

September 2019

Dear Upper School Parents and Guardians,

This letter is to provide you an overview of social events sanctioned by the school and those which are not, in an effort to support your decision-making within your family. All of the COSSOT schools (Coalition of Single-Sex Schools of Toronto) encourage students from the different schools to come together for both in-school and out-of-school activities.

We support this interaction through curricular opportunities, such as the World Affairs Conference, drama, Model UN, GSA (Gay Straight Alliance), robotics competitions and so on, as well as the traditional school-hosted dances, social events and community efforts. Our student leaders organize many of these events, designed to build social connections between other single sex schools. This year we are excited to invite COSSOT schools to three dances, A-Day and Winterfest and a wonderful new event the Relay for Life which is a fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer society.

Additionally, our students attend many COSSOT events hosted by other schools. Your son may be invited to a dance, may participate in COSSOT dodgeball or may perform at a coffee house hosted at another school, for example. These events are available for Y8s-12s. Y8 students attending dances at other COSSOT Middle Schools will have a UCC chaperone attend the event.

This year, UCC is pleased to be hosting the following social events:

- Relay for Life @ UCC (Y8-12 select teams) - Thursday, October 10
- Stewards Dance (Y11-12) @ UCC - Friday, October 18, 2019
- The Battalion Ball (Y11-12) @ Palais Royale - Friday, April 17, 2020
- Year 9 +10 Dance @ UCC - Friday, May 1, 2020

For each of these events, faculty and administration members are present, alongside the appropriate security personnel. Students are invited to sign up and bring a guest to all three UCC dances; all attendees are required to submit their parent's name and parent's contact number. We share this information with our COSSOT partners to ensure accuracy of the information in case of an emergency.

School sanctioned dances, whether at UCC or at one of our partner COSSOT schools, are always popular events for our students. No matter the occasion, we all expect our School's Code of Conduct to be adhered to both as members of the host school and as guests at another school's events. I have included a list of sanctioned events we know about to date at the end of this letter. Other schools are adding events in the fall.

In previous years, students from various COSSOT schools have taken it upon themselves to host dances at off-site venues within the city, often downtown. These are *not* school sanctioned events and as such, have no affiliation with the school and are not supervised by any staff members. No student-coordinated off-site dances and events are sanctioned by UCC, nor the other COSSOT

schools. No promotion for such an event is permitted on-site at the School. Matters of security and of the wellbeing of our young people are of utmost concern for us all.

If and when a COSSOT school finds out about an unsanctioned dance/party, we will notify our colleagues at our fellow COSSOT schools and let our families know. If you learn of an event that is questionable to you, you are encouraged to share the information and we will verify its status, as well as notify parent groups.

Of course decision making about what social activities to participate in differs for young people in every family. Social events like dances provide an excellent opportunity to engage in conversation with your son about his (and your) readiness. Exploring some of the ideas below from a stance of curiosity can be useful in the decision-making process, for both parents and teenagers:

- details about the event – time, location, host, security
- strategies for navigating social pressure
- confirming family stance on substance use
- proactive plans for personal safety

Making choices about social activities is a personal decision. What suits one family and students, may look different from what suits another family and student. We will continue to work together with you in the interest of the students.

If you have any questions, please contact me at School.

Best regards,

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LIST OF NON - UCC COSSOT EVENTS (as of August, 2019)

Please note that school's may change these dates. We will do our best to keep this document updated, but cannot guarantee its accuracy. If you have questions, please call.

SEPTEMBER 2019

27th: RSGC: Grade 9 Event

OCTOBER 2019

25th: Havergal: Dance: Years 9/10

NOVEMBER 2019

15th: Crescent: Semi Formal: Years 11/12

22nd: Havergal: COSSOT Dodgeball: Years 8-12

JANUARY 2020

17th: Havergal: Semi Formal: Years 11-12

31st: St. Clements: Semi Formal: Years 10-12

FEBRUARY 2020

7th: Havergal: Beatstock

7th: BSS: Semi-Formal: Year 11-12

21st: RSGC Semi-Formal: Year 11-12

APRIL 2020

24th: St. Clements: Grad Formal

MAY 2020

1st: Crescent: Grad Formal

8th: BSS: Prom

22nd: Havergal: Prom