



Home of the Orcas

March 10, 2017

Dear Parents,

This letter is to announce to our students and parent community the changes for parent participation in Elgin Park's Graduation Dinner and Dance this June and for future Grad Classes.

I would like to thank all the parents who completed the Dinner Dance Survey. We had 186 responses to the survey, in addition to many emails, phone calls, and discussions with parents at the recent Dry Grad parent meeting and numerous informal conversations. We have been speaking with Grad Council, consisting of forty plus students over 100 informal conversations that we have had with senior students, on the topic of how the students wish to celebrate at the Graduation Dinner and Dance.

The results of our consultations have concluded that the majority of parents believe that the Grad Dinner and Dance is an event for the students and the majority of parents would rather the Grads have the evening to celebrate with their peers and friends. The students also believe the Grad Dinner and Dance is an evening for them to celebrate as a Grad class on their own. In the coming years, the Elgin Park Graduation Dinner and Dance will be an event only for the eligible Graduating students and approved guests. We will no longer be selling tickets for the parents to attend the Dinner and Dance. Furthermore, the Grad Class of 2017 will be the first Elgin Grad Class to have a Red Carpet Walk Gala & Reception at the school in the afternoon prior to the Dinner and Dance downtown.

The survey results indicated that taking pictures with the Grads was the most important aspect of the day. The Red Carpet Walk Gala will more than meet this need and expectation. The opportunity for the Grads to dance with a parent or significant adult was of high importance in the survey as well. Prior to the Grads leaving the Red Carpet Walk Gala & Reception, there will be time for two dances and a large group photo. More details on the Gala will be communicated in the Spring.

Furthermore, commencing in the year 2017/2018, all students who attend the Graduation Dinner and Dance will be bussed on coaches from the school to the Grad Dinner and Dance and back on the busses to attend Dry Grad.

Our rationale for these decisions is to provide safe and inclusive events for all the graduating students and provide opportunities for friends and family to celebrate at the Red Carpet Walk Gala & Reception.

Once again, I would like to thank all the parents and students for sharing their thoughts on the Graduation Dinner and Dance. On behalf of the Elgin Park Staff, we look forward to the exciting Graduation celebrations this spring and in the coming years.

Sincerely,



Jeff Johnstone
Principal