

Dear students and parents,

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that Joliette High School has undertaken the task of planning an organized trip to southern California for senior high school students (Secondary III and IV, and WOTP-1). The trip will take place around **Wednesday, April 15th, 2014, until Tuesday, April 22nd, 2014**. We will be leaving from Joliette High School some time after school on **April 15th** for Trudeau International Airport and returning at an unspecified time on April 22nd. Therefore, **parents will be required to drop off and pick up students at the school**.

The cost of the trip will be approximately **\$2000**. This includes transportation, accommodations, tour guides, and most of the items listed on the preliminary itinerary. It does not include travel insurance. Since no decision has yet been made on which package deal will be selected, the price quoted is a median price.

In terms of meals, all packages include continental breakfast, but only some of them include dinner. **Students are required to bring spending money** for shopping as well as to **cover the remainder of their meals**. As this **money must be in U.S. funds**, to facilitate the operation of our program we ask that students **exchange their money prior to the trip**. The total allowable cost of goods, which may be brought back to Canada, must not exceed \$800 Cdn.

In terms of crossing customs and boarding a flight, **it is essential that students have a valid passport ONLY. If the student is filling out a passport form for the first time, a birth certificate is required. Medicare cards and Social Insurance cards are insufficient.** The teachers in charge will verify that the students have proper documentation before leaving Joliette. As it is unfair for the others to have to submit to a delay, **students who do not have a valid passport will not be allowed to board the flight and will be left behind.**

You may obtain an application form for an official birth certificate from the Bureau du Directeur de l'état civil (2050 Bleury, 6th floor, 514-864-3900), Caisse Populaire Desjardins, Communication Quebec, CLSC, Palais de justice, funeral parlours, or by Internet at www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca. The cost of the certificate is approximately \$40.00, but it is worth the investment as it is required in order to obtain a driver's license and to apply to CEGEP.

As for a valid passport, you may obtain an application form by logging on to Passport Canada's website at www.ppt.gc.ca and click on Forms. (All forms are written in PDF format, and can be filled out online.) Otherwise, go to the nearest passport office in your area. A new passport, valid for 5 years, costs \$37 for students less than 16 years of age, and \$87 for students who are 16 years of age and older.

As for the method of payment, one of 2 options is available:

- 1) A \$2000 cheque post-dated for December 10th, 2012, or
- 2) A \$200 deposit post-dated for December 10th, 2012, and twelve post-dated cheques of \$150 for the following dates in 2013: January 7th, February 1st, March 11th, April 4th, May 1st, June 3rd and June 21st, August 27th, September 4th, October 1st, November 1st and December 2nd.

It should be pointed out that if the total cost of the trip is **less than** the median price, **the student would be refunded for the difference**.

Relevant forms (Registration Form and Student-Parent Contract) as well as a deposit of \$200 are due by Monday, December 10th, 2012. Please note that **deposits are mostly non-refundable once the trip is booked.** However, if a student who has paid for the trip must cancel for personal or scholastic reasons before the trip is booked, the money will be fully refunded.

As mentioned, while the trip is open to all Secondary III, IV and WOTP-1 students, a minimum of 20 students is required. However, priority will be given to those students whose merits (both academic and behavioural) warrant their participation. **Any student with serious disciplinary issues who fails to meet academic responsibilities (failure of courses or repeated failure to do homework) prior to the departure date will be removed from the trip. (Please refer to the Student Parent Contract).** During the trip, any student who fails to comply with the zero tolerance policy regarding the consumption or possession of drugs or alcohol or who causes disciplinary problems will be sent home at the expense of the parent or legal guardian. Furthermore, the cost of trip or any other costs associated with it will not be reimbursed.

Thank you in advance for your encouragement and cooperation. If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to call me at any time.

Best regards,

Gabriel Balassone
JHS