

## Makayla Almeida

Bom dia a todos,

O meu nome é Makayla Almeida, eu sou uma aluna da quinta classe e hoje estou a graduar desta escola. Eu estou muita animada em graduar desta escola mas também sinto-me triste porque vou deixar a minha segunda família. Eu me lembro quando eu conheci a minha primeira amiga no jardim de infância. Ela continua a ser uma boa amiga até hoje porque ela sempre se preocupa comigo e com os meus colegas. Depois recebemos um aluno novo no terceiro ano. Ele é um bom amigo, não só por ser sportinguista, mas também tem uma personalidade muito engraçada. No quarto ano conheci uma menina muito especial e só quero dizer que ela é tão bonita e tão inteligente e sempre será uma amiga única.

A minha experiência na ICS foi muito completa porque eu conheci tantas pessoas que são surpreendentes e tão solidárias para mim. Nesta escola tão diversa, cheia de culturas e línguas, eu principalmente aprendi lidar com pessoas de diferentes lugares e culturas. Ser bilingue hoje em dia é muito importante em facilitar ser um cidadão global. A parte mais importante para mim é para poder comunicar com pessoas que falam português ou inglês. Eu aprecio ser bilíngue e eu aprecio estar nesta escola porque agora posso conhecer outras pessoas que falam português. Tenho um grande prazer em dizer a essas pessoas que eu fui para uma escola chamada ICS.

Os meus sonhos e desejos para o futuro é para ser melhor em matemática e fazer mais amizades. Uma última coisa que eu quero dizer é obrigada á minha família, professores, e todos que me ajudaram durante estes seis anos.

Obrigada por ouvir o meu discurso.

Andre Barbosa

Hi everyone. My name is Andre Barbosa.

I can't believe I'm here right now.

I will never forget this school! I have so many memories over the last three years that it is hard to pick just a few. I still remember when I came here and at first I was like "who are these people"? They seemed a lot different from the kids in my old school in Portugal, and the teachers were different, too.

I remember when I came to summer school and Mr. Ben told me that we were going to sleep here. There were sleeping bags and a fake campfire set up, and at first I actually believed him. Speaking of believing things, I still can't believe that I learned English in 6 months!

Then in our fourth grade year a girl named Bianca joined our class. By that point I knew how to speak English so I helped her.

In my early years it was difficult, but that's over now. I'm sure I would love this school even if I had started back in kindergarten.

Now I'm here and so very proud to say I'm going to graduate from this school.

Back to some of my happiest ICS memories: I have a memory of when we had field day and we were riding back on the bus. The journey took a long time so we poured water over our heads.

My classmates and I were also singing songs the whole ride back. It was such a special time with a unique group of friends. I made amazing friends in this school.

I'll remember when me and a few of my classmates compared The Portuguese soccer teams Sporting Benfica and Porto but we know Sporting is the best.

I also remember every single Tuesday and Thursday during recess when we played football with Mr. H. I will never forget when the girls wanted to know what the boys were talking about, and we also wanted to know the girls' conversations.

I am very grateful for all that my teachers and friends have done for me. I will miss all of you very much!

My hopes and dreams are to go on from here, using my bilingualism and the many skills I have learned to be a star at whatever I decide to do.

## Edward Galts

Hello Everyone... As you may know, my name is Edward Galts, and I am a student in the fifth grade here at ICS *as well as* Treasurer of the Student Council. I have been at this amazing school for now six years, this one being my last. As I have progressed through the grades, I have met friends and people who now feel as close to family as my own cousins, aunts, or uncles. From Ms. Maria babysitting me at age two, or Ms. Brooke playing with me while my mom was teaching, or even Ms. Silvia giving me portuguese books when I was about three years old... (I would just look at the pictures). I feel as though this school has been part of me for my entire life. I don't only feel it, but I *know* it because I am now a bilingual student and bilingual member of the community. I know this will have an effect on my future as well as my education in the coming years. If I am bilingual and I am trying to find a job or trying to get into a college or high school, it will improve my chances, thus creating more opportunities in my life to do greater things.

When I first came to this school, I was really nervous, but it could have been ten times worse. It's because I had a friend who I met when I was about a month or two old. Without Angus by my side for the first stages of my life, I wouldn't have made it this far and this happy. As I got older, when I got into preschool, I met Lucas. He has been my friend the longest, second only to Angus. But as I have progressed through preschool and elementary school, I have met more friends, and gotten less nervous around my schoolmates. Now, I just feel like ICS is part of my extended family. I have gotten friends in pretty weird circumstances too, from being "forced" to sit with David on the bus, or even Lily being on the student council. I have even learned to have a bigger love of football because of Pedro, we always would play at recess and trade football cards during lunch. Now that I have met friends like these, it just feels natural to "trip" and fall into the giant jenga at the school dance many, many, times or to "fall" in the box that our new stools came in and that I couldn't get out of. I've done a lot of clumsy things over the years, but every time I did something like that, my teachers and my classmates were there to help me. Every time I felt sick or got hurt, Ms. Rosa was there to put a band-aid on or check my temperature. Every time I didn't understand something in math, Mr. H was there to help me figure it out. Whenever I got hurt in recess, Ms. Dalila was always there to help me, like when *Jeyla* gave me a concussion playing tag. I know that there will be challenges in the future, but I know that when it happens, I might not have a Ms. Rosa, a Mr. H, or a Ms. Dalila to help me get through the hard parts, but I know that I can just follow what they did... break the problem down into different parts, wash a cut out before putting on a band-aid, or just comfort other people like Ms. Dalila would do every time someone got hurt. *We* have all learned so many skills from our amazing teachers at this school that *we* can take on to the next grades, and because of that, *we* can become better students in the coming years.

I can see the end coming, and I can still look back on big things that happened, like having the time of my life during the dance with my friends, or going to Andres'

birthday party. I just want to say thank you. To Angus, to Lucas having hilarious halloween costumes, Moises for trying to help me out of a box, to Makayla, Kiara, Jake, and Jean-Paul for keeping the bus rides happy when Mr. D or Mr. Mario got mad at us, (He totally never usually only got mad at me) to Holiday, a great friend who was always by my side when I needed her the most. To all the rest of my great friends - well, all of you - you are family. A big, weird, family, but *my* ICS family nonetheless!

As a great person named grandma Moses once said, "Life is what you make it, always has been, always will be" I feel like this means that no one else controls your destiny, you get to choose who to love, you get to choose who to be friends with, you choose what happens in your life, no one else does. Thank you all, I hope I will see my ICS family many more times.

## Eduardo Santos

Hola, Mi nombre es Eduardo Santos. Buenos días y gracias por venir a nuestra graduación, de veras lo apreciamos. Gracias por estar presente. ICS es una escuela muy buena y TODOS los niños deben darle las gracias a sus padres por elegir esta escuela. Yo personalmente creo que los padres son los que deben tener una celebración, porque ellos tenían una opción de ir a otra escuela pero ellos te trajeron a una escuela bilingüe que no solo aprendes en un lenguaje pero en dos!.

ICS no es una escuela como otras. Todos los maestros te quieren ayudar y de veras es una escuela única. No hay ninguna escuela como esta. Algunos niños no le gustan a esta escuela pero nos enseñan en dos lenguajes y eso es asombroso. Ser bilingüe nos puede ayudar con el trabajo y escuelas.

Yo he estado en esta escuela desde seis años hasta ahora. He tenido muchos buenos recuerdos yo me hice muy cómodo con todos en mi clase.

Una memoria que tengo, es del primer día de escuela Jean Paul y yo estábamos esperando para que todos ya acabaran de llorar, pero la mamá de Nicholas le dijo que ella iba a regresar y era solo un truco para que se quedara en la escuela. Le dijo que iba al baño y después no regreso. Dejó de llorar, pero cuando se dio cuenta que era un truco el no hablo con ella después de escuela.

Yo no se que va a pasar el próximo año pero lo que sí sé es que muchos de nosotros vamos a ir a nuestros diferentes lados después de ICS. Tal vez nunca nos vamos a ver otra vez.

Es muy triste que tal vez ahora podemos ser como los mejores amigos pero después de hoy no vamos a ser tan buenos amigos como antes. Está comprobado que usualmente las relaciones de niños no duran mucho después de la escuela primaria o la escuela intermedia.

Cómo Nelson Mandela dijo alguna vez "la education es el arma más poderosa que puedes usar para cambiar el mundo" lo que esto significa para mi, es que la education es todo. La educación no es algo que agarras es algo que te ganas. Education no es algo que tu puedes vender o comprar, cada persona en este mundo se tiene que ganar las cosas.

Yo voy a tratar de poner la escuela enfrente de todo. Porque es la educación que te lleva de un lugar para otro Bill gates abandonó la escuela pero eso no le dejó parar. El no se dio por vencido, siguió y miralo ahora, el hizo una de las más grandes organizaciones en el mundo.

Aprendiendo de esto me inspiró porque el no paro allí, el siguió y siguió hasta lograr su meta.

Yo se que no soy el mas inteligente o el más fuerte de nosotros pero eso puede cambiar con el tiempo. todo puede cambiar con el tiempo.

Yo deseo a todos que después de esta escuela no paren cuando las cosas se sienten sin esperanza. Sigán adelante siempre

Adiós a todos los graduados,  
Adiós a los maestros,  
Adios ICS.