



**This is an important notice.
Please have it translated.**

2011 2012 Impromptu Walking Field Trips

Informed Consent

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The education of children is not confined to the four walls of the classroom. Teachers enhance their curriculum with field trips outside the classroom. Normally, field trips are planned by teachers and communicated to you outlining the purpose and all relevant details concerning the specific trip. As a parent or guardian, your consent is required for these field trips on an individual basis as they arise. There are times, however, when teachers take their classes out of doors and off of the school site to walk to various destinations within the school neighbourhood.

These "walking field trips" are often spontaneous, taking advantage of the weather or to collect or see something in the neighbourhood. Such field trips may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Environmental clean-up
- Sketching classes
- Releasing salmon fry into a nearby stream
- Science walks using senses to observe seasonal changes
- Collecting fall leaves for science or art
- Adopting a tree, or square meter of forest
- Use of a local community playing field, park or tennis court
- Environmental enhancement e.g., gardening

SUPERVISION: The classroom teacher will directly supervise walking field trips. Depending on the grade level and the nature of the activity, additional supervision will be provided by teachers, school aides or parents to meet the supervision requirements outlined in our District Field Trip Policy. At all times, teachers will endeavour to ensure a safe environment or situation during the walking field trip. Normally, elementary children will walk in line formation with an adult at the beginning and end of the line, crossing roads at safe crossing points as a class.

RISK REDUCTION: Walking field trip activities are considered low risk for accidents or personal injury to students. However, classroom teachers will discuss behavioural expectations with students and take the appropriate safety precautions before embarking on the walking field trip to minimize risk and to enhance the safety of each student. First-aid packs and cellular phones or walkie-talkies are taken or easily accessed on walking field trips in case of an emergency. Student Emergency Procedure Plans/medical supplies will be brought for students with life-threatening medical conditions (e.g., anaphylaxis).

Because of the impromptu nature of the walking field trips, the school is seeking, in advance, informed consent for your child to participate in walking field trips within our school community by completing the form attached. **These walking field trips are optional. Alternate arrangements will be made for students who do not participate.** If there is a specific walking field trip that you do not wish your child to participate in, please indicate on the attached form.

Sincerely,
Mark James
Principal
Handsworth Secondary School

2011 2012 IMPROMPTU WALKING FIELD TRIP
INFORMED CONSENT APPROVAL

For: _____ (Teacher)

(Please check appropriate box below)

I understand the impromptu nature and inherent risks associated with walking field trips and give my informed consent for my child, _____, to participate in walking field trips within the school community as outlined in the attached Letter to Parents/Guardians for the school term 2011 2012.
Print Child's Name

I do NOT give permission for my child, _____, to participate in walking field trips for the school term 2011 2012. I understand that my child will be placed under the supervision of a Board employee in the school building during the walking field trip.
Print Child's Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian