



Grad 2010

- Parent Handbook -

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CONTENTS

Contents.....	2
Commencement 2010.....	3
Grand March.....	4
Safe Grad and Dry Grad.....	4
Grad Fees.....	4
Grad Executive.....	5
Promotions.....	5
Grad Bulletin board.....	5
Calendar of Events.....	6

COMMENCEMENT 2010

Commencement 2010

Commencement 2010 is a ceremony held on Friday, May 28, 2010 to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the students who will be graduating from the school. [A list of students who are eligible to graduate will be posted throughout the school during the year]. The students will assemble at the Canada Games Arena at 6:30 p.m. wearing their Grad gowns and caps. Parents, family and guests will be seated in the seats around the ice surface before 7:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. the Grads will parade into the arena and be seated in chairs on the ice surface (the ice will be removed).

There will be various speeches, including a guest speaker and the valedictorian. The students will then line up and cross the stage one at a time and will receive a certificate from the principal. The program should take about 2 hours. As they receive their certificate, a picture will be taken by a professional photographer who will ensure that each grad will have a quality photo taken of this important moment. Each student will receive a copy of their picture about a week later. The cost of the picture is included in the Grad fees.

Students will receive four **announcement cards** they can give to family and friends to invite them to Commencement. These should be available by March and can be sent to relatives as an invitation (or kept as a keepsake). Parents and guests do not need invitations or tickets to attend the Commencement ceremonies or the Grand March. Each grad can bring as many family members or guests as they wish.

Students are **eligible to** participate in the Commencement Ceremonies if they have 70 credits as of September 1, 2009. Those students who do not have 70 credits but are in grade 12 and feel they should be on the list must sign a contract with Mrs. Baird in Student Services by November 13, 2009. The list of eligible students will be posted in the school by November 30, 2009 and students must check the list to ensure their name is listed if they feel they are eligible to graduate.

Students at the Comp wear a black Grad **Gown and Cap** to the Commencement ceremonies. These are rented [the cost is included in the Grad fees] and students are measured for the proper length of a gown during the school year. The gowns must be returned on May 28, 2010 at the arena after the ceremonies are concluded, so we recommend that students take pictures with their families before the ceremonies begin. Students are not permitted to leave the facility on May 28, 2010 with the gown after the Commencement ceremonies. The students may keep the cap and tassel as a souvenir.

Honour Cords will be distributed with the caps and gowns on May 28, 2010. **A student must have an average of 80% in their top 25 Grade 12 Credits** (excluding work experience) to receive an honour cord. Mark calculations are based on **Semester 1 final** blended marks, and the **April 22, 2010** report card marks – it is not based on what is in Student's Achieve the day before grad! The Honour Cord List will be posted by the end of April, and it is the student's responsibility to make sure that their name is on the list. Any questions regarding the list should be directed to Mrs. Baird in Student Services.

COMMENCEMENT 2010

Grand March

The **Grand March** will be at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday May 29, 2010. Students wear dresses or suits for this part of the day. The students assemble at the Canada Games Arena by 6:30 p.m. As their name is announced the Grads cross the stage and pause for a moment. Professional photographers will be available to take pictures before and after the Grand March. There will also be an area for families to take their own pictures.

The Grand March is a great time to get together with family and friends and have fun. Students do not have to purchase an expensive gown or rent a tuxedo – it is the time together that is important. Some grads have not attended the Grand March in the past because they did not have an escort. To ease the pressure on students at this time, the staff advisors will group grads who choose not to have escorts in “twos” or “threes” for the purpose of the introduction at the Grand March if they wish us to do this. These students may speak to Mrs. Ludkin or Mrs. Baird about this at any time during the year (requests can be kept confidential). Graduating from high school only happens once in your life, and we want everyone to be part of the celebrations and to feel comfortable.

A **dance** and time for pictures will follow the Grand March. This is when the Grad Song (voted on by students during the year) is one of the songs played. Family and friends are welcome. At 9:00 the grads will move to the Bowes Family Crystal Gardens to enjoy a more intimate dance with their friends.

Safe Grad and Dry Grad

Safe Grad and **Dry Grad** are optional activities held after the **Grand March evening is concluded**. Both events are organized and controlled by the parent committee and are held on the evening of Grand March. The school does not participate in organizing either the Safe Grad or Dry Grad. There is a charge for attending either activity. All Safe Grad and Dry Grad details are determined by the Parent Committee.

Grad Fees

The **Grad Fees** are a charge assessed to each student who participates in the Commencement ceremonies to offset the costs involved. These include the arena rental and decorating, Grad photos and a class composite photo, Grad gown rental and Grad diploma, etc. A detailed budget is available for every student and parent and will be distributed at the parent meeting on November 3, 2009.

Grad fees are:

\$150 per student if paid before January 30, 2010

\$175 per student paid after this date.

COMMENCEMENT 2010

Grad Executive

The **Grad Executive** is a group of 3 students who were elected in April, 2009 by their fellow students. They organize and coordinate all aspects of the Commencement ceremonies in conjunction with other interested students and some staff members, called Grad Advisors. Grad Information contact is Mrs. Cynthia Ludkin at ex 1157

Parent Committees

The **Parent Committees** are groups of parents who volunteer to coordinate all activities that take place after the Commencement Ceremony. This would include the decorations, Safe Grad and Dry Grad. It is important that there are enough parent volunteers to make the activities successful. The Parent Committees will have an organizational meetings in the school cafeteria on individual set dates.

Parents have also helped supervise the decorating and taking down of decorations at the arena. We appreciate the parental involvement and assistance with all aspects of Grad. Help from the parents is vital for us to ensure the decorations are taken down promptly and safely after the dance.

Promotions

During the year, various **promotional items** will be on sale for the students. Most will have the Grad logo and year on them. Some ideas are mugs, t-shirts and sweatshirts, key chains, etc. Items will only be ordered if sufficient students choose to buy them. Students must check the Grad Bulletin board for information. Contact staff for this is Alison Emond.

Grad Bulletin Board

The Grad executive maintains a **Grad Bulletin Board** that has all of the information regarding Commencement ceremonies and all other activities. This is located at the end of the English hallway [also known as the grade 12 hallway]. The students must make themselves aware of information that is important to them.

COMMENCEMENT 2010

Calendar of Events

- September/October – Jostens will be in the school taking orders for grad rings
- October 19th – students vote on the Grad Theme in homeroom
- November 2nd – students vote on the Grad Logo in homeroom
- November 3rd - **Grad Parent Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.
- November 17th-26th – Lifetouch will be at the school taking grad photos; all students who have grad photos taken will be given a composite photo of their class at no extra charge (part of their grad fees)
- April 7th – students vote on the Grad Song in homeroom.
- April 9th – Grad luncheon? (funding is in question at this point)
- **May 28th at 1:00 p.m. - Rehearsal** of Commencement Ceremonies for all
 - students at the Canada Games Arena. This rehearsal is **mandatory**. Grad gowns and caps are distributed after the rehearsal and students keep them until after the Commencement Ceremonies. Please bring a wire hanger.

May 28th and 29th, 2010 - COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

- Friday, May 28th
 - students should arrive at the Canada Games Arena by 6:30 p.m. with their Grad gown and cap. Ceremonies begin at 7:00 p.m.
 - Gown and stole must be returned at the arena immediately after the ceremonies. Grads keep the caps and tassels.
- Saturday, May 29th
 - Students should arrive at the Canada Games Arena by 6:30 p.m. to line up for the Grand March. Grand March begins at 7:00 p.m.