

Grad 2019 News

Newsletter #1

September 2018

Mark R. Isfeld Grad 2019

Thank you for coming and participating in Grad 2019. This newsletter represents the best information we have at this point in the year, and will give you insight on what we plan to accomplish. There are many activities designed to support graduates this year. We plan to have fun and make memories as well as promote personal growth and community mindfulness. 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 and/or re-connect with old ones while you work together on grad events. We want this to be the best year of school for your child 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.

Jonathan Bos
Vice Principal
jonathan.bos@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 most of the grad class. Many grads choose to model for this event, and others take part in the set-up and take-down or tech support. The goal of the Fashion Show is to kick off the grad year and help grade 12 students begin to gel as a grad class. It is also a great opportunity for many grads to display some hidden talents. This year the show takes place on Tuesday, November 13th at 7:00 pm in our school gymnasium. Traditionally the parents have decorated the foyer leading into the gym and helped with set construction. Join the fun and sign up tonight!

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. Study blocks are granted by full discretion of the principal.
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. To graduate, grade 12's must complete the Career Life Connections (CLC 12) course for 2 credits. This is a blended course with online assignments at MyBlueprint.ca and numerous workshops in class.
5. A Capstone project along with 30 hours volunteer/paid work must also be completed for 2 credits. Some students completed their Capstone at the end of grade 11.

Grad Fees & What They Pay For?

Grad Fees for this year will remain at \$125. Grads can reduce this amount by participating in fundraisers throughout the year. 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, dinner and events that take place during the After Grad Evening.

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 Honda "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. This year's grad clothing is already in the process of being designed and for the first time ever, the grads may be able to wear some of the grad clothing in the Grad Fashion Show. Some parents like to offer grad clothing as Christmas presents, so check the school website for more information on prices and ordering instructions.

Grad Photos:

Grad photos take place January 14-18th. Students can sign up online for their grad photos, starting in December at www.lifetouch.ca/qualicum. 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:

- **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 would like to do Spin-A-Thon, Bowling Tournament with Special Olympics Athletes, Feeding the Homeless and Spirit Week.
- **Relay for Life:** This project started eight 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 \$201,728. The date for this year's event is Saturday, June 8th 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 eight years, this has been very successful and is a high profile event for the school. Last year, the grads raised \$23,062 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:

- Fashion Show (Fall)
- Dessert Night (Spring)
- Grad Setup
- 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 Tuesday. 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 14, December 5, February 6, March 8, 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

Monday, September 24	Grad Parent Meeting #1 – 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, October 3	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 9 am - 12 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Thursday, October 11	Western University at lunch in Student Services
Monday, November 7	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 9 am - 12 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Dates TBA	Grad Fashion Rehearsal - TBA
Tuesday, November 13	University of Alberta Session 1:00-2:00 pm in Student Services
Tuesday, November 13	Grad Fashion Show
Wednesday, November 14	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 9 am -12 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Wednesday, November 14	NIC Parent Info Session at NIC 6:30 pm
Wednesday, December 5	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 9 am -12 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
January 14-18	Grad Photos 3:45 to 9:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room
Thurs. January 24 & Fri. January 25	Semester 1 Provincial Exams
Friday, January 25	Deadline for Grad Transitions package to be handed in.
Wednesday, February 6	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 9 am -12 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Wednesday, February 13	Bursary Booklets available online
Thursday, February 8	Grad Photo Retakes
Monday, February 25	Grad Parent Meeting #2 – 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, March 6	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 9 am - 12 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Wednesday, March 6	Grad Dessert Night – 7:00 pm in the Gym
Friday, March 8	Bursary Application Deadline 3:25 pm
Tuesday, April 3	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 9 am - 12 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Monday, April 29	Grad Parent Meeting #3 – 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room
May TBA	Drive One for Charity fundraiser
Tuesday, May 8	NIC Advisor at Isfeld 9 am - 12 pm. Sign up in Student Serv.
Friday, May 17	Grad Tailgate Relay for Life fundraiser for whole school
Monday, June 3	Bursary Reception 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room
Saturday, June 8	Relay for Life, Vanier Track, 6:00 pm to 6:00 am
Mon. June 24 – Wed. June 26	Semester 2 Provincial Exams
Wednesday, June 26	Grad Car Parade, Grad Ceremony and After Grad