



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 26, 2007

Westmount Public School Student Gets Advice from Bill Gates, Robin Williams and Silken Laumann

Advice to graduating students is as important as the cap and gown, which is why Vanessa Verworn felt that a collection of wise words would be a wonderful gift for her peers at Westmount Public School.

Vanessa wrote over 100 letters to her heroes including educators, politicians, scientists, actors and business leaders and asked them a single question, "What do you wish you knew when you were thirteen?" The responses were overwhelming and ranged from an outpouring of encouragement to a few well-crafted words of advice.

The collection, which features the pictures and words from notables such as Michael "Pinball" Clemons, Bill Gates, David Suzuki and Wendy Southall among others, was published by Vanessa in a charming book called, "Wit and Wisdom for Westmount Grads: A Collection of Inspirational Advice for Teens". She presented the souvenir to her fellow grads at Westmount's Grade 8 graduation on June 26, 2007.

"I am so thankful to have the advice from all of these individuals that I admire," said Vanessa, "and I especially appreciate the helpful guidance of the teachers and the support staff, because they have invested so much time and energy into preparing us for life."

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