

The Happiest Day at Governor's School East by Taliajah "Teddy" Vann

Channel your inner Laura Sam for me once

You leave this place.

Let her kindness flow through you for all your days

And remember the way we laughed at Governor's School East.

Remember the giggles that rippled through the rows of Jones during Area II films,

The comedy of "stolen" TVs, and Alex Duval at open mic even though he wasn't quite on key.

Remember the pages full of memes, 1 and 2 and 3,

And laugh.

Laugh like a child being tickled for the first time.

Look back on the times we cried at Governor's School East.

Think back to the tears in the eyes of so many people here for those

At Mei Lei. For Darryl Hunt and The Visitor and the therapy dogs and the dead. And you and I.

And cry.

Cry like an amber sunset dipping below the horizon, then rise, again.

Reminisce about the thoughts we thought at Governor's School East.

The contemplation of social constructs and

Whether or not water was wet or if cereal was a soup or if hot dogs were sandwiches

(They aren't by the way),

But think of this, and then think some more.

Remember the intensity we felt here too.

How we flew into frenzied rages and stumbled into bouts of joy when we won and lost Smash Bros or Just Dance,

The unbreakable bonds we've formed

And know that they will *never* go away, on this,

The happiest day at Governor's School East.

We are all bonded together now,

And I am *devastated* to be letting go of each and every one of you

Because I love you in a way that I hope you love me.

But I am trying to keep from crying and do what I've asked you to do without making a scene,

And that is channel my inner Laura Sam.

I am here, just as you are, and we can all see

That there will never be another GSE quite like yours and mine.

The next communist and GSEMers and lunch groups formed after Area III could never compete with GSE 2018.

This is the end.

And I know that's sad, so I'll say one more thing and then leave you to reflect in peace.

In the words of Simple Minds from that breakfast movie on TV,

Don't you forget about me.

Don't don't don't don't.