

FRANCE TRIP MARCH BREAK 2017

The Mount Douglas France Exchange Program does a biannual two week trip to our sister school, **Lycée Louis Pasteur**, in Avignon, France. The trip this next year will be at March Break of 2017.

THE TRIP: We will fly from Victoria or Vancouver to Marseilles, France and on to **Avignon** to meet our host students and families. Students will spend about 10 days with their host families, sharing meals and visiting the surrounding area with them.

During the school week, the students will travel to the school with their hosts to meet up with the Canadian group. We will then explore together the charms of Avignon and the surrounding region of Provence. On most days we will have a chartered bus that will take us to a variety of historical, architectural and cultural sights. These explorations will include 2 to 3 destinations. In Avignon, the students will have an opportunity to observe classes at the school as well as participating in a Canada Day dinner and presentation evening.

The group will then travel by TGV to **Paris** for 3-4 days of cultural excursions such as the Louvre, Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower. We will stay in a hotel and use the Paris Metro to move around the city. The group will then fly back to Victoria from Paris.

WHO CAN GO? Any Mount Doug student with a good academic standing and a valid passport is welcome to join the group. Students from some countries may need to get a visa. Students will also complete information forms and we will organize notarized consent letters for travel. Students will miss one day of classes before March Break so it is important that they prepare ahead and catch up upon their return. It is not required that students speak or take French to participate but the trip will certainly reinforce any French that they have learned.

Students who host a student from France in February 2016 will have priority for the trip.

CHAPERONES: The group will be accompanied by Mount Douglas teachers.

COST: The total price is very dependent on flight costs and the size of the group. It also covers the transport, hotel, museums, travel and medical insurance and most meals including a celebration dinner upon our return. We are estimating a cost of \$3000 and will return the difference. The cost in 2011 was \$2700 and in 2013 was \$2900 while 2015 was \$3050.

Applications and an information meeting will be announced in Spring 2016.

Contact Mr. Ponchet by email at tpponchet@sd61.bc.ca or drop by room 219 for more information or details.

MOUNT DOUGLAS SECONDARY STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

INDIVIDUAL EXCHANGES: We have a reciprocal arrangement with our sister school in France, Lycée Louis Pasteur in Avignon, that allows students to study at the other school for a period ranging from one month to an entire semester.

Avignon is located in southern France, in Provence, about one and a half hours north of Marseilles on the Rhone River. The school is a private school located within the city walls of this ancient enchanting town.

Students interested in doing a long term stay should have a good basic understanding of French and be willing to speak some words out loud! Students should take French courses prior to embarking on their trip. Maturity is an important asset for this program as students will be away from their families for an extended period of time.

Grade 9 and 10 students may do a one-month exchange while longer 3 month or entire semester exchanges are possible for students in grades 11 or 12. Many students go on one month visits in conjunction with March Break so that only two weeks of classes are missed. When a school group is going to France in odd years, these students often travel to France with the group. The second semester is a preferred time for longer exchanges due to the weather and French system but other arrangements can be made. There are limited numbers of places each year.

Applications are due by April 30 of the preceding year. Careful planning is essential in order to take required academic courses in the right semester and to make financial plans and savings for the trip.

Costs for the trip are the flight costs, extra medical insurance, some local transport costs and a monthly room and board charge to the hosting family of 480 Euros per month for all meals or 420 Euros without lunch during the school week. Meals at the school cafeteria are 6 Euro each. There is also a 150€ refundable book deposit. Students will also require varying amounts of spending money. Students going for longer than 3 months must get a student Visa from the French consulate in Vancouver,

We also need Mount Doug families to host students coming from France each year. Generally we have two students come for one month in October and two students for the entire second semester. Host families are paid \$650 per month for room and board.

More information, responses to questions and application forms are available from Thierry Ponchet at Mount Douglas Secondary School in room 219 or through email at tponchet@sd61.bc.ca

