

Good morning Graduates, Board of Directors, PTA Members, Teachers, Parents, and Friends: welcome. We are very happy you are all here to share in this celebration of the accomplishments and unique qualities of the 51 fine members of our graduating class of 2013.

Our graduating class is truly an exceptional group. They have shown team spirit, loyalty and willingness to do things for others and perhaps above all their positive attitude in everything they do. I have admired their skills on the sports field, their talent on the stage, and their determination in the classroom.

One of their many accomplishments this year was getting accepted to universities in Venezuela and abroad. You will agree with me that this was no easy task. I am pleased to announce that the following students will be

attending foreign universities. **Andres Arraiz** was accepted to 3 universities and will be attending Mira Costa College in California. **Oliver Dow** will be attending Suffolk University. **Erika Arribas** Northeastern University, **Omar Feugas** was accepted to 6 universities he will be attending Flagler College, **Alejandro Valdivieso** is all ready attending Universidad de la Sabana in Colombia, **Leonardo Moleiro** to Northeastern University, **Francisco Perignon** after being accepted to 7 universities will be attending Northeastern University. **Enrique Acosta-Rubio** to Northeastern University. **Luisa Sanabria** was accepted to 5 universities and will be attending Northeastern University. **Enrique Garcia** was accepted to 6 universities among them Boston University, Univ of California San Diego, he has accepted to attend Georgia Tech University. **Teunis Egui** was accepted to 6 universities among them Boston Univ. George Washington Univ. he will be attending Georgetown University. **Daniela Suarez** was accepted to 8

universities among them Babson College, Boston College and Tufts Univ. She will be attending Georgetown Univ. **Andres Daryanani** was accepted in 5 universities. He is presently attending Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota Colombia. **Andres Barreto** will be attending Universidad de Navarra, in Spain. **Rodrigo Herrera** to University of Colorado at Boulder, **Hans Zilzer** was accepted to 5 universities and will be attending Grand Valley University. **Alejandra Ruiz** was accepted in Universidad de Navarra, Spain. **Marco Colella** will be attending Northeastern University. Carlos Rivas was accepted to 4 universities and will be attending Savannah College of Arts and Design. **Renata Ramella** will be attending Institute Catolique du Paris. **Alejandra Castillo** will be attending Escuela de Arte Superior y Diseño, Valencia, Spain. **Mercedes Salas** will be attending Universidad La Sabana, Bogota, Colombia, **Maria Soledad Zajia** will be attending Institute Catolique du Paris. **Carlota Castaños** will be attending Universidad La Sabana, Bogota, Colombia. **Layla Seghabi** was accepted to The American University in Lebanon. **Veronica Lopez** was accepted to three universities, including University of Tampa. **Stephany Sica** will be attending Savannah College of Arts and Design. **Miguel Martinez** was accepted to 3 universities and will be attending Lawrence Technological University. And **Franklin Whaite** will be attending Universidad Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia. Congratulations to all of you.

Now, As I reflected on all that I have watched you experience and anticipated this day, I have thought a lot about what I could say to you here at your graduation. Over the past few weeks I have watched as, together, you celebrated your success, shared your feelings with your friends about graduation, discussed your fears and excitement about your future and hugged

each other in congratulations or to start the process of saying good-bye, which only took me to my past when I graduated from high school and slowly brought me back to where I am with a few words of wisdom I have picked up over the years to share with you before you begin your life's journey.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. Don't let your fears overwhelm your desire. Let the obstacles you face—and there will be obstacles—be external, not internal. Fortune does favor the bold, and I promise that you will never know what you're capable of unless you try. Don't be afraid of change or unwilling to change. Your journey through life is just beginning to unfold, enjoy the journey, wherever it takes you.

FIND YOUR PASSION IN LIFE. If you have not found your passion in life yet, you will find it later, so don't give up on finding it and follow it. Don't feel guilty if you don't know what to do with your life. Some of the most interesting people, my age, are still searching for their life's purpose. Keep seeking yours!

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE. The first thing you should do is throw away that map someone gave you to find success and begin to draw your own. Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's dream. Take control of your life by taking control of your attitudes. Pain and disappointment are inevitable, but suffering is optional and tough times are always temporary. Live life honestly, Listen to both your head and your heart.

ACT, DON'T WAIT TO BE INVITED, CREATE OPPORTUNITIES AND LIVE THEM...Life will happen to you, whether you try to guide it or not, so you might as well try to influence the outcome. You need to know

what you want and you have to be willing to go after it! Take action. You have a choice. Live with purpose and for significance. Respect yourself and others, avoid self-righteousness and be kind rather than right.

FOLLOW YOUR HEART...The key is to listen to your heart and let it carry you in the direction of your dreams. I've learned that it's possible to set your sights high and achieve your dreams and do it with integrity, character, and love. And each day that you're moving toward your dreams without compromising who you are, you're winning.

LIVE LIFE TODAY, DON'T WAIT TILL TOMORROW...It doesn't matter that your dream came true if you spent your whole life sleeping. So get out there and go for it! Don't be caught waiting. It's great to plan for your future but nothing ever happens in the future. Whatever happens happens now, so live your life where the action is — now.

GIVE BACK, BE GENEROUS...Life is not about warming yourself by the fire, life is about building the fire. And generosity is the match...If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap, but if you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody less fortunate than you. Do something to make yourself a better person and do something for someone else, someone less fortunate than you. Make a difference!

And finally remember to be grateful. Gratitude opens doors. Express your gratitude, especially today particularly to your parents, teachers, fellow classmates, all who have helped bring you to this threshold of life, so stand up turn around and find those people and say thank you!

As American novelist, F. Scott Fitzgerald, who you are now familiar with, once said, “I hope you live a life you’re proud of. If you find you’re not, I hope you have the strength to start all over again.” Class of 2013 best wishes on your journey. May God bless you!