

DD NEWS

2020-2021
SCHOOL YEAR
TERM 3 EDITION
MARCH 2021

This edition, assisted by students, is dedicated to the Graduating Class of 2021 and to our Principal who is retiring.

CONGRATULATIONS
and
THANK YOU



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MS. WHITNEY:

All of us at BCS are so very proud of you, the Class of 2021, in so many ways! Each and every one of you contributed to a very diverse, energetic, and successful group as caring individuals! You were the fourth graduating class of BCS, the first co-ed graduating class, the first to graduate in the new uniforms, and we started at BCS together. Some of you have been awarded admission into universities in BC and other places abroad. Many of you have been accepted into great universities in Japan. And several have decided to pursue non-traditional avenues. You all have a bright future ahead of you!

Now that you are leaving the school for greater heights, I am also leaving — to enjoy retirement. However, retirement for me does not mean leaving Education. I will forever be contributing to the education of others as well as of my own — just at my own pace and terms — and you'll actually still see me around on the Japanese side of the school!

Remember that Double Diploma is like a paddle with two sides of the whole. Effective paddling requires a skill that fully utilizes each side of the paddle. Yes, DD was “hectic” — in your words — in a good way! But, oh, what an exciting ride it was!

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to have served you as Principal of BCS — I have learned so much from you! Let's continue learning and be grateful for the “hectic” time we had together at BCS! Take care and wishing you all the very best in your future endeavours!

“You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!”

THANK YOU & FAREWELL

Along with Ms. Whitney and the new Graduates, we will be saying good-bye to Ms. Conlon, Mr. Omar, and Mr. Ruebe. Mr. Kubota will also be missed in the BC classes. Thank you, wonderful teachers, for your hard work — you made a difference!!!

PADDLE YOUR OWN CANOE

by Sarah T. Bolton (1850)

Voyager upon life's sea,
To yourself be true,
And whatever your lot may be,
Paddle your own canoe.
Never, though the winds may rave,
Falter or look back;
But upon the darkest wave
Leave a shining track.
Paddle your own canoe.

Nobly dare the wildest storm,
Stem the hardest gale,
Brave of heart and strong of arm
You will never fail.
When the world is cold and dark,
Keep your aim in view;
And toward the beacon work,
Paddle your own canoe...

(and more in the entire poem)



GRADUATION DAY

On March 15th, 2021, 41 students from Bunka Sugunami Canadian International School graduated with both Canadian (BC) and Japanese diplomas. Due to COVID-19 protocol, there were masks, social distancing, extra ventilation, and limited number of guests, but there were also a lot of applause, tears, laughter, and sounds of camera shutters.

The Class of 2021 chose the word, “hectic”, to represent their class. Ms. Whitney’s speech included reference to how “hectic” can have positive influence on people. She also made reference to the canoe paddle as a symbol of the graduates for three reasons: it is dual-sided like the Double Diploma program; it represents the historical exploration of Canada; and it also represents the students’ ongoing journey... and the importance of continuing to paddle, especially when waters get rough.

The Valedictorian speech by Nono was exceptionally reflective with the final part being particularly memorable: *“... And when you are afraid, remember the days we laughed together, the days we cried together, the songs we sang together, and everything we did together. These are the memories that we’ve created together -- it’s our treasure. Yes, it was hectic!”*

Upon being presented with the Japanese and BC diplomas, the “Turning of the Tassel” (from right to left) was a bit challenging for Ms. Whitney at times since many of the students are now much taller than her!

It has become a tradition at BCS to pass along a canoe paddle from this year’s graduating class to the next year’s graduates. The word “hectic” was written on it, and the paddle was passed to Ms. Mima and Ms. Yamada, the homeroom teachers of the next graduating class.

The farewell and gratitude video created by the graduates brought a bitter-sweet end to the ceremony... these are the moments when you don’t know whether the tears are those of joy or sadness... they are in fact, both.

Of course, there was the tossing of the graduates’ mortarboards (caps) outside, up towards the sky! Yes, sky is the limit of your pursuits! Go high!

Thank you to the Bunsugi senior administrators for attending. Thanks to special arrangements, the RCMP “officers” (cut-outs) from the Embassy of Canada were on guard. And, thank you to all the BCS teachers for helping with so many aspects of the Graduation, leading up to it, during, and after. The grade 12 teachers — Mr. Gill, Mr. Kubota, Mr. Omar, and Ms. Pearn, and Ms. Whitney — worked particularly hard to ensure a memorable Graduation Ceremony.

A special thank you to all the parents for entrusting your children to us for their high school journey! Thank you, everyone!

A TRIBUTE TO MS. WHITNEY

A sampling of comments...

ホイットニー先生には今回すごいお世話になり、これほどまでに生徒のことを考えてくれている先生に初めてお目にかかりました。M.N. (a Mom)

Thank you for the three years of taking us from childhood to adulthood. I'm so glad that you were our principal! We won't forget your kindness and your love. Thank you again! S.S.

I appreciate everything she did for me... finding universities that fit my interest and providing suggestions for my essays... she advised me to not only show what I achieved but also to express myself by using tone and voice as the key in admission writing to obtain attention. We keep in contact even after I graduated from BCS and she cares about me. I wouldn't be here without her! L.Y. (a 2020 Graduate)

You always made time for us to talk to you... I learned so many helpful knowledge from you... it was so much fun! You are special teacher for me and I loved spending time in your office. Thank you so much for everything!!! M.I.

Ms. Whitney worried a lot about my university applications and always helped me out. I think Ms. Whitney is a cool and kind teacher who always cares about her students. N.Y.

I have decided to further develop myself within my education career as a result of working with Ms. Whitney, due to her leadership, positive mentorship and encouragement to focus on professional growth. B.C. (a Teacher)

PICTURES ARE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS...





THANK YOU TO EVERYONE — STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, HOMEROOM “MOM”, AND PRINCIPAL — GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL!!!!

