

Good evening to every proud Eunice family member present here tonight.

Young ladies, respected governors, esteemed colleagues, valued and and friends – you are **our honoured guests** at tonight's royal banquet where we celebrate the vision, precision and determination that **has led** to your crowning glory of all-round excellence.

To celebrate excellence is a **privilege**; but to celebrate membership to a family that collaborates and cares is a **blessing**. Tonight we have the pleasure of honouring and celebrating both.

Our 2017 success story commenced on the 11th of January when 27 Academic Board Medallists inspired us with the wisdom which they gained **on** their high school journey.

They **highlighted** that

1. the heart of a winner lives in each of us; that
2. attitude makes a difference; that
3. you should never underestimate yourself and that
4. girls with dreams become women with vision.

Their messages **inspired** our learners to **take up the challenge** of striving for all round excellence.

That excellence

1. **ignites** confidence.
2. It **catapults** you to new heights
3. and it **empowers** you to **make all your dreams come true..**

Remember: "With a tiara and even just a little confidence, you can change the world".

I find it particularly fitting that the symbol for our 2017 theme ... has been THE CROWN. Little did I know **when** the symbol was chosen at the end of 2016, **to what lengths** our Eunice ladies would go to wear that crown with pride.

Traditionally, the crown represents

- power,
- legitimacy,
- victory,
- triumph, and
- honour

Tonight's awards ceremony not only

1. **showcases** the victories **which** have brought **individual honour** to our Eunice ladies; it also
2. **celebrates** the triumphs of a school that is **capable of providing** educational opportunities fit for a queen.

Ladies, your achievements form the centre piece **on** our royal table tonight.

You **conquered** immediate goals and **remained** determined to **walk tall** and to **keep your eyes fixed** on your futures.

You **got to know** the woman beneath the crown and you **turned** the common stumbling blocks experienced by so many other scholars, into stepping stones that **lead** to victory.

You **chose** to break through discomfort and **to experience** the beauty of unexpected **personal strengths**.

The Eunice heirloom **which** you wear tonight, bears various **significant emeralds discovered** and **set** over the course of the past 142 years.

These **precious** stones

1. **symbolise** our founding ideals and
2. a motto that **highlights** the impact of good self-esteem;
3. a **collective unity** **and**
4. a burning passion that only a dedicated and professional staff can **exude**.

Unlike diamonds, emeralds **refract** light in a multitude of dimensions.

In the same way, your most recent successes **refract new-found light** in the different dimensions that your future **promises**.

Like a true queen who strives for perfection, **your** tireless **striving** for personal growth and all-round excellence is what makes you worthy of your crown.

You grabbed the opportunity to compete in many of the **524** sport matches played and **83** cultural events organised throughout the course of the year.

You completed approximately **5682 hours of community service and** donated **R24 230** as well as **various necessities** to people in need.

You **embraced** diversity, **celebrated** our traditions, **united** in cheer, and **joined** in round-table conversations, – all of which form an integral part of all-round development.

Eunice victories **sparkle** with a light that **shines** much further than the eye can see, reminding us that victory is **neither an end point** nor something you **achieve** when you **reach** the finish line.

Rather, it is something that is **created** over time, through patience, determination and precision, **much like** the art of creating a beautiful crown.

Ladies, **take** what you have learnt and **use** it to create your **own masterpiece**.

Your unique **contribution** to Eunice's tradition of excellence has given you the right to wear your precious crown with true Eunice ...*pride and poise*.

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. **300** certificates were awarded at our 2017 recognition assembly.
2. **417** ladies will receive awards tonight with
3. **100** of them stemming from achievement on a provincial level, and another
4. **15** on either national or international level.

Thank you for celebrating **the personal victories** that have filled the pages of our **2017 success story** **and that are reflected in tonight's programme**.

I firmly believe that the **celebration of progress** is what activates drive in this 17th year of the 21st Century. Ladies and gentlemen. Continuous change is the new constant and today's **essential** processes include *personal growth*, customised **achievement** and a sense of **pride** - things Eunice does not **fall short of**.

Dear parents, thank you for **supporting** us by **helping** your daughters to **maintain** balance in an **intense** world of extremes where yesterday's triumphs are **today's point of departure**.

Together, we are the **guardians** of this generation's progress.

We might not be able to **guarantee** a perfect fit in a future unknown to us, but we can certainly **enhance** their self-esteem and **nurture** networks of support so that they can become

1. strong,
2. independent and
3. courageous women who **take** calculated risks to **conquer** the unexpected.

Our unwavering vision to be a

1. first rate,
2. world-class high school

where our learners are

1. **guided** to become **mature professionals**,
is continuously **informed** by
2. world trends and
3. development in the educational arena.

In this global arena where cyber-communication has become the age's new reality,

- we need to **embrace** and **learn** from **its methods**,
- **but we also** need to **take care** that cyber-connectivity does not replace inter-personal, connection.

As parents, we remain the skilled artisans and custodians of the

1. traditions and
2. old-school values so lacking in the cyber-world.

We must **stand firm** as the skilled jewellers who **form** the circlets and bezels on which Eunice's emeralds are mounted, because it is our shared integrity that

1. **provides** safety to our youth and
2. that ultimately **crowns** our community.

Albert Einstein said that only he who **devotes** himself to a cause with his whole strength and soul can be a true master.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the masters of our school: the **43** educators, **17** administrative staff members and **32** support staff who **give** their all to **ensure** that a multitude of success stories can be shared on **the** multiple platforms of life.

I **commend** you for

1. making the exceptional the norm at Eunice, for
2. being trustworthy and committed, for
3. having strong convictions about our roles as educators and for
4. passionately pursuing **our** learners' dreams.

Thank you for

1. **activating** curiosity amongst colleagues and learners and for
2. **acknowledging different needs** amongst our ladies.

I thank our families – the **spouses, partners**, children, parents and relatives of our staff members - for the sacrifices they make on a daily basis to **enable** us to do what we love and what we believe is our calling .

My **sincerest gratitude** to Mr Wium Adendorff and our Board of Governors for their support and commitment in pursuit of our vision. Your selfless service **to** our school ensures quality education for generations to come.

Members of the Senior Management Team and Academic Committee: You **administer** daily practices that **create** the highest level of efficiency possible at Eunice and for that I thank you on behalf of a whole community tonight.

Thank you

1. for **accepting** the challenge to challenge your thinking and
2. for **staying** abreast of educational development.

My Executive Team: Mr Leon van Rensburg and Mrs Mag Marais. Thank you for your

1. unparalleled commitment,
2. **your unlimited** support and
3. **your steadfast** professionalism. I am honoured to have you by my side.

...*Dear Mrs Dale.*

2017 marked a spectacular, astronomical event when a complete crown of glowing light **shone** around the moon for the first time in 4 decades in South Africa.

Eunice High School **salutes you** for the **43** years which you **dedicated** to shining light on education in South Africa - especially the past **24½** years spent at nr 3 Jock Meiring Street.

We **cherish** your **energy and passion for people** and as we bid you farewell, we commit ourselves to upholding the **e** esteemed and spectacular tradition of excellence which you, together with Mr Paul Cassar and Mr Pat Uys, established over the years.

...Dear Mr Uys. You have **enriched** so many lives over the past ___ years in your role as Financial Manager at Eunice. We **treasure** all you have given to the beautiful school you call your own.

Your vision and **your** ability to turn dreams into reality **automatically engraved** your name into the crown that we hold so dear. Sir, I will undoubtedly **miss** your sense of humour and the **privilege** of walking into an office where the Eunice family is always the priority.

Last year I stated that **being victorious** is

1. a mind-set –
2. an individual Code of Conduct that we wish to **ascribe** to in our quest for success.

Sir, you have **proven** that

- personal success and
- professional longevity are **choices** and that we
- do indeed **conquer** through faith and the drive to ...*conquer ourselves*.

It is a privilege to have you here tonight and to **solute** both you and Mrs Dale as honorary members of our family and community.

Ladies and gentlemen, Oprah Winfrey said that

1. the more you **praise** and **celebrate** your life,
2. the more there **is** in life to celebrate.

Share my belief in the **e** untold promises embedded in Eunice's traditions **and**

I **pray** that our daughters will **hold onto** those promises and the vision they have for themselves.

I **pray** that they will

- **continue** to confide their dreams and hopes in us
- and that God will **grant** us the wisdom to

guide them in conquering themselves.

In the words of our founding ideals:

May our daughters be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace.

I thank you.