

September 10, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Grade 12 is certainly a special year and high school graduation is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication on the part of learners and their parents. At Sands, we are committed to supporting you throughout the year in preparing your student to successfully embark on the path of his/her choice upon leaving the doors of Sands Secondary. We are excited to help enable all of our graduates to reach their full potential and contribute their personal best to the future.

Along with the academic achievements of students come a variety of celebratory events for students who are graduating in June 2020. While these extracurricular events do come with a degree of expense, they are opportunities for students to celebrate in a safe environment and form lifelong memories with classmates. The information below is intended to provide you an overview of 2019-20 Grad Events and help you prepare for your child's Grade 12 year.

### **Expectations of Grads**

To make sure this year is memorable, enjoyable and safe, we expect our grade 12 students to be stellar citizens at Sands Secondary by being positive role models for students in grades 8 through 11. This expectation includes our grade 12 students demonstrating behavior that meets and exceeds our Student Code of Conduct (see Sands website under the Student Resources), attend classes on a regular basis and have good relations with school staff.

All Grads and parents need to be aware that all events organized and sponsored by the school must be free of alcohol and drugs. This is for the safety and well-being of our students and volunteer sponsors who give up their time to supervise these events. We must be respectful of the enormous responsibility they undertake. The school, therefore, expects that during these events our students will behave, dress appropriately and demonstrate good judgement at all times. Our expectations extend to activities that are deemed a "prank", whether in the school or not, that jeopardizes the safety, well-being, security of others and/or property and the reputation of Sands Secondary. Consequences for breaching our expectations listed above may result in denied participation in future grad events, including the Gala, the Grad Dinner & Dance and/or Valedictory.

In the past, members of Sands's Grad classes have planned their own unsanctioned "Grad Activities". These events are student planned, unsupervised and often interfere with learning because of missed class time. The school DOES NOT support these activities that could include Grad Class Ski/Snowboarding, Grad Class Camping in the Spring, "S-Trip" events (Big White, Mexico, etc.), Grad Skip Day and others.

## **Grad Boat Cruise**

The Grad Boat Cruise will take place on September 26, 2019. It is a semi-formal event. The 3-hour cruise will depart from the Plaza of Nations. Dinner will be served on board. Bus transportation to and from downtown Vancouver will be included in the price. Tickets will go on sale for an early-bird price of \$85 on Friday, September 13th. From Monday, September 16 – Thursday, September 19, ticket prices will increase to \$90. Cheques will be accepted and can be made payable to Sands Secondary School. Any outstanding student fees must be resolved prior to purchasing a ticket. Students may purchase tickets at lunchtime in the front foyer of the school.

## **Winter Gala**

The Winter Gala is an event open to Grade 11 and 12 students. It features a dinner followed by dancing. Gala takes place at the school during early December. In the past, tickets to Gala will cost approximately \$65.

## **'Grad'**

The day of 'grad' is composed of three separate events: Red Carpet Walk, Grad Banquet and Dry Grad. All three events take place on May 22, 2020 with the Red Carpet Walk beginning at 3pm.

- **Red Carpet Walk**

Grads will have the opportunity to participate in the Red Carpet Walk. This event takes place at the front of the school and is open to the community. Friends and family of grads are encouraged to attend. This is a free event for grads and spectators.

- **Grad Banquet**

The Grad Banquet follows the Red Carpet event. The banquet will be held at Quilchena Golf and Country Club in Richmond. This formal event includes a buffet dinner followed by dancing. Tickets to the Grad Banquet will cost approximately \$100.

- **Dry Grad**

Following the Grad Banquet, Dry Grad takes place at the North Delta Recreation Centre. This is a joint event organized by Grade 11 and 12 parents of students from Sands, Burnsvew, North Delta and Delview. Dry Grad begins at 11:30pm. Grads dress casually for this event that continues until 5am. Tickets to Dry Grad cost approximately \$55.

- **Transportation**

On the day of Red Carpet, the Grad Banquet and Dry Grad, grads will be bussed from the Grad Banquet to Dry Grad. Bussing to Dry Grad will be mandatory and there will be no charge. Optional bus transportation from the school to the Grad Banquet will also be available. A small fee or deposit may be charged for this service.

Please note that grads are responsible for arranging their own transportation to the school for the Red Carpet event.

## **Valedictory**

The Valedictory Ceremony will take place on June 24, 2020 in the North Delta Secondary Auditorium. Grads will wear a grad cap and gown for this event. The cost of the cap and gown is included within the grad fee assessed at the beginning of the school year. Valedictory is free of charge to both grads and spectators. Each grad will be provided two tickets to the event. A request form for additional tickets will be circulated closer to the date of the event.

### **Financial Need**

While the expectation is that grads will be dressed in formal attire for the Red Carpet and Grad Banquet, we recognize that this comes with a significant financial cost to families. The school will do its best to support families in need of assistance and ask that grads speak to a counsellor early in the school year about their situation.

### **Graduation Fee**

Each graduating student will be assessed a Graduation Fee at the beginning of the school year. This fee is used to pay for the grad cap and gown, and expenses related to the Red Carpet event, Grad Banquet and Valedictory Ceremony. The graduation charge is \$45.

As always, the staff at Sand Secondary is here to support you and your child to create a positive and successful graduation year. Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mr. M. Robinson  
Principal