

Hello Grads and family members,

My name is Jade Pikowicz and my daughter, Braelen Bacon is graduating this year.

Once again, our children are faced with a graduation during a pandemic with possibly quite tight restrictions.

While the options are very limited and there is no way to know what the restrictions will be in June, we are faced with an opportunity to attempt to plan something special to celebrate the accomplishments of our grads.

A zoom meeting has been organized for Thursday April 1st at 7 pm to establish a committee to begin preparing and planning an evening grad celebration. The High school will be planning an afternoon cap and gown ceremony where the students will get their diploma's (however that may look, depending on the present restrictions).

**The Zoom meeting ID is 730 9487 8666 Passcode:6f7kHd**

This proposed committee would be responsible for planning an evening event. There are several options for what could happen and how this event would look. I have attached some websites I found with ideas for graduation celebrations.

I encourage you to take a look and be creative coming up with your own ideas, keeping in mind the current provincial Covid restrictions.

During this meeting, I am hoping parents will step up for various committee heads, responsible for organizing a particular component of the event. In 2015/16, the high school made the decision to no longer organize and be responsible for the evening grad celebration and turned this event over to the parents. That year the parents were in unknown territory, planning and deciding based on the grads wishes, past traditions and the ideas generated from an involved and committed group of parents. Grads and families, this year, are in similar circumstances, wanting to celebrate the past 13 years of hard work, milestones and memories, knowing this year is the end to a chapter for our children.

The following committees were established that year and were a crucial component to the evening's success.

- Chairperson
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Fundraising (2 people)
- Program – (responsible for sound/ lights/ hired companies for IT etc)
- Covid Restriction (possibly a new requirement to ensure all components of an event meet provincial regulations).
  
- Decorating (this likely not necessary as there likely may not be a building to decorate, but the ideas may generate another portion that required decorating)
- Tickets (Also may not be necessary, for an online event)
- Security (possibly not necessary)

Even if you are not interested in volunteering for a committee position, please consider attending this meeting to contribute ideas and begin the conversation of an evening grad celebration.

Another important part of this group is to gather a detailed contact list for all grads/ families. Meetings as they have been done in the past will not happen this year. It is important to have accurate information to communicate with all families.

A Facebook page has been started, please consider joining, as a way to communicate and keep up with discussions.

**Grad 2021 Carpenter High ML Evening Program.**

Please share this information with any other 2021 grads/ families you know, to ensure we are including everyone.

Some ideas for celebrations.

<https://stories.northernhealth.ca/stories/ten-ideas-celebrate-class-2020-during-covid-19>

<https://www.ryerson.ca/news-events/news/2020/06/tips-to-celebrate-graduation-during-covid-19/>

<https://www.oprahmag.com/life/g32286096/graduation-party-ideas/>

<https://ess.com/blog/4-ideas-for-hosting-high-school-graduation-during-covid-19/>

<https://ess.com/blog/8-tips-for-hosting-a-virtual-graduation-ceremony-during-covid-19/>

<https://ess.com/blog/6-ways-to-celebrate-graduating-seniors-during-covid-19/>

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/five-ideas-for-a-pandemic-proof-graduation/2020/05>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/sask-schools-communities-safely-celebrate-2020-grads-1.5601243>

This past year hasn't been easy in many respects and while there is no way to hold a large scale event like past years, it is possible to honor and celebrate this year's grads. I know with some thought and creativity we can organize an equally special evening.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

If you are unable to attend but would like to volunteer or have ideas to contribute, please call, text or send me a message on Facebook.

306-240-7273.