

Grad 2018 News

Newsletter #1

September 2017

Mark R. Isfeld Grad 2018

If you haven't buckled up already, now would be a good time. The ride is about to get crazy.

Thank-you for attending this meeting and showing your interest in Grad 2018. This newsletter represents the best information we have at this point in the year, and will give you insight on all we plan to accomplish. There are many activities designed to support grad through fundraising, or promote personal growth and community mindedness through volunteerism, or just to get together to have fun and make memories. This year should also be memorable for you, the parents, as it represents a significant milestone for you as well. We hope you make some new friends, re-connect with old ones, and work together on projects of a scope only Isfeld seems prepared to take on. We want this to be the best year of school for your son or daughter, and to accomplish that, you need to be a part of it.

Please feel free to contact me with ideas, questions or concerns that you may have over the course of the year. I look forward to working with you.

Jeff Taylor
Principal
Jeff.Taylor@sd71.bc.ca

Visit our school website at www.isfeldschool.com for further information pertaining to your child's graduation.

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The Grad Fashion Show

Although many graduates came early on the first day of school to welcome our new students, the Grad Fashion Show represents the first event that involves a huge number of grads. Many grads choose to model for this event, and others take part in the set-up and take-down, in backstage support, logistical support, and a myriad of other ways. The goal of the Fashion Show is to kick off the grad year with a very challenging event that is done well, and through this shared effort our grade 12 students begin to gel as a grad class. It is also a great opportunity for many grads to display some hidden talents. The only regrets come from those who wished they had taken part in it. This year the show takes place on Monday, November 27th at 7:00 pm in our school gymnasium.

Info shared with Grads

1. The requirement for student participation in the Grad Ceremony is grad eligibility by May 31. Students who don't have the necessary credits to graduate, are allowed to attend the After-Grad with their peers, **but will not be part of the ceremony.** Students and parents are given notice when students have put themselves in a position of not being able to graduate. Every effort is provided to help students reach their goal of graduation.
2. Study blocks have been limited to ensure students are purposeful with their time. Students may apply for a study block, which are only granted based on attendance in grade 11, commitments outside of school and academic demand.
3. Independent Directed Studies (IDS) and Work Experience have proven to be helpful options for students to complete the necessary amount of credits required for graduation. To discuss an IDS visit a counsellor. For work experience inquiries, contact Randy James in Student Services' Work Experience Office (randy.james@sd71.bc.ca).
4. Grad Transitions (GT) is a four credit course **required for graduation.** The course is designed to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their preparation for life after graduation.
5. The GT Booklet was distributed through a Grad Assembly on September 20 and is due Friday, January 26th.

Grad Fees & What They Pay For?

Grad Fees for this year will remain at \$125. We deduct credits earned via fundraisers. Grad fees are due May 31st and soon after tickets for the Ceremony will be distributed. Students must have their account cleared up with the school including student fees, library fines, etc. The grad fee covers up to 5 *tickets (this number may change)*, the cost of the ceremony & reception, including the individual and group photos taken at the ceremony and the keepsake booklet, transportation, dinner and events that take place during the After Grad Evening at **Crown Isle**. You will rarely find that \$125 is stretched farther.

Grad Fundraisers.

Each student has their own account at the school and involvement in any of the grad fundraisers allows for the opportunity to pay fees off with very little effort. The list of fundraisers may include Poinsettia sales and the Ford "Test Drive" program. By participating in these events it will lessen the cost of grad fees.

Grad Clothing

Students are anxious to get grad clothing organized as soon as possible. Once decisions are made about the type of clothing to be sold and the design of the logo, order forms will be made available to students and will be added to the website. We attempt to make this clothing as affordable as possible so there is no profit built in. Some parents like to offer grad clothing as Christmas presents.

Grad Photos:

Grad photos take place January 9-12th. Students can sign up online for their grad photos, starting mid-November at www.lifetouch.ca/qualicum. Grad photo retakes will be February 8th. The sitting fee is quite reasonable but the cost for even a base package can be alarming. As an added service, we have assembled a kit that includes a blue grad gown, yoke, cap, artificial flowers and a grad booklet that may be borrowed from the school office. This provides you with an option to have photos taken elsewhere and still have them included in the school yearbook if taken by the end of January.

Cynderella & Prince Charming Projects

Graduation can be financially stressful for many students and families. This program was started years ago to help families in need of getting clothing and accessories for grad. Many donations and sponsors in the community have ensured a large collection of grad gowns, suits and accessories are available to those that could use some help. Confidential referrals can be made to this program through the principal or school counsellors.

Grads Give Back!

Mark R. Isfeld Secondary focuses their organizational attention around our "Four Pillars", which are the Arts, Academics, Athletics and Citizenship. In support of the Citizenship Pillar, the Grad class leads the way with these initiatives:

- **Young Blood for Life** - The Young Blood for Life Challenge is run by Canadian Blood Services. With the knowledge that each donation can save or improve the life chances of three people, students have been encouraged to donate blood once they reach the age of eligibility (17). This program allows our students to register once and all subsequent donations are logged under the Mark R. Isfeld name as part of an incentive program offering a chance to win cash prizes. This program is not for students exclusively; parents, friends, relatives and others can all sign up. We would encourage all parents to get involved as this is a very good cause. The next Blood Donor Clinics are: November 7, 2017 at the K'omoks First Nations Band Hall in Comox, January 2, 2018 at the Florence Filberg Centre in Courtenay. Call 1-888-2Donate to make an appointment.
- **Gratitude:** Every year the grad class chooses to undertake their own charitable community service project. Last year the grads supported two events: one a Spin-A-Thon for JumpStart to help young kids play sports, and a very successful bowling tournament with Special Olympics Athletes. This year the grad executive will be tasked with choosing their project(s).
- **Relay for Life:** This project started seven years ago to support the popular 12 hour Relay for Life event that happens in June every year. This event raises funds to fight cancer. To date Isfeld grads have raised \$178,666. The date for this year's event is Saturday, June 9th starting at 6:00 pm. The Relay is a twelve hour overnight event. Teams of 10 to 15 are formed and they conduct personal and group fundraising over the year. For the last seven years, this has been very successful and is a high profile event for the school. Last year, the grads raised \$37,836 to support cancer research and benefited by experiencing the joy of giving back. We will be encouraging all grads to participate in this event.

Parent Committees

We need help in the following areas:

- a. Fashion Show (Fall) - decorating
- b. Dessert Night / Dine and Dance (Spring) - decorating
- c. Grad Setup - decorating
- d. After Grad (a parent-led event)

If parents are interested in helping out please sign up at one of our Grad Parent Meetings.

Post-Secondary Information (PSI) Sessions

- The counsellors will be presenting a Post Secondary Information Evening for parents on a future date to be announced. The purpose of this session is to provide parents with information on application procedures, bursary and scholarships. This is so parents can help their children prepare for life beyond Isfeld.
- Our Grads attended their first session of post secondary information last Wednesday. The powerpoint can be found on our school website under Parents & Students / Grad / Grad Transitions.
- The counsellors will be offering on-going post secondary sessions during Wednesday afternoon Project Time. They will be offered at pertinent times throughout the year. Sessions and dates will be advertised in the morning announcements, on the school website and via our school synervice system. Some of the topics will be electronic transfer of grades, introductory letter, bursary/scholarship resumes, early scholarships, and Isfeld bursaries.
- North Island College representatives come to Isfeld to meet with students on October 3, November 7, December 5, February 6, March 15, April 3 and May 8. Sign up for an appointment in Student Services.

Communications: There are many important notifications to grads and their parents/guardians during the grad year. Please ensure your address and email are up-to-date and check your email on a regular basis. Check the school website as well. If your son or daughter is graduating in January you will continue to receive regular grade 12 emails about upcoming events. It is the grad and/or parent's responsibility to keep up-to-date.

Important Grad Dates

Wednesday, September 20	First session re: scholarships/bursaries, preregistration for colleges/universities, MYED Portal access, Education Planner, etc 1:20 – 3:25 pm (future sessions to be announced)
Thursday, September 21	Post-Secondary Information Sessions – 1:00 to 3:25 pm
Monday, September 25	Grad Parent Meeting #1 – 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, October 3	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Monday, November 7	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Tuesday, November 14	University of Alberta Session 9:00 am
Wednesday, November 15	NIC Parent Info Session at NIC 6:30 pm
Sunday, November 26 Monday, November 27	Grad Fashion Show rehearsals – 1:00 and 3:30 pm Grad Fashion Show – 7:00 pm
Tuesday, December 5	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
January 9 to 12	Grad Photos 3:45 to 9:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room
January 25 and 26	Semester 1 Provincial Exams
Friday, January 26	Deadline for Grad Transitions package to be handed in.
Tuesday, February 6	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Wednesday, February 7	Bursary Booklets available online
Thursday, February 8	Grad Photo Retakes
Monday, February 26	Grad Parent Meeting #2 – 7:00 pm – in Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, February 28	Grad Dessert Night – 7:00 pm in Gym
Tuesday, March 6	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Friday, March 16	Bursary Application Deadline 3:25 pm
Tuesday, April 17	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
May TBA	Drive One for Charity fundraiser
Monday, May 14	Grad Parent Meeting #3 – 7:00 pm – in Multipurpose Room
Tuesday, May 15	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Friday, May 18	Grad Tailgate Relay for Life fundraiser for whole school
Monday, June 4	Bursary Reception 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room
Saturday, June 9	Relay for Life, Vanier Track, 6:00 pm to 6:00 am
Mon. June 25 – Wed. June 27	Semester 2 Provincial Exams
Wednesday, June 27	Grad Car Parade, Grad Ceremony and After Grad