

2018 Developing Virtue Girls School Graduation Ceremony 2018年培德女中畢業典禮

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The Girls Division held its 36th Annual Commencement Ceremony on June 7, 2018. This year the Girls School had the largest graduating class in its history with fourteen graduates: Annie Sun, Betty Shen, Brandy Quach, Christina Park, Denise Cao, Jasmine Chen, Jolie Ng, Kusali Kandahsari, Kylie Kok, Leanna Duong, Maggie He, Oceanna Ackley, Sinna Zheng, and Sophy Chin Raman.

At 1:00 pm, Wonderful Words Hall was filled with teachers, students, parents, alumni, and other guests. The ceremony began with the procession of the graduates into the hall, while the students sang the school song, *Throughout Empty Space*. Next, core teacher Ms. Mark awarded certificates

萬佛聖城培德中學女校第36屆畢業典禮於2018年6月7日舉行。今年有十四位學生畢業，是女校有史以來畢業人數最多的一年。她們是：孫鈺童、沈博元、郭美玄、朴承恩、高親雲、陳怡臻、吳思靜、陳妙宏、郭美筠、楊麗欣、何豎、妙海、鄭嘉欣和陳說慧。

下午1點，妙語堂內師生、家長、校友、嘉賓滿座，共同慶祝她們畢業。典禮以大家齊唱校歌《盡虛空》、畢業生們列隊步入堂內而開始。首先初中部班導師馬克女士向9名六年級學生和13名八年級學生分別頒發小學和初中畢業證書，及頒發一名總統金獎、兩名總統銀獎和兩名模範學生獎。

of promotion to nine 6th graders and thirteen 8th graders, as well as one Presidential Gold Award, two Presidential Silver Awards, and two Model Student Awards.

Then, the principal, Jin Jr Shr, and core teacher, Jin Xiang Shr, spoke eloquently about the significance of retaining the virtues acquired at this school. Jin Jr Shr left the graduates with an inspiring message: “No matter where you are, shine your own light within. Be a positive, selfless, and a strong plant, and make a difference in the far reaches of the globe.”

Ms. Niki Clarke, teacher representative, junior high and high school art teacher, had urged the graduates to find their “own truth” using art. She shared one of many special memories she made with the graduating class. She also advised the graduates to be proactive and always remember the value of self-discipline: “Wake up, embrace the day, and never stop learning.”

Next, Mr. Jae Park, parent representative and father of senior Christina Park, called attention to the graduates’ distinctive school environment, congratulating the graduates for their ability to live without smartphones and social media. He concluded his humorous and heartening speech by thanking all the teachers and parents and saying to the graduates, “Whenever things are tough, just look back and say, ‘I survived DVGS.’”

Afterwards, alumni speakers Annabel Li (‘14) and Alexis Yap (‘17) counseled the graduates to have courage in the “real world” after they graduate and remarked on the importance of diligence quoting actor and director, Danzel Washington: “Ease is a greater threat to progress than hardship.”

The fourteen graduates then gave their speeches, invoking laughter, tears, and applause from the audience. Afterwards, the principal presented the diplomas, as well as Honor Roll certificates to one junior and two sophomores.

Quotes from the graduates follow:

Denise Cao, who received the Presidential Gold Award: “I will never stop with my development and growth. I will fall many times, and make many mistakes... As I continue to grow, I will always honor the part of my life here at City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and will strive to be a life-long student.”

Leanna Duong: “You [teachers and parents] inspire me to be the best person I can be and you are the reason I got to where I am today.”

Maggie He: “Four years ago, I first entered the gates of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. It was evening, and the sun was just starting to set over the tall mountains that painted the backdrop of what would be my new home for the next few years... whether we [friends, classmates, and teachers] have met by fate or by accident, I would like to say that I am grateful to have met all of you.”

Oceanna Ackley: “After the math, English, Chinese, history, and yoga comes a deeper learning we obtain through high school.”

隨後的師長發言中，校長近智師和導師近祥師善巧地談到保持在學校學到的美德很重要。近智師進一步激勵畢業同學們：「無論身在何處，都要迴光返照。做一棵積極、無私、強壯的大樹，讓地球各處變得更好。」

教師代表是中學部美術教師妮基·克拉克女士。她勉勵畢業生們運用藝術找到各自的真理。她分享了與畢業班同學們共同的特別記憶中的一則，並建議她們在生活中保持主動，及總是要記得自律。她送給她們一句話：「醒過來，擁抱新的一天，永不停止學習。」

畢業生朴承恩的父親朴傑先生是家長代表，他提請大家注意學生們與眾不同的學校環境，並祝賀她們能不依賴智能手機和社交網站而生活。他以感謝所有老師和家長而結束他幽默、鼓舞人心的發言。最後他對畢業生們說：「以後當妳們遇到困難時，不妨回想當年，告訴自己：培德女校我都熬過來了。」

之後的校友發言中，2014年畢業校友李寧恩和2017年校友葉頌瑋建議畢業生們走上社會後要有勇氣，並強調勤勞很重要。她們引用著名演員、導演丹佐·華盛頓的話說：「輕鬆比艱難對進步威脅更大。」

然後，14名同學一一發表畢業感言，不時引發觀眾的笑聲、熱淚和掌聲。之後，校長向她們頒發了畢業證書。最後，近智師和近祥師向一名高三學生和兩名高二學生頒發了優等生獎狀。

畢業感言中一些精彩片段如下：

獲得了總統金獎的高親雲：我將永不停止進步和成長。我會跌倒很多次，也會犯很多錯……在繼續成長中，我將永遠珍重生命中在聖城度過的這一段，並努力保持終生不斷學習。

楊麗欣：您們（所有師長）激勵我盡力做最好的人；我有今天的成績，全靠您們的幫助。

何鑿：四年前，我第一次進入聖城的山門。那時是傍晚，太陽剛開始下山。高高的後山、冉冉的落日塗抹出我之後幾年中新家的背景……朋友、同學、老師們，無論我們的相遇

Kusali Kandahsari: “A special thank you to all my teachers from elementary school... who helped me pave the way from elementary to high school and finally to where I stand today. Thank you, Jin Jr Shr, for all your hard work and time, and thank you, Jin Xiang Shr, for being our patient core teacher for the past two years. Thank you, Heng Yuan Shr, for making Biology interesting. Your classes are part of the reason I chose to major in that field.”

Jolie Ng: “To my classmates, through our years together we have experienced misunderstandings due to miscommunication, betrayal, and mistrust. Through being with you all, I also learned that it is nice to have someone say, ‘I feel for you,’ every now and then... Because I am not a very talkative person, there are peers I rarely talk to... To these peers, your existence allowed me to learn how to cope with people twenty-four seven, to be patient, and to control my temper...”

Sophy Chin Raman, Jasmine Chen & Kylie Kok: “By tenth grade, there were so many things going on, we didn’t even realize we were friends by the end of it... we always endured our hardships with humor; sometimes the situation we were in was so ridiculously sad, it turned funny, and we laughed at it.”

Sinna Zheng: “When I first came to CTTB, I was just barely over 5 feet tall . . . I now stand at an impressive height of almost 5’2. Despite my being vertically challenged, I do feel that I have grown a lot on a mental and emotional level.”

Betty Shen & Brandy Quach: “Our last message to the school is one that is simple to say, but hard to do: Live light and laugh more... Life is so much easier and better when we celebrate the good instead of dwelling on the bad so 加油 [cheers!] and good luck to everyone.”

Annie Sun & Christina Park: “I believe that this won’t be our last goodbye, because we promised each other that we would invite each other to our weddings. Until then, goodbye my friends.”

This fall, the graduates are matriculating to Wellesley College and Simmons College in Massachusetts, Seton Hall University in New Jersey, Pennsylvania State University, Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, Illinois Wesleyan University, Oregon State University, UC Irvine, UC Davis, Mendocino College, University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and Xiamen University in Malaysia. They will pursue majors such as biological sciences and biobehavior health, accounting, business, pre-engineering, human organizational development, English, linguistics & cognitive science, and international relations. Congratulations, Class of 2018! ❀

是因命運或是偶然，我都想說我感恩能遇到您們。

妙海: 除了數學、英文、中文、歷史和瑜珈課，在高中我們還學到更深的東西（比如如何待人處事，如何度過難關）。

陳妙宏: 我要特別感謝我所有的小學老師……您們為我鋪路，讓我從小學一直走到高中，直到今天畢業。近智師，感謝您所有的辛勞和付出的時間。近祥師，感謝您過去兩年中耐心做我們的班導師。恆圓師，感謝您把生物課教得很有趣。我選擇大學在生物領域深造，您有趣的課是原因之一。

吳思靜: 同學們，共度的數年中，我們曾經歷過因溝通不良造成的誤會、背叛和信任。通過與您們在一起，我學到了有人時不時安慰我們，告訴我們她瞭解我們的感受，這種感覺真好……因為我不愛說話，所以和有些同學很少交談……對這些同學，我想說，妳們的存在使我得以學習如何在各種情況下與人相處，學習耐心，學習控制脾氣。

陳說慧、陳怡臻、郭美筠: 十年級時，有好多好多的事和活動，我們都沒意識到，學年結束時，我們已經成了好朋友……我們總是以幽默來忍過難關。有時我們處境實在太難受，糟到可笑，我們就笑它。

鄭嘉欣: 我初到聖城時，身高剛剛到5呎（1米50）……現在我終於高達5呎2吋（1米55）。儘管個頭上進展不大，但我確實覺得在精神和情緒上成長不少。

沈博元、郭美玄: 我們留給學校最後一句心裡話，這句話說來容易做來難，就是：要活得輕鬆，多笑一些……當我們在生活中常感恩好的一面而不是停滯於壞的一面，生命就會變得好過得多，也美好太多。所以希望大家每個人都加油、好運！

孫鈺童、朴承恩: 我相信這次不是我們最後一次說再見，因為我們都已彼此許諾，將來婚禮時會互相邀請。朋友們，那時再見了。

今秋女校畢業生們將分赴麻省的維斯理學院和西蒙斯學院、新澤西州的希頓霍爾大學、賓州州立大學、俄勒岡州立大學、加州大學爾灣分校和戴維斯分校、門多西諾學院、蘇格蘭的愛丁堡大學及廈門大學馬來西亞分校求學，分別攻讀生態科學、生物行為健康學、會計學、工商管理、工程預科、人類組織發展、英語、語言學和認知科學、及國際關係學等專業。祝賀您們，2018年全體畢業同學們！❀