



WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CAMPUS

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Dear Parents,

February 2017

We would like to provide you with a summary of the planned events and the view of the school on some specific aspects of graduation. We feel that you will appreciate being informed of these activities ahead of time.

Convocation: Convocation will take place, **Thursday, June 22nd, at 6:00 p.m.** Secondary 5 students, parents, grandparents, staff and invited guests are welcomed to this event. We will honour the academic achievements, student life involvement and social commitment of the Class of 2017. The outdoor ceremony will be held on the grounds of Westwood High – “rain or shine”. Please come prepared for rain showers if they are forecast. Fire regulations will not permit the use of Westwood’s indoor gym facilities for this event, given the expected attendance. Should we need to move indoors (**safety reasons only**) the audience will be dispersed to various locations in the building to watch the ceremony by webcast.

We anticipate the formal part of the ceremony will take two and a half hours. The Convocation ceremony is not suitable for young children because of its duration and formality. We ask that parents take family photographs of their son/daughter before and after the ceremony so that we can keep within the time frame. An informal light refreshment reception will take place following the Convocation ceremony.

For the Convocation ceremony, graduates are expected to be neatly attired – boys wearing ties and long dress pants, girls in modest skirts/dresses or dress pants. Students and staff wear academic gowns for Convocation. Rental fees for a gown and the cost of a cap were included in the Sec 5 school fees. If you have not yet paid school fees, this portion of the fees must be paid immediately so that a rental gown may be ordered. The cap and gown will be taken home from Westwood by each student on **Wednesday, June 21st** for lots of photo opportunities. The gown will be returned by the student immediately following the ceremony to the classrooms on the 200 level of the school, the souvenir cap is theirs to keep. Please note there is a \$40 per day additional rental cost for gowns not returned at the end of the ceremony.

This year’s **graduation dinner and dance** will be held at the **Pavillon sur le Lac, Château Vaudreuil**, 21700 Trancanadienne, Vaudreuil. The date is **Tuesday, June 27th, at 6:00 p.m.** Parents, graduates and their guests are invited to a reception from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This provides the opportunity for photographs and the traditional father-daughter, mother-son dance. Parents will then leave; graduates and their escorts will proceed to the dinner and dance. The

event will end at 11:00 p.m. Westwood Senior staff has been invited to the dinner dance; we anticipate a staff student ratio of 1:15.

The cost of the dance is approximately \$130.00 per person depending on the menu selected – this is still to be determined. This cost will cover meal, soft drinks, gratuities, taxes, dance and a keepsake/memento of the occasion as well as the DJ, printing of program/menu and invitations, decorations – all of which add to this special evening.

Management at the Château Vaudreuil insists on appropriate, mature behaviour. Students may not rent hotel rooms; or have them rented for them for student use. No alcohol is permitted at this school function by graduates or their dates. Anyone not respecting these rules will be asked to leave by Westwood High chaperones and the hotel security. **The behaviour of this year's grads determines Westwood High's acceptance at the Château Vaudreuil next year.**

It is important for graduates to understand that Prom is a privilege and as such a student's behaviour throughout the school year (and especially in these last few weeks) will have an impact on their eligibility to attend Prom. As in the past, the final decision, if necessary, will be made by administration.

The dress for the evening is formal. Graduation gowns or the rental of tuxedos have been traditional. There is no obligation to go to this expense. Suits/blazers are common at graduation now; no student will feel self-conscious.

Sec 5 students are often concerned about a date for the dance. Recently, groups of students, male and female, have attended this event unescorted. It is encouraging to see the students choosing to celebrate with their friends – many of whom have been friends from preschool – instead of being paired with someone who has little in common with Westwood High graduates.

Pre-dance and breakfast parties: In the past, pre-dance parties, as well as breakfast receptions on the morning after the dance, have been organized by parents of graduating students. If you consider hosting these events, be advised that the school insists on accordance with the law respecting alcohol consumption by minors. **Parents hosting parties should not serve alcoholic beverages.**

Our goal, like yours, is for the Class of 2017 to enjoy meaningful, memorable and safe celebrations in this final year of high school. As a community, we need to support and guide our graduates through this exciting time.

We hope this information is useful. Please feel free to contact Kathy Wright at the school if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Honeyborne
Principal

Rosanna Riccardi
Vice-Principal