

Robert Thirsk High School Graduation 2019

Newsletter #1: Distributed November 30 2018

*Graduation ceremonies will be held at
9:00 AM on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at Stampede Corral Arena, Stampede Grounds.
The Banquet will follow in the evening at the BMO Center on the Stampede Grounds.*

Please contact Mrs. Drake (fjdrake@cbe.ab.ca) if you have any questions for the Ceremony or Banquet

Graduation Requirements: In order to participate in Robert Thirsk High School's graduation ceremony, on May 30st 2019, 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 2019**. *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 and graduation fee (in September 2018). The graduation fee pays for their certificate, Life Touch's photo of each grad as they cross the stage, rental of Corral Arena, AV, and security costs. If the student's fees are unpaid, please speak to the Business Manager

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 attend the banquet only as another graduate's guest.

Edmodo Communication from your Grad Committee:

- Please join the Edmodo page (code **8v98mn**) to receive information and provide input on upcoming decisions.
- The Student Grad Committee would like to continue the tradition of each graduate donating a toonie as he/she crosses the stage at the ceremony. The charity will be decided at the November 30 Grad Assembly. This will be part of our Graduating Class of 2019's legacy.
- Cap and Tassel: Do you want to wear a cap and tassel at the grad ceremony? There will be a vote on November 30 student Grad Assembly to decide. If "Yes", all students must pay an addition \$10 fee. The cap and tassel will be yours to keep.

Banquet Costs:

- The graduation banquet is an optional activity involving extra costs. If you are considering attending the banquet, discussing anticipated costs and expenses now to save stress in May.
- The exact cost of tickets will be determined soon but it will be about **\$100 per person**.

Ceremony Audience:

- There is plenty of seating at the Corral Arena; therefore, there will not be tickets or a maximum number of guests allowed.

The Cinderella Project

- The Cinderella Gown Project provides the opportunity for young and women in need to be treated to a Cinderella pampering experience of choosing a gown and accessories for their graduation ceremony. Young men also have a similar program should the need arise. This ensure that everyone can experience their graduation banquet with style and dignity. Please see Mrs. Drake for more info.

UPCOMING EVENTS and TIMELINE

December

Valedictorian and Class Historian Speak Off:

- Applications for Valedictorian and Class Historian are available on Edmodo
- Completed applications are due in the Edmodo Dropbox by Friday December 14 2018
- Successful applicants will be notified by Wednesday December 19 2018

February

Valedictorian and Class Historian Speak Off:

- Selected applicants will participate in a speak-off in the Theatre after school in front of students and staff. Valedictorian candidates will speak on Feb 19 and Historian candidates will speak on Feb 21.

Graduation Photos:

- Lifetouch will be at RTHS February 20 - 28, 2019 in the Upper Learning Commons.
- Appointments are to be booked online. The link will be shared in Edmodo.
- There is a \$40 sitting fee which is in addition to any costs for photos you may wish to purchase. The fee can be paid online or at the photo session. Please see Mr. Lau if you have any questions or concerns.

March

Graduation Cap and Gowns:

- Pay \$10 cap and tassel fee (if decided in November student Grad Assembly).
- Check with your Connect teacher to confirm your height to properly fit your grad gown.

April

Banquet Ticket Purchase:

- Non-refundable banquet tickets will be available for sale online between April 16 and 30. The expected cost is \$100 per ticket.

May

Safe Grad Week:

- Many lunch hour and Connect activities will be planned. Details to follow.

Graduation Rehearsal:

- ALL GRADS MUST ATTEND three mandatory grad ceremony rehearsals in Focus on **May 27, 28, and 29**.

Gown Pick-Up:

- Gowns, caps, and tassels will be picked up **Monday, May 27, 2019** after school in the main gym.
- Please take pictures in your gowns before the ceremony. Students will return the gown and vee-stole immediately after the ceremony. Students are allowed to keep their cap and tassel.

Call for Parent Volunteers:

We will need many volunteers for various activities before and on the day of graduation. There are many roles:

- Safe Grad activities during lunch.
- May 24th 9:30 AM: gown and folder organization.
- May 27th 2- 4 PM: cap, gown, and vee-stole distribution in the gym.
- May 30th Graduation day 8 AM - 1 PM: urgent need for **grade 10 and grade 11 parent volunteers**. We will need: ushers, distributors (of vee-stoles), packers (of gowns and vee-stoles).

Should you have questions or concerns regarding volunteering for various grad activities, please contact our Parent's Council president Terry Kennedy at terrykennedy@shaw.ca.