

October 31, 2011

Dear Parent,

We are looking forward to the Grade 8 class visit to St. Petro Mohyla Institute on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

What is Mohyla? In simple terms, St. Petro Mohyla Institute is a post-secondary student residence and Ukrainian cultural centre. Historically, the residents of Mohyla Institute have been politically active and influential community leaders, beginning with the activities occurring at and around the Institute in the year(s) they resided there. On September 24, 2011, Mohyla Institute was recognized as a National Historic Event by the Federal government's Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. In this way, the alumni and community of Mohyla Institute are recognized as instrumental in developing the multi-cultural society that makes up Canada. To find out more, please visit our website at [www.mohyla.ca](http://www.mohyla.ca).

With regards to providing residence for post-secondary students, core principles used to guide administration are to provide all residents with:

- A quiet, academically focused atmosphere;
- A clean and safe facility which to call home;
- A healthy living atmosphere; and
- Personal development through cultural awareness programming.

Regarding cultural matters, the Institute is focused on providing youth with an experience that assists them in understanding what it means to be a Ukrainian-Canadian. This includes exploring how culture of origin affects individual perceptions and values and how that changes with integration and through the generations. This process is intended to educate all participants, recognizing that each individual develops a personal identity that is influenced by many factors.

The purpose of the visit is to provide an experience that covers many aspects of the curriculum. This will be done by treating the students as though they are moving in, prepared to go to University. It will include the concept of maintaining part time employment that is most often necessary during student life. The goal is for each student to be exposed to young adult realities and begin to consider how their actions today affect their life in the future.

There are costs associated with this activity as outlined below. The core costs primarily covering food and supplies. Although efforts are made to bring this to a Grade 8's level of understanding, responsibilities that come with the accommodation will be taken seriously. Rules and standard damage deposits have been adjusted to reflect the nature of this crowd, but will be enforced with the same vigour as with adults. Again, this is an important part of the entire experience.

Please ensure the appropriate application form and accommodation agreement is filled out. Being as these students are under 18, a parent's signature is required. Return these to the teacher at your earliest convenience, no later than the Thursday before the scheduled visit, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Enclosed is a draft of the itinerary for your student's visit. We will cover a wide range of career and culture based topics. Particularly for students visiting in November, history will be significant in concentration. National Holodomor Awareness Week is November 21 – 27 this year. Students will be given an opportunity to watch the documentary film "Soviet Story." It outlines an only recently nationally recognized historical event, referred to as the Great Famine or the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. It occurred in 1932/33, and the film portrays the role the former Soviet Union played in helping Nazi Germany instigate the Holocaust.

The film's content and subject matter align perfectly with the Grade 8 curriculum and offers a unique view of Ukrainian cultural and history as part of the study of the Holocaust during World War II. The film has not been given a viewer rating and does contain footage of real war situations, famine, holocaust images and execution. Please feel free to visit the film's official website: <http://www.sovietstory.com/about-the-film/> if you would like to preview some of the material ahead of time.

Since we want to be sensitive to the viewing decisions of families and students, if you or your student would prefer they not participate in this viewing, please let Mr. Farthing know and make a note of this on the Mohyla residence application form. Students that opt out will have three alternate choices: go to bed early, quietly research and study the subject matter online, or work on an optional project for a fee of \$10.

Finally, students will be encouraged to do various research on their own, thus accessing opportunities to win prizes!

Sincerely,

Lucille McInnes  
Executive Director

## Fees

### Mandatory

- Residence fee: \$35
- Damage deposit: \$10

### Optional

- Linen rental: \$10
- Craft upgrade: \$10

## What To Bring

We encourage our residents to personalize their space, keeping in mind that it must not be offensive to others who may be walking by their room. For school visits the students are placed into shared rooms.

### Needed items:

- Bedding (Pillow, comforter or sleeping bag)
- Towel and wash cloth
- Toiletries, including toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, shaver, etc.
- Several changes of clothes, underwear, PJ's, etc.
- Weather appropriate walking attire
- Laundry coins, just in case!
- Spending money for drink machine, convenience store, and/or Institute t-shirts or mugs.
- Alarm clock (traditional or electronic device)
- Personal care items such as medications

### Optional items (social etiquette rules will apply):

- Camera (extra batteries)
- Notebook and pencil
- Deck of cards
- Cell phones
- Laptop
- Chargers and headphones for personal electronic devices
- Posters & poster putty (no nails or scotch tape is to be used)
- Desk lamp
- Clothes hangers