

GRAD MEETING

February 5, 2025

MSS UPDATE: Dave Andersen, Vice Principal, MSS

New Vice Principal

Introduction of Mr. Jacob Cowan, MSS's new VP. He is going to be working with Grade 12's. He came over from Central Elementary as Mr. Mattoo has moved to Princeton Secondary School.

Grade 12 Meeting:

Today we had a Grade 12 meeting as it is the start of Semester 2 and at this point things pick up for grads. It can be overwhelming. This is a stressful time of year. We encourage students to please find a plan for attacking these things and get a support person. Try to chip away at items and don't leave things till the last minute.

Upcoming School Events:

Picture Retakes:	March 3-5, 2025	
Indigenous Grad:	June 4, 2025	By invitation.
Scholarship Night:	June 16, 2025	By invitation.
Ceremony Rehearsal:	June 18, 2025	1:00pm
Ceremony / March:	June 19, 2025	6:30pm

Grad Fees:

Grad fees are \$225 and are due May 16th. Other fees that must be settled are School Activity fees and any outstanding Library fees and or Sports fees.

Baby Photos:

An email was sent from Crystal Ward-McGowan. We are looking for one photo, either baby or small child. This will be used in the yearbook and the PowerPoint presentation during the Graduation Ceremonies. This is due Feb. 28.

Grad Retakes:

Grad retakes are March 3-5. This will be an online booking through email. There is no sitting fee for those that missed or are doing retakes. New bookings have to pay \$25 – details will be in the email. Retakes will be in the library.

If you have had issues with your previous photos, please let the school know, as we will try to sort the issue out for you from our end. School contact information on the last page.

Parent Question: Crystal Ward-McGowan sent out an email saying we could choose which grad photo will be in the Yearbook and on the Slide Show. How do we do that?

Answer: Dave is not sure. Usually, we just get one standard photo from Lifetouch, so they all look like the same pose. He will ask Crystal for clarification.

CLC Course:

This is a grad requirement. It includes 7 assignments. Time is given to complete these assignments. There is also a career exploration component to the course, composed of 30 hrs.

And lastly, a Capstone presentation.

Student must be passing CLC by their 3rd term report cards or they will not be on the grad list.

Lots of students have support classes and should be able to focus and finish CLC up.

Learning Updates (Report Cards)

Learning updates coming out Friday.

Please note that this reflects the final marks for Semester 2, however CLC is also included, and it is a full year course. There are a LOT of F's out there as coursework has not been handed in, however this is not the final mark for this class.

Parent Question: If students are sending their transcripts to Post Secondary Institutions, will that F effect their entry? *Answer:* No, it won't. They will see that the course is still in progress and that is not the final mark. This course is Province wide, so the same situation applies to all Grade 12's at this point for schools that have chosen to do it over the whole school year. Ms. Nicole Thompson will continuously update that mark if you need her to. Please see her if you have any additional questions.

Honor Cords and Achievement Cords

Honor Cords are given based on a student getting 92 credits, no application required. If you are close to getting 92 credits and are interested in increasing your credits, there is still time to enroll in another class to achieve that. Please see the counselling office for more information.

Achievement Cord information is on the website and was emailed to all families and students. The application form is online. February 28th is the deadline to get this in. You can only have one in addition to an honor cord. Please fill one out if you are passionate about something and want to showcase it. There will be a legend on the Grad Ceremonies schedule of events that is handed out. You can apply even if you don't make the honor cord credit. You can submit a printed document to Mr. Andersen or send it digitally.

Scholarships

Scholarship booklets will be released shortly. Likely in the next couple of weeks. It will be emailed home. The Scholarship Committee will be going from class to class. We had \$150,000 given last year to our 2024 Grads, but we need students to apply.

GRAD EXECUTIVE – Tina Etchart, President

Dry Grad

Transportation for Dry Grad is our biggest challenge. We are looking into options for charter buses, but they have to deadhead to us from their home and back from Merritt, so it is proving a challenge.

We have received feedback from students that no one wants to do the Rockridge trip. So we are going to cancel, but at this point there is the chance we don't find anything available. We will try to find some kind of activity that reflects what everyone can be included in. We are starting from scratch. Outdoor activities don't open until April. Feedback from students is that they definitely want a bonding trip and we will do our best to provide that.

We are looking at different bus companies and organization that have buses. *Parent input:* NVIT has one; LNIB has one. If anyone has ideas about transportation, we will be happy to discuss it.

We are going to make 2 plans at this point and have 1 final survey – only 2 choices. Lane volunteers to print paper ones and go class to class.

Hockey Game – Molly Brigden

We have 31 students, but only 6 parents. Absolutely NO ALCOHOL OR FIGHTING at the event. Anyone participating on the bench must be fully equipped (helmets) including coaches.

There will be a 50/50 and concession by cash.

We have a Grade 11 DJ. Referees, goalies and bouncers are all organized.

Merritt minor hockey has donated ice time. We will open the doors at 7:00 and there will be 2 teams of grads so everyone can have a great time.

Parade

We are working on permits and insurances. Specifically an umbrella insurances being worked on.

Prom

A DJ is booked.

The theme decided on is Starry Nights.

GRAD DATES:

Hockey: February 19,2025

Dry Grad: TBA

Prom / Parade: June 21, 2025 (3:30 Line up) 4:00 start

2025 GRAD CONTACTS

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
MSS Grad Coordinator	Dave Andersen	dandersen@365.sd58.bc.ca
MSS Grad Coordinator	Crystal Ward McGowan	cwardmcgowan@365.sd58.bc.ca
2025 Grad Executive		
President	Tina Etchart	tinaetchart@gmail.com
Vice President	Wasanthi Wainwright	wwainwright@365.sd58.bc.ca
Secretary	Brandy Striemer	bstriemer@365.sd58.bc.ca
Treasurer	Ryan Dell	rgldell@icloud.com
Dry Grad Committee Chair	Tina Etchart	tinaetchart@gmail.com
Prom Decorating Committee Chair	Danielle Ortiz	danielleortiz@hotmail.ca
Fundraising Committee Chair	Jacqueline Klassen	benandjacqueline@hotmail.com
Vehicle Procession & Prom Security Chair	Laura Sware	luvthemama74@hotmail.com
Grad Hockey Game Chair	Molly Brigden	mbrigden@365.sd58.bc.ca
Food Committee Chair	Maria Thuveson	christopherandmaria@hotmail.com
Grad Photos in Businesses Chair	Jocelyn Mathias	jock1982@msn.com
Staff/Parent Liaison(s)	Brandy Striemer	bstriemer@365.sd58.bc.ca
Student Rep(s)	Kelsey Cleaveley	kcleaveley907@sd58.bc.ca
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