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# HIGHLAND GRAD NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

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## Hey Parents, Are You Ready?

The Highland Graduation Ceremony is Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> and if you are one of those parents who's child comes home, with all the right information and is happy to share it with you, without any prompting, then congratulations. You probably already know everything you need to know and this newsletter is irrelevant. However, if your child is a great keeper of secrets, particularly ones related to school, please read on.



“Success is often the result of taking a misstep in the right direction.”

- AL BERNSTEIN

## Graduation Day Schedule

**Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

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|------------|---|
| 3:00 p.m.  | Grad Car Cruise   |
| 5:30 p.m.  | All grads required on site at the Filberg Lodge         |
| 6:00 p.m.  | Commencement ceremony begins                            |
| 8:00 p.m.  | Ceremony ends; Reception begins                         |
| 8:45 p.m.  | Minuet on the lower lawns                               |
| 9:15 p.m.  | Grad bus to Highland from Filberg Lodge                 |
|            | Grad pictures in the bleachers                          |
|            | Distribution of After-Grad tickets                      |
| 9:45 p.m.  | Bus to Mount Washington from Highland                   |
| 10:30 p.m. | Dinner at Teddy's, Mount Washington                     |
| 11:00 p.m. | Entertainment, Hypnotist                                |
| 12:00 a.m. | Dance, Photo Booth, Games, Karaoke, Tea & Card Readings |
| 2:00 a.m.  | Grad Raffle   |
| 2:30 a.m.  | Bus from Mount Washington to Highland                   |
| 3:15 a.m.  | Arrive Highland   |

## Frequently Asked Questions About Graduation

### Are all grade 12s allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies?

It is our sincere hope that all our grade 12s will walk the stage this year. However, only students with a reasonable chance of completing their coursework will be included in the ceremony. Therefore, as Term 3 ended on April 17<sup>th</sup>, any student who is failing required courses will not be included in the ceremony unless they create and carry out an academic action plan with their classroom teacher and house vice principal that is complete before May 24th.

### What is a Grad Fee and what does it cover?

The grad fee is \$125.00, payable at the money counter in Highland's main office. Grad fees are due now for students wishing to guarantee their six graduation ceremony tickets. Grad fees support gown rental, after-grad dinner, grad dance, transportation, rental of facilities, entertainment and food during Dry Grad. The expected cost for the commencement ceremony and dry grad is \$25,000.00.

### Are there any additional fees for Graduation?

As always, students are held responsible for textbooks loaned, and outstanding fees. If these outstanding fines or fees are not paid they will be added to the grad fee.

### How many tickets are issued to each Grad? How do I obtain them?

Students who pay their Grad fees on or before May 10<sup>th</sup> will be issued 6 tickets, which will gain entrance to either the Filberg Lodge site or the school gym. You may request more

tickets by contacting the office, although there is no guarantee that you will receive them.

Guests for the Dry Grad celebrations will need a ticket to attend the ceremony as well.

**\*\*Please do not ask for the maximum number of tickets if you do not need them\*\***

### I have heard that the ceremonies are going to be held outside – is this true?

Yes, weather permitting – the ceremonies will be held at the Filberg Lodge grounds. Please prepare for cool weather due to evening temperatures or in the event of a rain shower.

### Is there a backup plan if the weather prohibits outdoor activities?

The alternative venue will be Highland's gymnasium. Mr. Patterson will decide by 9:00 a.m. on June 1<sup>st</sup> as to the appropriateness of the weather. The decision will be posted on the school website at that time. Remember, seating is limited in the gym due to fire regulations, and guests will not be admitted without the appropriate tickets.

### Will the ceremonies be the same as previous years?

Basically, yes. Each year grads make some changes to make their Graduation unique.

### What is the minuet?

We are lucky to have Maria Buckley return to volunteer her time to teach this traditional dance to the grads. Hailed as the event that unites the grad class, lessons began in early April. The minuet is not a "couples" dance and all participants must be Highland Grads. Students have been encouraged to find partners who are committed to the practices and event.

### Is there a car parade?

If grads want a memorable ride to the ceremonies, they can sign up for the car cruise. In early May, grads will be asked to sign up to be chauffeured in a special car. The parade begins at 3:30 pm at Highland and by a circuitous route, grads are delivered to the Filberg for the ceremonies – rain or shine!

### When is the After-Grad?

This will take place at Mount Washington and will begin after the Graduation ceremonies. After-Grad lasts until approximately 3:00 a.m. Grads and guests attending after-grad must be transported to and from the event by the designated school busses – with final drop-off at Highland. Students must be committed to attending the entire dry grad. Only grads and their guests who have paid their fees will be allowed to attend. If a grad who has paid their fees, decides not to attend the festivities at the last moment, their fees will not be refunded. Consent to leave early will only be given if pre-arranged parent pick up has been confirmed. School rules apply to this event and students are expected to behave accordingly.

### May I bring guests to the After-Grad, and how much will it cost?

Guests are permitted, upon approval by administration. The cost per guest is \$70.00 and includes dinner, transportation, snacks and entertainment. It does not include attendance at the ceremony which will require a separate ticket. We are limited to 200 people at the After-Grad.

### Is the After-Grad dry?

Definitely. We see Grad as a special, once-in-a-lifetime event, and strongly believe it should be safely enjoyed by all. This trend has been established throughout B.C., and has been strongly supported. The Highland Code of Conduct is in full effect for this event and students found to be involved with drugs or alcohol will be sent home immediately and will be disciplined.

### May I attend everything except the After-Grad?

About 95% of grads attend all the activities. All students must pay the entire Grad fee, and then must speak with Mr. Patterson if they do not wish to attend the After-Grad. All planning must be done in advance and costs are based on the entire grad class attending.

### **Other Important Date for Graduates as we approach the end of the year**

May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Music Concert
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Scholarship Bursary Tea
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Highland Awards Evening
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	English 12 Provincial Exams
June 24 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>	Assessment Week no classes in session
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Report Cards issued
Aug. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Grad package available for pick up; to include Dogwood certificate and Passport to Education.

**Please check the Highland website for updates. [www.highlandsecondary.ca](http://www.highlandsecondary.ca)**