



Monday, April 12, 2021

Dear Grade 12 parents,

Every year, the grade 12 students at Belmont and in other district secondary schools privately organize a game of tag called 'Gotcha.' The game is played out in the community away from school, and not all of our grade 12s participate. The spirit of the game is intended to be fun and harmless; however, every year it gets out of hand to some degree. **This is not a school sanctioned grad event.**

The Belmont admin team and the school does not support the game and would prefer it did not happen. The game typically starts in mid-April, and each year the school receives several complaints from the community about our students behaving poorly; examples of behaviors include:

- Driving extremely fast chasing each other in cars
- Breaking in game participants' houses
- Running frantically in public places chasing people

It may sound innocent, but it does have the potential for negative consequences. We are asking that parents and guardians have a conversation with your graduate about the game, the rules of the game and whether it is worth the risks being taken. This game also has the potential to contravene PHO orders in terms of gathering and socializing.

We are so close to the end of the year, in what can best be described as a challenging year. We are incredibly proud of our grads and would hate to see any issues arise out of a game. The Grad Class of 2021 is an amazing group of young people. Let's make sure we work together over this last stretch without incident.

### **Commencement and Grad Fees**

This year's Commencement Ceremonies is scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 12th and Sunday, June 13th, booking times and details to come. **Please refer to the [February 8 update](#) for potential cancellation dates; the next Cancellation date is May 1.** Commencement Ceremony Fee (Grad fee) is \$35 and this includes: cap, gown, Grad 2021 mask, and diploma folder with a composite Grad picture. The deadline for Grad fees was March 12, and 85% of grads met the deadline! For the grads who have not yet paid or filled out the form (including your Commencement Comment), please stop by the office to complete as soon as possible.

Please let me know if there are any questions and thank you again for your continued support.

Melissa Horner  
Vice Principal  
[mhorner@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:mhorner@sd62.bc.ca)