



# North Cross School

## COMMENCEMENT REMARKS

Liz Frankl '82

*Recipient of the 2015 Alumni Service Award*

May 30, 2015

Drew Dudley once said, “We have all changed someone’s life—usually without even realizing it.” That is certainly the case for me. Not that I changed someone’s life, but that I have been changed through my work with CrossWalk.

This journey taught me that Dyslexia is a unique mindset that is often gifted and productive—but learns differently than other minds. Dyslexia affects up to one in five but with early detection and intervention success rates are high. **90% of dyslexic children will read normally if they receive assistance by first grade.** Some of the most brilliant minds have been known to have dyslexia: Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, John Lennon, Charles Schwab, and Steve Jobs to mention only a few. Dyslexics are highly creative thinkers who often solve problems through visual imagery and imaginative reasoning.

I’d like to thank **Chris Proctor** for having the vision that this curriculum would benefit all at North Cross.

I’d like to thank **Kit Prillaman** for her tenacity, leadership, and incredible teaching skills, as well as patience and understanding that we needed another year to examine the possibilities of this program before fully implementing it.

For **Richard Bell and Toni Clark and the many families**—both inside and beyond the North Cross Community—who have generously supported CrossWalk. We could not continue—*or grow*—this program without your leadership. This year, your generosity has enabled success. The majority of CrossWalk students showed a two-year gain over the past nine months.

To the CrossWalk committee (Allison Bloomfield, Linda Frith, and Katherine Walker) as well as the NCS Board of Trustees. I share this award with you. For hours of research, visits to explore similar programs, philanthropy requests—and ultimately for endorsing and believing that CrossWalk will enhance North Cross. My hope is this multi-sensory, direct, and structured approach to learning ultimately sparks interactive educational opportunities for all North Cross students—as well as a new Resource and Learning Center at our School.

Nelson Mandella said, “The difference we make in other’s lives will determine the significance of our life.” Thank you for allowing me the opportunity, albeit by chance, to be involved with this program. I have been humbled, changed, and inspired by both the CrossWalk students and the visionaries who support their efforts.

CrossWalk is transforming lives and making a difference. If you have not seen the program in action, I encourage you to drop in and see the amazing work that is happening here. *Thank You*