

Acknowledgements

Caitlin Robb

I think that now some acknowledgements are in order. Our teachers have been the driving force behind our education here.

I'd first like to thank Mrs. Schweber, who doubled as our history teacher and college advisor. She helped us to deal with disappointment and helped us remain focused on our goals in times that we were happy with our successes.

Secondly, I want to thank our speakers today, Mr. Tenebruso and Mr. Childs, who were both asked to speak today approximately two weeks ago. We asked Mr. Childs to speak, I think, because he was the one who taught us the skills that enable us to give our own speeches. English here at MCDS tends to be a very enlightening class: you learn to see the world around you and through that, you learn very much about yourself.

As for Mr. Tenebruso, we decided to ask him to speak today because we have always greatly appreciated him and his enthusiasm for math, which is as contagious as his smile. We were talking about why we like Mr. Tenebruso last week, and we figured that we think that he's great because he's able to get a history buff and a few artsy teenagers to take an interest in math.

For science this year, Libby, Dom, and I had senior capstone projects. Ms. Franzen supported us every step of the way, from the time we were waffling on what topics we would study to the time she drove us to and from Milwaukee in that nasty March weather we had so we could attend the Badger State Science Fair. If there was ever a question left unanswered in our research, Ms. Franzen would have a volume with the answer in it.

Mr. Eaton taught chemistry to Elena this year. He also helped her share her knowledge about our local lakes and ponds with younger students.

Languages have also been an eye-opening part of our education. Elena frequently visits Argentina to see her family. Dom and I have travelled to Japan and Ecuador with Karen-sensei and Profesora Banomera. Libby has recently returned from the trimester exchange in Japan. We all have had experiences in our travels that have affected the way we see the world and have given us a certain awareness of ourselves. This would not have been possible had we not been taught to communicate in Spanish and Japanese.

We would also like to thank Mr. Solie and Ms. Kiser. Music has greatly enriched all of our lives, and you two have made us appreciate it all the more. I'd especially like to thank Ms. Kiser for her coaching in drama. And thank you, Mrs. Raabe. I think that Mrs. Raabe is one of the teachers that truly got to know our class. Not only did she watch us express ourselves through our art, but she heard us, as she likes to say, "bicker like siblings" amongst ourselves as we worked. And even though we all tend to be quite stubborn in our manners of self-expression, Mrs. Raabe always managed to steer us in the right direction to increase our probability of getting our projects to our own standards the first time.

Even though Mr. Anderson is not technically considered a teacher for high schoolers, I would like to take this opportunity to dub him an educator because if you sit and talk to Mr. Anderson, chances are you'll end up learning something by simply getting into a productive discussion about the world around us...or you might end up with a copy of an *And You Will Know Us By the Trail of the Dead* CD in your hand. Mr. Anderson teaches all of those around him to be informed and to speak your mind with dignity. He teaches by example.

Mr. O'Neill is also deserving of a salute. He enthusiastically teaches P.E. and is constantly positive to all his students. Mr. O'Neill was the first person to tell me that I'd have a wonderful time at UW- Stevens Point.

In the vein of athletics, I'd also like to acknowledge the three crew coaches we've had this year: Coaches Kendrick, Rzentkowski, and Mominee. Mrs. Kendrick began coaching the crew team four years ago and whipped us into shape. Coach Mominee began coaching this winter when Mrs. Kendrick became too pregnant to row. And this spring, the crew team saw its first time in the finals.

Lastly, I want to name the teachers who have brought us up to this year, all of our past teachers that we have had at MCDS throughout high school who have not taught us in our senior year: Mr. Camosy, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Thompson, Breun-sensei, Profesora Davis, Mrs. Barghout, Ms. El-Sharif, Mr. Yokosh, Mrs. Swatzak, and Mr. McMurray.

I'd like to share this quote by Joseph Fort Newton with you as a way of expressing gratitude:

When is a man educated? When he can look out upon the universe, now lucid and lovely, now dark and terrible, with a sense of his own littleness in the great scheme of things, and yet have faith and courage. When he knows how to make friends and keep them, and above all, when he can keep friends with himself.

When he can be happy alone and high-minded amid the drudgeries of life. When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something besides mud, and into the face of the most forlorn mortal and see divine.

When he knows how to live, how to love, how to hope, how to pray -- is glad to live...and has in his heart a bit of a song.

-Joseph Fort Newton-

And with that, on behalf of the MCDS Class of 2009, I thank you all.