



September 10, 2025

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The purpose of this newsletter is to share information with you, so you and your grad are aware of what is happening in their final year at Caledonia.

When is graduation?

The **GRADUATION CEREMONY** is scheduled for June 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the R.E.M. Lee theatre. Dual credit students and students who have met the requirements for their diploma will be able to walk across the stage and receive their diploma. The ceremony will be streamed on YouTube for family members and friends unable to attend the ceremony.

With Caledonia staff support, a **GRADUATION RECEPTION** will take place in our gym on June 19, 2026 from 5:30 PM – 6:30PM. The reception is open to family members and friends.

Who gets to graduate?

Throughout the school year students may request an update from their school counsellor (Ms. Shinde or Ms. Chant) to confirm they are on track to graduate. Students must have completed or be in progress of completing their requirements for graduation to be eligible to graduate. If a student has not completed 50% of a required online course by April 10, 2026 (end of Term 3), then the student will be placed on graduation probation, and will have until May 15, 2026 to meet the 50% threshold and be able to participate in the ceremony on June 19th.

What are the fees for Graduates?

There are two fees to be paid, a ceremony fee and a dry grad fee. These two fees can be paid in the main office using cash, debit machine, or cheque (payable to Caledonia Secondary School).

The **CEREMONY FEE is \$120** if paid before February 27, 2026, and covers the basic expenses associated with the graduation celebration (diploma and cover, souvenirs, reception, grad cap, gown and stole rental). After February 27, 2026, the grad fees will increase to \$130.00 plus the dry grad fee of \$40.00 for a total of \$170.00. The last day to pay the CEREMONY FEE to attend the graduation ceremony is April 10, 2026 (end of Term 3).

The **DRY-GRAD FEE is \$40** and covers all the expenses associated with the parent run dry grad celebration event that happens after the graduation ceremony.

Students not planning on participating in the graduation ceremony may pay a PARTIAL FEE to receive some of the grad items such as the diploma booklet and souvenirs. If the two fee payments are a problem for any graduate, they can speak to me to make arrangements for assistance.

What do Graduates wear to the graduation ceremony?

Caledonia graduates usually wear blue gowns with white stoles and blue caps. These items will be pre-ordered based on information each graduate provides. Any student may decide to wear traditional cultural clothing instead of the blue gown.

How many guests can attend the graduation ceremony at the R.E.M. Lee theatre?

The size of the Class of 2026 determines the number of tickets each graduate can receive for the ceremony. Each graduate indicates on their grad response form how many tickets they would like for the ceremony. Typically, we are able to guarantee each grad 3 tickets, depending on the size of the grad class. **It is highly unlikely that any grad will be granted more than 5 tickets to the ceremony.** **Additional tickets are assigned to grads based on how early they return their grad forms and fees. The earlier grads submit these forms and fees, the more likely that they will receive additional tickets if they are available. Forms and fees need to be submitted at the same time.** If a guest has special mobility needs such as a wheelchair or walker or difficulty with stairs please indicate this on the grad response form.

What happens after the graduation ceremony?

There will be a **DRY GRAD** celebration following the graduation ceremony on June 19, 2026. This event is organized and sponsored by a group of parent volunteers for the class of 2026 graduates. Graduates must submit to the main office a consent form along with the DRY GRAD FEE (\$40). Once a dry grad committee has been formed, I will share contact information with the dry grad chair with parents if there are questions about dry grad, or if you are willing to help out and be a part of the dry grad committee that organizes the event.

What is Prom? When is Prom?

Prom is a parent run event with its own committee of parent volunteers. Tickets to the Prom will be sold in the spring. Like dry grad, once a prom committee is formed, I will share contact information if you have questions or would be interested in helping with this committee. The Prom event is usually scheduled the Saturday before the grad ceremony at the Terrace Sportsplex (time to be determined).

When are grad portraits taken?

This year Mountain West Photography will be taking individual photos of graduates at Caledonia in the Caledonia Lecture theatre located upstairs outside of class times from November 3rd - 14th. Retakes will be on December 4th and 5th. Information for booking seating times for grad photos Will be shared soon. Students may enter the building through the side door of the staff parking lot near portable #23. It is possible for students to arrange their own photographer and borrow graduation clothing from the main office for a **RENTAL FEE of \$50** and a refundable **DAMAGE DEPOSIT FEE of \$100**. **Be advised that if you do not book a sitting with Mountainwest Studios, your grad's picture will not appear in the composite photo, as they do not accept external photo files when making the composite.**

Does fundraising happen for the Class of 2024?

Yes. The Grad Committee's fundraising activity this year will be selling Purdy's Chocolates for Christmas. Proceeds from the Purdy's sales will support grade 12 Caledonia scholarships and the cost of school sponsored activities for the graduates not connected to the CEREMONY FEE / DRY GRAD FEE. The top three students with Purdy's sales will be exempt from paying their CEREMONY FEE (\$120 value).

What is the Grad Committee?

The **GRAD COMMITTEE** is an extra-curricular group of grade 12 students who organize activities throughout the school year specifically for the Class of 2026 graduates with planning assistance from Caledonia staff sponsors Ms. Braid and Ms. Shinde. This committee meets on an ongoing basis.

CALEDONIA GRAD RESPONSE FORM

1. Do you plan on attending this year's graduation ceremony on June 19th, 2026 at 7PM in the R.E.M. Lee theatre?

_____ YES I will be attending the ceremony _____ NO I will NOT be attending

2. Please indicate below the name that you want to appear on your diploma.
Print clearly to show upper-case and lower-case letters as well as spacing.

3. Indicate your height below (Check your height in Ms. Chant's office located in the counselling centre.

My Height = _____ feet and _____ inches

4. Indicate your T-shirt size for the Class of 2026 shirt. **Circle** one of the sizes listed below.

Small Medium Large X Large XX Large XXX Large

5. Each graduate will be given at least 3 tickets for the graduation ceremony. What is your ideal number of graduation ceremony tickets you hope to offer family/friends?

_____ tickets

If there are any tickets returned, Ms. Chant will have them available on a first come first serve basis during the grad reception held in the gym on June 19, 2026 prior to the ceremony.

6. Please indicate below if your guests include someone who has mobility issues.

_____ guests use a wheelchair _____ guests use a walker

_____ guests have trouble with stairs

Please return this completed form with your GRAD FEE (\$120) and DRY GRAD FEE (\$40) to the Caledonia main office by April 10, 2026 or sooner

CALEDONIA DRY GRAD CONSENT FORM

Does your grad plan on attending the dry grad celebration on June 19, 2026?

Yes _____

No _____

If you answered yes to the above question, please fill out the rest of this form before returning to the school.

I give permission for _____
Print Name of Graduate

To participate in the Dry Grad celebration on June 19, 2026 at the Terrace Sportsplex directly after the graduation ceremony.

I understand that the Dry Grad celebration will be carried out under the supervision of parents involved with the Dry Grad Parent Committee.

I hereby accept responsibility for the conduct of _____
Print Name of Graduate

I agree to indemnify and hold the organizing committee and its volunteers harmless from any and all liability for any injury that arises from participating in any part of the Dry Grad celebration and its activities.

Full Legal Name of Graduate

Date of Birth of Graduate

Printed Name of Parent / Guardian

Telephone Number of Parent / Guardian

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date of Signature

Printed Name of Alternate Contact

Telephone Number of Alternate Contact