

Rising to the Challenge

Through more than a year of hybrid classes, cancelled activities, postponed athletics, and COVID protocols, the Class of 2021 persevered, rising to each challenge. In the end, they enjoyed many of the usual end of senior year traditions—yearbook signing, Prom, and most importantly crossing Graduation Bridge and receiving their diploma on Graduation Lawn. Yet it was also a ceremony that was live-streamed to the ten students who spent their senior year distance learning from China.

Here are some images from that day, along with the rap-styled student address by John DeForest, to remember the successful end to a most untraditional year.

John DeForest finds the right rhymes for this senior year



Student Address

You know,
 Every day I peruse the interwebs on social media
 Paging through (the) posts and comments like an encyclopedia
 On the surface it's all nice, but it's not uncomplicated,
 Endless dark Rabbit holes sowing divisia, ('tis) easy to feel inundated
 And sometimes the hatred makes me feel the anaemia,
 Lightheaded, all the shame and spite in the world concentrated,
 Every non-issue inflated and overstated, while the real life is left alienated,
 It's easy to get lost and caught up in the world feeling so connected yet so repudiated—
 I can't exaggerate-it.

(We're) missing the forest for the trees, sometimes it feels like a hurtling breeze,
 Other times (it) kinda feels like you can't unfreeze, us absentees in a world of disease
 This past year it's been all too easy to lose hope
 As we all cope, oh it's the same old trope, with COVID-19,
 It's all "unforeseen" and quarantine—There are no guarantees.

But I digress, from this whole pandemic mess,
 In this perfunctory address, I want to profess
 That through this obscene latrine world machine
 SGS for all of us good has been.

For all the war upon our shores, my faith is renewed at these doors
 In stark contrast to the world's uproar, this community's rapport
 Has been my ground in this anything but static world.

Each Dragon an individual, heart of gold, doth often make me forget the cold
 I rest easy knowing I learn in such a stronghold
 Of genuine people, who all told
 Germinate from setbacks like a marigold.

Do not despair, for while our lives may seem to be on a tear
 A second I do not spare, surrounded by those who care.
 In a year unfair with little fanfare, to all you seniors in folding chairs
 Many thanks for your great care, (in) upholding the golden rule...

And on behalf of all my classmates—I guess we're at the end of the spool:
 Thank you, Saint George's School!

— John DeForest, Class of 2021



Above: Josh Hayes' magical invocation, Jamie Billings' faculty address to the seniors

Blue outfits with red roses and ties



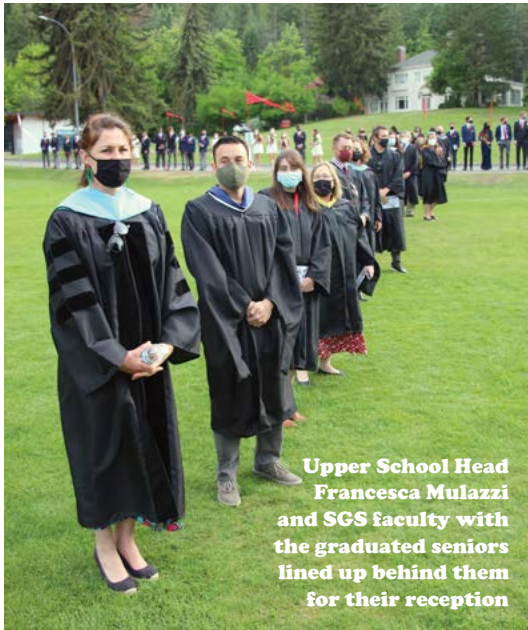
A class that knows how to wear masks



Marching in to the music of bagpipes



Class of 1971



Upper School Head Francesca Mulazzi and SGS faculty with the graduated seniors lined up behind them for their reception



Alli Dixon was awarded the Alumni Association Community Service Award



Waiting on the bridge



Rachel (Hildi) Davidson's benediction



Reagan Ivey received the Head of School Cup



The Class of 2021 on Graduation Bridge