

Principal's Welcome



I'd like to welcome all families of our graduates. You must be certainly proud of them today because of the accomplishments they have reached. I'd also like to pass on congratulations to a number of people that were unable to attend today... Sir John staff, Premier Cochrane and the Minister of Education RJ Simpson, all local MLAs, City of Yellowknife Mayor Rebecca Alty (former Falcon!), our YK1 Board Chair Trustee Tina Drew as well as the Board of Trustees, Superintendant of YK1 and the Education Services Team.

The roaring 20s. That was the grad theme that was selected by this class prior to Christmas break. Little did they know how roaring this would be. As we look back in time, the 20s were a roaring time. But I absolutely guarantee you, there's not a person in front of me, and in particular, grads, who are ever going to forget 2020.

And with it, there have certainly been challenges. But you do need to see past them. One day you will look back and say, "You know what? I went through it but I made it on the other side." It's sometimes difficult to say that in the moment, but trust me. As history will prove itself, as it has in the past, even as far back as the 1920s, there have been challenging times throughout history. This is a challenge that you will never forget.

It's important to look back and see what we've been through. Recognize the resilence and determination within yourself. It's character building. It will only bode well for your future. We will get past the challenges we've had to face the last few months. It will make you a stronger person.

I want you to realize that through these challenging times, not just these past four or five months, you've built up your skills. You've built up those abilities that will help you get through tough times. And you must understand that you haven't done it on your own.

have to say that I truly feel connected and attached to this particular grad class. My daughter is a part of this class so I've seen some of you grow up right in front of me. I think of the JH Sissons talent shows in the music room or the Hay River Soccer tournaments when you were in elementary school. I even remember some of you in kindergarten and us parents will never forget the Christmas concerts year after year after year after year. We could tell lots

of stories but some of them might be for another time.

The growth I have seen over the last four vears has amazed me. The teachers have been amazed and I bet your parents have been amazed. When I think of the last four years, I can close my eyes and think of certain things. For me, when I think of this class, I think of the girls Challenge Cup team. The number of girls that participated year after year and showed up to every 6:30am practice knowing that winning the game would be challenging. When I think of this year, I think of February and Hockey Day in Canada. And the girls literally pouring over the boards to tackle Destiny on the ice. Mia skating around the rink with the Cup in her hands, grinning from ear to ear. Or the boys, as Mr. Enns puts it, "Three in a row... 'nuff said". At the end of the boy's game when the kids gathered themselves as graduates for a group picture... those are the things, when you close your eyes, you're going to remember.

I also look at this group and think of the progressive thinkers. I think of the Green Team and the initiatives they've taken. Pushing youth initiatives forward. Getting young people involved in things that are important. I think of the MAGMA kids. The kids who want to bring awareness to mental well-being and squashing the stigma around mental challenges. I think of activism and rallying kids together for the right reasons. I look at this group and I think of Skills Canada, I think of Drama productions Beauty and the Beast, Lion King and Frozen. I think of the music trips to Vancouver and Edmonton. I think of the girls teams dominating on the basketball court and on the volleyball court. School trips, whether it be the Holocaust, China or Croatia. Moments that you will never forget as graduates. You'll look back, and those are the things that you will remember. You won't necessarily

remember the challenges you have faced over the last few months but hose challenges will be the fabric of the person you will become.

Graduating is a goal in anyone's life, that they want to achieve. And you need to understand, it is a bit of a turning point. You will push past today and might think that you are on your own. But you need to understand something else too. You are not completely on your own. You didn't get here by yourself. Make sure vou reach out and thank the ones that helped get you here. That is important. You don't want to miss that opportunity or let it pass by. I am confident that school has taught you many things. Taught you to work together. Taught you to accept constructive critisism and move forward. You built respect with others even though you may not have seen eye to eye. But you strive to be better tomorrow than you were today. And these skills weren't built overnight with the people who supported vou. Think of your parents and the time they spent with you at the kitchen table doing homework, working on your Historica Fair project, fighting back the tears and pushing you to meet a deadline. Parents have done that. Thank them.

Teachers who have given up lunch hours four or five times a week. Prepping you for an exam or letting you re-take a test. Friends who have supported you just by listening. Helping you through a troubling time, offering you advice or a shoulder to cry on. Make sure when you leave today, those are the people you thank. Because you never know when live will throw a challenge at you and take the opportunity away from you. Do it now. Don't let it pass you by.

To the Class of 2020, I have five uncomplicated tips for you:

- 1. Set structure and routine so you keep the course.
- 2. Don't be afraid. Take safe risks.
- 3. Do what you think is right. Learn from life's experiences.
- 4. Take care of your mental well-being.
- 5. Together, we can accomplish so much more especially during challenging times.

Please come back for a visit! Mr. MacInnis





Safiya Hashi

Natasha Cousineau

Grad Council 2020



Gradbook Committee



Destiny Hobbs-Stewart



Andrea Pellerin

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 from the staff of École Sir John Franklin High School





Dean MacInnis, Principal Class of '88

Cora Brancato *Class of '12*

Janice Daly

Class of '99





Jan Byrne













Lindsay Chiasson *Class of '88*















Class of '01



Wendy Malkin *Class of '*86

Lea O'Keefe

Angela Martin *Class of '0*6 Paul MacDonald





Sharon Oldford *Class of '88*

Andrea Pellerin Class of '95







Micheline Ricard Colleen Pura

Isabelle Robidas





Matt Craig Class of '10



Sermin Heyck

Denise Hurley



Nathan Doering Melanie Durepos

Diane Brookes

Class of '74

Russell Ives

Colin Kennedy

Rod Kennedy

Obed Duru



Jeremy Kielstra Class of '98



Mark Kilbride

Class of '99











Sophie Thériault *Class of '06*







Arnold Krause



Carrie Lauder Class of '93



Spencer Lyman



Beaton Mackenzie



Edna McFaull *Class of '64*



Landon Peters Class of '87



Bridget McLeod



Kim Poitras



Mindee Naismith



Kate Powless Class of '98



Stephen Offredi



Kirstin Prescott



Tomiko Robson Class of '96



Jerome Rondeau



Pam Schlosser Class of '87



Susan Shantora

Travis Stewart *Class of '94*



Shellie Trimble Class of '90





Helen Wong Class of '09





Gwen Young



Evelyne Straker Arben Sulejmanov Lacey Taylor-Payne Class of '95 Class of '09









Pumpkin Carving





Congratulations Grads!



















Hockey Day in Yellowknife















Challenge Cup Double-Win













Throwback!

















Merry Christmas



























Grad Memories





Zein Al Hemesh Lois Anderson "If at first you don't succeed, dust yourself off, and try again"





Go Falcons!

Taryn Beck Told y'all I'd graduate.

Brianna Bertolini A Tim's a day keeps the bad grades away.





Darian Bohnet Go Falcons!

Naomi Bonnetplume-Drescher Congrats to the Class of 2020!



Jenna Baggs A Tim's run a day keeps the bad grades away.



Jordan Beaverho Don't worry boys, I'II clutch the Gulag.



Nicole Biggs-Pokiak "What we learn with pleasure we never forget." -Alfred Mercier



Tara Black "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one."



Spencer Boothe If I have 9 ice cubes and you have Most of my life was spent here... 13 apples, how many avocados can you fit in a hat?



Dustin Caisse Worth it 100%





Ivan Ceria "Well at least everyone's going for unique, non-coronarelated quotes ...?

Cameron Chambers "Everything you can imagine is real."- Pablo Picasso



Brayden Christofferson Life is tough, but it's a lot tougher if you're stupid.



Logan Clarke You're welcome.



Gabriel Cluderay If no one from the future comes to stop you from doing it, how bad of a decision can it really be?



Ashton Cooke "Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead." -Nora Ephron



Natasha Cousineau **BBO-migos**

Joshua Donison

Don't smile because it's over,

cry because it happened.



Elaine Cronk





James Doyle Just the way she goes ol' man!





Princess Duculan My sarcasm level has gotten to the point where I don't know if i'm kidding or not"



Olga Duru Glad that's done...



Sageda Gassim-Elsead

""i...understand...nothing.""

- Michael Scott "

Richard Epelon Sometimes the only way to move forward is to revisit the things in



Darian Erasmus We don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents! your past holding you back.



Ally Curtis i think i finally, figured out, how to; use punctuation!



Mazen Daher "When they go low, we go high." -Michelle Obama





else's dream.



Damon Dwojak "You can chase a dream that might not never come your way. Dream it anyway"



Dawson Enns "What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul." -Joseph Addison



Madison Fairweather "It is absolutely still possible to make a difference." -Michelle Obama



Kea Furniss Good thing you don't need to pass your drivers test to graduate ...



Cameron Goit Did I ask?



Jenava Henninen



Chevanne Haogak "The highest result of education is tolerance." -Helen Keller



Makayla Hartford "Be bold, be courageous, be your best." -Gabrielle Giffords



Safiya Hashi "Life's short, talk fast." -Lorelai Gilmore



Simone Hipfner "Je crois vraiment que tu dois avoir confiance en toi que va bien aller." - Mme. Ricard



Ethan Horn "Fall forward. Every failed experiment is one step closer to success." -Denzel Washington

Destiny Hobbs-Stewart

When covid is over,

party at my house!

Berna Horozlar "... and I live by that." - Tyler, The Creator



Y Hong

A graduation photo only

takes three seconds to take, but it

retains memories of four years.

Farhan Hussein "Don't wait for an opportunity. Do something until you can do something else." -Shonda Rhimes



Hannah Inman Being called a dumb blonde gets on my pet peeves.



Ethan Kirizopoulos "Intelligence plus character -that is the goal of true education." -Martin Luther King Jr.





Ella Kokeli "Dare yourself to believe." -Sadie Maudet Bjornsen



Jack Kotaska "The more relaxed you are, the better you are at everything" -Bill Murray





Laurie Ann Lessard "Don't wait. The time will never be just right." -Napoleon Hill"





Mia MacInnis Four years of high school with my parents and now online learning for uni...God help me!



Dara Maduke "Hello hurricane. I've got doors boarded up. All your dead end fury is not enough"



Tyler Hopkins "The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." -B.B. King

Alfred James Lawrance "Instruction ends in school, but education ends only with life." -Frederick W. Robertson



Amanda Leonardis "May your hats fly as high as your dreams." - Michael Scott





Ramona Libiano Congrats to the Class of 2020!



Jade Lim "Life is my college. May I graduate well, and earn some honours." -Louisa May Alcott



Chloé Malin "People can live for a hundred years without living a minute" -Logan Huntzeberger



Breeva Matheson Thank you Miss Rona for the best year ever xoxo























Riley Menard When in doubt go to the library.



Jaslynn Menton "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." -Arthur Ashe



Patricia Mercado "To me, there was magic in the learning." -Michelle Obama"



"It's the thrill of the fight. Rising up to the challenge of our rival."



Kaitlyn Nasogaluak A king is nothing...



Zion Naveed "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." -Benjamin Franklin



Jason Nguyen When the last bell rings, I might actually miss this place.



Hannah Nickerson A Tim's run a day keeps the bad grades away.



Rushali Niroula "The Best View Comes After The Hard Climb"



Chasity O'Keefe Why fall in love when you can fall asleep?



Drayton Pagonis-Friesen The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.



Rae Panavi Thanks to the SJF staff for a sweet four years.



Mathias Paradis It's hard to pronounce my name unless if you say it in french. So I ask them to call me monk.



Ruby Pigott Fill your life with experiences, not things. Have stories to tell, not stuff to show.





Aiden Rylott "Always aim high, work hard, and care deeply about what you believe in." -Hillary Clinton





Nathan Shereni I'm the shortest one in school, yet you all still look up to me!



Jayden Simpson Congrats to the Class of 2020!

Justin Powder Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead. -Nora Ephron



Aneisha Powell Hard work pays off!



Abigail Shears "I meant what I said and I said what I meant." ~Dr Seuss



Zachry Sheck In reality I'm 5'4"... stand on my money now I'm 6'6". -Lil uzi vert



Anusha Siyakumar "May your hats fly as high as your dreams" - Michael Scott



Adam Slade The only thing angrier than me going to school on a cold Monday morning was my truck.



They turned him into a pickle.

Hilarious.



Liam Tereposky "Don't count the days make the davs count." - Muhammad Ali



Abigail Thompson "The more that you learn, the more places you'll go" - Dr. Suess



Benjamin Toner Cheaters never win, but I just graduated.



Cerynn True-Jewell "We live in an age of IMs and Instagram, but dont short circuit the path to success." -Tory Burch



Kathy Truong It's important to live with integrity... don't try to be something that you're not.



Jaleel Tulloch ...without his queen







Qinling Wang Light tomorrow with today.

Cailin Willis I wonder what's for supper?





Allana Zettler "Shut up. Dance it out." - Christina Yang







Chase Yakeleya Congrats to the Class of 2020!



Naomi Yukon "Don't worry 'bout a thing. Cause every little thing gonna be alright"



Not shown: Ethan Black, Mary Chocolate, Olivia Dove, Josiah Goertzen, Elise Lockhart. Marimar Macusi, Basro Mohamud, Kalid Mohamud, Nimo Mohamud, Kaden Moore, Lucas Paul, Samuel Schofield. Alyssa Tejuco, Carter Yakeleya, Zayd Yalahow

Fabiha Zihan Make it count. (I actually love Nike)

Indigenous Honour Ceremony



Indigenous Honour Ceremony















Voted Most Likely



Most likely to go viral



Most likely to become the next Van Gogh travel the world



Logan Clarke Most likely to



Most likely to sleep

Most likely to through an earthquake appear on reality TV



Hannah Inman Most likely to become a PTÁ mom

Aiden Rylott Most likely to become

a ruthless dictator

Most likely to end up on Broadway

Jack Kotaska

Most likely to win

an Olympic medal

Ally Curtis **Cailin Willis** Most likely to become a teacher at SJF

Fabiha Zihan Most likely to be named "Canada's worst Driver"



Most likely to get ID'd when 30

a meme artisit



Cameron Goit



Most likely to become a pop sensation



Logan Doyle

Most likely to

be catfished

Chloé Malin Most likely to win the lottery and lose the ticket



Ella Kokelj

Most likely to win

a Nobel prize

Most likely to own 30 cats become a comedian

Zachry Sheck Ivan Ceria Most likely to Most likely to become



Most likely to use 2020 slang in 2040

What will you miss most about high school?

"The last day that never was."

~Olga Duru

"My favourite memories of high school are going into high school for the first time, learning new things and making friends that'll stay in your life forever." ~ Kathy Truong

"Being a part of the drama production." ~ Aneisha Powell

"I have so many, but if I can only choose one it would be when Mme **Ricard danced her heart** out to "Happy" during the end credits of a movie we watched in her class." ~ Simone Hipfner

"Challenge Cup 2020. Hands down best time I've ever had and both girls and boys won this year :D"

~ Spencer Boothe

"One time we were in class and Mazen Daher was feeling sick and Madame Sonja told him to wake up so he looked at her for like 15 seconds and then puked his guts out in the garbage can. Funniest thing I'd ever seen." ~ Nathan Sherani

"Traveling to China with my classmates is my best memory." ~ Qinling Wang

"Definitely the prank we pulled on Mr. Curran on the first day of school." ~ Natasha Cousineau

"My favourite memory

from high school was the first day of Grade 12. There was so much excitement for what this year was going to bring." ~ Ally Curtis

"My favourite memory of high school would be while taking Chef's class, when he was training me for Skills Canada. I've never had so much fun while learning and improving myself! I would like to thank him for everything he's done for me." ~ Laurie-Ann Lessard

"Leaving." ~ Ivan Ceria

"Most memorable moment

would be throwing water balloons at Curran in the student parking lot." ~ Brianna Bertolini

"Hanging out with Aiden Rylott!"

~ Gabe Cluderay

"In Grade 11, some of my friends and I grabbed cardboard boxes from a recycling bin and went outside at the top of school. We lined ourselves at the top of the hill and attempted to race each other; however, the gravel prevented us from moving even an inch. We would either push one another down on our makeshift sleds or try snowboarding where we would just move our hips in order to move." ~ Julianne Gesmundo

"Favorite memory of high school has to be the 31 hour famine." ~ Carter Yakeleva

"Throwing eggs at Nathan and then watching Mr. McInnis drop kick the recycle bin." ~ Mazen Daher

"My favourite memory from high school would be winning the challenge cup in my senior year and making St Pats cry." ~ Destiny Hobbs-Stewart

"Throwing water balloons at Mr. Curran at the start of the year or writing grad 20 with pong cups in the gym." ~ Logan Clarke

"Attacking Mr. Curran with water balloons." ~ Jenna Baggs

Definitely NOT the end result of this whole grad photo ordeal! ~ Cailin Willis

"Spending these past four years with my best friends." ~ Breeya Matheson

Diploma exams

are cancelled

You don't get to see your friends or go out for three months



GRAD BABY FACES









Left to right: Zein Al Hemesh Lois Anderson Jenna Baggs Jordan Beaverho Taryn Beck

Nicole **Biggs-Pokiak** Darian Bohnet Ivan Ceria Cameron Chambers Brayden Christofferson

Logan Clarke Ashton Cooke Elaine Cronk Ally Curtis Mazen Daher

Joshua Donison Olivia Dove James Dovle Princess Duculan Dawson Enns

Darian Erasmus Kea Furniss Sageda Gassim-Elsead Julianne Gesmundo Cameron Goit

What will you miss most about high school?

"Meeting all the remarkable people that turned into my family." ~ Madison Fairweather

"Seeing all my friends." ~ Liam Tereposky

"When our boys and girls ccup teams won both the cups during our senior year!"

~ Hannah Inman

"The feeling of calling the last cue for a show and watching the cast and crew of The Little Mermaid Jr. realize months of hardwork has paid off. It's always my favourite part of Drama the bittersweet last show followed by lots of hugs and tears and a pizza party!"

~ Patricia Mercado

"Challenge Cup." ~ Lucas Paul

"When Mazen threw up on the floor in Socials." ~ Cameron Goit

"When Safiya and I got our friends coffee from Birchwood. They took it from us and the tray broke making the coffee spill all over the floor." ~ Riley Menard

"Challenge Cup."

~Y Hong

"Supporting my friends in challenge cup." ~ Amanda Leonardi

"Winning challenge cup and celebrating with my friends." ~ Abigail Thompson

"Being with my friends everyday, the teachers were funny at times too." ~ Chasity O'Keefe

"Prep rally."

~ Mathias Paradis

"The Challenge Cup game this year was really memorable and it was an amazing final year at Sir John to see the boys and girls teams win their games."

~ Anusha Sivakumar

"China Trip in March 2019." ~ Ruby Pigott

"Taking part in the production Beauty and the Beast." ~ Cameron Chambers

"The boys change rooms." ~ Manny Sumagaysay

"Winning Challenge Cup!" ~ Ella Kokelj

"Challenge cup." ~ Benjamin Toner

"Challenge cup." ~ Logan Doyle

"Always being with my friends and all the memories we made." ~ Zachry Sheck

"Getting to see so much in so little time." ~ Kalid Mohamud

"Meeting and building a relationship with Mr. Knox." ~ Richard Epelon

"Having a whole staff of very kind and helping teachers who wanted the best for me, if I wanted to or not." ~ Zayd Yalahow

"My favourite high school memory was tied between calculus with Ms. Schlosser and the full sweep at Challenge Cup." ~ Elaine Cronk

"Spring drama production in Grade 9. Bring those back."

~ Berna Horozlar

3peat ~ Jack Kotaska























Walking with your four friends side by side in the hallway and stopping to check your phones



Top 10 songs 1. Bad Guy - Billie Eillish 2. Blinding Lights - The Weeknd 3. Roxanne - Arizona Zervas 4. Adore you - Harry Styles 5. Savage - Megan Thee Stallion

- 6. What's Poppin Jack Harlow 7. Circles - Post Malone
- 8. Blueberry Faygo Lil Mosey
- 9. Truth Hurts Lizzo
- 10. Say So Doja Cat



Top Ten Movies 1. Parasite

- **M** 1. Parasito 2. The Irishman
- 3. Little Women
- 4. Ford v Ferrari 5, 1917
 - 6. Jojo Rabbit
 - 7. Frozen 2
- 8. Trolls World Tour
 - 9. Joker
 - 10. The Call of the Wild



What will you miss most about high school?

"Any commotion ever." ~ Adam Slade

Super Soccer 2019 ~ Jaleel Tulloch

"Challenge cup prep rallies and the home time dismissal."

~ Princess Duculan

"The first day of our grad year, when the whole grad class pranked Mr. Curran with water balloons." ~ Joshua Donison

"Playing ccup in my last year an winning 4-0 for hockey night in Canada." ~ Brayden Christofferson

"This years Challenge Cup and throwing water balloons at Mr.Curran." ~ Chloé Malin

"Winning Challenge Cup 2019/2020 and sweeping all four years at Cager." ~ Mia MacInnis

"My favourite memory of high school was making new friends and creating new memory with my friends. One of my best memory was watch the Challenge Cup in the Multiplex. One of the best memory in high school was to discover something new and discover my challenges and potential."

~ Rushali Niroula

"This years challenge cup!!" ~ Dara Maduke

"The China trip." ~ Isabel Levesque

"Winning Challenge Cup." ~ Darian Erasmus

"Winning Challenge Cup this year." ~ Kea Furniss

"Going to China in March 2019." ~ Allana Zettler "When Riley and I got coffee for our friends in the dead of winter, they took the tray, and it immediately broke, spilling coffee all over the foyer! Chloe you clumsy girl, you cost me ten bucks." ~ Safiya Hashi

"My favourite memory of high school would have to be the fact that I was barley able to graduate when I started this school year and that I had support from all the teachers. Mr.Curran is the one who made it all possible for me and that's what made my highlight of high school,he gave me the best thing, a better future and opportunity." ~ Jordan Beaverho

"My favourite memory of highschool? It's definitely the teachers that I've met throughout my years at Sir John Franklin. (Please remember me for my height at least! It should be easy enough.)" ~ Dustin Caisse

"My favourite memory of high school was being a member of and winning challenge cup, and having the opportunity to take part in Hockey Day in Canada."

~ Abigail Shears

"Challenge Cup 2020." ~ Rae Panayi

"My favourite memory of high school was getting to experience it with all my friends. I think that having amazing friends with you along the way made high school a crazy adventure and something that I will never forget." ~ Jason Nguyen Knocking on Curran's door when you're late to English





St. Pat's when the SJF Girl's hockey team starting winning



GRAD BABY FACES

















































Left to right: Cheyenne Haogak Safiya Hashi Simone Hipfner Destiny Hobbs-Stewart Y Hong

Tyler Hopkins Berna Horozlar Hannah Inman Jack Kotaska Amanda Leonardis

Laurie Ann Lessard Jade Lim Elise Lockhart Mia MacInnis Dara Maduke

Chloé Malin Riley Menard Patricia Mercado Kaitlyn Nasogaluak Jason Nguyen

Rushali Niroula Drayton Pagonis-Friesen Rae Panayi Mathias Paradis Lucas Paul

GRAD BABY FACES









Left to right: Justin Powder Aneisha Powell Mason Saunders Abby Shears Zachry Sheck

Anusha Sivakumar Adam Slade Emmanuel Sumagaysay Liam Tereposky Abigail Thompson

Cerynn True-Jewell Kathy Truong





Allana Zettler Fabiha Zihan









Congratulations







SJF Grads: remembering five assignments, two essays & three tests after doing nothing all week



l am once again asking for an extension.





Cailin Willis Chase Yakeleya













Congratulations!





Congratulations Grads!



















Congratulations!







Hello Sir John graduates, faculty, and family with a special greeting to those of you watching at home, wherever that may be. I'd like to welcome you to a special place. Today we are gathered on Chief Drygeese territory, the traditional home of the Yellowknives Dene. Yellowknife is situated on treaty eight and I'd like to acknowledge all traditional groups all across the NWT. I'm so excited to be speaking in front of you today. Looking out into the crowd, I sense a wide range of emotions from not only students, but from family and staff. When asked to consider the experiences we faced as Grad 2020, many things came to mind all at once, but one word could be used to describe it all. chaos.

Throughout these past 4 years we have spent together, we have lived through some of the most uncertain moments in our generation. In grade nine, the US election ended in a way no one expected. In grade ten, we saw the upbringing of the #Metoo movement. In grade eleven, we started striking for environmental change, following closely after teenage activist, Greta Thunberg. And lastly in grade 12 we have witnessed so many worrying, guestionable and revolutionary events. First the Australia wildfires that were caused by climate change. Then, the escalating political conflicts between countries. Soon after that, the world fell into the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced us into 2 months of strict guarantine. Then most recently, we have witnessed the start of the Black Lives Matter Movement. That was a bit of a long list considering we are only at the end of June but I hope the rest of the year brings good fortune for not only the graduates of 2020 but for everyone in attendance today.

Although this year may have not been anything like what we envisioned, it's definitely going to be a wild story to tell in a few years. Every grad class

wants their year to be unique and unforgettable; I think at this point we could check those boxes. At our first assembly, a group of students - you all know who you are - spelled out "Grad 2020" in cups on the gym floor. Instead of making us take it down, Mr. Curran proofread it and told us the apostrophe was in the wrong place. On the same day, we waterballooned him in the parking lot. Even though that was our one successful grad prank I think it was also good revenge for the embarrassment that Curran had caused us. The Sir John staff can attest to our grad class's antics and our determination to make this our best year yet. Who knew that March 12 was going to be our last day in school? If you guys don't remember it was throwback Thursday. For some of us this may feel like yesterday while for others it feels like a decade ago. During lockdown, we became immersed in a new world of possibilities. Our boredom encouraged many of us to study harder, for some to not study at all, but look at us; we are all still here graduating today. I know most of you must be feeling mixed emotions at being deprived of the remainder of our senior experience. The challenges we have faced not only in the past three months but in our whole lives have taught us so many valuable lessons that contribute to our personal growth. While we were saddened to miss a traditional graduation, we have come to realize that during pressing times some things must be sacrificed for the safety of others. This perspective proves that we are more than capable to make change in society where we see fit. Even in uncertain times where all plans have gone awry, we graduates stuck together and persevered through a once-in-a-generation challenge.

Having shared the past four years with this class, it makes me even more confident that you graduates will do amazing things. Whatever path you choose in life whether it be continuing your education, entering the workforce, or just going where the road takes you, I know that you will all be amazing leaders and make tremendous contributions to society. Your actions and choices to date exemplify just how capable you are.

Of course, there are many people who have helped us grow into who we are today. How was that for a seqway? Now on to my long list of thank yous. First off I'd like to extend a huge thank you to the territorial health authority for allowing us to gather here today and to Mr. MacInnis and staff for advocating for our class. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to celebrate this monumental milestone that means so much to not only us but also our families. Next, I'd like to thank the City of Yellowknife for allowing us to use this venue on such short notice. And another thank you to the Sir John teachers, for making sure our courses still ran smoothly and making sure we were still able to graduate. I think you deserve congratulations for not only transferring our courses online when school was unexpectedly cancelled, but also continuing to offer your unconditional support. You are truly the heart and soul of Sir John. Lastly, thank you to the parents and family of graduates. You dropped us off at our first day of kindergarten all those years ago, you wiped our tears away after we fell, and still to this day you wipe away our sadness when we feel the pressure of entering the adult world. Without your love, discipline, and support we wouldn't be the strong and determined young adults we are today. And to the parents and extended family watching from home right now, our hearts break that you could not make it here today. These circumstances may have prevented you from attending today, but we thank you for still showing your support no matter the distance. All the support from the people I've mentioned would not amount to much, however, if you the graduates of 2020 didn't make something of it. So my last thank you goes to YOU..... You got out of bed on those dark winter mornings and somehow still made it to Kirkham's first period class. You stayed up all night reading your notes and watching videos so you wouldn't fail Ms. Schlosser's challenging math test. You're the ones that put yourself out there and got the work done. You joined that team, you did that group project, and you invested in your own future. That is something we should all be extremely proud of. You did it. We did it. Congratulations, Sir John Franklin Class of 2020!!!!!

Valedictorian Address