

YOUR VALEDICTORIANS 2018

CELEBRATING BRIGHT FUTURES FOR THE CLASSES OF 2018

Graduation is a time of reflection.
A time to celebrate and a time to look forward toward the future.

Thanks to the high schools in Burnaby, the Burnaby NOW celebrates this time through the words of the valedictorians from the Grad Class of 2018. What follows are excerpts from their respective speeches.



**Congratulations
to the class
of 2018!**

**Be curious and
never stop
learning.**

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ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL

**VALEDICTORIAN:
LINDA KANYAMUNA**

I believe that education, intertwined with passion and creativity reveals an unspoken beauty behind every revolutionary; although our world sometimes seems as if it is reeling backwards, infused with injustices, inequalities and the constant anxiety for whatever is to happen next, we thank our teachers for changing our anxiety into possibility. For changing our depiction of "I could" into "I will". In the words of the author James Baldwin, "children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them" and we are most honoured to be imitating you.

Classmates, as a final word of advice; indulge in the triumph of this very moment, for this story will soon be archived onto the shelves of life. Be proud of who you are, and the person you are becoming and never for a second underestimate your potential on this earth. In grade nine I wrote a speech about the psychological relations between fear and failure; and my closing sentence was "Les limites, comme la peur, sont souvent les illusions." "Fear and limits are often illusions." In other words, never limit your successes.



BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

**VALEDICTORIAN:
MARIA BOLOSENO**

We have developed lifelong friendships at BCSD. Our Deaf identity will give us the confidence to take risks as we become adults. Work hard to achieve your goals, don't give up when things get hard, and keep fighting. Be a positive role model, someone that young Deaf children want to look up to. Always try to do your best. Our teachers, administrators, friends and parents have given us the knowledge and the skills to succeed. We have the ability to change the world to make it more accessible and equitable. Let's work hard to convince the hearing world that we can do everything they can do except hear. Follow your heart and your instincts and you can make a difference.

I had the honor of attending Michelle Obama's presentation with my peers. I was inspired by her love and her passion to help women and girls to reach their potential. I want to follow her lead and become a leader for equality in the Deaf community and a model for younger generations of Deaf students.

GRADS OF 2018: YOU MAKE US PROUD!



Ron
Burton
Chair

Bajinder
Narang
Vice-Chair

Melling
Chia

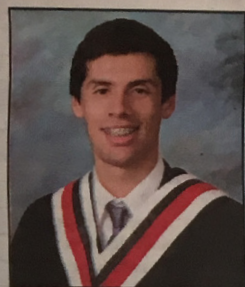
Larry
Hayes

Harman
Pandher


Gary
Wong

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION
BURNABY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 41**



BURNABY CENTRAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

 **VALEDICTORIAN:
TOMAS WARD**

For the past five years Burnaby Central has been our familiar well-traveled road. From the moment I arrived at Central I felt at home because of the friendly, inclusive and respectful character of Central's community. Now the less-traveled road and new realities beckon. However, the new reality we will encounter such as the 40 richest


individuals having more wealth than the poorest 3.5 billion bears no resemblance to the inherent fairness and equality that exists at Central.

Our generation must confront and help change this reality and we have a perfect role model to take inspiration from. Twenty-three year old Boyan Slat was 16 when he learned that by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in our oceans so he developed a system to actually remove the billions of tons of plastic from our oceans. This concrete solution will inspire my peers to solve other local, national and even global problems and create a better world for us all.

By embracing new challenges and taking the road less traveled our generation will construct a world where our solutions make a difference. And it is the lessons learned at Burnaby Central that will guide us along the way.



BURNABY MOUNTAIN SECONDARY SCHOOL

 **VALEDICTORIAN:
MARRON ROBERTS-TODD**

High school has not only been a time of academic growth, but one of personal growth as well.

Being surrounded by such a diverse group of peers, we are so lucky to have been given the tools to start our journey with confidence and pride.

Graduates of 2018, half a decade has come and gone and soon our venture into adulthood begins.

As someone who has always been reluctant to fear, I have learned being scared is what has pushed us to escape our comfort zones, try new things, and inevitably end up where we are right now. It's okay to be fearful of the future, but it's important to turn that fear into motivation and eventually progress thereby achieving success and happiness.


Lily Tomlin once said "The road to success is always under construction". We, as students, have been given the means to create our blueprint and now our road is "under construction" by us.

To future graduating classes, each moment experienced throughout high school shapes you into the person you are when you eventually leave. Enjoy and cherish each moment and know that high school isn't and shouldn't be the best five years of your life, although very memorable! Our best years lie ahead of us, thanks to the tools high school has provided us with. If we can do this, we can do anything.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2018!



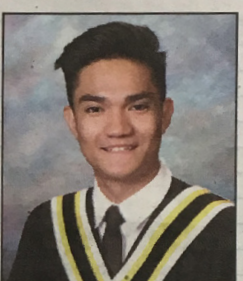
BURNABY NORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL

 **VALEDICTORIAN:
CAROL LI**


On the very first day that we became Vikings, time was endless. We imagined the possibilities there were, the people we would meet, and the experiences we would have as more of ideas than of realities each one of us would pursue throughout the next five years.

Little could we have known that the possibilities led to discovering our undeniable passions; that the people we meet would become friends we turn to thick or thin; and that these experiences would involve upholding Burnaby North's pillars of excellence, discovery, and service. And, knowing this, it seems like having seemingly endless time left before we needed to wave goodbye to the fragile walls of Burnaby North is a good thing.

Yet, perhaps it was during one of those nights when we were busy starting and finishing a project that we've had several weeks to complete, or a class during which we received a poor score for a test we had studied harder than anything for, that we wished there was less time. That the paramount stress of high school was unbearable, that we'd finally be happy again once it finally ends. But when it really does end, we realize that high school was more than just school - it was a trove of emotions, the haven of our greatest individual growth: it was the time during which we embraced our adolescence to become the men and women we always strove to be.



BURNABY SOUTH SECONDARY SCHOOL

 **VALEDICTORIAN:
MIGUEL MANRIQUE**

I am extremely proud of the Burnaby South Graduating Class of 2018 for conquering this five year mountain that was high school. High school has been one of the most challenging, at times stressful, but ultimately exhilarating ride I have ever been on. Seeing that our class refused to fail, and always kept on winning, kept on taking Ws, I

cannot wait to see what our class will be achieving years from now. However, the road to success is not some simple one way road. There are roadblocks on the way; maybe we'll stray from the path we're building, or completely make a u-turn, or just stop building it altogether. Let me tell you that it is totally okay! We have to accept that it will happen. It's inevitable. You see, failure is a necessary part of achieving great success!

Congratulations to the Class of 2018

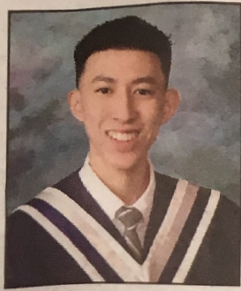
Please Celebrate Safely

FOREST LAWN
Funeral Home and Memorial Park
3789 Royal Oak Avenue,
Burnaby, BC, V5G 3M1


Dignity
LIFE WELL CELEBRATED

OCEAN VIEW
Funeral Home and Burial Park
4000 Imperial Street,
Burnaby, BC, V5J 1A4

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BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

 **VALEDICTORIAN:
DANIEL CION**

In the eleventh grade, I had a lot on my plate. Aside from a full course load at school and dealing with typical teenager problems, I was directing and acting in our school production of "The Outsiders" and playing basketball for the Byrne Creek Bulldogs.


At the time, I felt like I couldn't keep up with everything around me without sacrificing one of my commitments. I thought I would have to choose either acting or basketball. But what I didn't understand was that there was a third choice. To stop pitying myself and just work harder.

I was so worried about failing at one, that I didn't see the option of doing both.... No matter where you end up, who you're with, or what you decide to do, you need to be true to yourself. Make judgements based on what you truly want, not on the opinions of those around you. I wanted to perform on stage, and I wanted to play the sport I love, so, I choose to do both.

Rather than listening to people telling me to take the easy route and drop one, I was true to myself and did what I wanted to be doing.



CARIBOO HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL

 **VALEDICTORIAN:
KATHRINA PILLAY**


Cariboo Hill is a diamond in the rough; we are often overlooked, but concealed here are some of the biggest hearts and brightest minds. Soon, our family will disperse to follow diverse paths in life: engineering, politics, medicine, arts. We will be heading to post-secondary schools, working, and taking gap years.

Still, many of us feel a disconcerting apprehension when we contemplate the future. There is a looming expectation that we must have our entire lives mapped out, even though we still raise our hand for permission to go to the washroom. The words of advice I have for you, my fellow graduates, is to believe in yourself and stay true to your values. The definition of success is subjective and you define it; for some, it may be becoming the CEO of a reputable company, while for others, it may be waking up on time for band. You are the only one who can determine your own self-worth and purpose. There may be times when you feel confused or hopeless, but just like the "my-life-is-totally-over dread" that sets in after bombing a test, the doubts we face will pass with time, as long as we persevere in the presence of failure.

Thank you, Chargers, for an amazing five years. Congratulations to our graduating class of 2018!



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION


 **VALEDICTORIAN:
SARAH SMITH**

Throughout my years at Burnaby Central Secondary, I've gotten the opportunity to explore different interests and passions of mine. Coming into high school I didn't completely know what subjects I would enjoy and the ones I would enjoy less, so it's been journey of figuring this out and trying out different roles. I took a wide range of

courses throughout the years and I've certainly found my passion for science. With the help of engaging teachers and the wide range of interesting information within the subject, I quickly grew to appreciate it. As I've grown and continued to learn, it has only peaked my interest, leading me to want to potentially pursue nursing in my future. The practical thing I appreciate about this is science is in the world all around us. Being able to understand how the environment and our bodies interact is something I haven't quite been able to explore with other subjects. There has been some trial and error when trying to figure out what I am good at, but the journey has helped give me a better understanding of myself and challenge me for the better. Looking at my future I am excited to see how far I go in sciences and the opportunities there are to explore in order to further my learning.

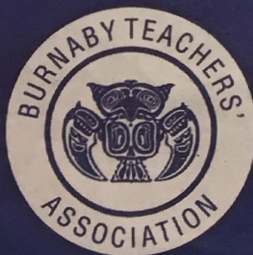


MOSCROP SECONDARY SCHOOL

 **VALEDICTORIAN:
VYSHU MANOHARA**

Can you believe that you've actually been bingeing a TV show for the last five years? Which one you ask? The drama-filled, heart-wrenching, tear-evoking, frustrating but thrilling show that is high school. As soon as we hit "watch now," we embarked on the new adventures of Moscrop, day after day, episode after episode. Flooded with non-stop plot changes, milestones, anniversaries, and holiday specials. It was so addictive that we hadn't realized how immersed we were until our parents cut off our Wi-Fi. We knew exactly when the commercials (i.e. lunch bells) were, and eventually got used to the new cast change with a new principal and new teachers. Sad to say, the real world is nothing like Netflix.

Now it's time for the season finale, this is what you've been preparing for the past five years. Suddenly it's 4 am, you're in bed in disbelief at that ending, and having a bit of a crisis. Now what do I do with my time? We used Netflix to procrastinate doing homework the way high school was a way to procrastinate growing up. We could sit and watch all day without having to cook, clean, pay bills because we're all using someone else's login. We've come to love the protagonists and identify the antagonists. Learned what to do and what not to do, which ships are going to last and which won't. But now as we leave our high school binge routine, it's time for us to create a storyline of our own. To start acting in our own dramas, our own comedies, and our own love stories. Congratulations graduates of 2018, I hope your stories get renewed for another season.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
CLASS OF 2018 AND THEIR
VALEDICTORIANS!

