

# 2011 Graduation Address

## Graduation address

Jessica Robins Miller, *Head of School*

June, 8, 2011

Tonight we gather to celebrate the end of you — and say goodbye to you — for your time at Wolf has ended. Your Wolf School commencement marks the end of a significant **time** in your lives and the beginning of a new **time for you**. In September you will begin at a new school with new friends and new teachers. For the Wolf School — your successful commencement tonight and your readiness for your transition in the fall is what we are all about.

Recently I heard a speaker discuss the meaning of time. Her thoughts made me reflect on this concept as well. Especially as I thought about addressing you tonight — the passage of time is different for everyone and even different for each of us at different times. How do you measure time? For all of us, some events make **time** go quickly and others make **time** stand still — but it is **the** same time — Commencement gives you, your families and us a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the time you spent at Wolf

To quote Harvey Mackay

**“Time is free, but it is priceless. You can’t own it, but you can use it. You can’t keep it, but you can spend it. Once you’ve lost it, you can never get it back”**

So I ask you to reflect with me for a moment — now that it is over, how have you spent your time at Wolf — what moments will you remember

Will it be the time you spent:

In class

In the gym

In fall festival

In spirit week

Preparing for the science fair

Sharing your talent

With your class in Block Island

And how have we seen you spend your time?

**In addition to your** time in the classrooms, the gym, outside and in the community — when we look a little deeper

We have seen you spend time working hard and learning

We have seen you spend time learning about how you learn

We have seen you spend time advocating for what you need in order to be successful

We have seen you spend time making and keeping friends  
We have seen you grow and develop during your **time** here as students, athletes, artists, musicians, scientists, writers, researchers and as individuals  
We have seen you frustrated and also accomplished  
We have seen you reach the unreachable, and obtain the unobtainable because -you took advantage of what we have to offer

We hope that when you reflect on your time here you will feel that it was spent wisely and that you made the most of your time.

We hope that you remember the time you put into making it work and that you will feel proud of your accomplishments. We hope that when life gets challenging, and it will, that you remember what you learned during your time here and put it into practice.

To revisit the quote I opened with

**“Time is free, but it is priceless. You can’t own it, but you can use it. You can’t keep it, but you can spend it. Once you’ve lost it, you can never get it back”**

We believe that you will use your time wisely — and hope that it will include time to think, reflect and imagine

We have all had the privilege of watching you grow and evolve as individuals and as a class

We also know that without a doubt — you will continue to grow and evolve and become successful adults

The entire Wolf School community believes in you

You will no longer be part of the fabric of our *daily* lives and we will no longer be part of yours; but what you have learned here, and what we have learned from you will forever remain in our hearts and in our minds.

We also know that what we have in common will keep us forever connected

And remember, from now until the end of time you will be alumnae of the Wolf School

How you will look back on your time at Wolf and what will you remember of your time here is all up to you...

We only ask that you come back from time to time and share it with us —

Thank you