

SANDS SECONDARY “Creating Our Future Today”

10840 – 82 Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 2B3 Tel: (604) 594-3474 Fax: (604) 594-1145 www.deltasd.bc.ca

Grad Letter – April 2021

Grads and families as the end of the year approaches, I wanted to provide you with some information on things that are being planned. COVID continues to limit the type of events that can happen. I certainly recognize and feel bad that our Sands community cannot celebrate in ways that we have in the past. Safety for our Grads, families and staff are paramount. COVID-19 and its variants have further placed restrictions on what Sands can do to recognize the milestone of graduation. A reminder that the Provincial Health Officer and Fraser Health set all the restrictions and protocols that schools MUST adhere to.

Delta’s secondary school principals have been meeting and planning so that if restrictions change and things open up, we have plans that will allow us to incorporate some additional activities. Based on the feedback we got from the 2020 Grads and their families, the Grads BC event was a success and they really enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate. I recognize that some families and friends might organize their own celebrations and these are not sanctioned by the school or the school district. As parents and students please be aware of what are sanctioned and non-sanctioned events.

There are several deadlines contained in the information below. Please note them.

Grad Fee

This \$45 fee is assessed to all grads. This year, the fee will cover the cost of the cap and gown and will help cover the cost of the Grads BC event. If you have not paid your Grad Fee, please pay asap. In the past, this Grad Fee was used to cover the cost of the cap and gown, supplemented the grad banquet cost and covered the cost of the snacks at the red carpet event.

Valedictory nominations, speeches and voting - <https://forms.gle/3Sr3T1cx9quQDCgf7>

Please go to the link and fill out the form if you would like to be considered as a nominee to become the Valedictorian of the Sands 2021 Grad Class. There are some criteria, and you will see these on the form. Due date is **May 5 at 3pm**. If you are planning on applying with another person, please put in both last names and first names in the appropriate boxes.

- May 5: Nomination forms accepted on Google Form until 3pm. Late applications will not be accepted.
- May 10-11: Potential nominees will have an interview with the Principal, to discuss why they want to become Valedictorian and present their ideas for a 2-3 minute video speech that would be presented to staff and students. Not all students will move to the next stage.
- May 17: Students and Staff are invited to a Zoom meeting to watch 2-3 minute video speeches by the nominees on “what would being valedictorian mean to me?”
- May 18: Valedictorian voting will take place via Google form.
- May 20: Winner announced
- June 6: Speech is videotaped for the Grads BC event

Walk Across the Stage speeches - <https://forms.gle/C6iNN9qmVNrsMXJCA>

The Walk Across the Stage speech is something that each Grad writes for themselves. This must be submitted to Google form by **May 12**. Ms. McPhedran and Mr Lucas will be reading your speeches as you cross the stage. Please follow the guidelines below:

Write-up Format: Limited to 40 words or less

Content: Write-Ups should/may include "thank you's" and/or a brief plan for the following year.

NOTE: Write-Ups will be reviewed by staff to ensure that they are appropriate to display to all members of our Sands community

Any Grad that does not submit a commencement write-up may have a generic write up presented for them.

Scholarships

School and District Scholarships application deadline is coming soon. Ms. Sansregret has emailed information to all Grads to their @deltalearns email. The deadlines are hard ones – **April 27, 2021**.

Grads BC – June 6 at North Delta Secondary Theatre

The final plan and details will be dependent upon the PHO rules at the time. The times for the event will likely be between 11am - 5pm on Sunday, June 6. As we move closer to the date, we will provide more information. The event is being run by GradsBC (<https://gradsbc.com/>). They will pre-capture the graduation moments on video.

The following will be included:

- Commencement and valedictory speech
- Grads wearing their cap and gowns and walking across the stage to receive their graduation certificate.
- Indoor short red carpet
- Formal wear photograph

As we plan this event, we think it will be similar to what we did last year for the Grad Celebration of 2020. To have a look at last year's event, please follow the link below.

Grad 2020 Virtual Grad Event

Visit Link: <https://gradsbc.com/videos/sands-secondary/>

Your unique password is: sandsgrad2020

Grad Gowns and Caps

These are being ordered this week and should arrive towards the end of May. These are for Grads to keep and are part of the \$45 Grad fee that has been assessed.

We are striving to honour and celebrate our Grads for their amazing accomplishments during 13 years of school. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Mark Robinson
Principal
mrobinson@deltaschools.ca