

GARIBALDI SEC

Check
Microsoft Teams
and GSS Grad 2026

*GRAD NEWSLETTER Supporting Parents and Students of the
GSS 2026 Graduating Class*

A NEWSLETTER

Fall Issue

School Leaving Ceremony

Monday, June 8, 2026

Chandos Pattison Auditorium
10238 168 St, Surrey, BC V4N 1Z4

Grads arrive at 3:30pm
3:45pm group picture
Ceremony starts at 4:30pm Punctual
Approximately 2.5 hour ceremony

Dinner/Dance

Friday, June 5, 2026

Swaneseet Resort and Country Club
6:00pm - 11:00pm
16651 Rannie Rd, Pitt Meadows, BC
V3Y 1Z1

Parents Welcome 4:30pm - 5:30pm
For outside Photography

Students and Approved Guests Only

Dry Grad

Friday, June 5, 2026

to Saturday, June 6, 2026
Garibaldi Secondary School

Parent Volunteers Needed
Students and Approved Guests Only
11:30pm - 5:00am (approximately)

Doors close at 12:15pm

Overview Timelines

October/November/December

- Sign up for MS Teams
- Bookmark the Grad 2026 Website:
 - <https://gsscareercentre.wordpress.com/grad-2026/>
- Grad Wear available to order
- Be sure to attend all Grade 12 assemblies
- Students begin completing Online Post Secondary Institution (PSI) Selections
- Grad Photos - please book an appointment online see page 2
- Apply to Post Secondary
- Cap and Gown sizing will occur during the December Grad Assembly

January

- Late January early admission to many post-secondary institutions closes
- Be sure to attend all Grade 12 assemblies
- District Scholarship "How to" apply seminar

February

- District Grad Photo Retakes
- Many Scholarships opening for application
- Be sure to attend all Grade 12 assemblies

March

- March TBD Final Deadline for District Scholarship packages to career centre

May

- Guest applications approved and tickets distributed
- Be sure to attend all Grade 12 assemblies

June

June 3, 3:00pm

MANDATORY GRAD REHEARSAL - GSS Gym

- You will be receiving your Grad Cap and Gown during the rehearsal

Career Counselling / Scholarship Advising:
Is available, time posted in the career centre
See Ms. Domitruk



School Leaving Ceremony

All grads will be given 4 tickets per family in May, if they are on track for meeting Graduation requirements. Grads are to arrive at 3:30pm to prepare for their group Grad photo that takes place at 3:45pm sharp. Please make sure the gown is ironed well ahead of time and Grads arrive dressed and ready to go. They will receive their gown during the **Grad rehearsal, see Page 1.**

If you have a special request for wheelchair seating, please inform the office by emailing: Jacquie Montgomery jacqueline_montgomery@sd42.ca

Grads are issued 4 tickets. Additional tickets are sold, at a cost of 10 \$ each closer to the event. Tickets are not sold at the door.

Guests (Dinner, Dance, and Dry Grad):

Any guest must have approval of the school administration. This process occurs following the school Spring Break. It is necessary to make an approved guest list early enough to meet the needs of dress makers, and/or suit purchases. Guests must be in "good standing" with their current high school, guests older than 19 years old are typically not approved.

Dinner/Dance

The Dinner/Dance will be held for **STUDENTS AND APPROVED GUESTS ONLY.**

Parents are welcome to attend outside for photos before the Dinner/Dance, from 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

Swan-e-Set is a wonderful venue with a very scenic backdrop. Many families come to take pictures, perhaps collecting childhood friends for a last school picture.

Parents are reminded:

- that the lounge in the clubhouse is off limits to grads during the event.
- Please advise all limo drivers that they must drop off and pick up quickly to prevent backlog on roadways!
- Grads and their guests must **STAY OFF THE FAIRWAYS** of the golf course
- No Confetti allowed

Dry Grad

This event occurs immediately following the Dinner/Dance. It is a safe fun conclusion to the evening. There is a casino/ carnival event from entrance to about 3:20am, then a hypnotist show. Truly outstanding, good, clean fun. The Event finishes approx. 5 AM. Grads should not drive themselves home.

Entrance to the Dry Grad events can include a bag and coat inspection. This is a "dry" event for all. Waivers will be necessary for Dry Grad Events.

Parent volunteers are key to a great Dry Grad.

A parent Chairperson is needed for Dry Grad 2026, please contact Ms. Knox. Parents are essential for the evening and for the fundraising that occurs prior to the event. Please see the grad webpage for meeting and planning meeting dates. Contact Theresa_Knox@sd42.ca to volunteer.

Fees:

A single fee of \$300 will include: Cap, Gown, V Stole, individual ceremony photo, Dry Grad, Dinner dance, and 4 Ceremony tickets. Payment will be one time or three instalments (November, January, March).



Criteria for Participation

All secondary schools in School District 42 adhere to a practice of allowing students to participate in the School Leaving Ceremonies under the following conditions:

- 1) We believe in honouring students for their accomplishments and have endeavoured to host ceremonies that celebrate actual graduation achievement. The student must be eligible to graduate by meeting the Ministry criteria. Marks/ completion rates should reflect the likelihood they will pass all courses. In the event a student is not on a graduation pathway, plans including Summer Learning or in process of online learning, may be allowed participation in the School Leaving Ceremony. Administration will make this decision by the Friday before the May long weekend. To avoid heartbreaks, students should be well above 50%.
- 2) The student is in "good standing" with the school. Students under suspension are not permitted to participate in the School Leaving Ceremony.
- 3) The student must not owe any outstanding fees to the school (includes books, grad fees, uniforms, etc.)
- 4) Parents of a student in danger of losing the privilege of a School Leaving Ceremony will be informed.

School Leaving Ceremony Attire

Graduates, you will be wearing a traditional cap and gown for the ceremony. You should not need to purchase a new or expensive outfit for the day, but please dress for the occasion.

Your shoes will be visible to the audience as you cross the stage, so appropriate shoes are recommended.

Your gown will be blue and the "stole" around it will be blue, gold and white.

The gown, stole and cap are yours to keep. Take all pictures you require before the ceremony begins.

We suggest dress shirt with a collar and tie, as the top of your shirt can be seen above the gown and this looks nice in photos. Suit jackets aren't necessary; it gets quite hot on stage under the lights.

Or a nice top/dress (many students tend to choose a neckline that is not visible above the gown, so the colour is not important). Black/grey pants or a knee-length skirt/dress are suggested.

Darby Studios Grad Photos

November 17,18,19,20 2025

The sitting is 12 minutes. There will be several formal traditional cap and gown portraits as well as opportunity for casual photos in that time. A prop is welcome that represents the student's character whether it be a basketball, or hockey gear or a musical instrument for example. Come in your favourite outfit.

The important thing to remember is to be early for the appointment and to be ready.

Grads should have a plain shirt and tie to wear under the gown or a bare neckline usually works very well.

There is a \$35 sitting fee. Payable online in advance.

A grad photo is required for the yearbook. If the student does not wish to receive any proofs and only wants a photo in the year book, the sit fee is waived. A yearbook photo will consist of two shots only. There will not be a retake day for the yearbook photo. The yearbook has important dates that have to be met so please make the most of your grad sitting.

Book your appointment online at

<https://www.darbyphotos.ca/>

Just click on the BOOK APPOINTMENT button and follow the directions for Garibaldi.

Formal package fees vary in price beginning at approximately \$100.

Buddy photos will occur on a separate date. The date is TBD.

If you have any questions please give Darby Photo a call or email.

Yearbook Info for Parents of Grads

Parents of Grads! ~ Remember that the deadline for you to compose your parent tribute and submit your favourite toddler photo of your child is mid January. Parent write-up can be up to 300 characters,(including spaces) and should be sent using the email address. Photo must be scanned at highest resolution (300 dpi) and sent using same email address.

Grad Website

We work very hard to communicate well with grads. It is difficult as we recognize some of our students are attending alternate campuses to support their trade programs. It is important that grads are both connected to the Microsoft Teams group and periodically check the GSS Grad 2026 webpage. This can be found on the main Garibaldi website top tab.

F.A.Q. Frequently Asked Questions for both Grads and Parents

What if my student only wants to attend one event?

Students are welcome to choose to attend any events they wish. However we have found that most students who start the year with the expectation of attending only the School Leaving or Dinner/Dance often change their mind over the course of the school year. In the event a student wished to attend only some events please contact iliversidge@sd42.ca

We have siblings in the grad class. Is there a fee break?

There is no reduced fee for siblings as cost are per person.

Is carpooling necessary?

At every event carpooling is necessary as there's a limited number of parking spaces.

My student is at risk of not graduating. What happens in this process?

Over the course of the year the grad progress is reviewed and communications made directly with parents. We

work hard to identify students at risk. A part of this process involves formal communication from the school. This is may include, however most often is done by phone, a letter from the principal and the Grade 12 counsellor.

Non-grads, who remain in good standing, are still welcome to attend the Dinner/Dance and Dry Grad. Refunds are not issued if after the final numbers are set, as we have committed

costs for rental of gowns and the purchase of dry grad items. Early recognition of a non-grad will support a refund.

Can we trade School Leaving Ceremony tickets?

While we do keep a record of who each ticket is sold to, we do not cross reference that at the door. Tickets for Dinner/Dance and Dry Grad are identified to the individual student and/or guest Accordingly these tickets cannot be traded.

While we hope families support each other in their needs for additional ceremony tickets, please be sure all your tickets are used.

Scholarship Information

Over the course of the school year there are many scholarships that come up and are available. As a school we work to keep students informed through three different mechanisms: Career Life Connections class, a Scholarship bulletin board, the career centre website (<https://gssccareercentre.wordpress.com/>) and the GSS Career Centre.

Additional primary sources of information are:
<http://www.sd42.ca/student-financial-awards>

Some sites to visit would be:
www.scholarships.ca,
www.scholarshipscanada.com,
www.studentawards.com

University Entrance Scholarships:

Many post-secondary institutions offer financial incentives in the form of money awards towards tuition at their institution.

School Website:

<https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/>

Contact Information:

For questions and additional information please feel free to email the contact below:

Grad Dinner Dance	Jaclyn_Gibbs@sd42.ca
Dry Grad	Theresa_Knox@sd42.ca
School Leaving Ceremony	jacqueline_montgomery@sd42.ca
Grad Caps and Gowns	Ian_Liversidge@sd42.ca
Fees and Forms	Eileen_Klassen@sd42.ca
Grad Criteria (Principal)	Ian_Liversidge@sd42.ca
Grad Criteria (Counselor)	Lindsay_Hine@sd42.ca
General Inquires	Ian_Liversidge@sd42.ca
Website updates	Ian_Liversidge@sd42.ca