#### Valedictory Speech 2007

As our theme song states, There's a reason we are here. Tonight, we gather together as one graduating class, one school community, to celebrate a journey. Good evening teachers, parents, special guests and fellow graduates. This journey began just over a decade ago. As I look around tonight at all the graduates. I am flooded with memories. Of course, the first that comes to mind is a reflection to 12 years ago where our school experiences began. Each one of us undoubtedly remembers that first day of school. While we all did not attend the same elementary school, I am sure that our individual experiences on that particular day were quite unique and resemble similar feelings of anticipation and anxiety. Who walked who to the bus stop, who walked who to the school doors that day? Looking back, we know now that there were indeed mutual feelings of not wanting to let go. Our parents came to help us carry our lunch boxes, our school bags and to let us go from the security of home into this new setting, this new world that they knew would be a challenge for us, as it would be for them. Once the bell rang and the journey began, there was wonder about this new place that would become like a second home for us.

When we walked through the school doors, we all saw many new faces. In fact, I believe what got us through those first days were those new faces- our peers, our acquaintances and our potential friends who were right there beside us, feeling and experiencing the same changes that we were feeling.

Tonight, we sit here as the Crescent Collegiate graduating class of 2007; a group of determined and devoted students ready to encounter another new world, with many new faces. As we look around, we do not see the little girls and little boys that mom and dad watched leave home for the first time, but rather the energetic young adults that we have grown to be. We are all here because we have a reason to dress in the spirit of celebration, both individually and as a

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