

May 19, 2009

**Parents/Guardians of the Graduating Class of 2009:**

For your information, attached is a schedule outlining the dates of and venues for Graduation and related activities. Family and friends of the graduates do not need tickets to attend the Graduation Ceremony, the Grand March or the Ecumenical Service. Students are required to pay a Graduation fee of **\$50.00**. This fee helps to defer grad costs including: Grad Gown, Diploma and Cover, Graduation Tea, C200 Rental, Printing, Decoration, etc. Many students have already paid this fee but some fees are still outstanding. We are offering the services of a professional photographer again this year to take a picture of each graduate as they receive their diploma. Each graduate will be given a 5" x 7" picture which may be picked up at the school on Saturday, June 27 in the morning or on any Wednesday morning in July. There is no charge for this picture. Additional copies may be ordered from Abbass Studios (564-8234). This will render it unnecessary for family members to take pictures and should allow the proceedings to run more smoothly.

The Ecumenical Service is a highlight of Graduation Week and I encourage all students and parents to attend. This year's service will be celebrated at the St. Andrews Church in Sydney on Sunday, June 21, at 2:00 p.m. A Graduation Tea for graduates and parents will follow immediately in the cafeteria at Sydney Academy.

Once again this year, Sydney Academy is committed to our Safe Graduation Program. The main objective of this program is to provide a safe and enjoyable graduation party that is alcohol and drug free. The Grand March and Prom will be held at Centre 200, Wednesday, June 24 beginning at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by the Prom at Centre 200 and the Safe Grad Party at Cape Breton University. The Safe Grad Party will be an all-night extravaganza. All students will travel by bus, leaving Centre 200 at midnight. Every effort is being made to ensure that this will be a memorable night for our graduates. The Safe Grad Committees are arranging food and entertainment and are also engaged in fundraising. Students will enjoy various activities throughout the night - gym activities, dancing, inflatable games and entertainment featuring a hypnotist, karaoke, etc. A variety of great food will be available throughout the night.

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**We need students to sign up in early June in order to determine the number of buses needed, the amount of food to order, etc. We have traditionally had near 100% participation in the program and I would ask you to encourage your son/daughter to take advantage of the program. We feel obligated to call parents that evening if students commit to the Safe Grad Party but do not attend. Otherwise, parents should be able to relax that evening as the Safe Grad Party is being chaperoned by members of the Sydney Academy Staff and the Regional Police Force.**

Graduates will have an opportunity to leave the Prom at approximately 11:00 p.m. in order to change into casual clothes prior to boarding buses at 12:00. Buses will transport students from Centre 200 to Cape Breton University. Students will return to Centre 200 Saturday morning by bus at approximately 5:00 a.m. Feedback from students on Safe Grad has been very positive and it is our hope that the Graduates of 2009 will have an enjoyable and memorable experience.

**Please note: We encourage graduates to take part in the Safe Grad Party at CBU even if they are not planning to attend the Grand March or Prom.**

**The cost of a Prom ticket is \$25. 00/couple.  
(There is no charge for the safe grad program at CBU)**

**GRAND MARCH PRACTICE DATES:**

Sunday, May 31, Sydney Academy Gym, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 7, Sydney Academy Gym, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 14, Sydney Academy Gym, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 21, Centre 200, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23, Centre 200, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**\*\*\*\*\*Students are required to attend all Grand March Practices\*\*\*\*\***

**Graduation Exercises will take place on Thursday, June 25, at 7 p.m., at Centre 200. Grads are asked to meet in the dressing room area at 6:30 p.m.**

Sincerely,

**Kevin F. Deveaux  
Principal**