## `Our 2023 - 2024 Journey (



# A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRINCIPALS



Our memories suffer from recency bias - that tendency to remember or focus on just what is on our current or very recent radar. The benefit from a yearbook like this is that we can be reminded of all of the highlights of our journey this year. Thank you so much to the students and staff who have served all of us by compiling this visual walkthrough of 2023-2024.

We have had celebrations and successes that were both individual and collective. We experienced these with joy and class. We have faced challenges and obstacles - some that were shared and others that you met on your own path. We grew from these with both resilience and positivity.

Seeing the year in a glance in a book like this makes me feel so humble and proud that I get to share my Bernie journey with the students and staff here at Custis.

Thank you for a great year Tigers! I hope this review stirs in you some enthusiasm for your past, but also sparks some excitement about the adventures that lay ahead.

#### Mr. Powell



Congratulations to the Bernie Custis Class of 2024 I have been honoured to be a part of this amazing school community. As the 2024 class, you are part of a unique group of individuals who have distinguished yourselves as caring, inclusive, and driven. I rust that you feel prepared to face your future with confidence, curiosity, and with an open heart. I wish for you a future that is filled with endless possibility. May you always know that you matter, that you beloon, and that you make a difference!

#### Ms. Brodersen

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#### Dear BCSS Students.

I want to take a moment to congratulate each and every one of you for your hard work, dedication, and achievements.

passion for teaching and unwavering support for our students is truly inspiring. Without your dedication, none of this would be possible.

To our athletes, I say, "Go Tigers!" Your hard work and sportsmanship have been a shining example for us all. Your dedication to your sport and your team has not gone unnoticed, and I am so proud to cheer you and your coaches on.

I also want to recognize and thank all of our students and staff advisors for your contributions to our school community. Whether it's through the arts, student council, the health action team, positive space, robotics, or any other extracurricular activity, your passion and creativity have helped make our school a better place.

I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing community, and I look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish in the future. Have a safe and wonderful summer, and remember, Go Tigers!

Warm regards,

Ms. Boulton



As the 2023/2024 Academic Year comes to a close, we have much to celebrate here at Bernie Custis Secondary School. As your Vice Principal, I have been very fortunate to experience all the things that make our school a truly wonderful community. No doubt, this Yearbook will provide a capsule in time, allowing you to revisit and share your memories for years to come.

From our first Welcome Back assembly in September to your late nights studying for your tests or in the gym cheering on our "Tigers" as they competed at the highest level, you have shown your adaptability and perseverance in all that you do.

To our graduates, there are no secrets to success, but is a result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure. As you move on to your next opportunity, use those skills to achieve all your goals.

Remember, "Once a Tiger, Always a Tiger!"

Wishing you all the best.

Mr. Vacca

## School Celebrations!

Oh my goodness, Tigers, it's been another crazy year at Berniel Between a fire and two lockdowns, it surely has been an eventful year. More importantly, we had lots to celebrate too. Here are just a few of the amazing things that happened at Bernie Custis Secondary in 2023 – 2024.

### John C. Holland Awards

- Aisha Suliman won the Newcomer Award and offered the audience a really sweet speech
- · Leihona Cain-Graham, Tyrell Mentore-Martin, Ruby Omokhafe, Mona Siyad, & Machaela
- Trench-Howard were awarded bursaries under the pillars of JCHA: Community, Education, Unity & Empowerment.





## Athletic Achievements

## Our Junior Boys Basketball team were triumphant Division B Champions

- Our Badminton players kicked butt and made it all the way to OFFSA: **Coach K**. & **Coach Page** took six BCSS badminton students to OFFSA in Barrie
- Abdul Al Khalil was awarded MVP at the HWDSB All Star Basketball Game
- Shakir Saleh Yassin ran Cross Country at OFSAA
- The Senior Girls Volleyball team made the finals
   The Swim Team made it to SOSSA
- The Power Lifting team medaled in three divisions

### Health In Action

 The Healthy Action Team organized events for mental health week (May 6-10) with over 600 students attending and participatingl Events included: various public/motivational speakers, therapy dogs, bracelet and button making, dancing, yoga, and poetry workshops. It was a huge success!



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### Arts & Culture

- Bernie Custis Artists were featured in Art Shows at the Art Gallery of Hamilton and the HWDSB Office
- 1 ⋅ 22 BCSS Photographers crafted stunning images for the
   I Flash Forward Incubator program
- I · Bernie Custis Secondary student, Caitlyn Lee, won an I OSSTF Student Achievement Award for her poem on the I theme of "This Hits Different The Power of Language". The poem's printed on page 82!
- BCSS chosen as the Adopt-a-School for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and worked with their musicians, accessed to their resources, and attended open rehearsals at the First Ontario Concert Hall.
- BCSS was invited to perform at the Central Public Library as the inaugural high school band
- as the inaugural high school band

   The BCSS Repertoire Band earned Silver Placement at the



### Co-op Experiences

Golden Horseshoe Music Festival

- Mony Bernie Custis students got a jump start on the world of work by successfully
  qualifying for highly- competititive placements in aviation mechanics, welding, electrician,
  and automotive service mechanics
- · Students worked at places like Cable 14, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, & Dofasco, the Hamilton Army Reserves, & the Building Careers from the Ground Up program.

### Yearbook Thank Yous

- The cover design is by Taeya Thompson and Riley Walsh designed the portrait section.
- Thank you to the many students & teachers who shared photos with us, with a special shout-out to Jacob Bowerbank, Nelphenise Laguerre & Nikole Silverman.
- · All pages were created by the Yearbook team thank you for all your hard work, especially in the final days before the deadlinel Credits are on page 75.

### What Do YOU Want to Celebrate from 2023-2024?

• Use the space below to record anything you think should be celebrated this year... before you forget!









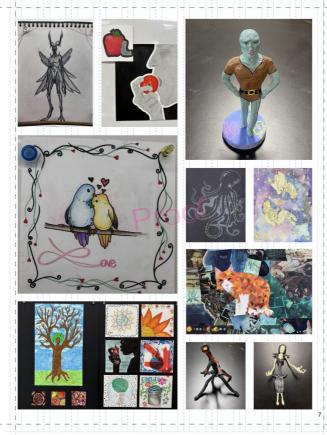












# **Bernie Custis Photo Album**







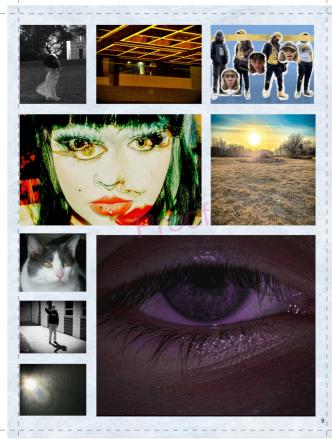
















## Flash Forward Incubator

Photography Program 2024 Theme: "Shadow and Light"

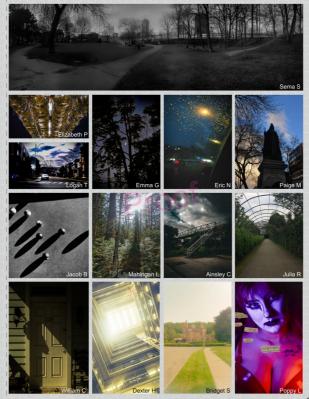












# **BCSS Music**





Remembrance Day 2023





Toronto Symphony Orchestra Trip



**Mass Band Christmas Concert** 



Camp Ki-Wa-Y overnight music trip

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Repertory Band: Riley Walsh, Emmett Franks, Nikole Silverman, Maddie Reid, Chris Martins, Zoe Hollin, Liam Thomas, Ben Asensio, River Evans, Kieayla Seftel, Cheyenne Arrua, Thalia Moore, Adam Cutts, Ms. Blackman, Redina Nijjar, Sarah Shaw, Ceana Gatila, Karsyn Montour, Haydyn Montour, Zach Persaud





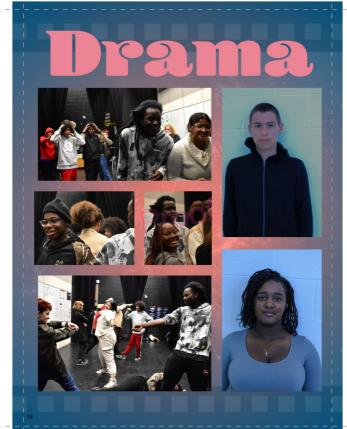


Designed by Sarah Shaw



Music Trip to Toronto: Les Mis show, Ripley's Aquarium, & The Old Spaghetti Factory

..AVOIDING THE STICK OF SHAME!









## **Technical Studies**

## **Automotive**



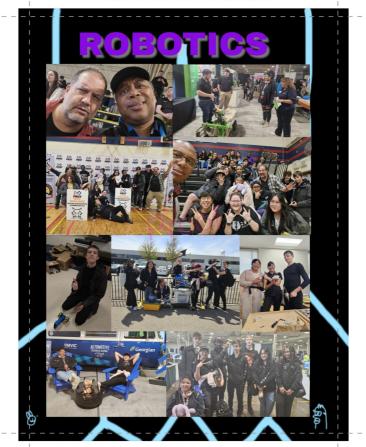






## Construction





# **NYA:WEH & Indigenous Studies**





Red Dress Day: Bringing awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls.





Hallowe'en fun in the NYA:WEH room!







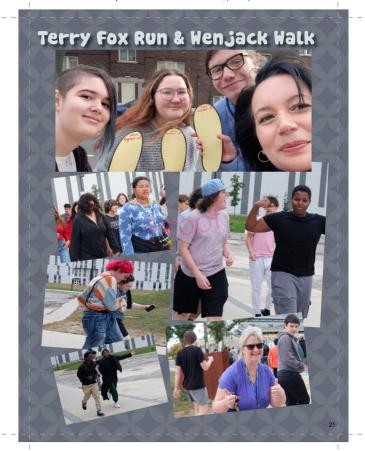




NUPOP at BCSS
Singer Angela Amarualik
and rapper Leo Matthew
Temelaangela from
Nunavut performed in the
Bernie cafeteria on
December 13th.

Artist Instagrams: @angelaamarualik @leomatthewoffical







History Club Members: Nikole Silverman, Nyah Hincks, Fatima Ahmed, Amanda Shivak, Chelsea Young, Robert Fraser, Leihona Cain Graham, Kricet Taylor, Ms. Cino



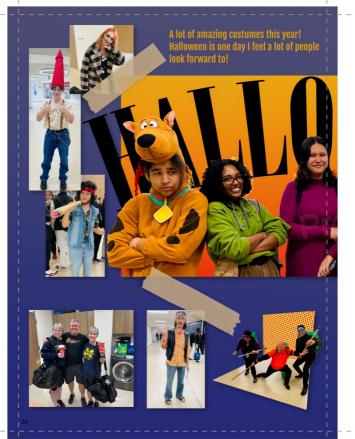
Holiday card writing for active service members in the Canadian Armed Forces



# Remembrance Day

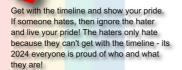








## POSITIVESPACE

















Just be you no matter who or what tells you otherwise -JN

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Courage is not having the strength to go on, it's going on when you don't have the strength.

Take care of yourself, focus on gratitude, being kind to others, working hard, and surrounding yourself with positive influences.





Small group of frends in positve space watching the teachers vs students dodgeball game at lunch!



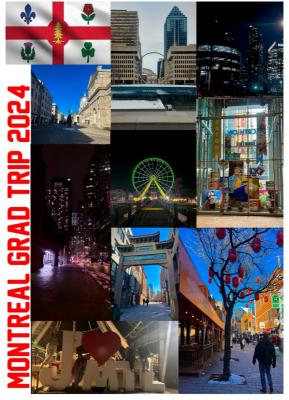




Pride Month: Raising the pride flag.



Fun art night at the AGH with a small positive space groupl



## TOTAL ECLIDSE 2024











Thank you to everyone who shared your photos of this once-in-a-lifetime event!
Megan Bergie-St. Aubin, Jacob Bowerbank,
Wilberth Centeno Chavarria, Fred. Mr. Harris,
Emma Hansen, Poppy Lovell, Talina
Meawasige-Jenner, Eric Nguyen, Walker Paltyn,
Maddison Reid, Maitri Solanki, Arihanna
Soulliere, and Jeniva Williams.





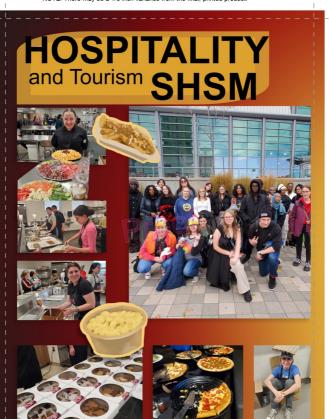


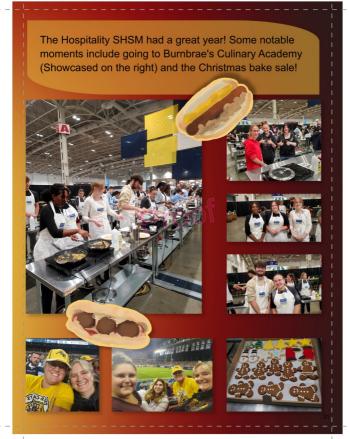














## **Canterbury Hills Trips**

PCSS SHSMs



## **Bernie Ambassadors**





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## **Student Council**



Members: Victoria Huynh (President), Fardosa Ahmed Abdi, Dana Alfarah, Fatima Ali, Ayesha Awan, Delanie Beli, Jahziah Beli, Readith Boloron, Lehiona Cain-Graham, Liz Cunningham-Craig, Kendrea Dada, Miluhia Daradjat, Evangeline Diblasi, Tony De, Carla Espinoza, Crina Espinoza, Grobert Fraser, Khue Huynh, Asthy K.Nyaw, Nelphenise Lagiuerre, Andy Leung, Tyreil Mentore Martin, Ruby Omokhafe, Zoe Patterson, Juno Perry, Anthony, Politi, Barzo Rada, Mena Siyad, Frene Thai, Taleya Thoripson, Eric Vor, Jasmine Vu, Chelsea Young, Teachers: Mr. Guota's Mrs. Guota'



# A Few Poems from the Poetry Club

### Innocence

By Peyton Sears

The sky is all dark and gloomy Where did all the time go She was just a child Harsh people in this angry world

And yet time has to go
The flow can't be fixed
The harsh people will always be angry in this world
They pry and nag at the poor child

Although the flow can't be fixed She remembers it all at once The prying and making that the poor child experienced They were mad in their own lives therefore they had to make hers worse

## Senior Year By Zoe Machin-Moore

no one warned me how fast four years can fly by
we roamed these halls
that looked so dull
they seemed to trap us in
as we begged to be set free
we walked to classes not realizing we were grown
I cherish all theese memories
the struggles we've been through
the laughter we felt
the awkard moments
and the quiet long stares.
the friends we made along the way will last a lifetime
so here's to your last year
with your friends
and those who walked these halls with you

### Water-Coloured Eyes

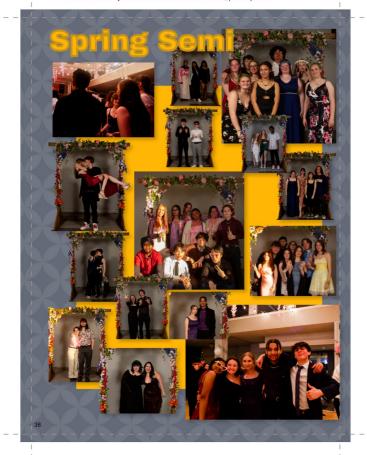
By Ruby Omokhafe

Every person comes with an eye colour The most common coloured eyes are Earth coloured eyes Charcoal coloured eyes Plant coloured eyes and water coloured eyes. Every colour of eyes is special and cherished but there is something uniquely mesmerizing in the water-coloured eyes. The serene effect similar to that of water the clarity the purity entrance to the soul which sometimes may be misleading but overall eyes as heavenly as the water-coloured eyes are an asset that the beholder should be proud of although we are all just human we make mistakes some more tragic than others but overall the power the water-coloured isn't one greater than any other eye colour it's just another unique nature mystery.

### Animals

By Rose Griffiths-Bradbury

I wish I was a bird.
Free to fly away.
I wish I was a lamb.
Innocent and young.
I wish I was a fox.
Sly and quick.
I wish I was a chameleon.
Able to blend into the background.
But if I were any of those I'd probably wish to be a human Complex and not able to be summed up with just a few words.





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Another successful Badminton year for BCSS!





Novice Badminton: Adam Cuts, Emmett Franks, Osama Hamada, Tam Lei, Broderick McQuaid, Haydyn Montour, Sawyer Ramage, Kyran Theaker-Potvin, Jesse-Lynn Thompson Junior Badminton: Abd Almajed Al Khalli, Jesse Alyes, Say Gay, Jaylari Gillis, Emily Hannaford, Hibo Hassan, Eurona Haziri, Lay Hibo, Curtis Roulledge-Sinclair, Shakir Saleh Yassin, Saga Samin: Sha Planta Moo. Soo. "Wyatt Stuart Senior Sadminton: Jihan Abdulishi Mohamed, Ayan Adam, N Bolishor, Readiffi Boloron, Jacob Bowertenk, Muthia Daradjal, Ethan Davson, Mohammad Hamada, Say Hibo, Nejibhenise Laguerre, Zakia Mohammed, James Nault, Eric Ngyen, Cyriss Pang-Etan, Merci Sadiki, Rasha Saleh Yasssin, Dalsy Vu Coaches: Mr. K & Ms. Page

# Mr. K: A Badminton Legend...

The Badminton Team would like to send a huge THANK YOU to Mr. K.

Mr. Keoparant spends countless hours shating his love of badminton with so many students at BCSS. If you've ever walked past the gym, you'll find him with his trusty racquet in hand, challenging each and every student who dares to play him. The gym is packed Fridays after school for Badminton Club: sometimes there are as many as 100 kids in the gym playing for hours. Graduates return years later to continue their pursuit of scoring even a single point against Mr. K.



This year's teams were incredibly successful with many City Champions and Finalists then SOSSA Champions and Finalists. This year we had six seniors qualify for OFSAA in Barrie. This was Mr. K's 15th trip to OFSAA during his teaching career. That's an incredible accomplishment for any coach at HWDSB.

We THANK YOU for all the time you spend with kids in gym class, badminton class, Badminton Club, and all the badminton teams! The countless hours you've given are's o greatly appreciated! Thanks, Mr. K!













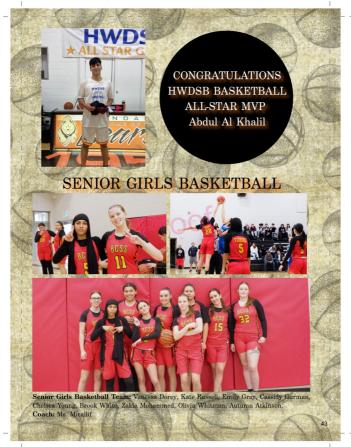


Team Members: Murshid Abdulrahman, Abdul Al Khalil, Waleed Al-Lamy, Ali Wares Ashori, Jayden Baxter, Dauntley Dawes, Ostyn Degroot-Rawn, Tristan Edwards, Hudson Holland, Tony Huynh, Owen Morin, Samuel Mutagoma, Wilson Peter, Shakir Saleh, Zakkary Salewski, Jabal Thomas, Kasimir Virrey Coaches: Mr. Flynn, Mr. McPherson















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VARSITY POWERLIFTING

ANTHONY POLITI **BAO NGUYEN EVAN ROSARIO JUSTIS GILLOTT** 

**COACHES:** MR GIBBS MR ANDERSON **JUSTIS GILLOTT IST 83KG WEIGHTCLASS** ANTHONY POLITI 2ND 74KG WEIGHTCAS **EVAN ROSARIO 2ND 113KG WEIGHTCLASS BAO NGUYEN 3RD 74KG WEIGHTCLASS** 

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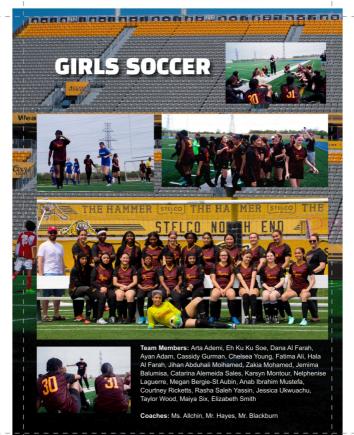




Team Members: Xavier Amorim, Maddison Atkinson, Adam Cutts, Cooper Dennis, Domenic de Adder, Nate Duguay, Jaylan Gillis, Clay Hoeksma, Austin Hollet, Sam James, Aiden Joslin, Keegan Murphy, Myles Potter Coaches: Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Elson, Ms. Smith









## BOYS VOLLEYBALL







Junior Boys Team: Jesse Ayles, Ricardo Cipriano, Adam Cutts, Kayvion Danh, Say Gay, Lay Hloo, Draiman Machado, Broderick McQuaid, Joseph Po, Sha Plar La Moo Soe, Kyran Theaker-Potvin Coach: Ms. Cooper











Senior Girls Team: Hala Al Farah, Carlie Baxter, Dakotah Edwards, Carly Fraser, Emily Hannaford, Hibo Hassan, Eurona Haziri, Kiga Kirkwood, Eh Ku Ku Soe, Tender New, Courtney Ricketts, Sana Samirn, Eden Smith Coach: Ms. Cooper











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## ULTIMATE PRISBER















NOTE: There may be a 1/8 inch variance from the final, printed product.

## GIRLS TOUCH FOOTBALL BOYS TOUCH FOOTBALL



Team Members: Jihan Abdullahi Mohamed, Janayah Croft-Porter, Vanessa Dorey, Cassidy Gurman, Anab Ibrahim Degroot-Rawn, Max Forde, Emmett Franks, Owen Gateman, Mustefa, Nelphenise Laquerre, Avan Mohamed, Zakia Mohammed, Rasha Saleh Yassin, Olivia Whitman, Taylor Wood, Chelsea Young Coaches: Ms. Duncan & Ms. Smith



Team Members: Waleed Al-Lamy, Adam Cutts, Ostyn Aiden Joslin, Raul Medina, Myles Potter, Riley Walsh, Tyler White Coaches: Ms. Duncan & Ms. Smith











# GRADE 9

















































o Alexie













# Grade 10



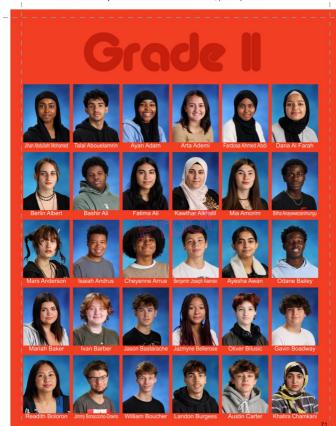




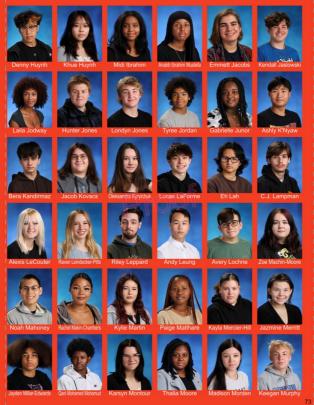
















### Many Thanks to the 2023-2024 Yearbook Team

Grade 12 Class: Gavin Howarth, Brianna Locke, Coden Maracle, Anthony Politi, Oliver Taylor, Taeya Thompson, Riley Walsh

Grade 11 Class: Teagen Brisson, Lennon Guincho, Emmett Jacobs,
Nelphenise Laguerre, Jazmine Merritt, Maddie Reid, Ben Simon, Bridget
Smith, Arihanna Soulliere

## GRADE 12























Differently

By Caitlyn Lee

The days that go on hit differently each day One day

I'm surrounded by love and another day

#### chaos

it hits different concealing your eyes so it doesn't look like you've cried it also hits different when you laugh with the people you love

and I can go on and on the list of things that hurt me

and I can pluck petals off of roses hoping that one petal someday says that he loves me

and I can get all dressed up hoping someday someone will notice me

and I look at the stars and count them each day hoping that the number will share that hope for

that day and when I get a little number

I stay in bed

hoping that nothing bad will happen in my head

and these are all hopes I wonder if they will ever

come true

so with my bouquet of roses

and the starry nights

my concealer in hand

and my fancy clothes I wonder how much more will I have to endure

How much will I have to take

Before I realize I'm more than petals on roses

and stars in the sky

and concealers to show I will not cry

And skin tight clothes that reveal I'm nothing more than a runway show

# Congrats Graduates!



Say Alhamduiliah and Keep moving.



Twentieth
Century Fox



time to people who don't care if I live or die?"



"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." — Ferris Bueller



"Keep on going with your silly dream."
— Laufey



"Nothings better then freedom after a four year sentence."



For those about to graduate (or rock): we salute you!



"Say goodbye to the thrills of life Where love was good, no love was bad Wave goodbye to the life without pain."

— David Sowie



Live, Laugh, Love!



11:11



It is only when you look back that you realize how much you have endured, how far you have come, and how worth it, it all was.



Seeing what could be is sometimes harder than seeing what is.



Finished my 12-year sentence - don't recommend being born.



"In this terrifying world, all we have are the connections that we make."

- BoUack Horseman



Cowbous are going to the Super Bowl.



When in doubt look intelligent



Your turn.



Don't let anyone rob you of your innagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world, it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live."

— Mae Jemison



Long story short, I did it.



Finesse to success, riding dolo is only gonna get you there....



Not 91 or 93, but 92 Fahrenheit degrees.



Finished my four year sentence.



0/10. I don't recommend it.



"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really



Who do you think you are? I AM!



Don't try to be someone else. Be yourself and know that that's good enough.



I'll make sure to give women pockets.



"...And to those I love, thanks for sticking around."



Don't be lazy, get back to work — "even if you think it isn't possible its very very possible." — Juice WRLD



Wait gous what do I do? I didn't think I'd make it this far.



It's better to have faith in something than nothing at all.



"The body is purified by water. Eao by tears Intellect is purified by knowledge. And the sou is purified with love." — Ali ibn Abi Talib



"Life goes faster than you think, so don't blink."

— Kenny Chesney



Believe in yourself even when no one else does. Your confidence can turn the tide.



Free Palestine



It's time to turn the page and embrace the next chapter of your life.



Everbody wanted to know what I would do if I didn't graduate, I guess well never know.



IF 1000 people succeed. I am one of them. IF 100 people succeed. I am one of them. IF 10 people succeed. I am one of them. IF one person succeeds. It's me. If nobody succeeds. I died trying.



Just had to "Let It Happen."



To the stars who listen and the dreams that are answered.



"Pay Attention To What You Pay Attention To"



Dum spiro, spero.



""Be loyal to what matters." — Arthur Morgan'



"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."



we do not remember days, we remember moments. — All The Bright Places



Life is soup. I am a fork.







NOTE: There may be a 1/8 inch variance from the final, printed product.

## Signing Out!

Proof

Proof