



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

April 27, 2017

To Parents of our Graduating and Future Graduating Students:

**RE: Safety of Your Child at Non-Sanctioned Graduation Activities**

The graduation year for our grade 12 students is one of the most special and celebrated milestones in each of their lives. The School District staff want it to be full of learning and to be enjoyable, fun and safe for each of them.

The administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and community come together at all of our secondary schools to plan, organize and host a diverse range of graduation activities. These include such events as dinners/dances, commencement celebrations, fundraisers, and other school-sanctioned celebratory activities. At each of these events, School District personnel are on site to supervise the students and to ensure their well-being according to the School District and school-specific Codes of Conduct.

One other particular event, Dry Grad, is sponsored and hosted by our hard working grad parents, and in this case, supervision is provided by members of the parent community.

However, there are other non-sanctioned grad events that we do not supervise nor support. Activities organized and arranged by graduates themselves could include "bush parties" that take place in our region. The other growing trend is the organization of large group multi-school grad trips to winter and summer resort destinations organized for students by private travel companies that are not in any way connected to the School District.

We want to be clear that we have serious concerns regarding student behaviour and safety at all of the above-mentioned non-sanctioned events that occur. There have been incidents of serious injury or death to students and we strongly caution parents against allowing their child to participate in these activities. Please check out this website for some great strategies in talking to your child about alcohol <https://www.healthyfamiliesbc.ca/home/articles/topic/alcohol-parenting>

The staff of School District 5 want the Grade 12 year to be positively memorable for each graduate and their family. The safety of your child is of utmost importance to us and we strongly recommend that you closely scrutinize the activities that your child is attending.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hauptman  
Superintendent of Schools