



March 6, 2020

Dear students, parents and staff,

Every spring break we have many organized school field trips that travel to variety of countries exploring a new culture, language and /or working on development projects alongside local community members. These trips take many months of planning by parents, teachers and students and become the highlight of the school year for students involved. Unfortunately, we are currently facing a global challenge with the outbreak of COVID-19, and the number of infected cases continues to grow across the world in certain regions.

We have been monitoring the situation very closely and rely on the latest information from the World Health Organization, the B.C. Ministries of Health and Education, and Fraser Health to help inform our decisions. We also have been monitoring the Government of Canada's Travel Health Notices, and will continue to do so in the coming week. With the outbreak and corresponding travel advisories, the district is taking the necessary precautions by cancelling **some trips** over spring break.

Student, staff and parent safety is paramount and after careful consideration; we are cancelling **trips to France** due to high concerns and risks regarding the outbreak of COVID-19 in this region. I realized that this will be disappointing news for many students, staff and parents, but please be assured that senior staff took many factors into consideration in making this difficult decision. We will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and may extend cancellations to include other school trips scheduled to take place over the coming months. If that happens, we will communicate directly with those who are affected.

We are also asking parents and staff who are travelling overseas to please consider issues such as needing to be quarantined upon returning to Canada. The current areas of most significant concern are China, Northern Italy, Iran, Japan and South Korea. Please note impacted areas may change and expand as the situation continues to evolve.

Sincerely,

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