August 26, 2019

To: The parents of ALM grade 6 and 7 students

From: Joanne Hager

Re: The Explorador Program

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you with the outline of an after-school program I would like to run this 2019/2020 school year with your grade 6 and 7 children.

As some of you may know, I have a background in outdoor education, both as the Executive Director of the Mount Moresby Adventure Camp and as the Owner/Operator of Green Coast Kayaking here on Haida Gwaii. Since retiring from these positions, I have been exploring more creative endeavors in drama, music, and movement/dance and how these art forms can help us learn about ourselves, our relationships with others, and the world around us.

The wonderful thing about retirement is that you have lots of time to sleep and dream! After slowly waking from this slumber, all the points of interest in my life have crystallized into a vision that I would like to share with you.

**THE BIG IDEA:** To take your children on a 2-3 week adventure somewhere in Canada.

**THE CAVEAT:** While I will help facilitate this goal, it will be the participants’ responsibility to be actively involved in researching, planning, budgeting, fundraising, and executing this adventure.

**THE HOW:** Participants will attend two 2 hour sessions every week as well as several hiking/camping field trips throughout the year.

Beyond preparing for the logistics of the trip, participants will work on developing the following skills:

1. **Self-care:** How to take care of themselves and their basic needs in diverse situations;
2. **Communication:** How to identify and clearly communicate their own feelings and needs while developing the ability to listen and respond with empathy and compassion;
3. **Teamwork:** How to be a positive and effective contributor in a group.

Sessions will involve a variety of fun and creative activities aimed at exploring and developing these skills in the hopes of becoming the strongest group possible which will consequently allow us to have the most full and rewarding trip possible.

An information session for parents and students will be held on **September 6th** (Location and time TBA). At that time, I will outline the program so that you as a family can decide whether or not to sign up for the program, which will begin **September 9th.** In the meantime, I have attached a list of questions you may have along with my answers. However, please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any further inquiries.

Sincerely, Jo.

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