

BHJS Speech Day 2019  
Vote of Thanks  
Yinok Hui (F.6 Graduate)

Good morning, Guests of Honour, our Principal Ms. Wong, our beloved teachers, proud parents, and my fellow graduates. I'm Yinok, and it is an honour to be here today to speak on behalf of the Class of 2019.

When I was a wee young thing I was told time and again by adults that the older I got, the faster the clock would run. I didn't understand what they meant back then. Now, standing in this very hall, I realize how time flies. People may tell you that this is the end, that you are about to bid adieu to all that you've experienced here, that the bonds you've constructed here will collapse into nothingness. But I disagree.

This is the end of an era, but not the end of our relationships. The friendships, the memories, the bonds that we've built here will always endure, as long as we hold them close to our hearts. An old friend once told me, 'There is nothing more fragile nor stronger than a big heart.' And I believe that.

Yes, the anxiety of parting with the ones we love makes us fragile. But it is also this very love that pulls us together, that makes us stronger, more human. Our story in BHJS may not be a heart-wrenching epic, but that certainly does not make it any less beautiful. And I would like to take this opportunity to give a vote of thanks to everyone in this great tale.

First, I want to thank God for the love, blessings and guidance He has given us. If I have learnt anything in these 6 years, it's this: Having faith in God isn't about having a solution. It's about knowing that He has a solution. And that, my friends, is itself the solution. If you believe that He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and that He loves you above all things, then what is there to be afraid of? As the saying goes, 'Do your best and God will do the rest.' The present social situation may make us feel confused, frustrated or even hopeless. Whether you believe in a religion or not, we must listen to our hearts and always do the right thing.

What we have achieved in our 6 years here at BHJS would not have been possible without our principal, Ms. Wong, Vice Principals, teachers, and all staff members. You gave us learning opportunities galore, you ran the school effectively, you led us to the realm of knowledge, you showed us the warmth of caring, and most of all, you showed us faith. Faith when we kept on making mistakes. Faith when we didn't even have faith in ourselves. Faith, when we struggled to find a reason to walk on, when we were lost in the shadowy sea of life. It is because of this faith you had in us, that we are who we are today. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the custodial staff for giving us a safe and clean learning environment, especially to May 姐 and the rest of the workers in the tuck shop.

I look around at all the Dads and Moms and guardians here - but words fail me in expressing my utmost love and gratitude to you. You loved us before we were born. So even when your memory starts to fade, even when your strength drains from you, even when you don't even remember who we are

anymore, we will still hold your hand tightly like we once did as children. Today, we are no longer the fledglings we were 18 years ago, but eagles that soar freely in the sky. And no matter how much we have changed, your love for us never wavers.

And most of all, I want to thank you (gesturing at the Class), the Class of 2019. You guys are the most annoying, craziest, yet sweetest people I've ever known. Every now and then snippets of memories flash in my mind. Borrowing a pen on the first day of school, watching the chalkboard eraser sail through the air during the entire recess, dashing to the canteen when the bell rang, sneaking into empty classrooms to play the piano, feeling the adrenaline rush as we waited for our turn to perform in the inter-class talent show, feeling a tinge of sorrow as we performed together, for the last time, in the farewell assembly.

The memory of us throwing the graduation bear into mid-air as we took photos together is so vivid that it seems like it just happened yesterday. All of us flashed our most brilliant smiles as we laughed and made weird poses, but deep down a shadow lurked inside us. A fear that no one dared to address. But I'm here to say it now: Farewell. Goodbye to the guffaws, the tears, the creaking old chairs, the classroom housing so many memories, but this is not goodbye to you. Because no matter where you are, whom you're with, what you do, you will always be a part of the family here, a part of me. And that's a promise.

My dear friends, life is an untamed beast. Sometimes it leads you to the zenith of greatness and prosperity, sometimes it takes you to the doorstep of a dragon's lair. But more often than not, it sweeps you to the most unlikely places, at the most unlikely time. Whether it brings you to hope or despair, no one can tell. But know that in every nook and cranny there is a gem to discover, a lesson to learn, a new trail to tread.

Lastly, I would like to leave you with a quote from Alice Morse Earle. "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it is called the present." The pen is in your hand right now. So, don't hesitate - compose your symphony, paint your masterpiece, write your own story, and see what grand adventure awaits. Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to present to you to the Class of 2019.