

## **Graduation Speech 2010**

**By Lindsey Sharman, President, Brookville High School Class of 2010**

Welcome family, friends, and faculty- on behalf of the Class of 2010, I want to thank each of you for celebrating with us this milestone in our lives. Thank you for all the time, love, and patience you have invested in us; you are the reason this night is possible! As we graduate this evening, we reflect on the last few years of our lives- the memories made and the lessons learned. Our high school years have been filled with many learning opportunities and new experiences.

Right before I went into school for my “last first day of high school”, I got a text from my Dad saying, “Congrats on your first day of your senior year. Please take time to recognize and cherish everyday. Understand and enjoy the significance of all of this because it will go by very quickly.” I replied with, “Oh, I will!” I didn’t really while it was happening though. We started counting the 180 days we had left on the first day and they have quickly led us to today, at graduation

Senior year was unlike any other for sure!! Being a senior didn’t really hit me when I got the text from my dad on my last first day of school. It felt good to walk into the Senior hallway for the first time as an official senior and freshmen jumped out of the way. It didn’t hit me when we won the screaming contest at our last homecoming pep rally; even though we knew it was rigged for the seniors to win every year. I got to see it in the eyes of the boys, I have learned to love like brothers, when I attended my last football game and watched them cry in a huddle on the end zone after their region loss. It started to hit us as we filled out the countless college applications, saw the cost of college, and as we wrote that generic essay letter that we tried to use for *all* our applications. We started to talk about it more when our college friends returned for Christmas break and gave us all their advice. It didn’t hit me as I celebrated New Year’s with the friends I have known since childhood. It was more surreal when I heard Mr. Beard’s speech over the loud speaker on Senior night and cried my eyes out standing on a court that has been my safe haven for four years. I realized *I* was a senior when I lost in regions for basketball, and I couldn’t fathom there was no next year and no more wearing a Brookville jersey. I slowly started to realize it when I remembered I wouldn’t have the same spring break as my sisters next year. During Senior skip day it started to appear on people’s Facebook statues; the realization that we were truly seniors. When May finally came around we realized that it is our last Prom, but we didn’t really feel it when we were having the time of our lives on the dance floor. Today though, it has hit me. I look around and realize that I will never see half of you again.

I wish I would have enjoyed the moment though and appreciated all those memories when they were happening but, I think back to August trying to round up everyone to paint the senior wall! I never thought it would be **so** hard to please 225 people. First the wall was gold, then it was grey, one day it was green, and finally it was blue with electric lime green, sunshine yellow and bright pink! Mr. Cole called it, “the party wall”. For months and months we got dissed and made fun of for having a blue wall. The famous question came about 100 times, why *those* colors? I didn’t really come up with an answer until half way into our senior year.

Since elementary school we have all changed, thank goodness, into the people we are becoming. As many young people we may tire of constantly hearing about our potential, the graduates in this class truly do represent many different walks of life. I believe the wall represents all of our crazy selves each with our own unique gifts, talents, and skills but put us all together and we represent the class of 2010.

One of my favorite memories from this year might have to be the Powder-Puff game! Seeing the 6 foot tall football linemen all squeeze into cheerleading outfits and watching Chelsea King teach them their dance routine to “Single Ladies”, is something I will never forget. Even though we lost by a little bit it was another symbol of us coming together as a group to achieve a common goal.

In our years of high school we have survived bird flu, mad cow disease, swine flu, and the biggest snow fall of 2009 and seven weeks later enjoyed the biggest snow fall of 2010. Besides these obstacles we lost a cherished classmate this year, Amber Simms. Throughout our years of school some of us lost beloved parents. In our junior year we lost a brilliant teacher and a few months later an adored principal. Throughout our lives though there will be many trials that we have to face that will put life into a bigger perspective. We all have moments of desperation but when we face them head on that's when we find out how strong we really are.

Back in March we had a motivational speaker, Lee Rouson, who once played for the New York Giants, and he said, “None of us are born losers and none of us are born winners, we are all born choosers.” As we sit here tonight, this is not just an ending, but also a beginning. Today is the last day of our high school lives and the first day of whatever we choose to do tomorrow. Some of us may be attending a college or a university, while others may not yet be sure what path they want to take through their lives, either way, today is a beginning for a new phase of our lives, on this day, we close the door to our past and look through the window to our future. There are some things from our high school experience that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives and some memories that we will choose to forget. But, whether or not we choose to remember them, we will have no choice but to learn from them, that is what our lives are about, learning from our past and preparing for our future, so that we can succeed.

As we continue on our journey I ask you to do what Robert Brault once said, “enjoy the little things in life for one day you will look back and realize they were the big things!” If you're feeling frightened about what comes next, don't be. Embrace the uncertainty. Allow it to lead you places. Be brave as it challenges you to exercise both your heart & your mind as you create your own path towards happiness, don't waste time with regret. Spin wildly into your next action.

“Understand, recognize, and enjoy,” my dad said. So, enjoy the present, each moment, as it comes because you'll never get another one quite like it. Congratulations class of 2010, go change the world!