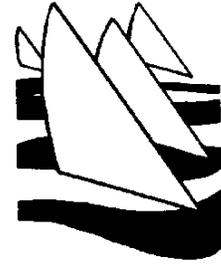


An Ode to Lakeside

June 8, 2018

By Gina Cuneo



Good Morning, Lakeside!!

Good morning 8th graders; I can't believe what must be
The last day for you and the last day for me
Let's take a short journey through your two years aboard
You've accomplished so much, there's a lot to record
Do you remember the date you first arrived on the scene?
It was August 24th of 2016

I'm not gonna lie, you seemed a little bit worried
But you got your first schedule and through the lines you scurried
No eighth graders in sight, you had the school to yourselves
You met all your teachers, you examined the shelves
There were lots of new teachers who were introduced to you
Mr. Laky, Ms. Orosz, and Ms. Garcia started out the new crew
You met Mr. Clark and Ms. Morse and you were oh so excited
You went through the lunch line and got treats that delighted
You seemed so very small that very first day
But we watched you grow tall as time flew away

Your seventh grade year started off with a bang
You met new friends with whom you would hang
You supported Lakeside by Stepping it Up
You SAILED through ID Day like eager young pups
And then reality set in and you buckled down to your work
Attended Tutorial and Homework Club and figured out the perks
You donated so much to Clothes for a Cause
They were so blown away, they just had to pause
You listened so well to Officer Gramer during SEAMS
And you played oh so hard in your lunch time sports teams

And ladies, I thank you for watching the length of your shorts
While it wasn't your fave, you did stay the course

So many activities, so little time

These two years flew by like a well written rhyme
Your first dance was awesome, Halloween costumes galore
You approached each spirit day with creativity and more
Fine band and orchestra concerts and a grand talent show
Drama performances so classic you just had to crow
You embraced ACES and composting and had so much fun
You rocked the Spelling Bee and you very nearly won
You endured SBAC testing in both 7th and 8th grade
And with awesome guidance lessons new insights you made
You dressed in PJs and tie-die, you ran the Olympic mile
You watched a hoop dancer and tried to mimic her style
Baba the Storyteller taught you Batua Bahtee
You learned reciprocity and responded with Bah Tee

You rocked Harvest and Hoops and you showed who's got game
At Junior Games you triumphed and Lakeside did reign
You killed Pentathlon and Science Fair while projects abounded
You worked History Day and your entries astounded
You joined YAT, Green Team, School Site Council and more
Honor Society beckoned and you walked through its door
You took over Honors orchestra, chorus and band
You met Holocaust survivors and took on their stand
You strutted your stuff at Lakeside's Award Night
And you showed everyone how you make Lakeside bright
You rocked the Olympics and put up a fight
You came home with gold medals so shiny and bright
Reflections you entered and you learned oh so much
Then Finding Kind, Man Up, Kindness Week and such

You became book club leaders and led the whole crew
You read so many pages, your brains grew and grew
You took care of your garden, enjoying its food
And when you won trivia bowl there was no attitude
You played the lunch tournaments, and made sure to have fun
You ran the very first Turkey Trot at the sound of the gun
And over and over you heard this refrain
"On and snapped!" bike riders, you need to cover your brains
And dine-out nights, Chipotle, CPK and more
You supported them all and helped PTA score
You killed advisement competitions and added your touch
You heard bongos and Dixieland and learned oh so much
And last Friday night, Hollywood beckoned
And you took selfies and had fun until the very last second
The slide show yesterday was one of the best
Bohemian Rhapsody, Boyz II Men, you made them our guest

I could have not been more proud when Stoneman Douglas High School
you embraced

You were appropriate and awesome and for 17 minutes you silently
amazed

You are a unique crew, class of 2022

I look forward to finding in life what you will do

Because now is the time to think about what lies ahead

Try to find your passion, work towards it so your soul will be fed

For some of you it will be sports, and academics for others

It could also be drama or music or becoming good fathers and mothers

And so, here we are, our last day at Lakeside

Which memories will you take and which will subside?

For me, they are many that make me both laugh and cry

For you, choose the best ones that will help you fly high

Lakeside for me has been the biggest and best part of my days
And I hope the same for you and your memories will amaze
I have high hopes for all of you...each and every one
And I hope in coming years, you'll look at back at this fun
Because it can never be repeated, it will stay only in your memory's file
But I hope against hope life at Lakeside will make you laugh and smile
Because now, here it is, it is time for good-bye
It is so hard to let go, but you're set to fly high
And fly you will, your bright future unfolds
You can conquer your world, you can capture your gold
So... turn to each other, say so long, not good-bye
We will always be Lakeside, no matter how far we fly