

May Student Trustee Reports

Jen Serdetchnaia

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

At this time, Student Trustee J. Serdetchnaia made the following remarks.

“Good evening Madame Chair, Mr. Director, trustees, superintendents, ladies and gentlemen.

BFFWNCD. This acronym decorated each of the three girls’ pencil cases. The seven letters that were to tie them together forever.

It is grade five and the three girls are best friends. Christened ‘the Three Musketeers’ by their teachers, you would never see one without the other two. After all, they were BFFWNCD. I was lucky enough to share in this close bond. For the sake of privacy, let’s name my two best friends Laura and Anna.

Anna and I were the competitive sort of friends. Who was taller? Who had the higher ‘A’ in Social Studies? Who could get the “guy who everyone has a crush on” to have a crush on her? Laura was the tiebreaker but also the challenger. She would come up with the question and Anna and I would compete to see who was more worthy. When the subject of the future arose, both Anna and I proclaimed that we would be doctors, while Laura said that she would be a lawyer instead. Together, the three of us dreamed about the years to come, knowing that together we would be safe, after all we were BFFWNCD.

The future arrived, as it inevitably does. Anna’s family moved to Muskoka, while Laura and I ended up attending different high schools in Newmarket. Although the three of us are still bound by the promise of BFFWNCD, our lives couldn’t be more different. Both Laura and Anna faced tremendous challenges with substance abuse in high school. Anna is on the fast-track to adult life. She lives with her boyfriend, works full-time and is finishing her high school diploma part-time. Ironically, it is Laura and I who are now pursuing a similar goal in a sense, Peter Pan’s “I will never grow up”; however, we are taking different routes to fulfill this wish: Laura is staying for an extra year of high school to raise her marks and make decisions, while I am planning to embark on about eight to twelve years of post-secondary education. As is typical with childhood friendships, the three of us seldom talk.

So why are the three girls that were BFFWNCD so different today? Did we have equal opportunity in the school system? Were our situations at home directional to our paths? What kind of support did we receive from peers and teachers? I guess you can say all children make idealistic plans and do not follow through. Sometimes, I wonder why? In my experience at school, I have had teachers who convinced me that I could be an astronaut, a superstar singer and a surgeon all in one lifetime. Did Laura and Anna miss out on these teachers? Did their

teachers give up on them for one reason or another? Maybe their paths are completely unrelated to their experiences in the school system. As a student who has had many encouraging teachers, I commend the educational staff for trying to reach every single last one of us.

School and life has shaped the three members of the BFFWNCD pact in different ways. In a way, it even broke our pact. Regardless, I will remember BFFWNCD always. After all, who could forget being Best Friends Forever Whom Nothing Can Destroy?

Thank you”.