

April 6, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

Due to scheduling conflicts in our school's calendar, we have had to revise the dates for the 2011 trip to France. We apologize for any inconvenience that this change causes you.

It is a great pleasure to offer Senior level Lawrence Park students the opportunity to travel to France and Belgium and to attend the Vimy Ridge service on Easter Sunday April 24, 2011. Ms. Amoroso, Ms. Djuricic and Mr. Laidlaw, will lead the 9-day trip that will take students to visit the various sites of Canadian involvement in both WWI and WWII. (April 22-May 1). In addition, students will also be introduced to various forms of French theatre/performance art with the final choices determined by the shows that are running in Paris when we are there.

Two years ago, students from Lawrence Park travelled to France to participate in the D-Day services at the Juno Beach Centre. That trip to France initially came up for discussion five years ago when Lawrence Park students and staff raised over \$2500 for the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles Sur Mer (www.junobeach.org). In fact, Lawrence Park Collegiate raised the most amount of money of any public high school in the province of Ontario. Students were honoured by being interviewed on the CBC, an interview that aired nationally on June 6, 2003. As well, there is a brick at the Centre, bearing the name and crest of Lawrence Park Collegiate. Every year on November 11th, the Lawrence Park students, staff and community honour the sacrifices of former students who died during WWII; these brave men lie in countless cemeteries around the world. For this trip, one of the goals we have is to find where these soldiers lie and visit their gravesites – an opportunity for our generation to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by our former Lawrence Park students.

Our intent is to expose as many students as possible to our history, and to the history and culture of other countries. The themes of the trip will be integrated into senior Drama work throughout the year. We feel that everybody participating must be part of the collective whole; therefore, students must work with us to help raise additional funds to offset some of the costs. We will be asking for student volunteers to help organize and facilitate fundraising activities. Lastly, students must attend two history sessions at Lawrence Park Collegiate with Veterans of WWII. We have spoken to several of the veterans who believe, as we do, that students must be educated as to what transpired during the war to meet the goal of supporting the curriculum effectively and getting the most out of this trip.

Ms. Amoroso, Ms Djuricic and Mr. Laidlaw, along with the tour company Georgia Hardy Tours, will be holding a Question & Answer evening at Lawrence Park Collegiate on **Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 6:30 pm** in the **school auditorium**. If you have any questions before that date, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael Laidlaw
Teacher of Dramatic Arts

Ana Djuricic
Teacher of History

Mary Barnes Amoroso
Guidance Counsellor