



November 30, 2009

Dear MYP Parents,

I would like to share with you an update on our trip to China. We currently have 16 students who will be going, 4 staff chaperones (Ms. Freeborn, Mr. Dyck, Ms. Grunlund and Ms. Doubkova) and 6 parents/friends. The response has been incredible! Thank you everyone for your support and enthusiasm of this amazing musical project.

Thank you all for getting your deposits in on time. We have sent the first deposit off to our tour company, Congress Travel. The next dates to keep in mind are:

January 11 th	\$400 second deposit due for land tour portion (We have to have the deposit to the tour company by January 15 th)
May 10 th	Final payment for airfare (\$1294)
May 10 th	Final payment for land tour (\$1349 for sharing rooms; \$1844 for single room)

Other costs to keep in mind:

Visa \$115

Travel and medical insurance: Youth \$100
Adult \$105.00

Immunizations: See section below

Rehearsal

The MYP students will be developing their performance piece during Music class from January onwards. This means that it will be extremely important that students are there on a regular basis. Please try to avoid pulling your child out early on Tuesday or Friday for appointments, early weekends etc. This is truly a collaborative effort and will only be as spectacular as the ability of the team to work as a team.

Don't forget that students must be available for rehearsal during the week of July 26, 2010.

Passports and Visas

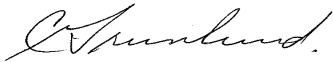
Please apply for a passport as soon as possible. While the passport itself won't be required until July 31st we will need to make copies of all passports in order to arrange for the group travel visa. We will be checking into how far in advance we can apply for the visa but in any case it won't be any later than the end of school.

Immunizations

Immunizations will be a must when travelling to China. The Vancouver Coastal Health Travel Clinic (www.travelclinic.vch.ca) is the place to go to find out about which immunizations are required. They offer a Travel Consultation (highly recommended) for \$40. They will let you know which immunizations are required for entry to China as well as which ones they would recommend based on up-to-date health information. You will need to take your copy of the itinerary so that they can properly recommend the appropriate prevention for different areas. The website also lists fees and hours. Please make sure that you check this out well in advance of the trip as some immunizations take time to become effective. **Immunizations are the responsibility of each individual family.**

Further updates will be provided to you as the year progresses. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



Cathy Grunlund
Head of School