



## **Commencement Address**

### **2011/2012 Kindergarten/Grade 1 Graduation**

June 22, 2012

by Tara Robertson

*If you were to ask me to find one word to describe the last ten months I have spent with the incredible children that we are celebrating here today, I would say this...inspired.*

*We have danced through the seasons, welcomed the storms, the snow and the sun, tasted the raindrops, captured a rainbow, and felt the Earth's soil in our hands. We can tell you where the clouds come from, why ladybugs wear their age, how penguins know only their mate's voice, and why the ocean waves. We can sing the alphabet backwards, and find star pictures sprinkled across the night sky. We can paint you a story, and print you a new perspective. We've walked along the odd and even sides of the street, and understand how many feet run in a metre. We know how to play hide and seek with camouflage, and how our prefrontal cortex talks to our amygdala.*

*This journey has been a magical adventure, one of remarkable beginnings. It has witnessed a change within us all that is so amazing, we now only recognize it as ourselves. We have sung with all our hearts the song of discovery, each one of us growing into remarkable beings...together.*

Our classroom has embraced mindful compassion. Empathy, patience, acceptance and accomplishment are now second nature to our students - a sense that lives in all that they see, hear and do.

Each day, it has been our conscious mission to seek out the raw meaning of curiosity. In discovering the subject matter through live experience, we have immersed our senses in the theme of each week. By feeling what we are learning, we have instilled in ourselves an amazing life skill: to question the "why" in everything we encounter.

Aristotle said, "What we have to learn to do, we learn by doing." When a subject comes to life it becomes attainable, relatable and appealing to the young mind. When discovered in the everyday it does not merely linger, but is powerfully remembered. In this learning we find the "me" and the "how I like to learn" connections. And it is with these tools that the adoration of lifelong learning is born.

I have watched this philosophy become common practice at ArtsCalibre. In its inaugural year as an independent school, this special approach and intimate classroom community has grown into a team of peers - a learning family. This is what I mean when I say...inspired.

Today, I see that my September seedlings have bloomed in this environment. I have watched each one of these lovely children invite their own personalities, interests, challenges and successes into the mindful atmosphere at ArtsCalibre Academy, and I am so very proud of you - Zayna, Cassandra, Trinity, Lily and Talia!

*There are two very important things that we must offer our children: the first is roots; the other is wings. Girls, if I have inspired both in you, then I have succeeded this year.*

*Sandra, thank you for your vision, your passion and your dreams for the inspired education of our children. I am honoured to be a part of it!*

*Thank you.*

*Miss Tara*