

March 2, 2020

To: Parents, Students and Staff planning on Italy Tour April 9-17, 2020

Re: Division Cancellation of Student Travel to Italy

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. Joseph Travel Club trip to Italy this spring.

In May of 2019 the Board of Trustees approved the Travel Club's request to travel internationally to various parts of Italy under the guidance of Mariden 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 Mariden Tours, Manulife, St. Joseph 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. This was an extremely difficult decision, and one we did not make lightly.

I spoke with Manulife Insurance today and informed them of our decision. The staff at Manulife were very helpful and accommodating. Forms for reimbursement will be sent today to Mr. Lauck who will then forward them on to Ms. Long. Families are asked to complete the Manulife claim form and return it to Ms. Long so she can submit the claim forms to Manulife as a group. The claim number is #4833677.

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
Roger Lauck, Principal St. Joseph Catholic High School
Paulette Long, Teacher St. Joseph Catholic High School