

Bishop Ryan Arts Department

BR XPRESSION / CELTIC GROOVE/CELTIC FUSION/CELTIC BEAT

2018 Heritage Music Festival – NASHVILLE 2018



Letter #2

FINAL DETAILED LETTER WILL BE SENT HOME IN MARCH

Feb, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please be advised that all plans are underway for a successful music excursion to Nashville TN, April 17-22, 2018. Having travelled multiple times with hundreds and hundreds of students to Nashville in the past, I can assure you that this trip will be a memory that will be cherished by all students who have been afforded the opportunity to experience this amazing city.

The BR Xpression Vocal Ensemble and Celtic Groove Jazz Band have been working hard on preparing for our festival involvement. They will be ready to showcase our talents alongside the Celtic Fusion, Celtic Beat, Celtic Audacity and BR Jr Xpression at our upcoming Gala Concerts taking place on the evenings of April 11, 12 and 13 in our beautiful Theatre and Performing Arts Centre. Tickets are now available for \$10 or 3 for \$25 (any combination of evenings are eligible). Please be aware that ticket sales go directly to help fund our music program and our festival trips. A wonderful beer and wine garden will once again be available in our cafeteria at intermission and after the show with great door prizes and raffles sponsored by Vinemount Estates Winery.

The purpose of this letter is to provide some simple information to concerned students and parents regarding payment, costs of activities, requirements to travel etc.

As it stands now, please be aware of the following information:

Students entering the US by land (bus) do not require an official passport if they are 18 years old or younger and being accompanied on a school trip by adult supervisors. That said, they DO REQUIRE a legal birth certificate (original or signed by an official) as well as a valid photo identification. The school photo card plus the birth certificate usually will be fine. It is still recommended to have a passport however it is NOT necessary provided that identification and Canadian Citizenship is provided.

Students who are NOT Canadian citizens will require proper Permanent Resident or Green Cards to enter along with proper photo identification. If warranted please investigate your personal situation at this time so no problems will surface at the border.

Please be aware that it is the parent/guardians responsibility to ensure all paperwork etc is in order and properly handled by the student travelling with us. If a student is detained or not eligible to enter the US it will be the responsibility of the parent to arrange to have the student picked up at the border. We cannot

compromise our itinerary as we are travelling with 200 students and any delay would provide issues with our bookings.

A detailed itinerary will be sent out with important phone numbers etc in the near future once ALL activities and details are in place.

Please be aware that ALL students must register prior to travelling on the Worldstrides/Heritage Festival website. They must visit website at worldstrides.com/register. ***Our school Trip ID is 151799.***

Also, please makes appropriate payments of \$200 second installment and \$399 balance as required on school cash-on-line. **All balances MUST be paid in full prior to March 28th. Students will not be allowed to board buses if full payments are not made prior to departure.**

The following details are confirmed:

- We will be departing approx. 5 pm on Tuesday, April 17, 2018
- We will stay the first evening (Wed) at the Inn at Opryland by Marriott
- We will be staying the Thursday and Friday evenings at the Gaylord Opryland Resort
- We will have all breakfast meals included – locations are Cracker Barrel, The Aquarium Restaurant and the Rain Forest Café.
- Entrance fee to Madame Tussauds Wax museum – Opryland mall
- We will have dinner and show at BB Kings Nashville one evening
- We will travel to Memphis and tour the Elvis Graceland Mansion cost included
- We will have dinner and awards banquet at the famous Wildhorse Saloon in Nashville cost included
- We will arrive back home late morning of Sunday, April 22, 2018

. Students will require adequate US funds for lunches and some meals not included.

It is also encouraged to ensure that your son/daughter has adequate out-of-country health insurance. The CAA offers excellent coverage for both members and non-members at a very low cost.

Please feel free to email me concerns at taboned@hwcdsb.ca

Best regards,
D.Tabone
Head of Arts,
Music Director