

Robert Thirsk High School Graduation 2018

Newsletter #2: March 2018

Graduation ceremonies will be held 9:00 AM on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at Stampede Corral Arena, Stampede Grounds.

Graduation Banquet May 31, 2018 at the BMO Center, Hall "C", on the Stampede Grounds.

Doors will open at 5:30 pm, the program will begin promptly at 6:30 pm.

Teacher Coordinators:

Ceremony Contact: Amanda Huddleston: abhuddleston@cbe.ab.ca

Banquet Contact: Jane Drake: fjdrake@cbe.ab.ca

NEW INFORMATION- PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Booking hair appointments, etc. for the banquet? The morning ceremony should end at approximately 12:00 pm.

Parking on the Stampede Grounds:

Parking on the grounds will cost \$15/ entry. If you are planning to attend both the graduation ceremony and banquet you may want to **pre-purchase** discounted parking passes for two single entries for \$20. The passes can be purchased through our business office between April 30- May 9 and will be distributed after school May 28 at graduation gown pick up.

Banquet Tickets: PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN THE DATE FOR TICKET SALES

- Ticket cost- \$100/person
- Ticket includes a delicious buffet meal, soft drinks, and an amazing dance to follow dinner. Our Graduation Banquet celebration is a non-alcoholic and non smoking event with **NO IN/OUT privileges**.
- Tickets will be sold on InviteRight (teachers in charge Mr. J Holmes and Mr. S Maheu).
- Ticket sales open April 10th @10am and run until May 1st. A link will be available on the VLC and school website. Students will be able to purchase any number of tickets. Please note, some students and their families choose to send just the graduate to the banquet and therefore it is common for some tables to be made of all graduates while other students will choose to sit with family and friends.
- We recommend that students coordinate with friends prior to pre-arrange the tables if you would like to sit together, as the banquet hall will have tables of 8 and a few tables of 10.
- Only fill in special food (i.e. vegetarian, etc.) or allergies if the buffet is insufficient for your needs. You will be served an alternate plate for special requests instead of the buffet (you will not access the buffet if you have a special meal).

ALL STUDENTS please remember to cast your vote (on Edmodo) for songs to be played for the first dances at the banquet.

Wheelchair Seating at Ceremony:

If one of your guests requires wheelchair accessible seating, please email Warren Lake by May 17th at wslake@cbe.ab.ca

VALEDICTORIAN and CLASS HISTORIAN

Congratulations to Shulamit P., our 2018 Valedictorian and Alexis A., our Class Historian. Thank you to all those students who participated in the Speak Off. The speeches were exemplary. Also, thank you to the students and teachers who attended The Speak Off and provided feedback.

Graduation Requirements:

In order to participate in Robert Thirsk High School's Graduation Ceremony, on May 31st 2018, students **must have**:

- ✓ Earned a minimum of 100 credits and have a reasonable plan to complete all required courses for an Alberta High School Diploma by August 2018; or earned 80 credits and have a reasonable plan to complete the required courses for a Certificate of High School Achievement by August 2018. Graduating Learning Program students will be advised by their teachers if they have met the required criteria to participate in the ceremony.
- ✓ Paid their school, graduation, and cap and tassel fees. The graduation fee pays for their certificate, Life Touch's photo of each grad as he/she receives this certificate at the ceremony, rental of the facility for the ceremony, etc. If the student's fees are outstanding, please speak to the Business Manager (by the main office).

Please note, that if a student does not have the requirements to graduate, he/she will not participate in the graduation ceremonies this year and may be only invited to attend the banquet as a graduate's guest.

Communication from your Grad Committee:

- The Yearbook Club would like to ask each Graduate to write a 144 maximum character quote related to their high school experience. It could be funny or inspirational. Submit to the form on edmodo by March 19th.
- Students can still sign up on our Edmodo page (see your Connect teacher for the code) in order to submit digital baby photos and a recreation for a slideshow at the banquet by **April 6**. Questions can be directed to Ms Heron at NLHeron@cbe.ab.ca
- The Grad Committee would like to continue the tradition of each graduate donating a toonie as he/she crosses the stage at the ceremony. The Grad class voted and has chosen to donate the funds we raise to Wings of Hope. This donation and the tradition will be part of our Graduating Class of 2018's legacy. Over \$800 has already been raised through a raffle, silent auction and hot dog sales.
- Students voted to wear caps and tassels during the ceremony. The resolution passed with a 90% majority. A mandatory \$10 fee will be collected May 28th at grad rehearsal. Students will keep their caps and tassels after the ceremony. It's a keepsake of graduation day.

Ceremony Audience:

There is plenty of seating at the Corral; therefore, there will not be tickets or a maximum number of guests allowed. We look forward to sharing these moments with many supporters of our graduating class. If your family has a member in a wheelchair, please email Warren Lake at wslake@cbe.ab.ca to make mobility arrangements.

Graduation Photos:

All students should have had graduation photos taken with Lifetouch, even if they are not planning on making a purchase, in order to be in the Class of 2018 composite which is hung in our school hallways. Students should book online at lifetouch.ca/southernalberta.

Safe Grad Week- May 15-17, 2018:

Many lunch hour and Connect activities are planned. More details to follow.

Graduation Rehearsal:

ALL GRADS MUST ATTEND a mandatory Grad Ceremony rehearsal in the gym [to rehearse processional and crossing of stage & to receive a final newsletter] in Focus May 28 and 29. More details to follow in "This Week at Thirsk".

Gown Pick-Up:

Gowns, caps, and tassels will be picked up Monday May 28th, 2018 after school in the main gym from 3pm-4pm. Students will return the gown and stole immediately after the ceremony. Please take pictures in your gowns before the ceremony. Students are allowed to keep their cap and tassel.

Call for Parent Volunteers:

We are in need Grade 10 and 11 parent volunteers in May for gown organization and certificate stuffing, gown distribution and on Graduation Day to direct guests and collect gowns at the Stampede Grounds. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping, the next newsletter will have info about signup genius.

How will I get my Yearbook after I graduate?

Robert Thirsk High School has a Fall Yearbook delivery. To receive your Yearbook you have the following options. Yearbooks should be at the school in the first week of classes.

In September 2018:

1. You could come before classes or after classes (before 4:00PM) to pick up your book.
2. Have Mom, Dad or a sibling pick it up for you before or after classes in the fall.
3. Have it mailed to you. If you would like us to mail it to you, you must bring in a self-addressed stamped envelope. Your envelope needs to be able to fit a 29cm X 23cm book. Take your envelope to the Post Office and ask them to give you enough postage to mail an 815 gram book to your address. Then bring the self-addressed, stamped envelope to Ms. Mann in Room 113 before you leave in June. She will be happy to mail the book to you.

Yearbooks are not included in any other fees and need to be paid for separately. They are \$35 and need to be ordered and paid for by the end of April 2018.

How do I get people to sign my book? There will be signature sheets available from your Connect Teacher before Grad. These sheets can be attached to your yearbook when you receive it in September.