

September 27, 2021

GRAD NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

I hope that you will have a successful year and that this year's graduation activities will provide you with happy memories. This newsletter is an attempt to answer questions often asked. Please hold onto it for future reference. **What we can do this year will, of course, be affected by Covid-19 safety protocols. All the comments about our traditional events and activities are subject to change.**

If you wish to attend a meeting on **Wednesday October 6**, on Microsoft Teams, make sure you discuss this with your grad. Students have been asked to sign up for the session with Ms. Angel and Mr. Dosanjh. The focus of the meeting will be scholarships.

CONTACT GROUP

The list for **MAIL, E-MAIL, and TELEPHONE contact** (used by the School, Grad Committee, and the Parent Committee) includes students expected to complete graduation requirements by June as well as "12R" students who are currently "short" by one course. Students "short" by two or more courses are reclassified as Grade 11.

Students who have been Caledonia students until this year and are registered at Northwest Trades and Employment Training Centre to complete their graduation requirements are also potential participants in the Caledonia Graduation Ceremony and potential recipients of Caledonia Scholarships.

GRADE 12 STUDENTS WITH THEIR CREDITS IN ORDER ARE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY.

Grade 12 students not eligible to attend the Ceremony are welcome to participate in the other Grad activities. Students and parents are encouraged to stay aware of the student's grad status and to talk to the student's assigned counsellor if there are questions (A-K—Ms. Mulder; L-Z and School Completion students—Ms. Chant).

Enclosed are a Grad **RESPONSE** form and a Prom-and-Dry-Grad form. **Please fill in the needed information and return the forms AT THE SAME TIME that you pay your fees (Ceremony fee: \$100; Dry-Grad fee: \$40) in the Office.** The response forms will be dated and numbered upon their return: the date of return and the order of return will determine the priority and potential for extra ceremony tickets. If you fail to return the forms and pay the fees by Thursday April 14, you are indicating you do not wish to attend the Ceremony, and Ceremony tickets will not be held for you. (Please see the note—later in this newsletter—about financial difficulty.) I will post (on the bulletin board in the main hallway) a spreadsheet on which I will indicate the students who have completed their grad response package.

GRAD COMMITTEE

The first meeting for students interested in serving on the **GRAD COMMITTEE** happened this week in the Lecture Theatre. Ms. Mulder is sponsoring Grad Committee this year.

This committee is a voluntary, extra-curricular opportunity for students to provide service and leadership. Qualification as a member is based on attendance of meetings and by completion of other tasks. Our election of a chairperson is to take place in October. Thanks in advance to participating students. Thanks also to the other individuals supporting graduation activities.

MAIN EVENTS

There are three traditional **CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES** organized for Caledonia's graduates: a Prom, which consists of a banquet and dance; a Ceremony; and immediately after the Ceremony, a Dry-Grad Party. The Prom is usually held on the Saturday before the Grad Ceremony; it is organized by parents. The Ceremony and Dry-Grad Party are tentatively scheduled for Friday June 24 (with the Dry-Grad ending very early on the morning of Saturday June 25). The Dry-Grad Party is also organized by parents.

PARENT COMMITTEE

When we receive word about a meeting for parents/guardians interested in being on the Parent Committee (the group which organizes Prom and the Dry-Grad Party), we will mention the meeting information in an e-mail message. The Parent Committee will then take responsibility for further contact with you about Prom and Dry-Grad.

CEREMONY

With staff support, a **RECEPTION** in the Gym from 6:30 to 7:30 on Friday June 24 will precede the Ceremony. It is open to family and friends of the graduates. When the Reception ends, people who have tickets to the Ceremony move to the R. E. M. Lee Theatre to find their assigned seats. Last June, we made the decision to live-stream our ceremony, as we were not permitted to have an audience in the REM Lee theatre. This proved to be quite popular with many families, as many friends and relatives from across the province and country were able to watch the ceremony as it happened. Regardless of whether we are permitted to have an audience in the theatre this year, we are committing to live stream for those unable to attend should we be allowed to have an audience.

Caledonia students attend one Graduation Ceremony—the year in which they are expected to complete their graduation requirements. Students who wish to participate in the Graduation Ceremony must meet the deadline for **ELIGIBILITY**. In March, we plan to issue updates about individual students' grad status. On April 14, when the grad list is confirmed, all participants have to hold "graduating status"—that is, enough courses completed or in progress. Students should see their counsellors if necessary to check on credits or to discuss registration in a Distance Learning course.

Students who come off the Grad List in April will be placed in **GRAD STATUS REVIEW**. The student will need to have completed the response package (two forms and two fees) by April 14. The student will forfeit the right to have the Ceremony portion of the fee refunded if the student remains ineligible.

It is traditional for Caledonia grads to wear blue **GOWNS** (and, if they wish, the matching caps--that is, mortar boards) for the Ceremony. Based on the information on the response form, I will be ordering a grad gown and cap for each grad; the cost is covered by the grad fee. Please indicate your height so that you receive the right length of gown. If you don't know your height, please see me in the Office. First Nations students who prefer to wear their own formal regalia are asked to indicate that preference to the office by April 8.

The Ceremony is held in the R. E. M. Lee Theatre. The grads are seated on the stage so they are not included in your count of desired tickets. Each grad attending the Ceremony is issued tickets with assigned **SEATING** for guests. If our number of grads remains consistent, each Grade 12 who meets eligibility in mid-April is guaranteed four Ceremony tickets for guests, and each Grad Status Review student is guaranteed three tickets if he/she returns to the list of participants. On the response form, you may indicate your "ideal number of seats for guests", but your request is not a guarantee that you will receive more than the basic three or four; the size of the grad class affects how many tickets are available for individual grads' guests. If your Ceremony guests include an individual with **SPECIAL SEATING NEEDS** (for example, someone using a wheelchair, or someone who has difficulty with stairs), please note that on your response form or contact me by e-mail no later than April 14. If your seating needs change during the year, please inform me so your request can be kept accurate. We will be working on the seat assignment in the spring. The assignment of seats will not be confirmed until mid-May when the list of grads participating in the

You will receive your **OFFICIAL DOGWOOD** Graduation Certificate from the Ministry of Education in the summer; the legal form of your name will be used on those documents. You will create a BCeID account to order a free copy of your **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT** of marks and any additional copies you want to purchase from the Student Transcripts Service.

The **DIPLOMA** presented to you on stage at the Ceremony is not an official document. Please indicate on the response form how you want your **NAME** to appear. If we do not receive your response form before we have to place the order, we will use the name format that is usual at the school.

LifeTouch is doing the Grad **PORTRAITS** again this year. At this time, the dates of the grad photo sessions are not confirmed with LifeTouch. Photo sessions will be outside of class time in the lecture theatre upstairs (entry of the school through the front door off the staff parking lot, near Portable 23). Grade 12 students will book their own appointments online at <https://schedule.prestigeportraits.ca> (BC, Terrace, Caledonia). There will be a **\$20 SITTING FEE** for a “Full Prestige” sitting, which includes a minimum of fifteen poses and one “friends” pose. Whether or not you plan to **ORDER** portraits, please have your photo taken so that it can be included in the yearbook and the large hallway composite as well as being shared with the *Terrace Standard*; there is no sitting fee for the “Yearbook Pose” sitting (that is, if you have no intention of ordering photos from LifeTouch). If ordering photo packages, you might want to include a 5” x 7” photo for insertion into the diploma booklet distributed at the Ceremony. Ordering of portrait packages involves dealing directly with LifeTouch. **RETAKES** will be scheduled for some time after Christmas. LifeTouch will be preparing the large composite of grad names and photos; the composites are hung in the school hallway. The *Terrace Standard* also likes to publish grad names and photos. If you don’t want **PUBLICATION** of the grad’s name and photo in the newspaper, please contact the school office by April 14.

It is possible for students to **BORROW GRAD ATTIRE** from the Office in order to have other photos taken during the year.

FEES

We collect a **CEREMONY FEE** to cover basic expenses. That fee is **\$100**; it will increase to \$110 on Monday March 7. As mentioned earlier, failure to submit the response form and pay the Ceremony fee by April 14 means you do not wish to attend the Ceremony, and tickets reserved for you will be allocated to other students. The Ceremony fee covers the diploma and cover, rental of gown and stole, cap and tassel, souvenirs, and a share of the other expenses (for example, printing and reception refreshments).

For **PAYMENT OF FEES**, Grade 12’s may use cash, cheque (payable to “Caledonia Secondary School”), or debit machine in the Office. The last day to pay the Grad Fee without incurring a **\$10 PENALTY** is Friday February 25. The last day to pay the Grad Fee (with the penalty) in order to attend the ceremony is Friday April 14. Grads who pay the fee and then decide not to participate in the Ceremony may receive a refund until April 14. Non-grads may receive a refund at any time. Please note that the Ceremony fee is not considered paid if the student has other outstanding bills at the school—for example, library fines or lost textbook charges.

Students not planning to pay the Grad Fee because they do not plan to participate in the Ceremony may wish to pay a **PARTIAL FEE** in order to receive some grad items (such as the diploma booklet and the souvenirs). If so, or if the fee is a **PROBLEM** for your family, please speak privately to me as soon as possible.

The Parent Committee collects a **\$40 DRY-GRAD FEE**. As mentioned earlier, our Office will be collecting the two fees and the two forms all at the same time. If you do not want to participate in the Dry-Grad, you will complete a “Declining Dry-Grad” form (available in the Office); if you change your mind later and wish to attend, you will pay the \$40 Dry-Grad fee plus a \$20 handling fee.

The Ceremony Fee and the Dry-Grad Fee do not cover the grad or any guest for the Prom. **PROM**

TICKETS will be sold separately in the spring. The Parent Committee will provide more information.

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FUND-RAISING

Grad Committee's fund-raising activity each year is the **PURDY'S** Chocolates-for-Christmas campaign. Mrs. Mulder is organizing the Purdy's fundraiser this year with the grad committee. Proceeds from the Purdy's campaign will support the granting of scholarships and the cost of school-sponsored grad activities not covered by the grad fee. More information on the Purdy's chocolate orders will be going out to grads in the near future.

The three students with the top Purdy's Chocolates sales by the deadline given will receive a **REFUND** of the \$100 Ceremony fee (or be excused from paying it).

Please contact Ms. Mulder or me if you have questions regarding Graduation

Yours truly,

Keith Axelson
Principal

GRAD RESPONSE

Do you plan on attending this year's graduation ceremony? YES _____ NO _____

If you do **NOT** plan to attend the ceremony, please submit this Grad Response by **December 17**.

If you plan to attend, please submit all four of the following at the same time and no later than April 14, 2022:

- This grad response form
- Dry Grad Form (If there is going to be a dry grad)
- Ceremony Fee (\$100 ***\$110 if submitted after March 7**)
- Dry Grad Fee (\$40) *** If COVID-19 does not permit a dry grad, this fee will be refunded**

NAME TO APPEAR ON DIPLOMA _____

(Please print clearly to show upper-case and lower-case letters as well as spacing)

T-SHIRT SIZE: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____

HEIGHT: _____ feet _____ inches **OR** _____ centimeters

(Check your height in Mrs. Chant's office in the counselling centre)

NUMBER OF **SEAT/S** DESIRED IN THE REM LEE THEATRE FOR GUESTS

What is your **ideal number** of ceremony seats for guests? _____

The minimum number of ceremony seats you hope to have for guests:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

(Do not include the graduate in this number)

Indicate if your guests include someone who _____ uses a wheelchair
_____ uses a walker
_____ has trouble with stairs

