

February 25, 2013

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

As you may be aware, course selection for your son/ daughter's Grade 9 year will take place shortly after Spring Break. I have sent this letter out to every PCSS Grade 8 student's family in order to make parents aware of a particular program option for next year. Each year PCSS offers a fall and a spring semester of SASE 9 – Socials and Science Experiential 9. SASE 9 is a one-semester integrated experiential program of study. Students earn credit for the following courses: Social Studies 9, Science 9, Outdoor Education 9 and Physical Education 9. Detailed information on SASE 9 is available on the program website: <http://sase9pcss.weebly.com>.

The SASE 9 program is designed to challenge students academically, physically and personally. Particular emphasis is placed on character development through challenge and diversity of experience. Students are exposed to a wide variety of outdoor activities and professionals in a diverse array of fields. Positive mentoring, "big picture" connections and stewardship are focuses of this program as students develop character and personal strength through challenge and experience. Active living and positive life skills are emphasized as students gain a heightened awareness of nutrition, health and fitness choices.

Due to the nature of the program, time devoted each day to a particular subject area will vary and we will seldom follow the regular PCSS bell schedule. Some trips will take place on weekends. Students must be flexible and willing to work hard in a variety of learning structures. It is imperative that students be voluntary, willing participants in this program.

There will be at least 5 extended outdoor pursuits trips over the course of the semester. These trips will range from 2 to 8 days in length. Students will require a certain amount of personal gear for outdoor pursuits activities (a list is attached). The cost of the program to students is \$300. This fee covers a variety of activities including a certifying first aid course, a 2-month long membership at the Canada Games Centre, ski passes, transportation to activity sites as well as offsetting the cost of hiring certified assistant leaders for extended out-trips. This is a very, very busy semester and a great deal of commitment is expected of the students with respect to making school a priority. Students must be organized and responsible in their trip preparation and classroom learning duties.

Although SASE 9 may appeal to a large number of students, enrollment is limited to 16 students per semester for safety reasons. The SASE 9 program is run in much the same way as the experiential programs at Wood Street School, with the exception that SASE 9 is exclusively for PCSS Grade 9 students. Students must apply for SASE 9 and suitable candidates (as determined by application quality and teacher input) will be invited to an interview. Successful SASE applicants will be notified of their acceptance into either the fall or spring semester following the interviews.

If this program interests your son or daughter, he/ she should fill in the attached application form as soon as possible and return it to Ms. McDade via the school office. Alternatively, applications can be viewed and printed on the program website: <http://sase9pcss.weebly.com>. I encourage you to visit this website with your son/ daughter for more information on SASE 9. Applications will be accepted until **April 5, 2013** after which time interviews will be conducted and teachers will be consulted. Successful applicants will be notified in person and by mail.

Sincerely,

Kathleen McDade  
SASE 9 Program Instructor  
[Kathleen.mcdade@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:Kathleen.mcdade@yesnet.yk.ca)