

Dear Bishop Reding Parents and Guardians and Grade 12 Grads,

I am writing to let you know that in light of the current COVID-19 health situation, we have had to make the very difficult decision to **CANCEL our Grade 12 Prom which was to be held on Friday, June 19, 2020.**

In addition, we will be **POSTPONING our Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony which was to be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020.**

Graduation from secondary school is a special moment in the life of a student and his or her family. It is a time to celebrate the successful completion of their secondary school education. We know our students and parents will be very disappointed. We share in your disappointment and are committed to exploring alternative ways to celebrate your son or daughter's graduation. This may mean rescheduling our graduation ceremony to a later date (such as a Fall Convocation in October). It may mean finding ways to commemorate this milestone within a virtual setting. We will gather input from students, parents and staff, and together we will find a way to honour and celebrate your child's graduation in these extraordinary times.

Although, at this time, schools are scheduled to re-open for students on Monday, May 4, given the current uncertainty and the rapidly changing developments of this health situation, these decisions were made in the best interest of student safety and well-being.

### **Refunds**

All Parents/Guardians will be issued a refund for the Prom in the next few days through School Cash Online.

For now, we will not be issuing a refund for Graduation for all families in the hopes that we will hold a ceremony in the fall. However, parents may request a refund for the graduation fee if you do not believe your child will be able to attend the ceremony if it were to be held in the fall and it will be issued through School Cash Online. Please email [ogradyj@hcdsb.org](mailto:ogradyj@hcdsb.org) if you would like this refund at this time.

If you paid through cash or cheque, we will issue a reimbursement once our school re-opens.

The health and well-being of our students, families and staff is our greatest concerns, and I hope you are all doing well. Please keep following the advice of our Public Health professionals as you care for yourselves and your families.

***As always, I continue to hold all of our students and families in my thoughts and prayers.***

Take care,

Justine O'Grady

Principal