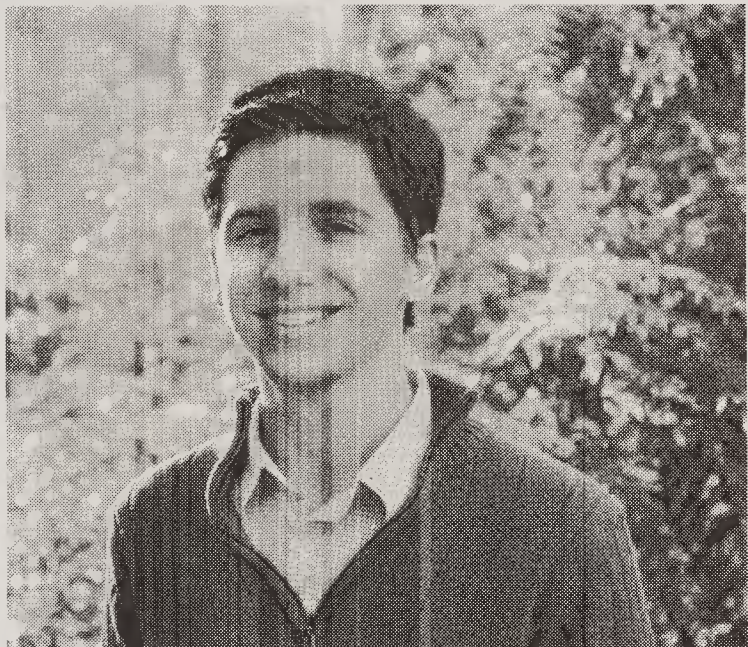


## Reflecting Upon Four Inspiring Years



**Kassra Homaifar**  
*Student Body President*

Dear Class of 2013,

Let me take this moment to congratulate all of you. We have overcome the challenges and obstacles in our high school years that involved transitioning to a period when it often seems we conformed our sense of individuality to those

around us. We did our best to uphold friendships and cherish relationships, as well as to conquer the academic rigor, exams, and general work in our classrooms.

Since our first years here as freshmen, we immediately made sure to help one another create strides to-

wards positive change. We tutored each other after school, created fundraisers to aid local and international initiatives, supported our athletic teams in numerous games and tournaments, developed clubs for all interests, and embraced diversity by aiding local organizations and becoming closer with one another in and outside the academic environment. As we grow closer to the day we graduate and pick up our diplomas in front of our lifelong supporters, we should take a moment to think about the friends we have made here at Grimsley, the lessons and mistakes from which we have learned, and the Whirlie pride we have and will continue to spread.

While we are approaching the moments when we seek to fulfill our educational and career aspirations, it is important we continue to be the "movers and shakers" in our society.

We should not let our community involvement become a thing of the past, or merely something we engaged in only to build up our resumes; instead, we should enhance it, develop it, share our ideas with others, and pursue issues others ignore or are unable to solve. This past summer, I was captivated by a very short, but meaningful blueprint:  $\text{Passion} + \text{Relevance} + \text{Opportunity} = \text{Fire}$ . I share with you this formula because it reminds me to identify what matters to others and ourselves and to seize the urgency and vitality of the issue to create an uplifting ripple effect in our world.

Over the next few years, it is imperative that we, as Whirlies, create experiences that afford ourselves and others motivation in contributing to society and fulfilling ambitions of encouraging each other to think beyond our boundaries, to learn more than what we

know, and, perhaps in the long run, to see ourselves as capable of doing more than what society expects of us. It is clear that the generations before us has created many of the problems we observe in society today. Polarized groups of people in our nation's government cannot seem to reach compromise. An economic disparity has created many problems that adversely affect our education, careers, and family life, and longstanding wars continue to plague our relationship with other countries.

We must be the generation that history teachers, in their third-floor classrooms of this great school, will recognize for solving problems once and for all. As we experience change, ideals, and lessons in the coming years, I am confident that together, we can rise to the occasion and leave our Grimsley mark on the world.

## What's It All For?

Here we are again. Just like the end of middle school, the end of elementary school, or even the end of preschool, one door is closing as another opens. Many seniors think to themselves, "I can't wait to be finished with high school," but are we ever really finished? The truth is that many of us have numerous more years of hard work ahead, but what is it all for? Is it to buy the new iPhone? To pass a class? In my eyes, the ultimate goal is not as material as these short-term goals, but to live life happily and doing something I love with people whom I love.

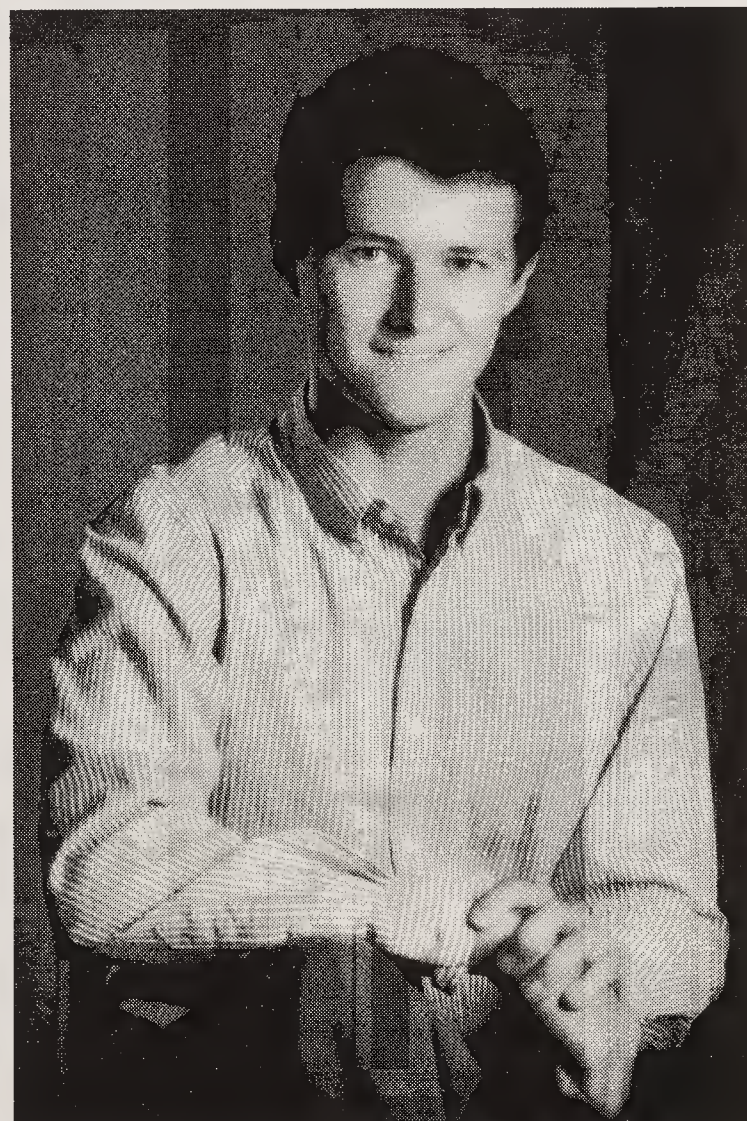
Though watching television and attending parties may make some of us happy now, it is important to understand that nothing in life is free. Yes, we have spent four years in high school, and it is perfectly all right that we believed it to be our time to live life to the fullest,

but we must not lose track of our long-term goals. It is in high school where we discovered our interests and considered idea of what career we want to pursue in the near future. In order to live a long and comfortable life, it is imperative to find work that we truly enjoy and find fulfilling. Generally, once we determine what future path absolutely fascinates us, what we would wake up and do every day if given the opportunity, and become skilled or proficient in those fields, cost of living matters will tend to take care of themselves.

As Graduation Day approaches, many of us also understand the importance of maintaining good friends in life. Though living comfortably with a fun job is pleasant, it means very little without having friends with whom to spend time and share experiences. It is almost

guaranteed that some of the people we have met in high school will be our friends for the rest of our lives, and others may even become much more than friends. It is invaluable to have someone who can always be there to help in times of need but also be there to celebrate when good things happen. Though our high school careers may be coming to an end, our true friendships will continue, and some may last forever.

If you gain anything from this article let it be this: As we move on in life, there will always be the latest and greatest this or that, but friends and family will remain. We must remember to keep long-term goals because this life is so very worth living, especially if we are finding our passions in love and sharing experiences with the people we love. Don't forget to have a little fun along the way.



**BY Wyatt Peterson**  
*Senior Class President*