

October 27, 2017

Subject: Senior Trip Planning and Costs Update

Dear Grade 7 Families,

Natalie has confirmed both trips and the deposits have been made to secure attendance for our kids. Overall trip costs are still estimated to be around \$2,000 for the Jumpstreet Tour and about \$750 for G.I.F.T.S. (The Gulf Islands International Film and Television School).

The following outlines key dates and associated payments we propose to follow. The school will administer this process and payments will be made via School Day (the VSB online payment system).

- November 17th – deposit of \$300.00 from all families, either trip
- December 1st – bursary requests due
- December 15th – hard commitment for Quebec Tour & Quebec Tour deposit becomes non-refundable
- February 28th – final payment for either trip, amount dependent on fundraising

Trip information updates

- Natalie has informally polled our kids and we have 44 opting for Quebec, 9 opting for G.I.F.T.S. and 8 still undecided
- Trip costs may adjust slightly depending on numbers and dates (TOC costs, flights, etc.)
- The cost to families for either trip will depend on the overall amount we fundraise, particularly for those opting for the Quebec tour
- **Jumpstreet Tour of Montreal & Quebec – May 7-12, 2018**
 - M. Robert and one other staff member will attend, in addition we hope to have three JQ university-age alumni as chaperones
 - The budget includes all trip costs elements
 - Breakfast & dinner is included for kids - parents need to budget additional \$ for lunches and spending money
 - Unfortunately there will be no dance cruise on the St-Laurent this year; other options are being investigated
 - We are confirming details regarding the insurance policy, and expect an additional \$38 per student will be required
- **Gulf Islands Film & Television School (G.I.F.T.S.) – May 14-18, 2018**
 - Natalie had previously confirmed the later May dates however given the shift in Quebec Tour dates another school has secured May 7-11
 - As the trips will not overlap, there will be additional TOC costs which the school will absorb

JQ PAC Bursary Fund

In the past when the school participated in a Quebec Exchange, JQ PAC established an Endowment Fund into which any extra monies were placed in reserve to assist families should the school not receive a grant to cover travel costs in any given year. In recent years, the Endowment was repurposed into a Senior Trip Bursary Fund to support families who require financial assistance to ensure their child can participate.

Each year, while the Fund is viable, a percentage of funds is available for families to draw upon – up to a maximum of \$500 per student. Applications will be sent out shortly and are due December 1st. If you apply, you will be notified of a bursary award prior to the December 15th Quebec trip commitment date. The process is confidential and your application will not be shared with the Senior Trip Committee.

Allocation of Fundraising dollars

Much conversation, thinking and angst has gone into ensuring a fair distribution of the funds we raise each year given the school offers two trips at differing costs to families. Learning from the last three years has been considered with three options put forward, one of which is to be written into the JQ Fundraising Policy:

- 1) equal allocation of total funds (i.e. everyone receives the same fundraising dollars regardless of the trip chosen);
- 2) equal % allocation of total funds (i.e. everyone receives the same percentage cost of the trip); or
- 3) a capped equal allocation of total funds (i.e. a \$300 deposit is required for all students participating in either trip. The amounts fundraised will be applied to the final payment and divided equally up to the point that only the \$300 deposit is required for GIFTS participants and any balance remaining of total funds will be allocated equally among students opting for the Quebec trip. The \$300 deposit follows the Quebec Exchange model where a minimum contribution was required from families and has also been required in recent years).

The third option was approved by the PAC Exec and will be presented at the next General PAC meeting on **Thursday, December 7 at 7pm.**

If you have any questions, please respond to this note or contact Natalie or Yvette (#604-202-4532). We will share answers to keep everyone informed.