

## **Opening Prayer WR Alumnae Service**

June 7, 2008

O God, known by many names,  
Mother, Father, Friend, Allah, Great Spirit,  
Divine Creativity, Exterior Decorator, and  
by no name at all,

Our presence here is a celebration  
of reunion with people we have known, but  
may not have seen, for many years. We  
are full with feelings: warmth, anxiety,

praise, sorrow, joy, nostalgia, and  
gratitude. We are so thankful to be  
gathered together in the spirit of a school  
for girls that lives on in our memories.

As we sing the old songs and  
remember absent friends, may the love we  
have for our old school bring us closer  
together. May we feel free to be our true  
selves with each other, to laugh, to cry, to  
be shy, to be boisterous, but always to

express the love that flows from the deepest truth in, through and around us.

Keep us in your care as a flower, still unfolding petal by petal, which will wither and fall away to be replaced by new blossoms, as our lives are renewed again and again by the challenges and joys you give us.

Help us to treat others as we would have them treat us, to be gentle in thought, word and deed. Help us to take responsibility wisely and to let others share in our work. Let us not blame others for our own shortcomings. May we do what we understand to be ours to do, in the spirit of love, always. Amen.

**Benediction**

"A student at Wykeham commit[ted] herself not just to a school - to traditions, to buildings, to mottos - and not just to excellence in education. She commit[ted] herself to people. A school is people, and one would hope loving people. Francois Mauriac [] expressed what we know to be true: *We are, all of us, molded and*

*remolded by those who have loved us, and though that love may pass, we remain none the less their work. - a work that very likely they do not recognize, and which is never exactly what they intended. No love, nor friendship can cross the path of our destiny without leaving some mark upon it forever.*

We hope those who chose Wykeham as part of their destiny will bear its mark with grace and gratitude forever. For all the things which they [came] to know in th[at] place, there is none more creative and redeeming than the love of those persons, students and staff, who made Wykeham what it was."

In that spirit, go forth in peace. Amen.