

A.R. MacNeill Secondary School

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April 18th, 2017

Dear Grade 12 Students and Parents/Guardians of Grade 12 Students,

The final months of grade 12 at A.R. MacNeill Secondary have quickly arrived. We would like to share, remind and confirm the coming graduation events and activities with students and parents/guardians. The Dry Grad 2017 Parent Committee has been planning, organizing and fundraising since the fall. As well, the Student Grad Committee, Valedictory Committee, Scholarship Committee, Awards Committee and the MacNeill Office staff are responsible for organizing grad events.

The **Valedictory Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 7th at 7: 00 p. m. at the Bethany Baptist Church** in the Hamilton area of Richmond. Invitations, and request for additional invitations, will be issued later in April. Each student will receive two complimentary invitations for their family. We will be accepting requests for two additional invitations per students at \$5.00 each. The Church seats approximately 1,000 people and extra invitations may be available. Invitations will be able to be purchased from Ms. Ng, our Business Assistant. More information about when invitations are available will be coming soon.

Monday, June 5th is the Valedictory Rehearsal. The Rehearsal will be held in our school gym. This will be preceded by a BBQ lunch prepared by our Leadership students. The afternoon will be devoted to the details and procedures students must be familiar with for the Valedictory ceremony. **Students will also receive their cap, gown and directions to the Church at the end of the rehearsal.**

For the **Valedictory Ceremony on Wednesday, June 7th**, students will be expected to **arrive at Bethany Baptist Church no later than 6:15 p. m.** where they assemble for the procession into the Church and are given final instructions. The ceremony will be approximately two hours. **Please note that there will be no reception following the ceremony.**

Students, parents and family members are reminded that this is a formal event. We would like to make it special and enjoyable for all families and friends. **Pets, chewing gum, food, drink and noise makers are not permitted in the church for the safety and enjoyment of all. In fact, infractions such as these last year caused us to temporarily lose our booking for this venue. Please note that anyone not in compliance with these expectations may not be permitted into the venue.**

The Dinner/ Dance at the Stanley Park Pavilion followed by the Dry Grad celebration at MacNeill will be on Thursday, June 29th. All students will be transported from MacNeill to the Stanley Park Pavilion on buses organized and funded by the Parent Dry Grad Committee. Students will bus back to the school after the Dinner/Dance. On the day before the Dry Grad Event, Wednesday, June 28th, students will check in their change of clothes for Dry Grad at 1pm at the school. Clothes should be on a hanger with a garment bag (or large garbage bag) with the student's name clearly labelled on the bag and must be open for inspection when dropped off.

On Thursday, June 29th, grads must arrive at the school no later than 4pm to check in and board the buses to go to the Stanley Park Pavilion. The dinner/dance is an event attended only by graduating grade 12 students. Parents and friends have an opportunity to take photographs at the school before students board the bus or from 5:30 – 6:30pm at the Stanley Park Pavilion.

We are looking forward to a memorable, fun and safe Grad 2017. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

MacNeill Grad Committee 2017 & Valedictory Committee