



WOODVALE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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20 March 2009

Dear Year 10/11 Students, Parents/Guardians

Re: Woodvale SHS Ambassadors to China - Exclusive Offer to Year 10/11 students.

Background:

In 2006 the school joined The Sister City Partnership between the City of Joondalup and the city of Jinan, China, located 360kms south of Beijing. We believe it will have far-reaching short and long-term benefits for the school community and open new doors of opportunity for our student population and Western Australians in general. Two of the exciting consequences of the partnership was that in 2006, 2007 and 2008 the school sent delegations, of Year 10/11 students and staff members, to China, to not only form a sister school relationship with a school in Jinan, but to be Australia's only representatives at the International Children's Festival in Jinan. This was attended by 15-18 other countries. Not only did the students have a wonderful time, but many parents cited it as a life-changing event for their son/daughter.

The experience delegations have had in the past of the students they met from Jinan and all over the world was that they were very friendly, appreciative and mostly spoke English fairly well. In the short time they spent there, they formed strong bonds and there was a lot conversation and exchanges of culture and gifts. Many of the previous delegates are still in regular contact with the students they met.

The City of Joondalup has been a sister city with Jinan since September 2004. Last year it looked toward Woodvale Senior High School to strengthen what has already proven to be a greatly beneficial relationship for both cities, particularly for education and tourism, which are becoming the leading industries between China and Australia. Edith Cowan University's Joondalup campus and Joondalup TAFE, as well as other organisations, have already formed strong ties, helping to meet the needs of modern day China's education reforms and boom in post secondary education. In doing so, it has already gained much recognition of Western Australia's ability to compete favourably with our eastern state counterparts, and therefore enhance education, tourism and commercial prospects for our own local community. It is also highly likely that our students will be personally enriched through their close interaction with another culture, and be a positive influence toward improving bilateral relations.

For more information on the Sister School Relationship and tour please see the article on school home page and follow the links to the sister school site. For more information on Jinan visit the following website:

www.chinahighlights.com/jinan/attractions.htm#4

2009 Jinan, China Tour-Expressions of Interest:

We have only just received our invitation to China this week and are now calling for expressions of interest for approximately fourteen Year 10/11 students to be part of the 2009 delegation to travel to China to represent the school and Australia. Proposed tour dates: Sunday June 28 – Saturday July 11. The trip will again coincide with Jinan's hosting of The International Children's Festival held July 4-6, where students from all over the world meet and are ambassadors for their countries. As well as attending the festival, the delegation will complete a fully supervised and funded tour of our sister school, and the local area, which is renown for its history, culture, technology, industry and beautiful natural features, most notably its springs, lakes and mountains. The students will also be required to do small performances at the festival. The four

day tour of Jinan and its surrounds will be followed by an approximately four day stay in Beijing, a great opportunity to gain a sneak preview of the home of the 2008 Olympics, as well as to walk along the Great Wall of China (followed by the toboggan ride down-another event not to be missed!) We will also consider the possibility of visiting the exciting world-class city of Hong Kong, which has a wonderful blend of the traditional and the futuristic.

The cost of the trip will be heavily subsidised by the Jinan municipal government who have said they will pay for accommodation, food and transport within Jinan. They have also stated they cover train travel between Beijing and Jinan. The costs to families will include such things as return airfare costs Perth/Beijing, accommodation in Beijing, general shopping, food and other travel expenses such as visa and passport applications and travel insurance. Our early estimate of the cost to families is at approximately \$3500 and we are looking into ways to bring this cost down as much as possible. Parents may choose to organise fund-raising in order to reduce costs further.

If you are interested in your son/daughter participating in the China Tour, please indicate your expression of interest on the form below and place it in the return box at school reception by **as soon as possible**.

An information evening will follow for all interested students and their parents on a date soon to be advised. Further information will be given, including about the selection procedure, and audio-visual displays about the tour will be screened.

As you should appreciate this is a once in a life-time opportunity which should definitely not be overlooked.

Yours faithfully

Barry Manuk
International Program/Tour Coordinator

Veronica Sutton
Deputy Principal

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Jinan, China Tour 2009: Expression of Interest

Please fill in the following details and tick the appropriate box:

Name of son/daughter: _____ Contact: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Work Phone/Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____

Place slip in the return box at school reception **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. Deadline: Friday April 3.