

SJF

Grad 2018



autographs

A Message from Mr. Dean MacInnis, Principal

Sir John Franklin High School opened its doors back in 1958 and today we celebrate the 59th graduating class of SJF.

I truly feel connected to the Class of 2018 because I have been their principal for the past three years – their whole high school career.

During that time, I've had the privilege of traveling with some of them to Kenya, Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. Those adventures are filled with incredible memories; Taylor Soloy singing in the town square in Warsaw and Connor Rocher in a Masai Mara blanket in 30 plus degrees in Kenya to name a few.

For some of them I was their principal at Range Lake North School – their elementary/middle school years.

Those years were mostly filled with positive memories, but I cannot seem to get those indoor recesses out of my mind (not easy after six or seven of them in a row). I remember Kaelar Pagonis-Freisen as an active young boy back then. *(A yell from Kaeler's mom in the audience: "Sorry Mr. MacInnis!")*

And for some of the girls from William McDonald Middle School I coached their basketball team. Now that was interesting. Lots of yelling and screaming. Mostly from me in order to get a word in edge-wise about the BASKETBALL GAME we were trying to play! Right, Lindsay and Kacie???

But here we are on this special day. Exams are over, it's a beautiful day out there and summer is finally here. Today is the day where everything changes. You will wake up tomorrow after a long, exciting, exhausting day and you will be finished high school.

Graduating is a goal in a person's life and you have achieved that goal. It is a turning point. Adults will say to you, "Real life starts now". That is true, but that should not scare you from the next stage of your lives. The people around you will continue to support you.

As you look back at your high school career you will remember certain events: Beauty & The Beast (Right Jamal? Or should I say Gaston?), High School Musical, Addams Family drama productions, Skills Canada competitions (Pyper Legge, we'll all miss being your personal taste-testers), Ben Grimes scoring the only goal on a penalty shot during Challenge Cup in Grade 10, winning Challenge Cup this year and Jack Panayi raising the cup over his head with a smile from ear to ear and Super Soccer & Cager tournaments (Nesbitt won Cager every year!), exotic trips of a lifetime to Italy, Croatia, Germany, Mexico, Poland and of course, let's not forget, Hay River Track Meet and Ft. Smith Volleyball Tournament.

High school is much more than Physics (sorry Mr. Kirkham) or Math (sorry Ms. Schlosser). High school is a time where lifelong friendships are formed. A time when you develop the foundation to learn life's lessons. School actually does prepare you for the future. What I am talking about is beyond the text book.

I am confident that you have all learned to work with others, take constructive criticism and move forward, build respect with others that you may not have always gotten along with, and strived to be better tomorrow than you were today. These skills were not developed overnight. The hours and patience your parents poured into you doing homework at the kitchen table, helping you put together a science or historical fair project, reminding you of your deadlines and due dates. Teachers giving up their lunch hours or staying late after school four to five days a week, so you are ready for that test or because you are going to miss classes for some reason. The friend that was there for you when things did not go so well. You may not remember these exact moments but they did make you who you are.

I do not want to give you a lecture so let's just call it my advice speech. I want to give you a quote that I believe goes really well with my advice: 'There will be times when your best isn't good enough. There can be many reasons for this, but as long as you give your best you'll be OK.'

With this quote in mind try to remember the following:

Celebrate the successes along the way You should feel good about your successes and tell others about them. Life is not easy. Take the time to stop and smell the roses.

Learn from your mistakes No one is perfect. Mistakes are going to happen. Maybe lots of them. Take them in, think about them and then do it differently the next time.

Communicate well and thank people along the way We live in the tech age and it's incredibly easy to text mom and dad and say thanks. Push yourself further and thank those special people face-to-face.

I wish you all the best. Come back to visit and give us an update. We will tell stories about the old days.



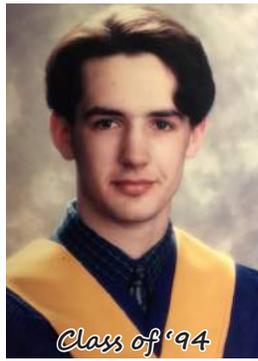
Congratulations to the
CLASS OF 2018
 from the staff of
 École Sir John
 Franklin High School



Class of '88
 Dean MacInnis,
 Principal



Class of '73
 Paul Bennett,
 Asst. Principal



Class of '94
 Peter Curran,
 Asst. Principal



Cora Brancato



Diane Brookes



Jan Byrne



Class of '88
 Lindsay
 Chiasson



Doreen Cleary



Danielle
 Couture



Janice Daly



Nathan Doering



Obed Duru



Class of '95
 Shannon
 Ferreira



Isabelle Freake



Class of '86
 Laurene Head



Sermin Heyck



Denise Hurley



Rod Kennedy



Class of '93
 Jeremy Kielstra



Class of '01
 Steve Kirkham



Dan Knox



Class of '98
 Landon
 Kowalzik



Arnold Krause



Carrie Lauder



Stephane
 Leblanc



Sonia
 Longchamps



Paul MacDonald



Beaton Mackenzie



Wendy Malkin
Class of '36



Angela Martin
Class of '06



Sally Mbunya



Edna McFaul
Class of '64



Bridget McLeod



Debbie Morrison



Mindee Naismith



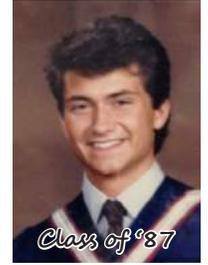
Lea O'Keefe



Stephen Offredi



Andrea Pellerin
Class of '95



Landon Peters
Class of '87



Kim Poitras



Kirstin Prescott



Colleen Pura



Micheline Ricard



Tomiko Robson



Jerome Rondeau



Pam Schlosser



Sandy Schmalz



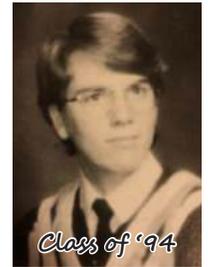
Susan Shantora



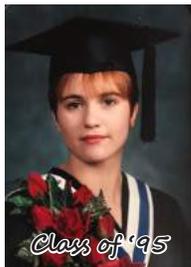
Paul Shearme



Greg Skauge



Travis Stewart
Class of '94



Evelyn Straker
Class of '95



Lacey Taylor-Payne
Class of '09



Maureen Tonge
Class of '86



Shellie Trimble



Gwen Young

Congratulations

Gradbook Committee

Kacie Hall, Pyper Legge,
Ryan Walsh, Andrea Pellerin



Grad Council

Grace Clark
Arianne
Depot-Bernier
Pyper Legge
Eva Mukamba
Sierra Nesbitt
Meghan Newberry
Jack Panayi

Nikki Rein
Taylor Soloy
Sarah Taggart-Miles
Ryan Walsh
Grad Advisors:
Kim Poitras
Andrea Pellerin
Treena Riles

Grad Hoodies

Thank you, Dylan Harker, for designing the logo for our grad 2018 hoodies!



Top Ten Movies

1. Coco
2. Blade Runner 2049
3. Star Wars : The Last Jedi
4. Dunkirk
5. Logan
6. Thor: Ragnarok
7. Guardians of the Galaxy : Vol. 2
8. Wind River
9. Baby Driver
10. Get Out



Mr. MacInnis: "Do we have any Grad 2018s in the house?"

**WHOO
HOO!**



Top Ten Songs

1. *Shape of You* - Ed Sheeran
2. *Despacito* - Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee feat. Justin Bieber
3. *Closer* - The Chainsmokers feat. Halsey
4. *Something Just Like This* - The Chainsmokers and Coldplay
5. *Unforgettable* - French Montana feat. Swae Lee
6. *Starboy* - The Weeknd feat. Daft Punk
7. *That's What I Like* - Bruno Mars
8. *It Ain't Me* - Kygo x Selena Gomez
9. *Rockabye* - Clean Bandit feat. Sean Paul & Anne-Marie
10. *I'm The One* - DJ Khaled feat. Justin Bieber, Quavo, Chance The Rapper, and Lil Wayne

The floor is Socials 30 chapter questions.



A Few Falcon Stats

- In the 2017/2018 school year, SJF took home a total of 16 banners!
- In the 2017/2018 school year, Mr. Curran got on his soapbox a total of 984 times.
- Sahara Lafferty, Sierra Nesbitt and Lauren Seabrook carried the Opening Ceremonies Torch at the NWT Track & Field Championships
- The boys team took the Challenge Cup win for the 2017/2018 school year!

"Any late assignments will be counted as a zero."

"AnY lAtE aSsIgNmEnTs WiLl Be CoUnTeD aS a ZeRo."





Happy
Halloween





Challenge Cup





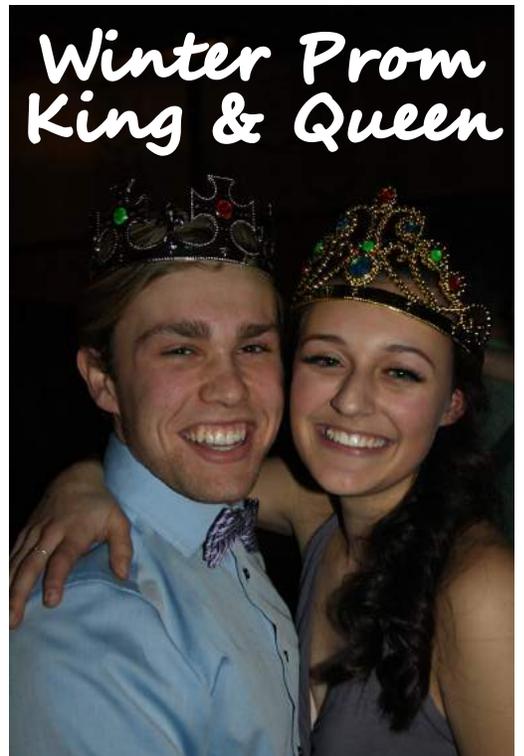
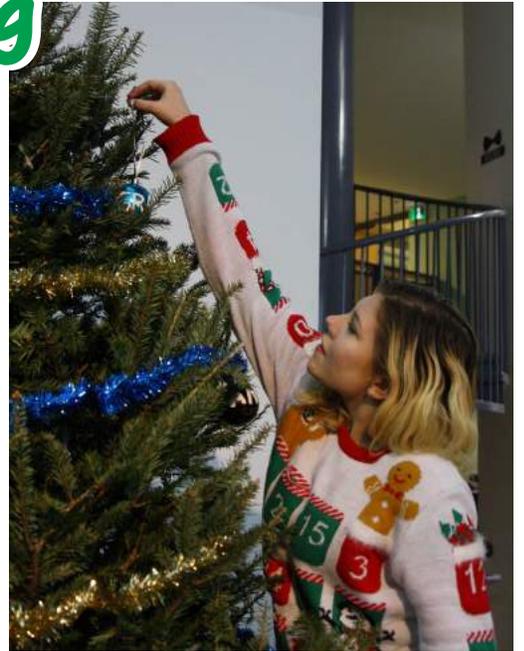


Pics with Santa





Decorating the Tree



Winter Prom King & Queen



Grad Sleepover

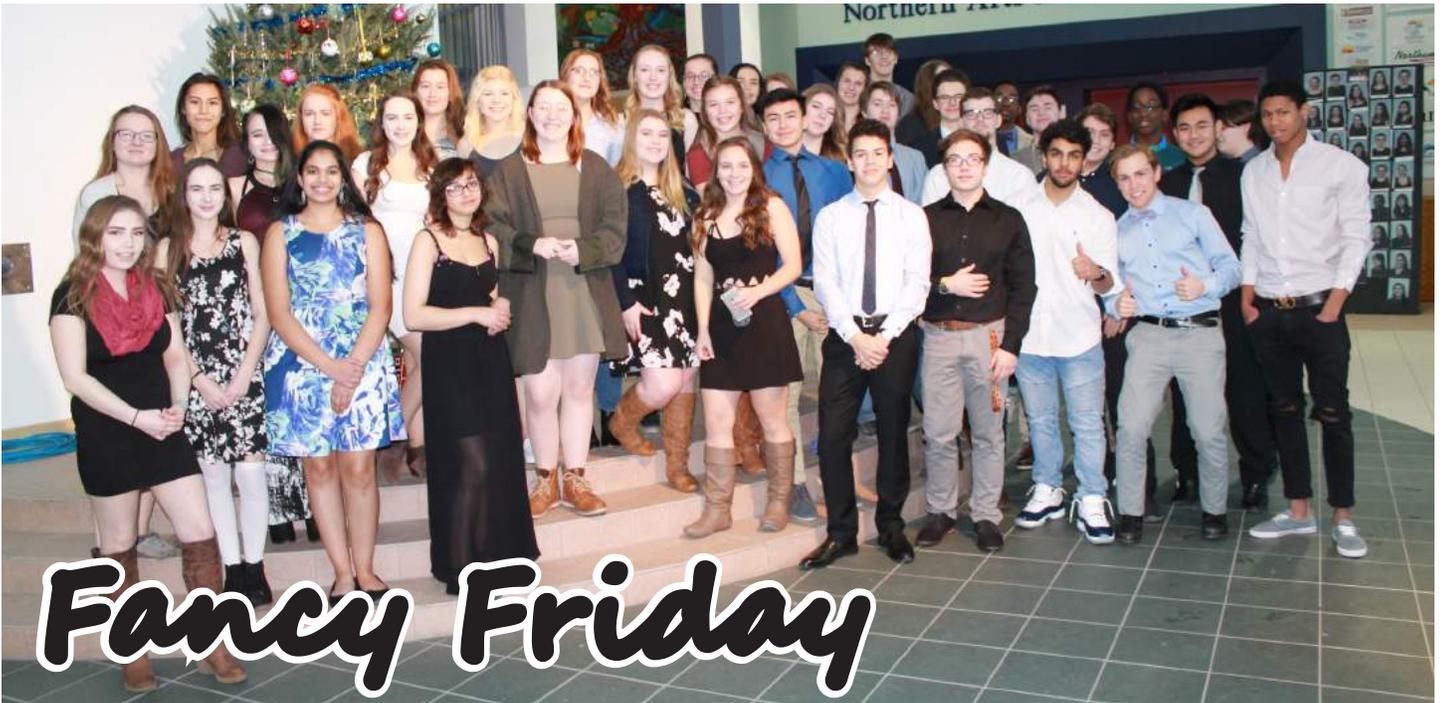




PJ Day



Beach Day



Fancy Friday



Grad Hat Day





Bubble Soccer

Inspiring kids in sports for over 90



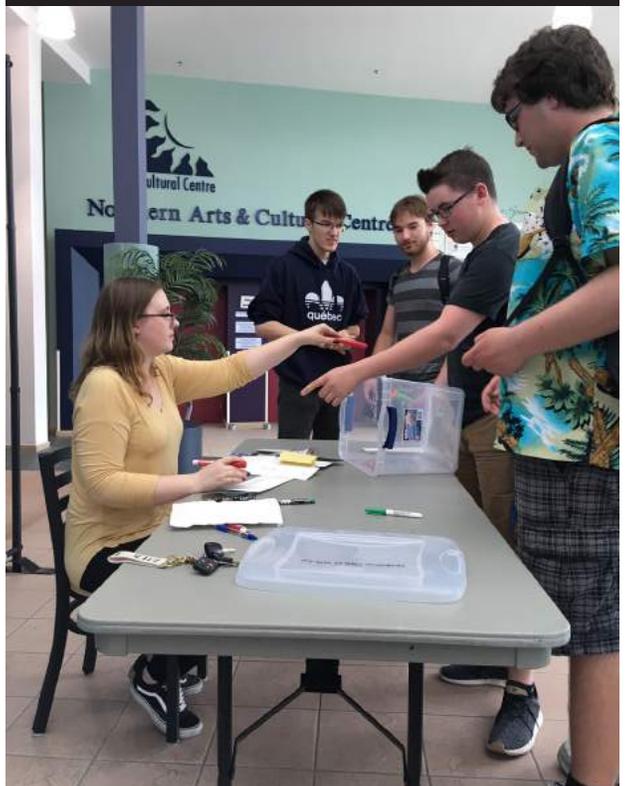
A photo of group jumping in the air.
All feet must be off the ground.

**Filling up the time capsule.
DO NOT OPEN UNTIL AT LEAST 2028!**



A group picture with
five or more animals.

Scavenger Hunt



Class of 2018



Brandon Adams
50% is still a pass.



Dinah Andre
If it weren't for me,
I wouldn't be here.



Tanner Arthur
I question myself sometimes
if all that was worth it.



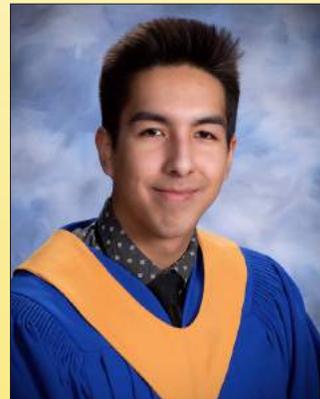
Aliya Aumond
"I don't know what lies around the
bend, but I'm going to believe that
the best does." - LM Montgomery



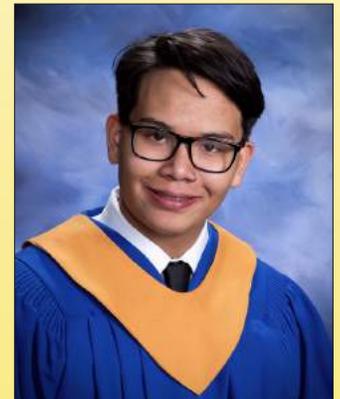
Dasha Basargina
I graduated so now I'm
like smart and stuff.



Jada Beaulieu
Sir John is hot to go!



Christopher Beaverho
Say H-O-T T-O G-O!



Ryan Beck
Ahhooh! Hot to go!
Ahhooh! Hot to go!



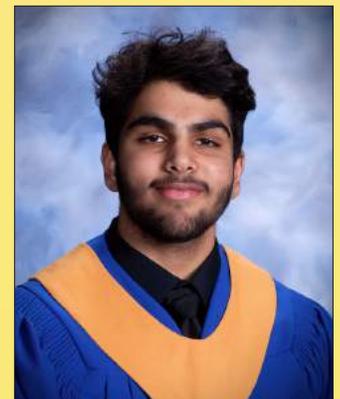
Jamal Begg
It doesn't matter if you win by an
inch or a mile, all that matters is
you smile. -Darkk Mane



Nicolas Bennett
Thanks to Mr. Curran,
I learned to right good.



Stephanie Beyerbach
The only time I set the bar low
is for the limbo.



Musa Aziz
If my mind can conceive it,
my heart can believe it then
I can achieve it.

Class of 2018



Michael Bishop
I love submitting stuff
to grad council.



Donny Boake
Did you know Mrs. Straker is a
former falcon? Class of 95!



Denmark Britton
I love my girlfriend.



Chase Broman
High School started like Romeo
and Juliet, then ended like
Romeo and Juliet



Colton Brown
'Magine if I never met
the Broskies



Braiden Charlton
Did you know Ms. Tonge has an
identical twin sister?



Grace Clark
"The less you reveal, the more
people can wonder."
-Emma Watson



Melissa Clark
"We should leave the world in a
better state than when we entered it."
-Landon Kowalzik, teacher, philosopher



Sophie Clark
"Keep your eyes on the stars,
and your feet on the ground."
-Teddy Roosevelt



Sheraz Daher
I now know that High School
Musical is pretty unrealistic.



Euniel Dela Cruz
Monday should be optional.



Manu Denetto Maille
Mom told me to get my head
out of the clouds. If I don't stop
growing that won't be possible.

Class of 2018



Arianne Depot-Bernier
How did I ever think high school would be fun?



Chelsea Diez
Did you know Mrs. Hurley has a Psychology degree?



Sayak Dirghangi
Skinny people are easier to kidnap. Stay Safe. Eat Cake



James Drew
I question myself sometimes if all that was worth it.



Tanner Dumont
10/10 would attend again.



Obed Duru
"Excellence is not a singular act but a habit. You are what you do repeatedly." -Shaquille O'Neal



Dylan Dwojak
What fun is there in being normal?



Josh Elford
Bring back vitamin water
Chef 2018.



Alexander English
Switch to Geico and save 10% or more on car insurance.



Donovan Evans
I knoe da wae.



Elizabeth Ewen
Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day.



Dawson Fowler
Tyra Banks ruined my life.

Class of 2018



Callie Gargan
This wasn't like high school musical at all.



Charles-Isaac Gravel
Would you believe in what you believe in if you were the only one who believed it? - Kanye



Benjamin Grimes
None of my assignments are done but I sure am!



Noah Haché
Spread pollen, not hate.



Melissa Halfkenny
Staving off the terrifying possibility of romance since 1999.



Kacie Hall
"My mother was right about this musical theatre stuff - it's just too dangerous."



Brady Harbin
School is important but sledding is slightly more important.



Kaitlyn Hayward
So does this mean I have to start acting like an adult?



Luke Heal
Deal with your problems by becoming rich!



Ethan Hillier
lol bye



Cameron Hobbs-Peddle
When I first rode a sled I was sentenced to life behind bars.



Sean Irwin
Howdy ladies!

Class of 2018



Nura Jalil Aga
Hopefully the tassel is worth the hassle.



Christina Johnston
A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.



Lilah Judas
The most important thing is to enjoy your life "to be happy" it's all that matters.



Brendan Lafferty
The best part of high school was listening to a new version of O Canada every day.



Kristina Lafferty
'Let all that you do be done in love.' -1 Corinthians 16:14



Sahara Lafferty
See kids? I told you your mom was hot in high school.



Gabrielle Lamarche
I don't have the time nor the crayons to explain this to you.



Branda Le
Chase your dreams, fearlessly and confidently, and cherish those who matter to you.



Pyper Legge
"So...what's up with the calendar, am I right?" Kirkham



Shylee-Ann Legler
Forget everything and run, or face everything and rise!



Sky Lennie
The best view comes after the hardest climb.



Joshua MacLellan
People freak me out, people make me scared, people make me so damn self-aware.



Class of 2018



Shiri MacPherson
They said I couldn't,
so I'm going to.



Lindsey Mailloux
Did you know Ms. Martin's
real name is Nikki?



Hunaifa Malik
I've gotten through all four years
without a bad hair day!



Dylan Martin-Elson
Do you ever feel like you're
in a camper?



Christopher Matthews
This'll be my round!



Colin McCormack
Never let your fears decide
your future.



Ervin Mercado
I don't know where I'm
going but I know it's not
going to be boring.



Fowsiyo Mohamud
"What we learn with pleasure
we never forget".
-Alfred Mercier



Jamilo Mohamud
It always seems impossible
until its done.



Jacki Moore-Tsetta
Everything I'm not, made me
everything that I am.



Eva Mukamba
My mission in life is not
merely to survive, but to thrive.
~ Maya Angelou



Colleen Nagel
Never be afraid to try something
new. Life is boring when you stay
within the limits of what you
already know.

Class of 2018



Ka Nakehk'o
I'm here to drink milk and finish high school, but milk makes me gassy.



Sierra Nesbitt
When in doubt, pet a dog.



Meghan Newberry
It's not that I don't care... it's that I don't care right now.
-Carrie Fisher



Kaeler Pagonis-Friesen
I'm a senior but, I stay fresh man.



Jack Panayi
Thanks Mom.



Darian Pedersen
Is it too late to send in a grad quote?



Jasmine Powder
Live your life who you are, not for someone else.



Kennedy Prince
"Goodbye everyone, I'll remember you all in therapy"
-Sheldon Plankton



Tyreisha Rabesca
I didn't submit a grad quote and this is my punishment.



Nicole Rein
Fre sha voca do.



Shania Rice
Everything you can imagine is real.



Jillian Riles
Everyone around me, we're all just like, realizing things. -KJ

Class of 2018



Jesse Roberts
"What's normal anyways?"
-Forrest Gump



Aaron Robertson
Kill them with success and
bury them with a smile.



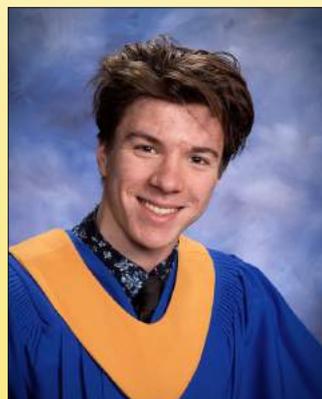
Connor Rocher
You can't solve world hunger
by feeding people cancer.



Yeddah Rodriguez
Did you know that Mr. Peters likes
to 'paint' the town red?



Chase Schell-Lambert
Do more things that make forget
to check your phone.



Jacob Schubert
The time you enjoyed wasting,
was not wasted. ~John Lennon



Spencer Scott
Some people are like clouds.
When they go away, it's a
brighter day.



Kindred Scott-Strong
Instead of quoting the Buddha,
be 'the awakened one,' which is
what the word buddha means.



Lauren Seabrook
And here you are living,
despite it all.
-rupi kaur



Logan Shupe
Thanks Dad.



Rodney Sibanda
"When it comes to knowing
what to say, to charm, I always
had it" ~ Drake



Connor Sibbeston
Did you know that Mr. Kowalzik
starred in two TV commercials
in 2006-2007?

Class of 2018



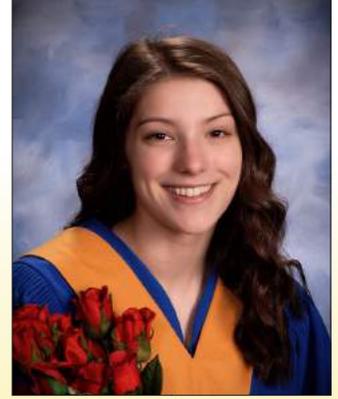
Sonali Sivakumar
Follow your passion. It will lead you to your purpose.
- Oprah Winfrey



Taylor Soloy
Spend more time making something of yourself and less time impressing people. - The Breakfast Club



Abigail Spronken
Some of my favourite things are movies.



Montana Stannard
I'm just as surprised as you are to see my picture here!



Niva Stephenson
Venture outside your comfort zone. The rewards are worth it.
-Rapunzel



Jamie Stroeder
Some do drugs. Some pop bottles. I solve my problems with wide open throttles.



Matthew Szarkowicz
Your mom [is very nice].



Sarah Taggart-Miles
Life's tough, but it's tougher if you're stupid.



Samuel Tereposky
Can I still submit my grad quote?



Annie Thomas
I wanted to do a twin quote but →



Elizabeth Thomas
Be yourself, because the people who mind don't matter, and the people that matter, don't mind.



Matthew Walker
Don't mess with me!
I have the power of God AND anime on my side!!

Class of 2018



Robyne Walsh
Who would've thought, man?



Ryan Walsh
Shoot for the moon; if you miss you will die in outer space, which is cool.



Gabrielle Wasicuna
"Throw away your store-bought map and draw your own"
~ David McCullough Jr.



Lisa Weaver
"The goal isn't to live forever, the goal is to create something that will." ~ Tyler The Creator



Lucas Wick
Any caterpillar can break out of it's cocoon and be a butterfly, and fly high.



James Wiedemann
"For democracy!" ~ Mr. Kowalzik



Adam Yalahow
It's only a dream if you make is one.



Haoping Zheng
Did you know that Mr. Kirkham swam under ice once?

Not shown: Haven Basil-Nitah, Quynh Duong, Makenna Gillard, Tyler Jenkins, Allan Manuba, Isabelle Modeste, Kendra Neyelle, Ross Ogilvie, Dale Robertson, Darrien Smith-Hamilton, Jonathan Stewart, Junyi Zhu

What will you miss most about high school?

"Being surrounded by people who want me to succeed"
~Lisa Weaver

"Being able to use the excuse 'I'm studying' as a way to get out of things."
~Jacki Moore-Tsetta

"Being late to Curran's class."
~Jack Panayi

"Not paying taxes."
~Colleen Nagel

"Lunches from my Dad."
~Niva Stephenson

"Is this a rhetorical question?"
~Spencer Scott

"Seeing my friends every day."
~Christina Johnston

"Art class and the connections with friends."
~Melissa Halfkenny

"The people who were there for me when things got rough."
~Manu Denetto Maille

"Hugs with my friend Noah between classes."
~Aliya Aumond

"The broskissss."
~Euniel Dela Cruz

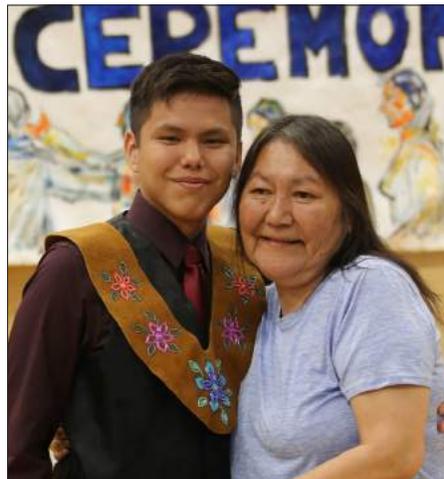
"The discussions at the start of Mr. Kirkham's class."
~Ryan Walsh

"The silly Billies."
~Connor Rocher

"The teachers and the library"
~Fowsiyo Mohamud

Indigenous Honour Ceremony

June 11, 2018



Voted Most Likely...



Meghan Newberry

Most likely to own 30 cats



Sean Irwin

Most likely to become a ruthless dictator



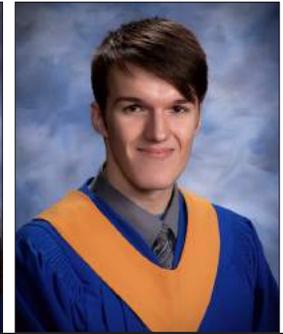
Kacie Hall

Most likely to become a teacher at SJF



Sophie Clark

Most likely to get ID'd when they're 30



Ryan Walsh

Most likely to use 2018 slang in 2038



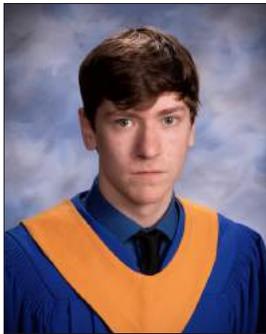
Darian Pederson

Most likely to become a professional meme artist



Lisa Weaver

Most likely to win the lottery and lose the ticket



Logan Shupe

Most likely to be late to graduation



Grace Clark

Most likely to become the next pop sensation



Nicolas Bennett

Most likely to win an Olympic medal



Branda Le

Most likely to win a Nobel Prize



Rodney Sibanda

Most likely to be catfished



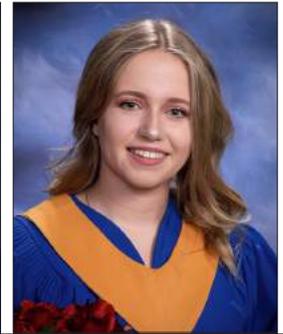
Connor Sibbeston

Most likely to become a comedian



Colleen Nagel

Most likely to end up on Broadway



Jillian Riles

Most likely to be named "Canada's Worst Driver"

What will you miss most about high school?

"Visiting my mom at NACC every day"
~Jillian Riles

"It's the only reason I have a social life."
~Noah Haché

"The ice machine."
~Sky Lennie

"I will miss having class with Mr. Knox and Mr. Doering."
~Jonathan Stewart

"Having all my friends in one building five days a week."
~Nikki Rein

"Rippin' to school on my sled."
~Jamie Stroeder

"All of the amazing students at SJF. Our grad class is awesome!"
~Issie Thomas

"The teachers and their amazing support."
~Shiri MacPherson

"The fun, inclusive and diverse atmosphere."
~Sierra Nesbitt

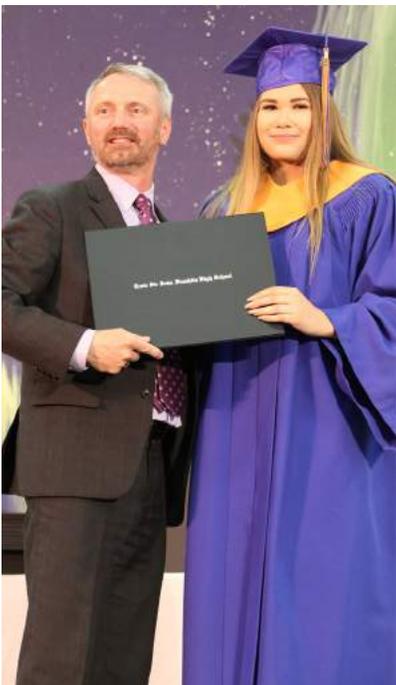
"Wearing the Sir John Falcon jersey."
~Ben Grimes

"The friends I've made along the way."
~Gabrielle Lamarche

"Being in the same class with all my friends."
~Callie Gargan

"The freedom of speech and teachers who care!"
~Eva Mukamba

Grad Day is finally here! June 28, 2018



Toast to Parents

by Sierra Nesbitt and Sarah Taggart-Miles



We are able to stand here today in front of all our family and friends thanks to you. Because of your constant and unwavering support, your presence at every school concert and sporting match, your enthusiastic encouragement, and your determination to teach us the most valuable life lessons. All this, while never giving up on us. Despite everything going on in your own life, you put it all on hold when we needed you most. Thanks to this, and you, we are able to proceed into the next chapter of our lives with ability and confidence.

Thank you for letting us sleep in your room after watching a scary movie, for being our chauffeur/taxi driver everytime we needed to go somewhere, for being understanding and patient when we first got our driving license, (we all know how that worked out), for helping us realize what is most important in life, for always putting us first instead of thinking of yourself, keeping us motivated for whatever new endeavours captured our attention, and most of all for accepting and loving us for who we are.

Your voices will forever be embedded in our heads, wherever life takes us. Whether we are at university or college, travelling, working, or trying to find ourselves, it is safe to say that we will always remember to wear clean underwear, put on our seatbelts, and never stop trying.

We truly thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts. Moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents, without all of your guidance and support over the years, our futures would not look as bright as they do right now. This grad class is compiled of future teachers, travelers, musicians, mechanics, olympians, doctors, police officers, billionaires, and whatever else we put our minds to. And all of you, are the reason we are able to fulfill our dreams.

Sarah: "Sierra, have you heard a couple sobs coming from the audience?"

Sierra: "Yeah Sarah, I actually have, and it's kinda distracting."

Sarah: "Why not instead of ending on a sappy note, we finish this toast the way our dads would, always trying to cheer us up?"

Sierra: "What did you have in mind Sarah??"

Sarah: "What about if we tell our favourite Dad joke? What time did the man have to go to the dentist?"

Sierra: "I don't know. What time?"

Sarah: "Tooth hurt-y"

Reply from Parents

by Karin and Shane Clark

According to the Chinese Zodiac you are the Dragons. You are powerful, kind-hearted, successful, innovative, healthy, and courageous.

The zodiac also says you can be scrutinizing, tactless, quick-tempered and over-confident. Be sure to accept those good traits. They are earned. Don't assume you are entitled to them.

In thinking about this grad class, we asked your principals from elementary and middle school what they remembered about you from your years in their school.

One common thread with this entire group of students was that they had an incredibly great sense of humour. Well, you'd have to when you have kids like Jack and Ben in Daisy Duke costumes with Mr. Curran.

This is THE group of kids who came to school and were not going to stand or sit in a row – no way. The teachers at Range Lake were a bit taken aback ... but in the end you set your own terms for how you would participate in school.

Apparently discipline could be a challenge at times but the teachers knew that with parents like Jennifer Pagonis on the playground, everything would be taken care of!

Another comment we received was that these students knew what they wanted, worked hard to achieve it and as a group were well-rounded academically, athletically and artistically.

You should be celebrating these achievements all the time, maybe not to the extent of the Challenge Cup party (we're looking at you Sophie and Grace!) but you get what I mean.

And now that those twelve years are behind you - you've got the world at your doorstep – you're entering the next adventure.

Each and every one of you has an amazing journey in front of you. And will contribute greatly to others around you.

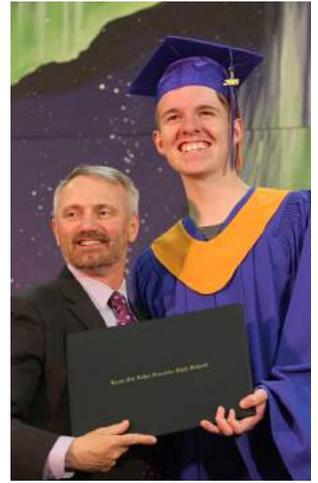
We were really struck by Shiri MacPherson's comment earlier today and I think it would serve us all well to take it to heart:

"I'm most proud of doing what people said I'd never do!"

So go out and do it!







Toast to Teachers

by Sonali Sivakumar



Tonight I would like to recognize our teachers our counselors and our school administrators throughout the years who have helped us, guided us and taught us.

We will all leave today with memories. Like Mr. Curran who managed to show everyone who's ever had a class with him that punctuality is the key to success. Trust me I've been there, most of us probably have. Doesn't matter if your 20 seconds late you're still late. He taught me, and so many others sitting here today about the importance of being on time to your classes because it was not fun waiting outside when everyone inside the class knows you're late.

Then there's Mr. Kirkham who managed to try and convince us when we were at Boston pizza with the challenge cup team that a pizza was a sandwich. I honestly thought he was joking when he first said that, but he was, like, actually serious about it.

Mme. Ricard, pour tous les élèves d'immersion qui sont ici aujourd'hui nous oublierons jamais nôtres temps avec toi madame, nous allons manquer ton personnalité si positive et encourageant mais en plus nous allons manquer rire avec toi.

Next there's Mrs. Schlosser who loves to tell us how one day we could end up using math 30 in real life. Ya I'm going to wait and come back to you on that Mrs. Schlosser! What I did learn in that class, although you were not required to teach us this, was how credit cards work, which is in fact pretty useful. Even though we don't get the chance to have a class with every teacher in the school, each one of us will remember the teachers we did have with fond memories.

Finally I would like to thank the wonderful ladies in the office, Andrea, Wendy and Lindsay who would always gladly help us even if we asked the same question many, many times. Our councilors, over this past year I'm pretty sure most of my fellow graduates have seen there councilor at least once weather it be for changing up your classes, University application, gap year preparations, or even just to talk. There always here to support our dreams just like the rest of our splendid faculty.

So I would like to say thank you all on behalf of this years grad class for helping us get here today, to our graduation.

We did it!

Reply from Teachers

by Mrs. Doreen Cleary

Did you know that Mr. Curran, Mr. Doering, Mrs. Straker, Mr. Nakehk'o, Mrs. Powless and Ms. Taylor-Payne are all Falcon Alumni who graduated from Sir John? Can you guys even imagine what Mr. Curran was like in high school? I seem to remember a mullet and a hockey jersey. He might have even smiled back then! He was always great to work with, always nice but that's probably because I could blackmail him.

It has been so wonderful to work with K'a for the past four years. It does not seem that long ago that his dad, Dez, as a former student, was in my office working on his educational plan and asking me for a green slip, "Just this one time, please Mrs. Cleary?"

Also, Jamal's mom, Nadira was also a student here in my first few years at Sir John and it's so great to see generation after generation of young students transforming into responsible and contributing adults raising great kids who will also follow in their footsteps.

I will fondly remember the times some of you tried to pull the wool over my eyes. When you realized I was onto you, you so kindly pulled up your socks and just got to work. How many of you remember getting a text from me, telling you to get to class? Well, I'm retired now so delete my number!

I have learned a lot in my 35 years of teaching and counselling. Here are my important life lessons:

Take care of yourself, find your purpose, think critically and be engaged in your life.

In order to take care of yourself, you must love yourself first! Accept your flaws and embrace the gifts you have to offer. I am a proud, indigenous woman and I have always tried to encourage others to be proud of who they are and to embrace and recognize their identity. Remember there will always be someone looking up to you as a role model and mentor. Set a good example so others can follow in your footsteps.

Find your purpose. Be a contributor to your community, family, friends and the Earth. Keep a positive and caring circle of family and friends close to you.

The way you treat people represents how you view yourself. Start with a healthy relationship with yourself and treat those around you in a loving, caring and encouraging manner.

You will have challenges along the way. The important thing is to not dwell on what is going wrong but to focus on moving forward and pushing through. When you put kindness and positivity in the universe, I believe it will always come back to you.

I wish you the very best! I hope you have a wonderful evening of celebration. Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

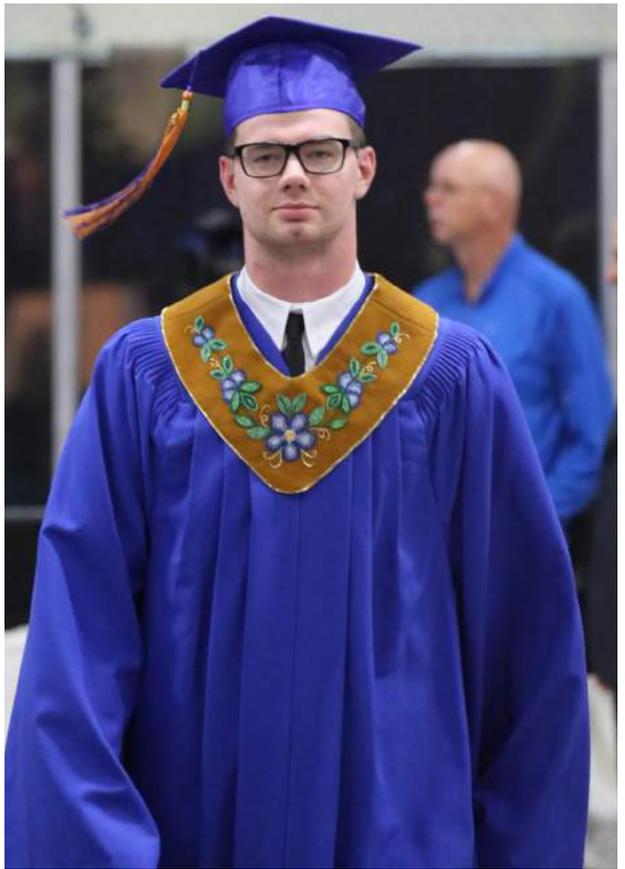


Scholarships

(1) City of Yellowknife Citizenship Scholarship *Presented to Lauren Seabrook* (2) Diavik Diamond Mine 2012 Inc. Scholarship *Presented to Meghan Newberry* (3) Yellowknife Education District #1 Scholarship *Presented to Niva Stephenson* (4) Yellowknife RCMP All Ranks Mess Scholarship *Presented to Sahara Lafferty* (5) City Cab Engineering Scholarship *Presented to Sayak Dirghangi* (6) Jenny Gamble-Fournier Scholarship *Presented to Kacie Hall* (7) Paul Tanner Memorial Award *Presented to Grace Clark and Taylor Soloy* (8) Enough Talk, Hurry Up and Do It Already Arts Scholarship *Presented to Colleen Nagel* (9) Brick Falcon Leadership Scholarship *Presented to Jack Panayi and Elizabeth Thomas* (10) The Royal Canadian Legion Vincent Massey Branch 164 *Presented to Luke Heal* (11) Bullock's Bistro Culinary Arts Scholarship *Presented to Pyper Legge*







A Message From Your 2018 Valedictorian Branda Le

When I was in kindergarten, I remember when teachers used to hand out boxes of pencil crayons and blank sheets of paper, and our only direction being: "To draw something, anything." I would come up with the most imaginative and fascinating drawings, like rainbow coloured flowers with smiley faces or strange dinosaur-esque creatures. At the time, my five-year-old self believed that I was great at drawing. Because I never feared judgment from others and had not yet learned to criticize myself harshly. I was able to give free reign to my curiosity, and it felt liberating.

As we grow older, feelings of self-doubt often pervade our minds and we lose that fearlessness, that genuine curiosity we had possessed once before. We lose our sense of faith in ourselves. Awhile back, I asked my friend what her yearbook quote was, and she replied: "Those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind." And it made me think about how much time and energy we waste dwelling on the opinions of others when they may, in fact, be doing more harm than good. The opinions of others matter to some extent, but somewhere along the line, we must form our own judgments and not allow them to hinder our ambitions. Peering over my grad class, sitting amongst one another, wide eyed and eager for the future, it is clear to me that we are all still young and free. Reflecting on that, I urge you to explore and to take charge of your aspirations. Whatever goals you have in mind, pursue them with confidence and always, always strive for excellence.

Now, I want you to take a moment and ask yourself this: "Do you trust yourself, wholeheartedly, in the decisions that you make?" Think about that for a second, "Do you trust yourself?" I have asked this question of many people. Most have hesitated, some have said "no", while others have said something along the lines of "I only trust myself in school" or "I only trust myself at work". What I have learned is, fundamentally, all of these answers reveal a sense of doubt and hesitance in one's own capabilities. And I am not talking about trusting yourself in small decisions like what you should wear that day or asking for a second opinion on your essay, but major life decisions, like attending university or wanting to pursue a passion. In truth, no one knows you better than you know yourself, and you are well equipped to make your own decisions.

Yet oftentimes, there is something holding us back. Maybe you fear the prospect of embarrassing yourself? For many, that's a genuine fear—but what's the worst that can happen? The only risks to trusting ourselves and your capabilities is the possibility of failure or rejection. And who knows? In trusting your instincts and possibly making a mistake, perhaps you will learn valuable lessons? Adversities, risks, and challenges are an opportunity to improve yourself as an individual and persevere. I have also learned that, usually, when we ask others for their opinions we are asking for reassurance. We are asking for self-validation, and rather than trusting our own instincts and accepting the possibility of making a mistake, we seek the opinions of others even though they may undermine our own instincts because the opinions of others are formed based on their own values and life experiences. My parents, for example, hold values that are rooted in tradition and conservatism. Their values were born out of their experiences as immigrants during the Vietnam War, in which they had witnessed widespread poverty and the effects of death and destruction on a fragile society. It is because of their experiences, for example, that they value financial security so highly. And while I understand where they are coming from, there are times when I need to make my own decisions and just trust my instincts, like the fact that I would rather consider an emotionally satisfying career before worrying about financial security. In making our own decisions, it is important to be mindful of the opinions of others, but at the end of the day, we must form our own judgments. So I urge you to trust yourself, to take risks and accept the possibility of mistakes or rejection.

Finally, we must also remember to appreciate our loved ones. All too often, we lose sight of what is truly important in our lives and tend to focus on what we want or need at the moment. Without our family and friends, however, who would we have to share our successes with? I know, for certain, that years from now we won't stress as much over our grades in biology or pay as much attention to the shoes we wore, but we will remember our shared moments of laughter, sadness, and triumph with our friends and family. Earlier this year, in a moment of rage, I treated my mother very poorly. I took her for granted when she deserved better. And sometime in that moment, she told me something I will never forget. She said: "Branda, you always take your family for granted and treat them poorly because you always think they will be there for you, forever and without question. Whereas with friendships, you often treat your friends better because friendships must be continually maintained and nurtured to continue." Those words completely changed my perspective on how I was treating my loved ones, and reflecting on that, I urge you to be more appreciative of your parents through your actions and through your words. Tell them you love them more often and show them you care through your actions, whether it be simply washing the dishes or spending quality time with them. Not only that, but let your friends know how much they mean to you from time to time. Kindness and appreciation can improve relationships in unthinkable ways.

As we sit among each other, we are now moments away from the finish line. This graduation ceremony symbolizes all of our hard work, determination, but also marks the beginning of our journey into the real world, a clean slate to be whoever we want to be, to pursue our desires, our passions, our grand ambitions. Like blank sheets paper waiting to be marked, I challenge you to chase after your dreams, fearlessly and with confidence, to trust your own judgment, and to cherish those who matter to you. Thank you.





Thank you!

École Sir John Franklin High School Graduating Class of 2018 would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their generous donations and continuing support.

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~Judy Murdoch
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Old Town Paddle & Co.
Ollerhead NWT
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Thanks to you, and all those who volunteered their time and energy, the 2018 Sir John Franklin High School Graduation was truly memorable!