

Julia Katherine Burke

January 9, 1982 - October 30, 1998

Julia has always filled her life with activities. As a playful dancer, she was on the swim team, in Girl Scouts, played the flute through Horner Elementary and Stanley School bands and continued private lessons. She was a competitive figure skater for two years and she has been a water skier here at St. Monica for the last six years. Now she is a junior at the College Preparatory School where she did debate crew, photography for the yearbook and made many friends.

—Dana Brown, Julia's father



"The only people for me are the real ones, the ones who are loyal to you, loyal to each, and to be loyal, devotion of everything at the same time, the ones who never yell or say a condemning thing, but, hum, hum, hum like Gilbert and Sullivan and like exploring like spiders across the sun and in the middle, you see the blue moonlight pop and everybody goes 'Good!'". With all the other books and passages she shared, she always came back to Garrison's enlightening Heron's words. Julia loved the passage because it described her ideal person. There is because it describes her.

—Jennifer Greenhouse, junior at St. John's



The morning of the day she died, it became apparent that the setbacks we prepared for all these days and nights had actually been waiting so for a little over sixteen years. I saw the young people who have known her face take it up and give it life, with respect and with love. I saw that they will claim the future will, now partly for her, in her name, in her memory, each of them changed forever by the miracle of her life. In their mourning, in their healing, she hope named Julia began to live again.

—Loren Brown, mother of a classmate



Her dad her Oakland Swimmers beat to win the 1998 State and Western Championship.

thoughts on julia

Julia is the kind of kid that you could strap a parachute on and push out of an airplane over the middle of China and she'd survive. She would figure out how to open the chute on the way down and land safely. You could come back in a year and she would speak Chinese fluently, everyone in the village would be her friend.

—Tom Farrow

"Your greatest desire is belief in a system and absolute that he believed in an infinite series of states, a growing, changing web of thoughts, arrangements and parallel times. That fabric of time that appears to one another... creates all possibilities. In essence of those states, we do not exist in time, you exist but I do not; in others, I do and you do not; in others still, we both do. In this one, which has the growing band of chance has died me, you have come to my life."

—Dana Brown, quoting a passage from "The Garden of Forking Paths" by Jorge Luis Borges

As often the world like a story where nobody knows could choose herself so diligently to preparing the extra subtle evidence, writing the standard English essay, or painting the perfect box top the way Julia always did. She was confident and unapproachable. Her Julia was also a human being with a heart who confided, glibly, and talked. She was a beautiful girl who was here in love.

—Jennifer Greenhouse