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ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE  
**HANDSWORTH**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

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December 20, 2013

To: All Grade 12 Parents/Guardians

We are entering a very exciting time in the lives of our upcoming graduates and their families. At this time I feel it is important to remind you of the formal events that are coming up, to clarify which events are directed and sponsored by the school, and what may take place but is NOT school sanctioned.

**The school's formal activities are:**

- **June 7 Grad Dinner and Dance – Hyatt Regency Hotel – 6:00-11:00pm**
- **June 19 (TENTATIVE) Grad Ceremony – Orpheum Theatre 7:00 pm**

These are wonderful events that allow us to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates with you.

From now until the end of the year there will no doubt be many activities celebrating the students' graduation but I would like to make it clear that events other than those listed above are not school sanctioned and will not have staff supervision nor input. One of these events in particular is the **Safe After Grad**, which has run since 2008. Each of those years parents concerned about the safety and affordability of previous after grad events, have taken it upon themselves to provide an opportunity for students to celebrate their graduation through a **Safe After Grad**. The mandate of the Safe After Grad Program is to develop a safe, fun and affordable event open to all grade 12 Handsworth graduates. I believe every effort is made to ensure that this is a safe, substance free event. Having said that, I would encourage you to thoroughly investigate the event details and the supervision provided. Because this event does not involve the school nor the staff of Handsworth, the event organizers have properly kept all the details and organization separate from the school. In addition, they wish to make it known that although the event is not school sanctioned it is open to all of Handsworth's grads. You may visit the event website at <http://www.handsworthgrad.com> or contact the organizers at [handsworthgrad@gmail.com](mailto:handsworthgrad@gmail.com) for further information.

Any other events, which I have not mentioned, can be assumed to be unassociated with the school and unsupervised by school staff. I would encourage parents to research and investigate all events to ensure that they are aware of the supervision and safety precautions put in place. As a result, I can make no statement of the provisions for safety that have been put into place, other than to say that often these events are woefully lacking in adequate safety precautions. Just as for the Safe After Grad event, I would strongly encourage you to research the plans for any such event.



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For more information about the upcoming school organized grad activities please visit the Handsworth website. If you have a question about other informal grad events and wish to clarify if the school is involved please contact our main office.

In closing, I would ask that you encourage your child to continue to behave at school in the fine manner they have during their time at Handsworth Secondary School. It is our desire to see them finish strongly and go out on the best possible terms.

I'm very much looking forward to spending time with all of you at the upcoming grad events where we get to celebrate, in a positive manner, the many accomplishments of your children, our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Mark James'.

Mark James  
Principal