



April 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I am writing this letter to provide an update on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on scheduled functions in our school community in the months of May and June. During a recent news briefing, the provincial health officer stated that it is expected that we will continue with the provincial health order prohibiting gatherings in excess of 50 people until the end of summer. The extension of this order, which will be updated on the [B.C. Government website](#) in the next while, will require the formal cancellation of all of our year end school functions. The cancelled year end functions include but are not limited to: commencement ceremonies (in their traditional form), graduation functions including prom and community dry grads, school year end awards and celebrations, and year end camps and field trips.

To our students in grade 12 who are scheduled to graduate this year, I know these are very anxious times for you. You have spent the last 12 years or more eagerly anticipating the day you could walk across the stage and celebrate your success with your family and loved ones. Also, we know that you have been looking forward to all of the activities that culminate the year: the valedictorian speeches, prom, dry grad, etc. We share in your disappointment at not being able to celebrate as in past years and we are exploring alternative ways to celebrate your journey with you. Your school principal/vice-principal teams are looking into commencement ceremonies in a virtual setting and information will be shared by your school admin teams in the next little while. Although June commencement ceremonies may not be as elaborate as in the past, it is important that we continue to practice all of the health norms required by the provincial health officer so that we can stay safe and healthy, and honour all of our graduating students for their success in Chilliwack schools.

I would like to close by expressing my sincere appreciation to all Chilliwack School District staff, community and families for their commitment for supporting each other during these difficult times. I am humbled by the thoughtfulness and compassion displayed by all in our school community. As each day passes, we become stronger in our resolve as a community to beat this pandemic. Stay safe and healthy and thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

Rohan Arul-pragasam
Interim School Superintendent