



RIVERSIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL

2215 Reeve Street, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3C 6K8 • Phone: (604) 941-6053 • Fax:
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Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Riverside is pleased to be offering our second trip to the island nation of Cuba. This week long educational trip will take place in early **December 2011** and is for students currently in grades 9, 10 and 11. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gain knowledge and practical experience in the Field of Humanitarianism; an important curricular area of our Leadership course at Riverside. The itinerary for this trip is a work in progress at this time, and will not be finalized until May. Students will, however, spend each day investigating aspects of the island's environment and Cuban society; followed by free time to explore and enjoy the facilities of each venue.

Opportunities for student learning are currently being planned through activities involving:

- Exploration of the Cuban culture – religion, art, music, dance, food
- History of Cuba – The revolution, communism
- Global Stewardship – meaningful social interaction with a local school and orphanage, putting an emphasis on humanitarian service
- Environment – the geography and ecology of Cuba
- Tourism – the widespread impact of this industry on Cuban life

An exact cost of our trip is unavailable at this stage in time, as there are many factors that affect the final price. However, an estimate of \$2200 Cdn is our guideline and will include all of the following: return air travel, all transfers in Cuba, accommodation in an all-inclusive hotel including daily buffet breakfast and dinner, educational programs and materials, and admission to all the venues on the itinerary. Every attempt will be made to secure the best adventure for the lowest cost. Students will need their own money for lunches, snacks, and any souvenirs or personal purchases. We will make every opportunity to refund any moneys not spent on the student's behalf. There is an initial **\$200 CAN deposit** to reserve a space on the trip due by **April 13, 2011**.

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We have very high expectations for behavior and commitment to this trip. Since seat space is limited, we are looking for mature, responsible students who are willing to take on the challenge of a trip of this magnitude. Therefore students selected for this adventure may not necessarily be Honour Roll students, but rather individuals who are reliable, committed, and excited about gaining knowledge and experience while pursuing leadership and humanitarian opportunities. Please understand that the maximum number of students who can participate is limited. Moreover, should the student change her/his mind after being approved, you will receive the full deposit refund up until **May 31, 2011** for \$200. After this date, a portion of the monies will be returned based on how much has been spent on the student's behalf.

Starting in September, 2011, our Cuba group will meet several times as preparation for this trip develops. These mandatory meetings will take place after school hours; when we will also take time to learn about life in Cuba, in anticipation of the experience that awaits us in December.

If you are interested in applying for a spot on this exciting, "Edventure" in Cuba, please complete and return the following:

1. The bottom portion of this sheet to Ms. Blaxland or Ms. Hudon by **April 13, 2011**
2. A **\$200 CAN deposit** (cheques should be made out to Riverside Secondary) to Ms. Yee in the office.
3. A copy of your first semester report card
4. A letter stating why you would be an excellent candidate for this trip.

Should you have any questions or concerns please email Ms. Blaxland (jbland@sd43.bc.ca) or Ms. Hudon at ghudon@sd43.bc.ca

Thank you for interest,
J. Blaxland and G. Hudon

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I, _____, would like to be considered
(Student's name)

a candidate for the 2011 Cuba Edventure. I have discussed this trip with my parents and I am willing to go through an evaluation process for the selection of one of the limited number of spots available. I understand the high expectations that a trip like this will require of me, and I am willing to comply with them.

I, _____, am willing to have my
(Parent's name)
daughter/son considered for this educational field trip.

(Parent signature)

(Student signature)

* There will be a parent meeting **May 12th**, in Room 121 at Riverside Secondary.