



News Release

For immediate release, March 25, 2003

Edmonton Catholic Schools Adjusts Two International Field Trips

Due to increased tension in the Morocco area, Edmonton Catholic Schools administration has adjusted two international field trips that leave Edmonton tomorrow.

Twenty-five students from Austin O'Brien High School depart Wednesday for Madrid, Spain and Morocco. They were originally scheduled to be in Tangiers, Morocco for one day during their trip. Activities for the students will be reorganized without the brief tour of Tangiers.

As well, 14 students of Archbishop MacDonald High School leave tomorrow for a tour of the Mediterranean. They were scheduled for a one day stop in Casablanca, Morocco and another day in Tangiers, Morocco. Again, the student activities will be reorganized in light of this new directive that will prevent any stops in Morocco.

Travel to Morocco is identified as putting Canadians at greater risk. The travel advisory on the Government of Canada web site says: "Heightened tension as a result of the Iraq situation together with increased threats globally from terrorism put Canadians at greater risk."

"Our first responsibility is for the safety of students and supervisors," said Dr. Ripley, Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools. "The stops in Morocco add unnecessary risk to the field trips."

As well, Edmonton Catholic Schools has set up a 24-hour emergency phone line that teachers on the trips will call daily to update administration on the various field trips.

"Our responsibility for the safety of students and staff does not end once they depart for Europe. We want to know daily how their trip unfolds and if there are any concerns," Dr. Ripley went on to say.

A total of six Edmonton Catholic Schools field trips depart March 26 and 27th for a number of European destinations including Italy, Spain, France and Portugal.

All staff and students in Edmonton Catholic Schools continue to pray for peace to be restored to the Middle East as well as the safe journey of staff and students on the international field trips.

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