

## Valedictorian Address

By:Patrick Lange

Good afternoon board dignitaries, staff, friends, families, and graduates. We have waited for this day for the last four years and I don't know where the time has gone, but finally, today is the day.

Four years ago we came to high school as Gators, Crusaders, Griffins, 49ers, Lakers, Saints, Rams, Meteors, Tigers, Gaels, Vikings, Cougars, and others, but as we sit here today we are all Fighting Irish. We came to school the first day nervous about opening our lockers, wondering where our classes were and rushing to get to our first period class for 7:55, five minutes before the first bell rang. We were looking for our old friends, and wondering who our new friends would be. Before we really had time to even think about what extracurriculars we wanted to do Mr. Reid was already walking down the grade nine hall recruiting people for cross-country. It seemed overwhelming at first, but by the end of grade nine we quickly settled in, found our way and discovered who our new friends would be.

In grade ten, we were starting to get comfortable with high school and we learned from the 11's and 12's, what classes we could eat a snack in and realized how much time we actually had to get to class. We were fast learners. School didn't seem as stressful anymore until course selection time came in grade 11. Everyone was scared because we all believed the courses we took in grade 11 would dictate our future for us and we were not really sure what we wanted to spend our lives doing yet. On top of that there was the pressures of maintaining part time jobs and the responsibilities that came with being a senior student. Now we felt some pressure.

Heading into our senior years there were many things that we were worried about. The two schools merging, sharing a locker, achieving good marks and wondering if the new school was going to be finished in time for us to start the year and graduate in our new home. Yet, it is the things that we were the most concerned about that made our high school experience the best and the most enjoyable that it could be. Coming together has brought more opportunity for meeting new people, making new friends, awesome trips, better sports teams, more clubs, and more amazing teachers to prepare us best for the road ahead.

We are an amazing grade and have been able to accomplish so many great things over our four years and it is with great help along the way that we have been able to accomplish them. We need to first thank our families for always supporting us in everything we have done all along the way. We also need to thank our friends who are always there when we need someone to talk to or just have fun. Lastly, we need to thank our very committed and caring teachers, educational assistants, librarians, custodians and secretaries for being able to help us with assignments, deal with problems and concerns we may have, and coach us while molding us into who we have become, as well as being able to answer every single one of Christina's questions.

It is the memories we made together that we are going to remember about high school, not staying up late to finish those last minute assignments. It will be the events we did together like Palooza, Irish Miracle and Cyclone Aid, school trips, trivia night, Fill the Hill on homecoming, dances, and cheering our teams on in our home gym, (like defeating Northern in the basketball finals) that will be the highlights more than any mark we got on a test.

When we came to high school, the senior students told us to make an impact on the school. Being the first graduating class of this new St. Patrick's High School, I would say we have left our mark on it just as much as it has left its mark on us. We will never forget what we have accomplished over our four years. We have shared great memories and made friendships that will last a lifetime. So here's, to the graduating class of 2015 for all that we have done, and for all that we will do.

A wise man who likes to start the school year off with a children's storybook once asked us, "What would you do with an idea?" He reminded us we must have ideas because if we do "one day, something amazing [will happen.] [Our ideas will change] right before [our] eyes. It [will] spread its wings, [take] flight, and burst into the sky... It [won't] be just a part of [us] anymore... it [will be a] part of everything." Now when we are asked, "What [do] you do with an idea...?" The answer is obvious: "You change the world". Now is our chance. We now have the tools so let's go out into the world and take our ideas with us and use them to impact and influence everything that we do. No matter what we do next year whether it be university, college, the workplace or come back for one more year, we have the ability to change the world!

