



WILLIAM D. PRATT SCHOOL – WEST COAST TRIP PARENT MEETING
Monday, October 30, 2023

WHAT IS WEST COAST? All eligible Grade 9 students will have the opportunity of a lifetime to travel to the west coast and board one of two **SEA Program** sailing vessels, **Duen** and **A Fine Madness**. Student and the accompanying teachers will sail the Gulf Islands for five days while living aboard – eating, sleeping and crewing, along with the ships' crew of Captain and First Mate.

PURPOSE OF WEST COAST – We offer this program to enable students to participate in an educational experience where learning is related to the **Program of Studies**, particularly in the areas of Science, Physical Education, Math and Environmental & Outdoor Education. Developing interpersonal skills and building relationships within a team environment is a primary focus of the program. Students are also purposely involved in their learning around all facets of shipboard life including sailing theory, sails and spars, knots, raising, lowering and sheeting sails, coiling and belaying lines, navigation and chart work, radio watch, marine studies and small boat handling. The learning environment naturally sets a climate of inquiry throughout the journey. Major emphasis is placed on the individual in developing a feeling of self-worth. We are also interested in offering programs that not only provide **enriching new experiences**, but that will also extend and challenge the student in individual needs. An extensive **Educational Assessment and Safety Assessment** have been, and will continue to be, completed for the SEA Sailing Trip through William D. Pratt and the Calgary Board of Education. From our experience with the West Coast sailing program, we believe that these trips provide a unique, enriching and extremely worthwhile educational experience.

ELIGIBILITY – Any Grade 9 student may apply. Eligibility is based on **positive citizenship** in the school, **commitment to the program**, and being able to meet the **physical challenges** of the program. Priority is given to the students who have a positive attitude, put forth reasonable effort, and behave in a mature, responsible manner at school. We are able to accommodate a maximum of 29 students with the SEA Program. We are accepting applications on a first come first served basis, including deposit.

COST of WEST COAST – we are still finalizing the cost of the West Coast trip, waiting for the final West Jet fee, but expect the cost to be approximately +/- \$2600.

The **payment schedule** for the program is as follows:

1. A \$750.00 deposit (cheques only please) to be submitted with the application form. The deadline for the application is Wednesday, November 15, 2023.
2. **Two payments of \$750.00 on January 15, 2024 and February 15, 2024.** The **final payment** of whatever is left owing will be made on **March 15** but will not exceed \$750.00. These will be payable via your MyCBE account. The cost covers the following:
 - Return transportation to Sidney/Victoria, BC, via West Jet and CVS Cruise Victoria (bus lines)
 - Food and lodging aboard the ship

- Onshore and ship related expenses, student handbooks, t-shirt and programs
- Travel Insurance
- In addition, students may need some spending money to cover the costs of snacks and souvenirs while in transit (airport and ashore).

LUNCH HOUR LESSONS – Lunch Hour Lessons will commence in February, running once/week until the trip departure date. **Students are expected to participate in ALL lunch hour lessons** which are intended to prepare the students in all areas of shipboard life. Topics to be covered include navigation and chart work, marine biology, ship protocol and safety, water safety, trip itineraries, destinations, sailing, spars and sails, lines, knots, weather and tides, and much more.

TRIP / SHIP PLACEMENT – Parents and students should be aware that the trip will be integrated in terms of male/female ratio. **This trip is co-ed.** Students will have some voice in terms of who they are sailing with but teacher sponsors will determine the final make-up of each ship's crew with a need to balance gender.

TRIP DATES – **Saturday, May 25, 2024 – Wednesday, May 29, 2024.** Parents will be required to bring students to the airport on May 25 (approximately 7:00 am – to be confirmed). Parents will also need to pick up their child/ren on May 29 (time TBD). We will confirm and communicate these times once West Jet confirms.

Parents and students are encouraged to seek out detailed information about the SEA Program West Coast by going online, speaking with former students or their parents who have sailed on West Coast, and speaking with previous teacher sponsors. Feel free to contact us anytime.

Erin Ulveland, Teacher In Charge – enulveland@cbe.ab.ca
 Michael Vahaaho, Teacher Sponsor – mpvahaaho@cbe.ab.ca
 Janice Luchenski, Principal – jjluchenski@cbe.ab.ca



APPLICATION FOR WEST COAST SEA SAILING PROGRAM 2024

WILLIAM D. PRATT SCHOOL

Students interested in committing themselves to the West Coast SEA Sailing Program should complete this form and return it to the office with their deposit cheque by Wednesday, November 15, 2023. If parents have questions, please contact Ms. Janice Luchenski, Principal at 403-817-3520. Applicants will be chosen on a first come, first served basis (with deposit). We will require a minimum of 25 students (maximum 29) for this trip to be considered.

Student Name – Please Print

Home Room

Parent Name – Please Print

Parent Signature

Deposit of \$750.00 cheque attached _____
Yes No

This form must be returned to the school office by **Wednesday, November 15, 2023**. Applications which are incomplete or are missing information will not be considered. Other payment schedules can be arranged through Ms. Luchenski.

Office Use Only:

Date Received _____

Time Received _____

