

September 27, 2022

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.

If you wish to attend a scholarship information meeting on **Thursday, September 29th**, 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. .

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. Shinde; L-Z and School Completion students—Ms. Chant).

Enclosed are a Grad **RESPONSE** form, a Prom-and-Dry-Grad form, and a form to decline participation in the Dry-Grad event. Please fill in the needed information and return the forms **AT THE SAME TIME** that you pay your fees (Ceremony fee: \$110; Dry-Grad fee: \$40) in the Office. **If your child plans to attend the Dry-Grad event, they only need to return the Dry-Grad consent form. If they do not wish to attend Dry-Grad, they need to return the form declining Dry-Grad.** 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 Friday 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** will be happening on September 28th. Ms. Shinde and Ms. Braid are 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 tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 17th, and is organized and run by parent volunteers. The Grad Ceremony and Dry-Grad Party are tentatively scheduled for Friday June 23 (with the Dry-Grad ending very early on the morning of Saturday June 24). The Dry-Grad Party is also organized and run by parents.

PARENT COMMITTEE

There are traditionally two parent committees that look after arrangements for the Prom and Dry Grad event. The first meeting for parents interested in being part of these committees was held on September 22nd, but volunteer parents are welcome to join either committee at any time. Information will be emailed home regarding a schedule for upcoming meetings for both committees once they have been formed.

CEREMONY

With staff support, a **RECEPTION** in the Gym from 5:30 – 6:30 on Friday June 23 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. The ceremony is scheduled to begin with a processional of graduates at 7:00 pm. We will be live streaming the ceremony again on Youtube this year for family and friends unable to attend the ceremony in person.

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 Mrs. Chant in the Counselling Centre. First Nations students who prefer to wear their own traditional regalia are encouraged to do so, and are asked to indicate that preference to the office by April 8 so that a gown is not ordered.

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 ceremony is confirmed.

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. **Lifetouch will be at Caledonia from November 28th – December 9th**. 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.prestigeporraits.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** of grad photos are scheduled for March 6 – 8, 2023. 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 important to note that Lifetouch does not allow for external photos to be uploaded into the composite photo, so if your grad wants to be included in the composite, they must complete a sitting with Lifetouch.**

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 **\$110**; it will increase to **\$120** on Monday March 6, so it is advisable to return fees and forms as soon as possible. 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 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.

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.

FUND-RAISING

Grad Committee's fund-raising activity each year is the **PURDY'S** Chocolates-for-Christmas campaign. Mrs. Shinde and Ms. Braid are 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 \$110 Ceremony fee (or be excused from paying it).

Please contact Mrs. Shinde, Ms. Braid, 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 (110.00)
- Dry Grad Fee (\$40)

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 SEATS 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

