



Seycove Secondary School

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September 4th, 2020

To the Graduating Class of 2021 ...

And so begins another completely unique and unprecedented school year for us all! As the graduating class of 2021, you face probably the most daunting task as we all try to negotiate the many challenges we will inevitably be facing this year.

I am honoured to travel alongside you as your principal, and I am hoping we can work together to make this year exciting, productive, and memorable for each and every one of you! The trials of last year showed us that we can adapt and succeed in the face of whatever comes our way by facing adversity together and embracing the incredible support in our amazing community of Deep Cove. We are all looking forward to sharing all of the excitement and success of your graduation year together with you. I am proud to be a Seycove Seyhawk!

As a member of the Senior Class, you are all now moving into a whole new role at Seycove. Much will be said this year about you being the “leaders of tomorrow” which is true, you are. We are counting on you. I would argue however that it is also important to emphasize that you are our leaders for today. Right now. You are role models for all your fellow students, younger students who will look up to you and emulate your actions. Students who need to see that if the grade 12’s can have the courage and the resolve to succeed in this crazy time, so can they. This is how leading through example can truly make a difference. Today, more than ever, is your opportunity to “pay it forward” through your actions and the choices you make. Our younger grades, our staff, our community, even your younger siblings, are all watching and learning from you. It is an awesome responsibility. It is your job to follow in the footsteps of past graduating classes that have helped create Seycove’s outstanding reputation as a school of excellence, of caring, and of compassion.

As with last year’s grad class, I have a question and a challenge for each and every one of you.

- First, the question: I want you to ask yourselves how you want to be remembered as a member of our Seycove community. What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind as you walk out of the school doors for the last time next June? (Start the countdown now, it will be here so much sooner than you think!)
- Second, the challenge: Can you rise above all of the formidable inconveniences brought on by Covid19 and still make sure that this year brings out the absolute best in you, and really and truly prepares you for life beyond these walls?

Some final thoughts:

1. Continue to build and cherish new and positive relationships with staff and fellow students, and maintain and foster the current relationships you have; they will provide a legacy of support and a lifetime of memories for you.
2. Strive for balance ... While your main focus for the upcoming year is to immerse yourself in your course work in preparation for whatever post-secondary plans you may have, make sure you get involved. School is about far more than academics, and involvement in your community is becoming increasingly important to universities, and employers, as they look at your applications. Make the most of your year ... grade 12 only happens once.
3. Celebrate your classmates. Work together and support each other. Everyone has a much greater chance for success when travelling down this challenging road with a community of peers to help along the way.

I look forward to seeing how each of you will contribute positively to the Seycove community, and how you will continue to develop and grow as a person throughout the year. I am always here, along with the rest of our wonderful staff, to help in any way we can. You need only ask.

I am proud and honoured to be the Principal of Seycove and to be associated with the grad class of 2021.

Sincerely,

Rob McLeod, Principal