

Good morning students, parents, school board members, staff and guests! Welcome to the St. Anthony's 2016 School Graduation Ceremony. I am Lucas Pulvinar and it is with great honor that I stand before you as my class's salutatorian.

When I first sat down to write this speech, tons of thoughts were flowing through my mind. Am I going to reminisce about memories of great importance to me? How about speaking of significant events for the entire school? What is the message I should try to convey? Will I pass out or just be at a loss for words, because to be honest, I did not think I had it in me to do this. Since public speaking and making a speech is not my cup of tea and not the reason why I was chosen to this position.

So I panicked, and searched it up on google as always and it felt different because it wouldn't be my speech if I did so I tried to be the bigger person and sucked it up. This is my speech.

Six years ago, landing my first steps here in this country, I could not imagine my life would be right now, and here I am, standing as a person who delivers great gratitude to my teachers and to my parents. During our time here in St. Anthony's, we all have been through thick and thin, became professional procrastinators, overslept, under slept, and then stayed up all night just to do the essays that is due for Mr. Phillips. Yeah you guys know what I mean. And as time has passed, we have been shaped into the people we are today, our own unique personalities who are now moving on with our lives to bigger and better things.

All along we were introduced to teachers that not only gave us a hard time, they also gave us some free time.

There will always be a moment when every teacher before they draw on the board will say: "I'm not an artist."

Or When the teachers says: "Cmon guys, you've learned this in 3rd grade!" and I was like "I cannot even remember what I ate for breakfast.."

In all honesty, teachers are persistent, they don't give up on us whenever we just feel like the world is against us. They try to make sure we keep track of the things we have to do and need to do. Yes, we know it was their job to do it, but what they did for us went beyond the call of duty. They took the time to explain assignments, sometimes repeatedly because we weren't paying attention. They allowed us to come to their classroom after school for extra help when they could have gone home to spend time with your family or whatever the case may be. They put in the effort to make lessons more interesting so we wouldn't just tune out. They set the bar high and challenged us to live up to it.

Madam Dubé, I want to thank you for all these years when you always give me mini wheats or muffins every morning when you know that I don't eat breakfast. Not only, you encouraged me to eat more often in the morning, you also pushed my journey to

learn more of the language in the future. Je vous remercie pour des nourriture et merci d'avoir été un bon professeur. I hope I didn't wrecked that for all the French speaking guests here.

Ms. Fournier, thank you for all the efforts that you put into our class and the amount of patience that you have in order for us to just remember to RTFQ or to make not just one sentence for a long answer question. I appreciate that you take a lot of your time to make us understand a single concept, and thanks for the pizza two days ago.

Mr. Phillips, I really think you should play the next Hamlet because you make an awfully good impersonation, thank you for the extensions and the patience you gave even though I think our class was not that baaadd..

I apologize for my weak memory and forgot some anecdotes for other teachers, I am going to be honest I did most of this through last minute, hence the title professional procrastinators.

Also, to the elementary teachers, even though I was not here for my elementary years, I still want to express the gratitude from my classmates who were here since Square One, since you are the people who taught them how to be in their private square or to make a single straight line. I don't know.. I cannot see myself being an elementary teacher because I would not know how to handle kids because they can be quite scary and sometimes confusing. Thank you for being there for them.

Next from the list are the parents.... our parents can be annoying sometimes but hey they are trying to deal with us kids so my comment to that is that I can't blame them.. I just can't.

However, they are the people who will continue to support us and continue to guide us as we live on with our lives. I want to thank the parents for coming here to this special day to commemorate with us because we would not be here today without you. Anyone can have a child and call themselves "a parent." But a real parent is someone who puts that child above their own selfish needs and wants. They will bicker at us, nag at us, scold us, but that is the art of parenting, because at the end of the day, they will love us, comfort us and accept us.

That is why one of the things that I realize was that the more I grow, the more I realize that my mom is the best friend that I have. And Dad, thanks. \*funny remark laugh\*

I want to thank you for all the things you gave me. The opportunity of coming here, for us to have a better future and my response and goal to that is to bring back that all to you. I cannot see a world without you guys because you are my life and you continue to inspire me to do great things. I'm sorry for my stubbornness and failure to see the things that you guys sacrificed, but I am grateful to have you as my parents because you believed in the things that I do, and you guys continue to support and accept me for who I am.

Mahal na mahal ko kayo. I love you guys so much. Thank you.

Teachers and Parents your hard work is greatly appreciated, I cannot express enough gratitude by words and class of 2016 let us not forget them because they are the people who will always be there for us. Let's make the world a better place to be! Thank you!