

Now that we are all ready to move on and go to new schools, it makes me think about this special place we will be leaving behind. For those of you who have been on board since elementary school, do you realize that we are the last class to have experienced the old building? We are the last generation of those who were crammed into little trailers behind the school, the last to swing on the rusty swing set and walk down those halls with the sketchy brown carpet. Now, as we get ready to move schools again, I realize how important this place has been for me.

SCAPA has provided a sanctuary for me throughout elementary, middle, and high school. I don't know where I would be right now if it were not for the friends and teachers who carried me through the rough times. This experience has been so valuable for me, and for all of us. When else in your life will you have the right and the privilege, even be encouraged to be eccentric, to be passionate, daring, quirky, obscene, revolutionary, spontaneous, and to grow and create with unrestricted potential? This was your chance, the once in a lifetime chance to develop your strengths and customize your persona into whatever it is you dream of being. You have had an incredible opportunity and I hope you are able to take something meaningful from it.

I know that we would all like to thank this amazing program - all the teachers, staff, students and families who contribute to its success through their wisdom and intense devotion. It is impossible to sufficiently thank them, but the best way I can think of is to keep it alive. Do not let their efforts go to waste. Incorporate the lessons they have taught you into the rest of your life. Continue to practice your art, and use it for something significant. The skills you have been given will mean so much more if you use them to make a difference. Use them to communicate your beliefs, incarnate your principles, to express all the things you stand for. And don't forget to pass them on. Sharing your experience with someone else is the best way to commemorate the ones who taught you. Make yourself a living testimonial to the love and guidance you received at SCAPA, and use your talent to make it immortal.

I feel a deep connection with this school, and all the people who are a part of it. We may not talk often, or even cross ways in our hectic school, but we have a special bond. Even though we follow our separate paths and practice our own individual forms of art, we are unified by our passion for creation and expression. The security I felt in being a part of this has helped me in ways far beyond what you can see on the surface. I just want you all to know that I have loved being surrounded by such a fantastic concentration of talent, and it has been an absolute honor to see my life run parallel to yours for this fraction of time.