

Island school breakfast speech (March 20th)

The world is changing in extraordinary ways. What we thought was impossible is now possible.

- We are redesigning transportation using self driving cars.
- We're growing stem cell meats that taste like the real meat.
- If you have something to say you can upload your voice to reach hundreds of millions of people at the push of a button.

The world is a crazy place. It's also place full of opportunities to do a lot of good things.

- Creating a more green and sustainable future.
- Finding a cure to cancer.
- Using the internet to level the playing field.

These are big projects that we can solve in the next 10 years.

- But they require the ability to organise a lot of different people at scale
- They require breaking down of the old systems with bold ideas
- They require strong leaders who care more about making a difference than making a dollar.

It so happens that our future generations (the millennials we call them) have all of these qualities and more in spades.

And as parents, teachers and friends we have a chance to provide this generation with support and skills to succeed in this new kind of world.

I'd like to share a few of such skills I learned right here at island school.

First, I learned to have a growth mindset.

- The mindset to learn and iterate, build and fail and to pick myself back up and do it all over again.
- That is essentially the modern day product development process.
- Great companies like google, facebook use a scientific experiment based approach to product development, it's the same process that I learned in Mr. Chan's biology class.

Second, I learned to work with all kinds of people.

- We've seen the consequences when you have leaders who isolate a community, who leave a group of people behind.
- It's time we have leaders who can move everyone forwards, together.

- At Island School I was introduced to Summerbridge, a program that brought teachers from around the world with local students where we all learned to work together despite cultural and language barriers.

And finally, the confidence to go beyond myself - to reach places I never thought I could reach.

- I came into Island School an average student - I needed to take ESL classes, I lacked confidence and I stuttered when speaking in front of an audience.
- I was terrible in writing subjects like History.
- One history teacher of mine, Mr. Forse, encouraged me to keep practicing my writing.
- So in preparing for my exams I wrote essays, and I faxed them over to him late into the night.
- Minutes later, he would fax me right back with his feedback and corrections.
- I failed many times in writing those essays.
- But he kept faxing me back. So I just kept on writing.
- I was predicted to get a B in that class.
- I ended up graduating with an A*. Most importantly I graduated with the self confidence that I could go beyond myself.

Some of us here may already be busy working on our own amazing projects, for others it's yet to come. But all of us here can make a difference by supporting in whatever way we can the next generation to make their own dent in this crazy world.

- At island school it is where it all begins.