



WEST COAST 2014 INFORMATION & APPLICATION PACKAGE

*****The final page of this package includes the application form. Completed application forms can be turned in on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 (the office will open at 7:00 am)*****

Mountain Park School will continue to offer a West Coast Sailing Program this fall of 2014. This year we have the opportunity of sending up to 33 **eligible** grade 9 students to have the experience of a lifetime; to travel to the coast and crew the Island Roamer or the Island Odyssey sailing vessel.

The trip has been tentatively booked for October 20-24, 2014. The group will leave Calgary on the morning of October 20th, fly to Victoria, where the group will board a bus and travel to Sidney Harbour. The boats will be boarded right away and students will prepare for the next five days of sailing and exploring the Gulf Islands. We will be returning to Sidney Harbour on October 24th at approximately 1:30 pm where we will store our luggage and go to the Shaw Ocean Discover Centre. We will return to Calgary on October 24th at approximately 8:30 pm. Flight information will be finalized by May 2014.

The Island Roamer is a custom 68-foot ketch, launched in 1983. The boat's design, safety and comfort make her perfect for these trips. She features 8 private cabins (double occupancy), 3 heads with hot showers, a large comfortable lounge with an extensive library, and a well-equipped galley. On deck, the large covered seating area provides protection in all types of weather.

Their new 68' ketch Island Odyssey is the sister-ship to 'Island Roamer'. Originally built as a luxurious private yacht in 1984, she completed a major renovation in 2003 to update the cabins and all safety systems. She features 8 private cabins (double occupancy), 3 heads with hot showers and a comfortable salon with a natural history library. On deck, the large deckhouse provides a comfortable spot to watch for wildlife.

Blue Waters Adventures promote active participation in all areas by students and supervisors. Students assume leadership, practice group problem solving, communication skills and take responsibility for specific tasks on board.

The Captain instructs the sail training and navigation program and the biology program is taught by an onboard biologist, with years of experience in education and local knowledge of the flora and fauna.



By bringing students in direct contact with the marine environment, they develop an appreciation for ecosystems, and our society's inter-connectedness with nature. Our schedule is intentionally flexible to allow for whale, porpoise, or other wildlife sightings.

After signing on, and a month of planning and preparation, students will fly to the West Coast and board the ships in Sydney, B.C. Students sail the Gulf Islands and participate in all facets of shipboard life. Learning takes place in several arenas including sailing, navigation, chart work, points of sail, knots, oceanography, marine sciences, natural history and environmental studies, just to mention a few.

Sailing off the west coast is a trip that thousands of Calgary Board of Education students and staff have participated in. Our grade 8 parents and students are welcome and encouraged to attend a **Parent Information Meeting on Monday, March 17^h from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Mountain Park School Media Centre.** Application forms (last page of this document) can be picked up at the meeting. Application forms with cheques are due Wednesday, April 9, 2014 (the office will be open at 7 am). **Parents of students attending the trip need to attend the parent meeting so please come if you know you are interested in sending your child.**

I (Shelagh McCracken) would like to share a little about my experience in leading student groups:

- I have been on four sailing trips, leading three of the trips with the Blue Waters Adventures group.
- I have led many Environmental Education / Outdoor Education / Physical Education trips while here at MPS.
- I am a certified scuba diver and have been on numerous ocean trips.

Here is some information from Blue Waters Adventures:

Our Ethic: Our ethic is simple: "Appreciate wilderness, respect wildlife and native cultures".

We only travel in small groups of guests. Smaller boats can float silently among the whales.

Bluewater Adventures trips adhere to the principals of ecotourism. We support local communities, promote conservation, ensure our practices are low impact, and provide students with world-class knowledge about the coast, the wildlife and Native cultures. We travel together in a relaxed, fun style - our lives are here to be enjoyed.

Bluewater Adventures contributes to a variety of whale and seabird research programs and supports conservation groups working to protect coastal wilderness.

Commitment to Learning: We are committed to introducing participants to the wonders of nature.

An experienced naturalist leads daily walks ashore and often provides short evening slide shows or presentations. Participants find learning engages their curiosity, and enriches the trip immensely.

Our Crew: Our dedicated and multi-talented crew have spent years sailing along this coast, leading our trips. Their experience and commitment makes the difference between a good trip and a great one!

Our captains are all Coast Guard and Department of Transport licensed to ensure safety.

Aboard each trip is a Resource Guide with qualifications in biology, education, zoology, anthropology or ornithology. Our guides are not only experts in their field, but truly enjoy communicating their enthusiasm to others.

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

At Mountain Park School we believe the West Coast program is characterized by a focus upon human and social values. Major emphasis is placed on the individual and in developing a feeling of self-worth. We are interested in offering programs that not only provide new experiences, but that will extend and challenge the student in meeting individual needs. We have completed an Educational Assessment and Safety Assessment for this program.

A program of this magnitude offers a chance for all disciplines to be integrated and applied.

Math – used in navigation and chart work.

Science – marine sciences will be studied extensively. Shoreline ecosystems are observed. Oceanography, chart work, tides and weather are studied and play a vital role. The science of sailing will be learned. The diversity of living things and environmental quality science units are linked to the Pacific Coast.

Social Studies – an overview of the natural history of the Gulf Islands may be studied, including economy and industry of the region. Geographical points of interest and Marine Parks are visited. The Social Studies units Natural Resources - Reflections on Water, and Marine Sanctuaries are studied.

Language Arts/Performing Arts– character sketches, journals and logbooks are maintained to record the journey. Initiative games and group dynamic games are played. Skits are performed. Journal writings are shared.

Physical Education – this program involves development of muscular strength, endurance and coordination. General outcomes of the Physical Education curriculum will be met including: basic movement skills, benefits health, cooperation and teamwork.

Self-Esteem - West Coast is an excellent opportunity and vehicle for students to develop skills in planning, organizing and following through on a major venture. This enhances the individual's self-esteem and promotes group dynamics as well as leadership qualities.

Social Skills – the trip will enhance and develop social skills, as students will be working in close proximity with each other and their group for five days. Group dynamics are explored and utilized throughout the course of the trip. Being a student-oriented program, the trip also develops a sense of responsibility and independence in the individual.

By actually becoming the crew of the ship, students are given an in-depth insight into a new way of life. Students develop an expanded marine knowledge.

ELIGIBILITY AND TRIP SELECTION

Any grade 8 student may apply for the West Coast Sailing trip. Trip placement will be based on the following criteria: first come basis (office opens at 7:00 am on Wednesday, April 9), meeting all deadlines (including application, deposit and post-dated cheques, attendance at meetings), positive citizenship in the school, participation in the program, and gender (same gender will occupy rooms).

COST OF TRIP

The cost is \$1400 per student (at this time, final price will dependent on flight costs). Additional costs will be shared and passed on to the families. If the trip ends up costing less, the difference will be refunded. Fundraising can be a component of fees, and at the information meeting we will discuss how we can cover the extra costs associated with this trip.

The payment schedule for the program is as follows:

A \$500.00 deposit, cheque dated April 9, 2014. Also included with the application are three post-dated cheques as follows:

\$300 for May 1, 2014
\$300 for June 2, 2014
\$300 for June 27, 2014

If a student does not attend the trip, the deposit and any other funds that have already been spent will only be returned if there is a student on the waiting list. If the trip is cancelled, all money will be returned to the parent / guardians, except those costs that are non-refundable.

This cost covers the following:

- Return transportation to Victoria Airport
- Ground transportation – between Victoria airport and Sidney harbour
- Entrance to the Shaw Ocean Discover Centre
- Post Trip party – Lunch and DVD
- Three professional crew per ship
- Food and lodging aboard the ship
- Onshore and ship related expenses and student logbooks

Please note that in the unlikely situation where travel arrangements need to be changed, for example a delay in returning to Calgary, the staff will make arrangements for food, accommodations, etc, with the costs being passed on to the families.

In addition, families will need to supply some spending money to cover cost of supper at the airport and anything else students may want to purchase in transit (ie. souvenirs from Discover Center and/or airport).

Please note: Students/Parents are encouraged to contact Shelagh McCracken(403 777-6442 ext 2302) if you would like to participate in the Sailing trip, but are encountering financial difficulties.

LUNCH HOUR/PE CLASS MEETINGS

Lunch hour lessons and PE class lessons play a vital role in preparing students for this journey. They will commence early in September. Lessons run once a week until the departure date, and are compulsory for all students. Students are also expected to participate in other West Coast related meetings that are intended to prepare the students in all areas of shipboard life. Topics to be covered include clothing/packing, ship protocol, safety issues, trip itineraries, destinations, sailing, spars and sails, lines, knots, crew and duty roster, specialty details, weather and tides, and much, much more. Students who miss these meetings will need a valid reason or they could be removed from the trip.

EMERGENCY CONTACT PROCEDURES

If there is any emergency, the school will call each family to provide any necessary information. If there is an emergency where a family needs to get information to their child on the sailing trip, Joan Green, Principal, will be contacted at the school (403 777 6442) and she will set up the communication.

We believe this trip is a unique and worthwhile experience. Please email or call with any further questions or jot them down for information meeting on **March 17, 2014 (from 5:30-6:30pm)**.

Kind Regards,

Shelagh McCracken
Mountain Park School
smmccracken@cbe.ab.ca
403 777 6442 ext. 2302

MPS APPLICATION FOR WESTCOAST SAILING 201

*****Please note that a number of other forms will be required*****

The initial deposit of \$500 and the three post-dated cheques are due with this application form **on and not before** Wednesday, April 9, 2014, (remember it is first come, first serve and Ms. McCracken will be in the office by 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9). **Email / fax applications will not be accepted.** As long as there are sufficient students to warrant a trip, the deposit is non-refundable for those students who are accepted for the trip. If the student cancels, the deposit and any further funds that have already been spent will only be returned if there is a student on the waiting list.

**Please make cheques payable to Mountain Park School.
A \$500.00 deposit, dated April 9, 2014.**

Also included with application, three post-dated cheques as follows:

**\$300.00 for May 1, 2014
\$300 for June 2, 2014
\$300 for June 27, 2014.**

*****Please ensure you are including the deposit and the three post-dated cheques with this application*****

Applications are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. If parents have any questions please contact Shelagh McCracken @ 777-6442 ext 3202. smmccracken@cbe.ab.ca

I would like to have _____ considered for the West Coast Sailing Trip.
(Print student's name)

(Date)

Signature of student

Signature of Parent/ Guardian

Parent / Guardian Email (PLEASE PRINT)

1. Deposit of \$500.00 (April 9, 2014) attached: _____
2. Post dated cheque of \$300.00 for May 1, 2014 attached: _____
3. Post dated cheque of \$300.00 for June 2, 2014 attached: _____
4. Post dated cheque of \$300.00 for June 27, 2014 attached: _____

Note: The school reserves the right to make final placements on all trips.

Please return this form and cheques to the Mountain Park School office by Wednesday April 9, 2014 (first come – first serve). Applications that are incomplete or missing any of the information will be returned.

Date & Time received: _____ (office use only)