



GPCHS's valedictorian is one of only few students across Canada to win Schulich Leader Scholarships

Heide Adham, a Class of 2017 Grande Prairie Composite High School student is not just the classes valedictorian but is also one of only a few students across Canada to WIN a Schulich Leader Scholarships.

In an interview with The Daily Herald-Tribune, Heide Adham is an over achiever would be an understatement. The 18-year-old not only has high grades, but she spends a lot of her time volunteering at Odyssey House, Rotary International's Interact Club, promoting the micro-loan organization Kiva, and being a reading buddy at the Grande Prairie Public Library's summer program.

In June, Adham will participate in the Walk for Water fundraiser, which is raising money for sanitary water in Roatan.

She said when she was told she was this year's valedictorian she didn't believe it.

"I didn't believe it. I thought he was kidding. I still think I'm painfully average. It's really nice to see that hard work does pay off," she said beaming.

While she spends a lot of her time studying and volunteering, to unwind Adham paints and takes photos of her world which she posts on her website.

And while she loves art, the ambitious graduate plans on making the world we live in better as she works towards becoming a scientist.

"I'm going to go to the University of Calgary for bio-medical sciences. I just love the program...it's a lot of research, it's a lot of how our bodies work, and I love that stuff...my parents are doctors, I don't know if I want to take that route, I think it'd be really cool to do research, especially agricultural research. This makes me sound like a total hippie, but we need to save the bees and resources are (dwindling). We just need to fix it."

Adham attributes her work ethic to her parents, who worked hard to move the family from Cairo when she was 11 years old.

"It just inspired me to do everything 110%. Know your goals and know how to achieve them."

As for the advice she wants to give her peers: Just keep going even if you don't have it all figured out.

"My main idea was that people feel like we're supposed to have our lives down - we're supposed to know exactly what we're going to do, we're supposed to have everything together, but it's OK not to know what we want to do as long as we work towards our ideas and stay true to ourselves."

She said the biggest issue facing her generation is getting carried away with the little things rather than looking at the bigger picture.

"If anything is happening to me, the first thing I like to think is, 'Take a step back' and just think, 'Is this really going to matter? Is my pimple going to destroy my life?' It feels like it now but it probably won't...I think people get too caught up (in the little things). Relax."

Main article: <http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/05/22/comp-valedictorian-has-big-aspirations>

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