

January 23, 2013

Dear Incentive Parents/Guardians,

R.C. Palmer Secondary School's Camp Strathcona field trip for Incentive students in Grades 8 is scheduled for Monday April 29th to Friday May 3rd, 2013. The Camp Strathcona field trip to Strathcona Park Lodge near Campbell River, Vancouver Island, provides an excellent opportunity to foster a student's personal growth in such areas as teamwork, risk-taking, goal-setting, adaptability and challenge acceptance. The Camp Strathcona experience is centred around affective and kinaesthetic-based programs that provide students with a holistic outdoor education experience, enabling them to appreciate the outdoors for both its recreational and inherent wilderness value. Camp Strathcona is an integral component of the Palmer Incentive Program and we hope that all Incentive students will participate in the camp throughout their junior years.

To facilitate the planning and running of Camp Strathcona 2013, I have attached the following handouts to this letter:

- a) R.C. Palmer Secondary School Application to Participate in a School Sponsored Fieldtrip (on yellow). Please read over this form and sign it to confirm your child's participation in Camp Strathcona 2013. Also, please have your child read over the form and sign it, then have your child obtain permission from all of their teachers. Once the form is completed, your child should return the form to me by **February 22nd**.
- b) School District No.38 (Richmond) Student Acknowledgement of Risk and General Consent/Permission (on Blue). Please read through, fill out the appropriate information and sign at the bottom.
- c) Strathcona Park Lodge Letter to Parents (on white). Please read over this form with your child as it contains information about the educational philosophy of Strathcona. This letter also discusses the forms that are attached.
- d) Strathcona Park Lodge Medical Form (on pink). Please read over this form carefully and complete all sections. You and your child must sign this form. Please provide as much detail as possible if your child has any allergies, diet restrictions, chronic medical conditions, prescription/non-prescription drug usage, and physical/psychological limitations. It is very important that this form be completed fully and honestly; Strathcona Park Lodge and myself will hold the information that you provide in confidence. Your child will not be prevented from attending Camp Strathcona by any declaration that you make; rather, the information is used by Strathcona Park Lodge to ensure a safe and positive learning experience for your child. Once the form is completed, your child should return the form to me by **February 22nd**.

- e) Strathcona Park Lodge Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk (also on pink). Please read over this form carefully and complete all sections. You and your child must sign this form. Once the form is completed, your child should return the form to me by **February 22nd**..
- f) Clothing and Equipment Checklist for School Programs Adventure Program: 1-2 Night Hiking and Adventure Program: 1-2 Night Canoe (on purple). Please read over this form carefully with your child. It is very important that your child is warm and dry at all times in order to maximize their enjoyment and minimize their discomfort. The danger of hypothermia due to inadequate thermal, wind and rain protection cannot be overstated. The Palmer Incentive Program does have a limited number of rain gear, backpacks, mitts, toques, sweaters and sleeping bags that are available free of charge (please return them to me clean after the trip). Priority is given to those families who are in financial need and therefore unable to purchase or rent the equipment. If you wish to rent or purchase equipment in new or used condition, you may wish to consult your local Yellow Pages. *The following establishments are suggested to you as examples of outdoor stores and are not meant as a recommendation of any one store: Mountain Equipment Co-op, Taiga, Coast Mountain Sports, Sports Junkies, and Cheapskates.*

Students that participate in water-based activities must, at the very least, be certified “Bronze Medallion or Bronze Cross.” or have successfully completed a “GET WET” program. Since all students will have the opportunity to participate in at least one water-based activity (canoeing or kayaking), we require that all students be certified to this district mandated level. Please photocopy their swimming certificate and have your child give this photocopy to Ms. Naidu by **February 22nd**. If students have not completed either of these courses, we shall arrange a time at a local swimming pool where certification can be completed; transportation to and from the swimming pool and the cost of certification is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Finally, the total cost for the Camp Strathcona field trip is \$580.00 per student. This fee includes: B.C. Ferry cost from Tsawassen to Duke Point (Nanaimo) return; private coach from Nanaimo to Strathcona Park Lodge (return); and accommodation, meals and instruction at Strathcona Park Lodge. We do stop for lunch at a fast food restaurant on the way up to Strathcona Park Lodge, so your child will need money for lunch on Monday, April 29th. On the return trip on Friday, May 3rd, Strathcona Park Lodge provides students with a bag lunch to eat while we travel to Duke Point (Nanaimo).

All Incentive 8 students have already previously submitted a deposit of \$150.00. This was originally for the Camp Squamish trip and will now be re applied to the Strathcona trip. At this time, we request that all students planning to participate in Camp Strathcona submit a cheque for \$430.00 made payable to R.C. Palmer Secondary School by **February 22nd**... If this is not convenient, you may submit 2 separate cheques of \$215 to cover the total field trip cost. The first of these two cheques will be due the first week in February and the second will be due the first week of March. School District No. 38 (Richmond) policy states that no student will be prevented from participating in a required school activity due to financial constraints.

Please submit your forms by **February 22nd**.

Sincerely,

Jason Chow
Incentive Program Facilitator
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