



VANCOUVER TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

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May 1st, 2018

To: Parents and Guardians of our Grade 12 students, the Grads of 2018!

Can you believe it! Grad 2018 is rapidly approaching! It is amazing how quickly the years have passed! Every year, the staff of Vancouver Technical sponsor a graduation ceremony and a dinner dance to celebrate the culmination of our students' high school studies. The purpose of this letter is to congratulate you as parents and to provide you with dates, details, and an early estimate of any costs involved with graduation celebrations.

The dates you need to be aware of are:

- **Thursday, May 31st – Graduation rehearsal to receive tickets, grad cap and gown – 1.45pm – 3.00pm (Auditorium)**
- **Friday, June 1st - Graduation Dinner & Dance at the Waterfront Centre Hotel – 6:15pm**
- **Monday, June 4th - Graduation Ceremony at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre – 7:00pm**

PLEASE NOTE: These are school sponsored events, thus all VSB and school rules and policies apply. If it is suspected that any student has consumed **any** drugs or alcohol before any of our graduation events, they will not be allowed access.

- **GRADUATION CEREMONY:** The staff of Vancouver Technical have traditionally held this celebration for those students who have attended regularly and who are achieving success in the courses required for graduation. Students do not need to be scheduled to complete graduation requirements in June 2018 to participate in this celebration of school leaving.

This year's Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (located at 650 Hamilton Street, Vancouver) on Monday, June 4th. The lobby doors open for guests at 6:30 pm and the ceremony will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. ***Limited pay parking is available, so please plan to arrive early*** (or take public transportation). Graduates must be at the theatre by 6:15 pm at the latest. Each student must have their gown and a ticket to get into the theatre.

As this is a formal occasion, we expect everyone to be on their very best behaviour. Applause is appreciated; whistling and shouting are not. Please turn off your cellular phones before you enter the theatre. Grads are to remain seated in their reserved seats throughout the ceremony. Families and guests are asked to remain seated until the ceremony and the formal recessional from the theatre is complete - this allows all parents and guests to see their graduates. Artona Studios will take a picture of each graduate as s/he crosses the stage and these are provided to the grads (paid for with student Grad Fees).

- **TICKETS FOR GRAD CEREMONY:** Each graduate will receive three complimentary tickets (one for the student and two for the student's parents or guardians). There are a limited number of additional tickets available at \$10 each, which will be sold by Grad Committee by 4th May. Additional tickets may be released for sale after this date. Please see Grad Committee.
- **GRAD CEREMONY REHEARSAL:** A rehearsal is planned for all grads in our auditorium at Van Tech, the day before the ceremony. The date of this rehearsal will be Thursday, **May 31st**, during last block 1.45pm - 3.00pm. It is **mandatory** that all grads attend this event. Grad caps, stolls, and gowns, along with the 3 complimentary tickets will be given to students at this time. **ALL STUDENT FEES MUST BE PAID BEFORE GRAD REHERSAL TO RECEIVE YOUR TICKETS, GRAD CAP AND GOWN.**

- **GOWNS FOR GRAD CEREMONY:** Grads will be provided with caps and gowns to wear at the ceremony. These gowns are purchased with Grad Fees and will be available at the rehearsal for all students to take home. After the ceremony, the gowns will belong to the graduating students.
- **GRAD DINNER & DANCE:** On Friday, June 1st, beginning at 6:15 pm, Van Tech's graduates will be taking part in a dinner and dance sponsored by the school and organized by the Grad Committee. The event is held at the Waterfront Centre Hotel located at 900 Canada Place Way. Tickets will be sold in May.

The Grad Committee has been fundraising to assist with lowering costs as they have done each year. Final ticket prices will be announced soon. Only Van Tech Grad 2018 class members in **good standing** can attend this event. *Tickets will be sold from Thursday 17th may to Friday 25th may during lunch breaks.* Tables will be seated in groups of 10, please try and purchase tickets in your groups for seating allocations. Parents are invited to join the graduates from 8:15pm to 9:00pm in the ballroom for family photographs and to have the first dance. Please note that in accordance with hotel policy, students may **not rent rooms** at the Fairmont Waterfront Centre Hotel or have others rent rooms on their behalf.

- **GRAD PHOTOS:** Will be taken by Artona Studios. All students should have their photo taken, for the yearbook and the composite. Purchasing photo packages is not required. Questions or concerns can be directed to Bob at Artona (604) 872-7272. You can also visit the Artona website for more information www.artonagroup.com. The photos taken at the Graduation Ceremony will be provided to all grads at the end of June.
- **2018 BC GOVERNMENT EXAMS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRANSCRIPTS:** Updated Provincial Examination and Scholarship results will be available on-line at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams. Students should create an account prior to the end of the school year to ensure that their birth date and name is correct. They will also forward the transcript to the post secondary institutions of your choice...as long as you have filled out the PSI Selection Form.
- **S TRIPS:** The Vancouver School District would like parents to know that S-Trips are not supported or sponsored by the district or secondary schools. The S-Trip company offers grad events and recreational trips during spring and summer school breaks, as well as weekend trips to ski resorts. These are not school-sanctioned grad events or field studies. Our VSB staff is not involved in these trips. The company recruits volunteer students from secondary schools to help with the advertising of these programs to other members of the student body. This advertising is done through social media tools which are widely used by students, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. The school district will not permit this company to advertise or meet with students on school property. The Vancouver School District has a comprehensive policy for school-sponsored field trips and studies, which include clear expectations for student safety and supervision. We encourage parents to carefully review the guidelines for student supervision and safety, of any trips in which their youth are planning to participate.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this letter, our Graduation (School Leaving) Ceremonies celebrate the completion of our students' secondary schooling. It is a privilege they have earned by attending regularly and by putting their best effort into their programs, especially the courses necessary for graduation. If you have concerns about your son or daughter's participation, please contact our Grade 12 Counsellor, Mr. Niek or Vice-Principal, Mr. Godfrey. I would like to thank all of the student members of our Grad Committee along with their sponsors, Ms. Clark and Ms. Bighorn for all of the work, time and caring invested in these events, and thank you, parents and guardians, for your support of our graduates!

Sincerely,

Ms. A. Vey-Chilton
Principal