

February 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The first Thursday of Spring Break 2016 and for the following two weeks, we plan on taking a group of KSS grade 11 and 12 social studies, history and or French immersion students (maximum 35 students) to Germany, Belgium and France to tour battlefields of World War I and II, as well as several locations of cultural interest. Students will be missing three days of school during this time.

The trip is being organized by ourselves and Mr. Paul Deuling of Ovis Tours which is based in Whitehorse, Yukon. We have been to Europe with Paul four times already as he guided the 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 trips. Although the exact itinerary has not been fully completed here is a list of sites we intend on including in the itinerary:

- Ypres, Belgium: Visit the Ypres Salient, Menin Gate and the Flanders Field Museum from WW I
- Paris, France: Visit the Champs Elysses, Arc de Triumph and Place de la Concorde, Les Invalides military museum (home to Napoleon's Tomb), the Palace of Versailles and the Eiffel Tower.
- Vimy Ridge and Verdun from WW I, and the Maginot Line
- Normandy, France: Pegasus Memorial Bridge, Juno Beach (Canadian landing site on D-Day), Abbey d'Ardennes, Le Memorial de Caen, Omaha Beach (American landing beach from Saving Private Ryan), Pointe du Hoc, Mulberry Harbour "B" at Arromanches
- Dieppe, France: Todt Batteries at Audresselles, V-1 and V-2 Rocket launch sites at Saint Omer
- Bruges, Belgium 'the Venice of Belgium' for cultural stop, Adegem Cemetery

During this trip, students will travel by coach and all accommodations will be at hotels where we or our tour organizer have already stayed. The approximate cost (not finalized until final costs have been calculated) will be approximately \$4200 CDN, which includes airfare, fourteen days of travel, bus transportation, cultural and historical admission fees, breakfasts and dinners. This does not include travel insurance, some lunches, snacks or spending money.

Payments will be made in four installments, a \$1,000 deposit in March, 2015, and subsequent deposit dates based on when reservations and airline tickets are being purchased.

Criteria for Choosing Students For Travel to Europe:

- The maximum number of students permitted to come to Europe is 35.
- Only students approved by teachers and administration will be permitted to take part.
- Applications for the trip must be handed in by **3:15PM Thursday, February 19.**
- Students accepted will be e-mailed confirmation by Monday, February 23. They will then need to make an online payment of \$1,000 to secure their spot for the trip.

Did you Lose Family in WW I or WW II In Europe?

An important part of the trip is to locate the graves of relatives or family friends that died in Belgium, France or Holland during WW I or WW II. We do whatever we can to get students to these sights because it adds incredible emotional power to the trip. If you have relatives that you would like us to find I would appreciate it if you can let us know. We need to know exactly where all of the graves are located long before we begin the trip because we need to submit precise mileage to the coach companies before they will bid on the job.

There will be an informational meeting for all interested students and parents on Wednesday February 18th from 5:00 – 6:00pm in Rm. 281 at KSS. Please bring any questions you might have.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at ryan.mansley@sd23.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Mansley, Mr. Bryce Stewart, Mr. Scott Brown, and Ms. Shannon Bracken