Penticton Secondary School
June 4, 2014
Jade Arnold  
Métis

Jade’s favourite teachers are “Mrs. Lacroix because she made her classes really fun to be in, and Mr. Gowe because he was really helpful.” After she graduates, Jade plans to “work and see where life takes me.” She likes drawing, reading, and swimming. Jade says, “I’d like to thank my parents for supporting me in my journey.” Her advice to future grads is: “do your homework and don’t fall behind or you’ll die.”

Cassidy Brent  
Métis

Cassidy’s favourite teachers are “Mr. Arcuri for being funny and teasing and Mr. Hyde for always being friendly and helpful.” After graduation, Cassidy says she plans to “work, attend BCIT for radiology, and travel in my spare time wherever the wind takes me.” Her hobbies and special interests include “painting whenever I can and spending time with amazing people.” Cassidy would like to thank: “my mom for always being there and my friends for supporting me through everything.” Cassidy’s role model is her mom “for showing me how to be a hard worker and never give up through tough times and hard situations.” Cassidy’s advice to future grads is: “never give up on what you love, and go wherever your heart takes you.”

Celestine Burechailo  
Métis

After graduation, Celestine says she plans to “move, work and enjoy everything that life has in store for me.” She would like to “thank my mom and sisters for their support throughout high school.” Celestine’s role model is her mom because “she has taught me even when things get tough to push through it and that there is always a positive side to everything.”
Kiysa Campbell

Métis

Kiya’s favourite teacher is “Mr. Hyde because he was a fun and outgoing teacher. As crazy as our class drove him, he always did fun stuff with us to make us happy. He adapted to the way each student learned and did everything he could to make a success out of everyone.” After graduation, Kiya says that she “plans to work and save money to travel around the world and figure out what I want my immediate career to be afterwards.” She enjoys spending time with family and friends, and she received an award for Foods class. Kiya would like to thank her former teacher Ms. Nixon, in Alberta, saying, “I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for her. She taught me to appreciate and love school. She taught me to push my limits and make MYSELF proud, not everyone else.” Kiya says her role model is “my beautiful and strong mother. She has encouraged me through all my choices in life and helped me through the bad ones. Even after all the mistakes I have made, she has still stuck by my side and encouraged me to do better.” To future graduates, Kiya’s advice is: “Don’t settle for the bare minimum; push your limits and do the best you can to make yourself proud.”

Alena Carlile

Mohawk

After graduating, Alena plans to go to post-secondary. She enjoys spending time outside, skiing, playing soccer, and hiking. Alena was glad to be a part of the Aboriginal Program, the Peer Tutor program, and the ABED room. She would like to thank Mr. Hyde, Mrs. Anthony and Mrs. Stephens “for being here whenever I came in and always offering to help and support me.”
Neve Carlile
Mohawk

Neve plans to go to university after she graduates. Soccer, skiing and art are her special interests. For their support and encouragement, Neve would like to thank her family and friends.

Kiana Casavant
Métis

Kiana’s favourite teacher is Mr. Harkness “for dedicating so much extra time to support students, and for finding a way to make chemistry and biology fun and easy to learn.” After graduation, Kiana plans to attend Okanagan College for Human Kinetics to obtain a diploma, and continue on to complete a Bachelor of Kinesiology. “with this degree, I hope to become a Physiotherapist or a Sports trainer.” Playing lacrosse is one of Kiana’s interests. Kiana was a part of the U-21 junior female BC lacrosse team in 2013 and won gold at the nationals in Halifax, NS. She would like to thank “Mr. Hyde and Mr. Nakoney for always being helpful and supportive in my decision making.” Kiana’s advice to future graduates is: “Pay attention, take notes and work hard.”

Jesse Chapman
Métis

Jesse’s favourite teachers are Ms. Gunning and Mr. Hyde, who he would also like to thank for their support and encouragement. After graduating, Jesse plans to go to trade school for heavy duty mechanics. Jesse’s advice to future grads is: “stick to it and don’t give up.”
Emily Clarke
First Nation

Emily’s favourite staff are: “the PE coaching staff and the custodians. Thank you so much for the time that you invested into us. I owe my success to you guys.” Emily says, “sports, the outdoors, basketball, weight training, and sunsets are the loves of my life.” She has received the Female Athlete of the Year award, the Jonathan Snyder Citizenship award, the Leadership Athlete award, the Unsung Player award, and she is a part of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program. Emily’s advice to future grads is: “keep your life balanced; make time for your friends and family and time to do what you love.”

Ben Cooper
Métis

Ben’s favourite teacher and role model is Mr. Kuechle because “he has a great sense of humour.” Ben’s future plan is to be an author. “Naruto/Shipudden, video games, watching YouTube, and reading” are Ben’s hobbies and special interests. Ben has been a part of the recycling program at Pen High. He would like to thank “Micheal Landry Gariepy” for his support and encouragement. Ben’s advice to future grads is: “work hard.”

Hayden Craig
Métis

Hayden’s favourite teachers are Ms. Lacroix, Mrs. Belanger, Mr. Terris, Mr. Hyde, and Mr. Mend because “they are all fun, positive teachers who make it exciting to learn.” Hayden’s plan after graduation is to take the ECE program in Special Education. Playing sports is her hobby. Hayden will be a part of the Indigenous Games for softball this coming summer. Hayden would like to thank “My parents for always supporting me and taking me to and from everything that I am involved in.” Her role model is her older sister “for always looking out for me and setting good examples for me.” Hayden’s advice to future grads is: “try your hardest and do your best in everything you do and it will all pay off in the long run.”
Cameron Critchlow

Cameron’s favourite teachers are “Mr. Keuchle, Mr. Gowe, and Mr. Botero.” Cameron’s future plan is to become an electrician. Ballroom dancing is one of Cameron’s special interests. He would like to thank his mom for her support and encouragement. Cameron’s role model is his grandfather “for teaching me patience.” His advice to future grads is: “just do it.”

Kasey Girvan

Kasey’s favorite memories of Pen High were the great friends that she made and the awesome Aboriginal field trips she attended. Next year Kasey plans on working as a nail technician as she just earned her certification this year. She will always remember Mr. Hyde as a great role model and teacher and would like to thank her mother for keeping her happy, positive and a determined person.

Bailee Hainstock

Bailee’s favourite teacher is Mrs. Hunter because “she helped me out with a lot of things over the past four years.” Bailee says that she would like to work with troubled kids in her future career. She enjoys working with kids, spending time with family and friends. Bailee has received medals in recognition of her achievements in dance. For their support and encouragement, Bailee would like to thank her sister Teresa and Mrs. Hunter. Bailee’s role model is her sister because “she has taught me many things and has always been there for me through tough times.” To future grads, Bailee’s advice is: “have fun and do your best.”
Nadia Iannone
Métis

Nadia’s favourite teacher is Mrs. Gunning. Her special interest is photography. Nadia would like to thank her mom, Oma, and sister “for all the support in my everyday life.” To future graduates, Nadia’s advice is: “never give up trying even when times get hard. Stay away from any conflicts and don’t bully because it affects the people for the rest of their lives.”

Dana Johnson
Gitwangak First Nation

Dana’s favourite teacher is Mr. Lines “for his love of Aldous Huxley.” After she graduates, Dana is going to Thailand as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student for a year-long exchange, and then heading to post-secondary to earn her Bachelor of Science degree. Her interests include Bass guitar, soccer, writing, painting, sketching, and science. Some of the special programs that Dana has been a part of include the UBC Summer Science Program and the Tanzania 2013 Humanitarian trip. For their support and encouragement, Dana would like to thank her parents, teachers, and counselors, and above all, her friends. Dana’s advice to future graduates is: “always do whatever’s next.”
Khal’s favourite teachers are Mr. Gowe and Mr. Lines “for their inspiration and endless knowledge.” For their support and encouragement, Khal would like to thank his parents, as well as the Gowe family. Khal’s advice to future graduates is: “don’t procrastinate. It gets you nowhere.”

Following graduation, Sterling plans to study Marine Biology, starting with a science degree from UVic. She enjoys playing rugby and field hockey, skiing, hiking, and pottery. Sterling has received the following awards: the Knowledge Award (presented by an Elder at the BCAAFC Youth Council PAYC Retreat), Gold Honor Roll, and Effort Roll. For her support and encouragement, Sterling said that she would like to thank “the hippie who raised me - Thanks Mom!”

Kanisha’s favourite teachers are “Nackoney, Hyde, Lacroix, Butters, and Searcy.” Regarding her future career plans, Kanisha says, “perhaps being an author, or an artist. I’m not sure. I’ll see what happens.” Reading, writing, mythology, and astronomy are Kanisha’s hobbies and special interests. For their support and encouragement, Kanisha would like to thank “Nackoney, Hyde and Mrs. Stephens.”
Nakai Penny

Métis

Nakai’s favourite teacher is Mr. Arcuri because “he makes chemistry interesting and funny, and he’s an all-round great dude.” Nakai’s plan after graduation is to attend UVic and play rugby. Rugby is Nakai’s special interest. He would like to thank his parents for their support and encouragement. Nakai’s role model is his mother because “she has always worked hard for those she cares for.” His advice to future grads is: “work hard.”

Christina Profili

Métis

After graduation, Christina plans to study Computer Studies at Okanagan College. Reading, dancing, and cooking are her hobbies and special interests. She would like to thank her parents “for putting up with all the ‘not so good’ grades.” Christina’s advice to future graduates is: “take the classes you enjoy. Don’t force yourself into the ones you think will make you look good.”
Keith’s favourite teacher is Mr. Harkness. He plans to work after graduation and his hobby is video games. Keith would like to thank his family for their support and encouragement. Keith credits his brother Rod for being his role model. “Just get it over with” is Keith’s advice to future graduates.

Eric would like to thank “all of my teachers and CEA’s that have taught me.” Eric is interested in working with rescue animals in his future career. Drawing and art are his special interests.

Meghan’s favourite teacher is Mr. Gowe “for leading the Physics Olympics crew to a provincial first place win.” After graduating, Meghan plans to attend UBC Vancouver for engineering. She enjoys skiing, longboarding, and spending time with my friends. Being a part of the Physics Olympics was one special program that Meghan was a part of at Pen High. She would like to thank her parents for their support and encouragement.
Nakita Tiemstra
First Nation

Nakita’s favourite teacher is Mr. Hyde, who she would also like to thank for “always offering help whenever I need it.” After she graduates, Nakita plans to go to Okanagan University College and go into the health and fitness industry. Nakita loves going outside and playing sports and hanging out with her friends. She was a recipient of a sewing award while at Pen High. Nakita acknowledges her sister as being her role model because “she inspired me to keep trying.” Nakita’s advice to future grads is: “stay on top of your school work and have fun! You only do grad once so make the best of it!”

Matthew Stadnyk
Métis

Matt’s favourite staff member was Paul Mend, who was his coach for volleyball for six years. Volleyball is Matt’s special interest. Matt was recognized with Athlete of the Year awards in grade 9 and 10. He would like to thank his parents, coaches, and teachers for their support and encouragement.

Beautful Artwork supplied by Students in SD67 schools. To view, please visit www.sd67.bc.ca
Andrew Weatherly  
Métis

Andrew's favourite teachers are Mr. Laven and Mr. Mend because “they kept their classes fun and interesting.” After graduation, Andrew plans to take a year or two off and then return to school (college). He enjoys camping and hiking. Andrew would like to thank Mr. Hyde for his support and encouragement. Andrew’s advice to future grads is: “focus on studies and don’t get behind.”

Tiana West  
Gitamaxx First Nation

Tiana’s favourite teacher is Mrs. West. After graduating, Tiana plans to attend university to study dentistry. She loves being outdoors and playing sports. Tiana would like to thank her parents for their support and encouragement because “they taught me everything I need to know for life.” Her advice to future grads is: “enjoy high school as much as you can.”
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Good luck Grad Class!
We wish you all the very best with your exciting future.