blind, deaf and has a hearing problem.

Bailey and Starr are "Two students who took the extra step in providing some kind of service or help to single person or organization," said Scali. "These two have provided countless hours of assistance and also formed a level relationship with the woman."

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