



Antona

POINT GREY SECONDARY SCHOOL 2017



POINT GREY SECONDARY SCHOOL

stəywəte:n

5350 East Boulevard, Vancouver, BC V6M 3V2 Tel: 604-713-8220 ♦ Fax: 604-713-8218

RECEIVED

JUL - 7 2017

July 6, 2017

Mr. Doug Leard
Assante Financial Management Ltd
Assante Vancouver Centre Box 11558, 8/Floor,
650 W Georgia St
Vancouver, BC
V6B 4N8

Dear Mr. Leard,

RE: PG Citizenship Award (Class of '75)

On behalf of the Point Grey Secondary community, I would like to thank you for your continued generosity in supporting our grads. Enclosed you will find a photograph of Adin Kwok, who was the recipient of this year's award, in commemoration of the occasion.

We hope you will be able to share in the graduation ceremonies next year.

Yours sincerely,

Kal Gill
Principal

RECEIVED

APR 13 2018

Dear Mr. Doug Leard,

I am truly humbled to be the recipient of the Point Grey Class of '75 Citizenship Award in Point Grey's graduating class of 2017. The five years I had at Point Grey Secondary have been nothing short of life changing, giving me multiple chances to flourish in areas that I am passionate about and fail in areas that I needed a wake up call. This award really means a lot to me.

One story that my mom shares about me to everyone is how when I was two years old, I trekked my way up to the top of our home's staircase without aid. Upon arrival at the top, I clapped in triumph as the feat was indeed difficult for my little frame. As I stood and clapped in celebration, my mother watched as I began tilting backwards. I tumbled down the steps all the way to the bottom, where I lay dazed and miraculously without any serious injury. I learned a very hard lesson that day, I should be more aware of my surroundings before claiming victory. However, I would only continue to learn by suffering loss first, and that sums up a majority of the events that made me who I am today.

The biggest event that made me who I am is one that not every 14 year old kid would ever think of having. When I was in grade 9, I miskicked a football badly into the head of my teammate, who became enraged. His outburst of rage ended with three punches to my head, rendering me unconscious on the field. On the bright side of having a serious concussion, I got to skip school, which to most kids at 14 seems very appealing. However, not only did I lose out on a large portion of education, I would also never recover fully in terms of athletics. Sports have been a large part of my life growing up. A couple months prior, I had achieved my dreams of earning captaincy for my volleyball team and playing on a high level club basketball team. All that was taken away from me that day, and although those accolades could be recovered, my mental quickness on the courts would not.

It was hard coming to terms with not being the same ever again, but I found ways around it. If not for the injury, I would not have taken the first step into learning C programming. During the weeks I spent at home alone, I began reading basic examples of C programming in a textbook dating back to 1984. Because of this, I found my passion in software development, where in the years leading to my graduation in 2017, I began coding for a company. If not for the injury, my passion in software development would not have led me to wanting to take that passion further in post secondary. If not for the injury, I would not have found a passion in coaching sports teams. If not for the injury, I would not be who I am today, and because of this, I am thankful for the learning experience. The loss was great, but what I gained from it is greater and is still growing. The learning journey only seems to be getting better, but I do hope that it does not involve serious health implications anymore.

I am currently studying a combined major program in Business and Computer Science at UBC's Sauder School of Business. Having been in the program for only less than a year now, I am already in love with the material and the community it brings. I aspire to work for at least one of the "Big Four of Technology": Google, Facebook, Amazon, and Apple. This award only motivates me to achieve more in the opportunities that I am given and I will continue to achieve my goals, no matter the obstacles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adin Kwok', with a stylized, cursive script.

Adin Kwok