



GRAD 2010

Important Dates for Grads and their Parents

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April 23 rd	Deadline for Grad Gown Orders
May 15 th	Graduation Transitions Program Due
May 18 th	Deadline for Valedictorian Applications
May 27 th	Scholars' Banquet
May 30 th –June 4 th	Grad Dinner/Dance Ticket Sales
June 9 th	Grad Rehearsal – Blocks C & D – All grads must attend
June 10 th	Presentation of Bursaries and Scholarships
June 29 th	Grad Ceremonies – Queen's Park Arena
June 29 th	Dry Grad Celebrations
June 30 th	Grad Dinner/Dance – Renaissance Vancouver Hotel

***The Graduation Transitions Program must be completed by May 15th in order to graduate.**

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform students and parents of grad activities so that you are prepared for your student's obligations and have a written reminder of all the upcoming events. Please read this notice carefully.

Graduation Cap and Gown Deadline is April 23rd

All students participating in the Grad Ceremonies must wear a grad cap and gown. A \$40.00 grad fee towards the gown rental, purchase of a cap and tassell and a grad class photo is payable by **April 23rd** to Ms. Annie Choi in room 222 (604-517-6249). Most students would have already paid when fees were collected in September. Caps and gowns will be distributed on **June 29th** at 5:30 p.m. at the arena. Students can check the list posted outside the Counselling Office to ensure payment has been received in advance of the deadline. Payment may be made by cash or cheque to New Westminster Secondary School.

Valedictorian Selection Will be Held in May

Students wishing to be Valedictorian may pick-up a nomination form from the Counselling Office in **late April** and/or can print it from the NWSS website (www.nwss.ca). The following process will be followed:

Selection Criteria: The Valedictorian will be a student meeting the following criteria: (i) displays a high academic standing; (ii) demonstrates a commitment to the school through involvement in extra curricular activities (e.g., participation in sports teams, clubs or a service group); and (iii) serves as a role model, respected by the students of the graduating class.

Selection Process: The Principal, grade 12 counsellor, PAC representative and a grade 12 teacher representative will read all applications and short list appropriate candidates. The selected candidates will participate in an interview with the committee and the committee will then select the top candidate for Valedictorian.

Application Process: The applicant must: (i) obtain the signature and statement of support from three staff members; (ii) submit a 500-word summary identifying the reasons why you should be selected as Valedictorian; and the inspirational message you wish to convey to your graduating classmates in your valedictory address; and (iii) commit to participating in at least three meetings with the English Department Head and/or the Principal including a review of the purpose for a valedictory address and the possible content; a review of the rough draft of your valedictory address; and a review of the edited version of your valedictory address.

Scholars' Banquet will be Held on May 27th

Each year, a banquet for our Grade 12 scholars and their parents is held. This year's banquet is scheduled for Thursday, **May 27th** in the Pearson Cafeteria. Attendance by invitation is based on enrollment in a minimum of 6 senior courses (grade 11/12) with no mark less than 73% and an average of at least 86% based on semester 1 final marks and semester 2 midterm marks. Only courses taken in regular school classes will be considered and do not include summer school, distance education, night school or challenge exams. More specific details and invitations will be sent out in **early May**.

Scholarships and Bursaries Presented June 10th

This year we will again be hosting an evening celebration to award the local Scholarships and Bursaries to successful recipients. The celebration will be held on Thursday, **June 10th** in the Massey Theatre at 7:00 p.m. Our community is very generous to NWSS. This is an opportunity to honour students' work, acknowledge the support they have received from parents and teachers, and to thank our donors.

Thursday, June 10th – Recipients of a scholarship or bursary will receive an invitation in early June and can be accompanied by a maximum of 4 guests. Punch will be served in the foyer beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Inform the School of Outside Awards - Many of our students receive awards that are separate from our locally listed scholarships and bursaries, such as those awarded through universities, colleges and parents' workplaces. We would like to recognize these recipients at either our Scholarship and Bursary Awards Evening or at the Graduation Ceremonies; therefore, if your son or daughter receives such an award, please advise the Grade 12 Counsellor, Mr. Fred Langston, as soon as possible. Information received a minimum of one week prior to our Scholarship and Bursary Awards Evening and/or Graduation Ceremonies will be announced.

Graduation Ceremonies will be Held on June 29th

The Graduation Ceremonies will be held at Queen's Park Arena on the evening of Tuesday, **June 29th** at 7:00 p.m. Each student will receive two tickets to the Grad Ceremonies at the Rehearsal on Wednesday, June 9th with additional tickets available at \$10 each from the Pearson Office beginning Thursday, June 10th.

On the evening of **June 29th** students should arrive at the arena between 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. to collect their cap and gown in preparation for the ceremonies. This will be the best opportunity for taking photos with family and friends. Graduates need to begin lining up in their rows behind the arena by 6:30 p.m.

Doors to the arena will open for family and friends at 5:30 p.m. A reception follows the ceremony for all grads and their guests.

Graduation Ceremonies can be a long event, especially for young children. We recommend that other arrangements be made for them as childminding services will not be available.

Dry Grad Celebrations To Be Held on June 29th

The Dry Grad celebrations will take place on Tuesday, **June 29th** following the graduation ceremony. More information will be forthcoming prior to the event. Please watch the monthly NWSS Newsletters (posted at www.nwss.ca) for further details.

Grad Dinner/Dance will be Held on June 30th

The Grad Dinner/Dance will be held on Wednesday, **June 30th** at the Renaissance Vancouver Hotel, Harbour Side, located at 1133 West Hastings Street. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and dinner will be served from 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. followed by dancing from 8:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Please make time to talk with your son or daughter about the importance of responsible behaviour on such an important occasion. No student or guest will be admitted to the Dinner/Dance or the After Grad Celebration if in possession, or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Prior to entering, all students will be checked for alcohol consumption and their belongings will be searched for drugs, alcohol, and any other dangerous paraphernalia. Any students found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or are found to have drugs, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia on them will be detained until a parent or guardian is able to pick them up. They will not be able to participate in the After Grad festivities.

Tickets for the Dinner/Dance will be on sale in the Pearson Foyer from May 31st to June 4th at a cost of \$85.00. Ticket price includes unlimited soft drinks for the evening. Payment may be made by cash or cheque to New Westminster Secondary School. Guest forms (available on-line) must be completed and approved prior to purchasing a ticket. Please submit Guest Forms to Mr. Kelly Boechler, Grade 12 Vice Principal. Deadline is **June 4th @ 3:30pm**. When purchasing tickets for the dinner, you may reserve a table for a group of 9, 10, or 11. Take one of the cards which will be available where the tickets are being sold in front of Pearson Office. Fill out the card and return it to Mr. Irving. The cards must be returned before 12:00 pm Monday, June 14th. Please be sure that your name is not on more than one card. The cards will be displayed at the dinner/dance so that you will know your table number.

The policy of the Renaissance Vancouver hotel is that no guestrooms may be occupied by students or parents on the night of the dinner/dance.

On the evening of the Dinner and Dance, it is recommended that you arrive on time. If students have reserved a table and have not arrived by the time dinner begins, that table is no longer reserved and students may be unable to sit with all their friends. There will be enough seats for everyone, but students may not all be seated together.

Transcripts/Passport to Education Procedures

Final transcripts are mailed directly from the Ministry of Education to students in **late July**. Diplomas and Passport to Education Booklets (if applicable) are mailed from NWSS to students in August. Please make sure we have your correct mailing address.

Post Secondary Institution (PSI) Selections Form for Students

The online PSI (Post Secondary Institution Selections Form for Students) needs to be filled out online for those who are graduating this year. Students access this online form by logging into the Student Secure Web (SSW) site: <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/> and click the "Post Secondary Institutions Selections" menu option. (Note that students who do not yet have a SSW account will need to create one prior to gaining access to the PSI Selections form.) Students' PSI selections must be submitted by April 30 for interim transcript information to be forwarded to BC and Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) institutions in May for early admission.

***If you have questions or would like further information on any of these items,
please contact Mr. Fred Langston, Grade 12 Counsellor, at 604-517-6223
or Mr. Kelly Boechler, Grade 12 Vice Principal, at 604-517-5953.***