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A rose has many different meanings. Red stands for love and passion, white for purity, yellow for joy, orange for desire, pink for appreciation, and there are many more. There is a carnival of roses, carnival of colors; this is the carnival of my life.

A red rose symbolizes love; I love my parents and cherish them very much. My parents met on a water ski team. I was born with a second family, the ski team. I was always on the dock around the sport. When I was six years old my mom would let me stand on top of her skis and glide across the water with her. I had the time of my life. Also, sitting on top of guys' shoulders going for a ride inspired me to learn more. My mom and dad are great water skiers and I wanted to be just like them. Show skiing is more than just skiing on two skis, there's always a new trick to learn. As I started skiing I realized this sport takes a lot of persistence, falling down and getting back up. Determination overcame me to the point where I didn't stop skiing until my legs were shaking and I could barely stand.

A yellow rose symbolizes joy; I find joy and passion through dance. Dance is another sport that has helped me grow. I have been dancing since I was six years old and now I am a captain on the Parkrose Elite Dance Team. I have accomplished so much and reached my goal to lead this amazing team. My leadership skills have improved immensely. This team is more of my family; we are very close knit and stand strong together. I have learned many life skills from being a part of this family. Dance is who I am and what I love. My dance coach has truly inspired me to be a stronger person. She has pushed me to do better and has had faith in me throughout my journey as a dancer. Determination is key.

A pink rose symbolizes appreciation and happiness. I appreciate everyone who has helped me throughout my life. The Parkrose community, my school, my parents, and most importantly my sports coaches have helped me so much. All of my coaches have taught me many things, along with life skills. I have been in the Parkrose community since I was in the

fourth grade. Still to this day, I have friends I met in the fourth grade. In fact, I met my best friend then and we are still close to this day. Being around all of the diverse, friendly people has opened my eyes to many different cultures. I love having a community so open to everyone. The acceptance is very welcoming to every race, age, gender and more. Coming to a new school knowing nobody as a young girl was very frightening. I am very thankful I have met the people I met. I know I have made some life long friends along the way. Most importantly through my experiences I have learned to be mentally tough. With a strong mind I can accomplish anything.