

# Seniors take walk down memory lane

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Laconia High School seniors Gabrijela Djuric, left, and Skyler Tautkus walk the halls at Pleasant Street School on Thursday. Children cheered, gave notes of encouragement and high-fives to two busloads of soon-to-be graduates during “Senior Walks” at each of Laconia’s three elementary schools and the middle school. (Karen Bobotas/for The Laconia Daily Sun)

• Karen Bobotas



Cole Reid puts a PSS pin on his commencement robe as Laconia High School graduating seniors "walk the halls" of the school Thursday afternoon. Reid began his school days at PSS as a kindergartener. (Karen Bobotas/for The Laconia Daily Sun)

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LACONIA — Children lining the halls at Pleasant Street School on Thursday clapped, waved signs and gave high-fives to their heroes.

The tribute was similar to what an NBA team might receive when taking the court, but in this case the recipients were graduating Laconia High School seniors in cap and gown.

This is the second year for a "senior walk," in which soon-to-be graduates go to Laconia's middle school and three elementary schools to show younger students what is possible if they study hard and stay in school.

The moment was bittersweet for some seniors.

Wearing a red gown with a gold honor society sash, Cole Reid said this was his first time back at Pleasant Street School since he attended here.

"It's weird, everything seems mad small," he said. "It's crazy. I'm kind of sad."

He's also excited about his future, which will start with a post-graduate year at Bridgton Academy in Maine.

Reid held a note given to him from one of the children:

"Congratulations on almost graduating high school. Good luck. Have a great year."

Principal David Levesque gave each of the seniors who attended Pleasant Street a red pride pin.

"Our kids get a lot out of it, " he said. "Our teachers are excited too.

"For us, we're glad to see the kids who have gone on to be successful and then it's also important for the younger kids who say, 'This is what I can do.' It's a stay the course kind of thing.

"We follow our kids pretty close. Five of the top 10 students this year are from Pleasant Street School. So we take pride in them."

First-grade teacher Carmelle Ryan said her former students often will recognize her before she recognizes them. She has changed a little over the intervening years but they have changed a lot, growing from tiny children to full-grown young men and women.

"I've been so excited all day," said Ryan, who used to teach kindergarten. "It's just amazing.