

March 9, 2020

To: Parents, Students and Staff planning to participate in the EF Tours Greece Tour April 10-18, 2020

Re: Division/ Board Cancellation of Student Travel to Greece

We regret to inform you that, due to the spread of COVID-19 virus and the risk to students, administration of the Grande Prairie Catholic School Division has decided to cancel the St. John Paul II travel club trip to Greece this spring.

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent approved the Travel Club's request to travel internationally to various parts of Greece under the guidance of EF Educational Tours. Once our Board approves an international travel request, Division administration is tasked with monitoring the Government of Canada's travel advisories until students return safely.

Division administration sought information and where possible feedback from the Government of Canada, World Health Organization, St. John Paul II Catholic School administration, members of our Board of Trustees, and College of Alberta School Superintendents. As a result of the feedback and the risk the trip poses to students and staff, I cancelled the trip.

While we believe in the educational value of international travel, we are deeply concerned with the spread of the COVID-19 virus throughout the world, and the risk it poses to students and staff upon their return. This was an extremely difficult decision, and one we did not make lightly.

Forms for reimbursement will be coordinated through the school as a group.

Thank you for your patience with this issue as we worked to sort out the risk and the process for reimbursement.

Yours in Catholic Education,



Karl Germann, Superintendent of Schools

cc. Board of Trustees, The Grande Prairie Roman Catholic Separate School Division
Jacqueline Carroll, Secretary Treasurer, The Grande Prairie Roman Catholic Separate School Division
Cam MacMillan, Principal St. John Paul II Catholic High School