



November 2011

Dear Potential Travelers, Parents and/or Guardians;

March Break 2013, the History Department, in partnership with Mr. Harvey, will be offering a tremendous opportunity to travel to the Russian Federation to explore St. Petersburg and Moscow. Our 10-day excursion will take us on a journey to experience the culture and history of one of two the most historic and beautiful cities in the largest country in the world. The theme of this trip will be “The Russian Experience during the Great Patriotic War (WWII),” as some of the fiercest resistance to the Third Reich happened in these locations.

It is our hope that many WDHS students will be able to participate in next years’ trip. The trip will be open to students in Grade 10 through 12 as of September 2013. International travel is truly a “life changing” experience for many, and it is our goal to make this as memorable and as safe as possible. It is one thing to study history from a textbook, but it is an entirely different experience to *stand in the very place beside the buildings, or on the battlefields, where that history was made.*

Although we are offering this trip to Grade 10 through Grade 12 (and post-grad) students at WDHS, Mr. Tidridge and Mr. Harvey have the right to “filter” participants. Please appreciate that if the prospective traveler has not been taught by the above mentioned teachers, their present and previous teachers will be approached and asked, “Would you take this student on a trip out of the country?” Likewise, if any student’s conduct becomes negative in the course of the next year, their participation in the trip, even if they’ve already signed up, may be ended.

Please understand that a great amount of responsibility rests on the teachers’ shoulders and they cannot afford to jeopardize the safety and enjoyment of the “group at large”. Please note that in any such case *EF Tours’* standard cancellation policy regarding a student’s withdrawal from a trip applies: *the school is not responsible in such a case for monies that may be lost.*

All participants in this trip will be required to fill out and submit an application to Mr. Tidridge, AS WELL AS register in an online-payment program with EF Tours ([www.eftours.ca](http://www.eftours.ca)) – all money will be handled this way EXCEPT chartering a bus to and from the airport here in Canada, as well as tipping the tour guides.

**A website for this trip has been established at [www.tidridge.com](http://www.tidridge.com) (click on the “Russia 2013” tab along the top). All important dates, news and meetings will be posted here.**

This trip has been designed to directly meet the curriculum expectations outlined in the CHC2D, CHV20, CHT30 and CHY4U ministry documents.

I look forward to the group of students that will be coming on this trip – I am confident that it will prove to me one they will remember the rest of our lives. Previously I have taken students to tour the Western Battlefields of Europe (2008) and Holocaust Sites of Eastern Europe (2011), and know this one will be as enlightening.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

Nathan Tidridge OCT  
History Department  
[nathan.tidridge@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:nathan.tidridge@hwdsb.on.ca)  
[www.tidridge.com](http://www.tidridge.com)



Russian prime minister (and soon to be president) Vladimir Putin