

"I was looking up how to write a Valedictorian speech, and came across this piece of advice:

"Avoid telling people that their lives ahead will be touched with gold and roses. Life isn't like that; life is full of warts, hardships, and dull moments as well as the happy, rosy things."

"We have all had some ups and downs in life, and know that life is not always easy. I am going to share with you some of my memories at Worsley School and also some things that I have learned here.

"I have attended Worsley Central School since Kindergarten, and have many memories that I'll never forget. I will never forget elementary track meets. They were always a lot of fun, even though I never could beat Kelsey in a race! I learned that trying my hardest was all that mattered and that it was okay if I didn't get 'first'.

"Sports also taught me that it is okay to lose. I have played basketball ever since grade five, and was



fortunate to get to play with mostly the same girls for seven years. Through playing, we have all learned what it means to work as a team, and the importance of improving our skills. We have learned the significance of what encouragement can do, and were thankful to go to provincials all of our high school years.

“I have been on Student Council since grade seven, and have had fun planning many events and participating in most of them. Being on Student Council has given me the opportunity to work with others and cooperate with them. At times

it has been discouraging when we put a lot of effort into planning an event and there wasn't a lot of participation. I would just like to encourage all the students to appreciate and support Student Council, because their motive is to make school more enjoyable. To those who have served on Student Council, I just encourage you to stay on it, and don't give up, because perseverance is a great character trait. I have also learned to be a good listener and make sure that I listen to other people's ideas instead of just voicing my opinion.

“All through life we will have to deal with many kinds of people and learn to co-operate with them. I am very thankful for my class. Even though I haven't been with all of them since Kindergarten, I have still learned from them.

“I have learned their different personalities and know when I should say something and when it is better for me to just keep my mouth shut.

“Some of my favourite memories of my class are from Phys-ed. It seemed like every day somebody (usually a guy) would do something or say something that would make me laugh. This was good for me, as I had other courses that I had to take quite seriously. Sometimes when we were playing volleyball, I would spend almost the whole class laughing! I am usually quite serious, but I am learning the importance of laughing and not always taking things so seriously.

“I have learned a lot of things at our school. The most important thing is that I have learned how to learn. No matter where I go in life this is something I will be able to use in many situations. Ever since I started school, I wanted to do well and get high marks. In grade one I even cried when I didn't get

100% on my spelling test. I was pretty extreme in elementary, and have learned a lot since then due to the help of teachers.

"I have learned to work hard at whatever I do even when I don't feel like it. Colossians 3:23-24 says "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

This verse has motivated me to do my best throughout my life, even when people aren't watching. I know that God sees everything that I do and he will bless my efforts.

"When playing basketball, our coach, Danny Rossworm, always told us that it was okay if we lost when we were playing our best but he didn't like to lose if we were not playing to our potential.

"There will be many opportunities in life where we have to choose if we are going to do a half-hearted job or if we are going to put our whole heart into it. I have learned that whether I have support or not, I need to stand up for what's right and not conform to what everyone else is doing. This is not always easy, but it has made me who I am today.

“Throughout school I have learned to be a good steward of opportunities. I have gained appreciation for teachers, and have tried to respect them and learn from them as much as I could. In life we will never get presented with the same opportunity twice.

That's why it is so important that we look for opportunities and pursue those that will benefit our lives and others' lives.

“As all of us graduates move on from high school, we will be presented with many challenges in life. We will have to make many decisions and relate to a lot of different people. High school has developed our character as we dealt with many different situations. Our character will continue to be shaped as we move out into the real world.

“We are very thankful for several different groups of people that have invested in our lives during our school days. We are thankful for our parents, teachers, support staff, and coaches. They have put up with us for many years and have taught us more than we would ever think. It is now our turn to invest in other people's lives.

“Even though people say that the world is going to end in 2012, this doesn't fill me with fear because Jesus said in Matthew 24:36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." I am not afraid of what the future holds, because I know who holds the future. It is comforting to know that God has a special plan for my life, and will give me strength to face the ups and downs. Just as our theme says, "Be the change you wish to see in the world," we each have to take the initiative if we want things to change for the better. I pray that our theme will be a theme for each of our lives.