



The Top Ten of Burroughs High; (top) Keiran Paster, Jeremy Phan, Bailey Harrison, Brandon Villareal, Francesca Florindez, (front) Elizabeth Gunn, Lili Hooshivar, Veronica Daou, Paulina Arango, Francesca Seta

Class of 2015 Congratulations!

John Burroughs & Burbank High Schools



The Top Ten of Burbank High

Graduation ceremonies each year bring us together in shared pride and gratitude. Graduation gives us the opportunities to gather, connect, reflect and celebrate. Speakers at this year's ceremonies at Burbank public high schools continue the traditions and exemplified outstanding achievements in their school careers.

The sincere fondness for their school, treasured memories and learned lessons were mostly reflected in the wisdom gained through life lessons and relationships.

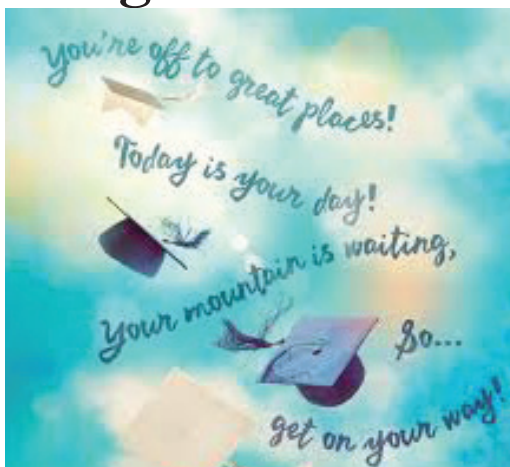
Taking the helm of John Burroughs High School mid year, Deborah Madrigal has been impressed with the warm and welcoming spirit of her new student body. She made sure to shake each graduate's hand upon receiving their diploma, sometimes chasing after someone she almost missed. It will be that kind of personal caring that makes all the difference.

Unique to this class was an unprecedented four way tie of class Salutatorians; Elizabeth Gunn, Bailey Harrison, Keiran Paster and Jeremy Phan presented us with a wonderful take on their years of failures! Memory lane met Upward Bound as each of these high achievers reflected through speeches of their *worst* fails that, you guessed it, only made them stronger. Wisdom beyond his years expressed by Keiran Paster proclaimed that "what defines a person is not success of goal, but how they deal with failure... a temporary defeat is nothing when it leads to ultimate victory."

Valedictorian, Lili Hooshivar reflected on fond memories of tough



John Burroughs' Principal Deborah Madrigal



John Burroughs High graduates pledge



Burbank High graduates

teachers, but called Burroughs their "home". She promises to come back with a cure for senioritis when she is a doctor. She hopes to be remembered for standing up for something greater than self, saying, "Don't let the haters stop you from doin' your thang!"

In a charmingly brilliant reminiscence by Veronica Daou, she took us through school aged growth and development in the first person. K-12 memories lead her to stating that "my realities became so much greater than my expectations."

Goodbyes are all too familiar to Francesca Florindez as she laced her own farewell to her father's passing in the past year with a graduation farewell. "Take the opportunity to tell those we love them and hold no grudges."

Recommending this class, Principal Madrigal gave us some impressive stats: 191 students met the UC A-G entrance requirements, 65 had a 4.0 and higher, 141 students completed 100 or more service hours, 110 received the Presidents award for a 3.5 or higher during their entire high school career, 31 received a 3 or higher on the AP exam, 12 earned

AP with Distinction. College acceptances are to Yale, USC, Perpendicular, all UC's, 4 to UCLA, 6 to Berkeley and a WB Reach Honorship. Again, Principal Madrigal was most touched by a spirit that truly wants to see each other succeed. Congratulations, Indians!

"It's great to be a Bulldog!" endlessly rings from the speakers and voice of reigning Principal Bertram. Leading the second night of graduation ceremonies in Burbank, families across town made their annual hike up the slopes to the Starlight Bowl stage, a true trek. Consummate showman and award-winning choir and music directors, Brett Carroll and Michael Stanley, expertly direct their champion vocal ensembles, band and orchestra through traditional pomp and circumstance to classical and pop tunes highlighting solo talent as well. ASL interpreters line the stage beside the singers from the tradition of signing classes at BHS.

The spirit of true caring and community was set into action as Principal Bertram was interrupted by commotion in the audience from a patron needing medical

assistance. He stopped the program until the medics had ushered her out to receive help. The show went on to showcase talent and recognize extraordinary students like this year's Valedictorian, Manny Ilasco.

Manny Ilasco blended with his top ten group and classmates in his sweet, unpretentious manner, first thanking all those who helped make this event run smoothly. Thanks to Principal Bertram citing this gentle giant's achievements; kudos to Manny for completing every AP (12) and Honors class offered (5), breaking volunteer records with 700 hours of service, VP of the Key Club; Manny drew inspiration from the recent Cinderella movie encouraging all to "Be kind; that can get you far in life. She got her prince. Live by the golden rule." Manny earned teacher praise and is beloved by all, leading by example.

Senior Speaker, Lauren Khalil "Looks Forward" in our "inevitable departure from each other", she drives us on with; "At our 10 year reunion, make sure your story is worth listening to."

Not on the program, but on the field, I had the



Burbank High Principal Michael Bertram takes a selfie



Burbank High Principal Michael Bertram

pleasure of speaking with Andrew Eskandar, who I am including as an example to the now common college plan to attend the local community college for the first two years of general education requirements. Andrew served as a tutor in CSF and 100 service hours. He truly loved his high school experience and is planning his transfer from Glendale Community College to USC. Many other students and families are realizing benefits to this decision not only academically, with smaller classes that do not defer teaching to teaching assistants, as well as the financial savings.

Ever proud of those who will be attending a 4 year college, the list can be found on the school website.

"What moral code will you choose to live by?" asked Principal Bertram, as he illustrated his own, defining what's right in the areas of humanity, loyalty and self. Proud statistics for Bulldogs place them as a top fundraising school out of 1300 L.A. schools, raising \$8000 for leukemia research, 650 students volunteer, 93 have a 4.0 GPA or better, 287 have a 3.5 or more, a cumulative 24,000 service hours, 48 will go to UC universities, 100 to community colleges, and 5 will serve in armed forces. So proud of the "paw-prints" left, it's always great to be a Bulldog! Congratulations

The Burbank Times invites you to view more pictures at www.burbanktimes.net,