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Education Built on Relationships

June 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As this unusual school year draws to a close, my desire to offer the Class of 2020 a meaningful conclusion to their grade school years has received increased focus. I too am sensitive to the situation our graduates find themselves in and I expect that many may be feeling uncertainty about their future as well. The Administration Team and I have revisited our Virtual Convocation plan with provincial mandates and the layout of this building in mind.

As I share details associated with the filming of the Virtual Convocation, it is important you are aware of directives on *Infection Prevention Measures* and *Shared/Common Spaces* cited in the provincial document [Limited Use of School Facilities](#) released June 1. The statements highlighted in yellow are particularly relevant to our facility for the purposes of filming the Mini-Convocations being done Tuesday, June 16 through Thursday, June 18.

The June 1 provincial directives include provision for multiple groups of 25 people to operate within school settings at the same time, provided these groups can be segregated to prevent contact with other groups through the use of separate exits. With this in mind, we have reframed the Virtual Convocation to allow for parents or guardians to be present while their graduate receives their diploma.

MINI-CONVOCATION SCHEDULE

Student Scheduling

- Students will be scheduled to attend the school at a specific date and time.
- The schedule will be created based on student alphabetical order to facilitate overall planning and limit the number of edits required in the video production.
- We anticipate filming about 11 graduates at each session, meaning parents of students with surnames Abraham through to Cardinal can anticipate attending the first filming session on Tuesday, June 16 at 11:00 am. The number of graduates scheduled to attend a session is subject to the number of parents, stepparents and guardians that the graduate has. You will receive notification of your graduate's scheduled time tomorrow.
- We recommend that graduating students dress in the following manner:

Female Students:

- skirt/dress shall be no shorter than a hand width above the knee in the front and back or dress/casual dress pants;
- neutral top;
- appropriate dress shoes;
- bring hair pins to secure your cap to your hair.

Male Students:

- dress shirt along with an appropriate tie or bowtie;
- dress pants or casual dress pants;
- appropriate dress shoes.

Parents and Guardians Only

The balcony area in the Sanctuary presents a segregated space allowing us to seat a group of 25 people while complying with provincially mandated physical distancing measures. Seats will be marked to facilitate the “group gathering”. Given the maximum group gathering of 25 people, the invitation to attend must be restricted to parents, stepparents and guardians.

Student Directives to Ensure Compliance to Provincial Health Directives

- Graduates need to arrive at the Main School Entrance (north doors) 30 minutes prior to their scheduled Mini-Convocation.
- Graduates will be required to review the statements identified on the provincial *Stop Covid-19* poster ([click here](#)) and affirm that none of the statements apply.
- Graduates will be permitted access into the school by attending staff and be required to participate in handwashing protocol, i.e. apply hand-sanitizer or proceed to the nearest washroom to wash their hands before being permitted to proceed to Room 180 (Band Room).
- Graduates will be escorted to Room 180 to put on their ceremony attire which includes a cap, gown, v-stole and honour cord if awarded. Note, gowns arrive in protective covering with names affixed to the covering. The graduates’ caps, v-stoles and honour cords will be grouped with each graduate's gown.
- The group will be led to the Sanctuary and be instructed on procedures established to receive their diplomas or awards.
- Staff involved in supporting the grads will adhere to provincial health recommendations in the handling of attire and physical distancing throughout the event.

Parent Directives to Ensure Compliance to Provincial Health Directives

- Parents need to arrive at the southeast entrance at least 15 minutes prior to their graduate’s Mini-Convocation.
- Parents will be required to review the statements identified on the provincial poster([click here](#)) and affirm that none of the statements apply.
- Parents will be permitted access into the school by attending staff and be required to participate in posted hand-sanitizer protocol before being escorted to marked seating in the southeast or southwest balconies.
- Parents are to remain in their seats until the conclusion of the Mini-Convocation.

MINI-CONVOCATION PROGRAM

The program for each event will include traditional items such as a processional, declaration of the opening ceremony, greeting and commencement address, presentation of specialty awards, academic and privately funded scholarships, diploma presentation, prayer of blessing and announcement of the grads.

On-screen components will include items like the acknowledgement of honour roll and bible awards. The event will conclude with a recessional and graduates will be led outside to the grassy area located on the southeast corner of Grant Memorial for a cap toss and final photo. The Valedictorian Speech and a few other special presentations will appear in the June 26 Virtual Graduation video.

OTHER

- A **professional photographer** has been hired to photograph graduates receiving diplomas and other significant awards. Complimentary photographs will be provided to you via mail.
- Twenty-three of the students in the Class of 2020 have completed 12 or 13 consecutive school years at Linden Christian School and will receive an **“epic journey”** keepsake to formally acknowledge that they have been with Linden for all their grade school years.
- **Grad Gowns** - your graduate may borrow the gown and v-stole for a few days following their filming session to facilitate personal photographs. The gowns and v-stoles must be returned to the school by Monday, June 22. The cap is a keepsake, as is the honour cord.
- Since we are not able to have traditional events like the banquet, I appreciate that you may be planning **special events** that include some members of the Class of 2020. Please be very sensitive to those that cannot be included in your planning.
- **“The Last Lap”** on June 23rd at 2:30 pm offers graduates the opportunity to bid their grade school years farewell. Students will be invited to assemble at a specific location and form a car parade that will proceed to the school’s drive thru so they can make one last lap of LCS. Faculty and staff will be on site outside the building to cheer on the graduates as they navigate the drive thru one last time. This event will happen rain or shine. Additional details will follow.

THE BIG EVENT

The Virtual Convocation video will be shared on June 26 at 7:00 pm via Facebook and YouTube for initial viewing. This video is intended to present a wonderful opportunity for your family to celebrate this milestone in your graduate's life. You will be able to share the link with family and friends as well as be able to watch it again and again.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we work together to create a meaningful and safe experience for the Class of 2020. If you have any questions, please email my assistant Angela Mospanchuk, amospanchuk@lindenchristian.org.

In His Service,



Robert Charach
Principal and CEO