

GIPS Year 6 2016 Graduation Speech

Sincere thanks this evening to our Year 6 teachers, Emily Choo, Christine Hallam, Shanae Hill, Amy Kopciwicz and Lyndsey Cullen who have prepared our Year 6 students in such a fine manner.

We'd like to also thank to their amazing parents who have worked tirelessly for many weeks to make this evening such a celebration for our young adults of tomorrow, in particular thank you to the Graduation Committee.

Thank you also to the teachers and staff in attendance tonight for your input into the lives of these fabulous young people sitting in the front rows, thank you for your commitment to their education that at Glen Iris Primary School has been focussed on developing the whole child.

Congratulations Year 6 on officially graduating from your primary school years. It doesn't seem that long ago when we first met you when you had just commenced your journey here at Glen Iris and, yes, you have all grown in so many ways – physically, socially, cognitively and emotionally.

We have felt privileged to share your years of primary school with you and thank you for your commitment, endeavour and passion for all that you have brought to GIPS. We are so proud of you all.

Here's a top 5 to help you enter the *Rest of your Life*. We would have made it a top 10, but we want to keep this whole thing moving.

NUMBER ONE: PASSION. Do what interests you. You will be making important choices over the next few years. Eventually find what you love to do, and pour yourself into it. You'll be at your best, by the way, when you're happy, when you feel true joy. Do what you love and make it your passion.

NUMBER TWO: ENTHUSIASM AND DESIRE. When you're spending your time at work or at play, ENTHUSIASTICALLY learn your craft. Find balance, certainly, but while you're on the job and in everything you do in life... give it everything you have. If you haven't done that yet, there's still plenty of time. Prepare yourself. You're already doing your part.

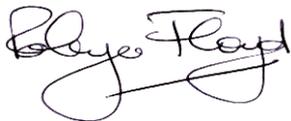
NUMBER THREE: This is my favourite... "Challenge The **STATUS QUO**." We all grow up having to listen to those in authority. And there is, ingrained in us, a predisposition to think

that "THEY" must know what they're doing. But do we always challenge what we think is not right? Is our moral compass always at work? Why doesn't someone do it? The answer is **FEAR**. Fear of standing out from the crowd. Fear of challenging the accepted norm. Just because it's been done a certain way for eons doesn't mean it's the best way of getting it done.

NUMBER FOUR: When someone comes to you, say, "How can I help YOU?" "What can I do for YOU?" "What do YOU need?" That Care for others will come back to you in ways you never anticipated.

NUMBER FIVE: You must **CONTINUE TO EVOLVE** in your thinking and in your views on life. You must continue to learn. Surround yourself with bright, positive people. Be open. Be inquisitive. There's a saying, "If you're the smartest person in the room, you're in the wrong room".

That's all 5. You might not remember one single thing. But remember this, **THERE**, is here, breathe deep, you're there. Savour this moment. Look around at your classmates. This is a day you will always remember. There will only be one, just like this. When tonight is over, look into the eyes of your parents, or your grandparents, your siblings and family members or whoever helped you here this day. Thank them. Tell them you love them. Savour the moment. Enjoy your next challenge and embrace it with commitment and passion.



Robyn Floyd
Principal (Acting)



Shelley Morrison
Assistant Principal (Acting)