

March 11, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with extreme regret that I am writing to you, at this late date, regarding the planned international trip to Peru, scheduled to depart this Friday, March 13th.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus across the world has created an unprecedented global situation, with uncertainty both at home on the North Shore as well as in many countries throughout the world. Information regarding the status of spread and transmission, as well as specifics about the illness itself, is being received and updated constantly.

The volume of information that is being rapidly distributed on the internet, and elsewhere, about the COVID-19 virus is not easing the levels of concern and anxiety we are seeing within our school communities. In fact, it is our experience that it is doing the opposite, and we are aware of increasing trepidation and concern amongst the staff and students planning to travel to Peru, as well as their parents and families.

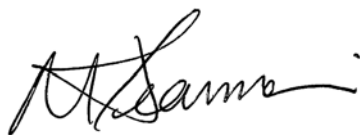
While the information from Canadian authorities indicates that the risk to our staff and students remains low at this point in time, we are no longer comfortable approving the final departure for the trip to Peru. As a result, on behalf of the Board of Education, I am advising that a **decision has been made to cancel the trip to Peru planned for March 13-26, 2020.**

It is especially unfortunate that this decision comes after the parent/student meeting held on the evening of Monday, March 9th. I am most certainly aware of the deep disappointment this decision will bring to those whom have planned for the trip and were eagerly looking forward to it.

I sincerely regret that this decision has come so close to the planned departure of the trip. It has been a very difficult decision but, as always, the safety of our students and staff is our top priority and our decisions are made with this in mind.

I appreciate that there are financial implications attached to the cancellation. We are working to confirm what this will ultimately be so that we can share that information with you. More in this regard will be provided to you by your school principal.

Respectfully yours,



Mark Pearmain
Superintendent
North Vancouver School District