

2017-2018 Graduation Activities

What parents need to know about
sanctioned and non-school sanctioned
graduating class activities

School **Sanctioned** Events/activities



Teacher **Supervised**

Coordinated with administration/staff

Supported by the school

School has assumption of **liability**

Must align with school code of conduct

Sanctioned EVENTS

- Grad fundraising (jar/cake walk, sweatshirt sales, dance show snacks, etc)
- Prom
- Grad Breakfast
- Special Awards Ceremony
- Commencement



Non-Sanctioned EVENTS

Often related to alcohol or unsafe behaviours

- Car Rallies
- House or Field Parties
- Grad Camp-out/Off Campus Coffee House
- Mont Tremblant and other “grad trips”
- Milk Challenge
- Grad “pranks”
- Grad “skip-day”
- Pre-Prom and After Prom

Other Non-Sanctioned Events

Winter Formal

This is NOT school sanctioned (in Quebec, parent and student organized, no staff supervision).

What about Prom?

Prom requires its own separate part in this discussion, both because of the significance of the event and because of the recent changes in how proms can work



History - 15+ years ago

- School sanctioned grad committee/prom was the norm
- Increased issues with alcohol and other behaviour led schools to remove themselves on board-wide basis
- Grad committees ceased to be part of student council
- Parents, then external organizations, took on proms - fundraising and ticket sales went underground
- Grad activities and fundraising became exclusively student organized through external providers.

History - 5 years ago

- Increased concerns regarding student safety, mainly related to collecting and handling of large sums of cash
- Schools given ability to hold funds and to support prom fundraising
- Proms and most other grad activities still remained unsanctioned

History - Last 2 years

- Increased parent concerns around safety, cost and inclusiveness of proms led to decision at board to allow schools to “take back” prom organization
- Grad committee representatives worked with teacher supervisors to plan an early June prom
- Grade 12s were surveyed as to prom preferences, with a formal event with sit-down meal at downtown venue being preferred and price being the most important factor
- Two years ago we were at NAC, last year the Shaw Center

History - This year

- For reasons of supervision, inclusiveness, and cost, the school will be running Prom again this year. As always, the school does not and will not play a role in pre-prom or after-prom activities
- While there was a group of students connected to PromNight.ca who were advocating for a non-sanctioned event, they are now supporting the school sanctioned event
- Our grad committee of students and staff supervisors are already planning Prom on behalf of the entire graduating class - details on date, location, and prices will be available in the new year.

Role of school/parents

- **School** will continue to actively discourage unsafe activities and communicate with parents when possible
- **Parents** need to be aware of legal liabilities related to hosting activities where alcohol is present
- **Parents** need to be aware of potential dangers of student involvement in non-sanctioned events
- **School and Parents** should ensure students are fully aware of consequences of failure to follow school code of conduct at school sanctioned events

Communication

- **Parents** are asked to have open and frank dialogue with their children about the potential dangers of participation in unsanctioned events, particularly where alcohol/drugs or dangerous behaviour may be a part of the activity

We would like to encourage safe, reasonably priced, and fun ways to celebrate this tremendous milestone

What can we do to help?



