November 16, 2023

Dear Parents & Guardians,

STA is offering a *Ski & Snowboard Lesson and Recreation Program* through Grouse Mountain. The program runs for four Fridays in early 2024: January 12 and February 02, 09, and 23. The lesson program includes a two hour lesson at your child’s ability level followed by an evening of free skiing. Please note that while chaperones will participate in the program along with the students, students will not be under direct supervision during the free skiing. Equipment rental for skiing and snowboarding is available on site. Students who have their own equipment need not pay for these expenses. Should a session be cancelled by the mountain, the group will go up on a Friday in March to make up for the lost lesson.

**Transportation**

Students will leave the school at 3:15 each Friday and can be picked up from the parking lot at the base of Grouse Mountain at 9:15pm. Students are not permitted to drive themselves to this event. Students have the option of taking the school bus or being driven by their parents from Saint Thomas Aquinas High School to Grouse Mountain. If you can assist in this regard, kindly contact Mrs. C. Sawdon at sawdon@aquinas.org. Please do not wait for a phone call before coming to collect your child – this results in a long wait for supervising teachers.

**Meals**

You may choose to pre-pay for meals from Lupin’s Café. This means that your child will not need to carry cash (other than for the cost of a locker rental). However, Grouse Mountain has yet to apprise us of the cost of these meals. There will be a separate order sheet for these as soon as the information is available. You may also choose to send a bagged dinner with your son or daughter.

**Lockers and Storage**

Students may store their belongings in the lockers located in the Outpost Rental Shop or in the Bag Check Alpine Guest Services located at the Peak Chalet. Locker rentals at the Outpost are $3.

**Student Conduct**

Students and parents are reminded that all aspects of the school’s behaviour code apply for the duration of the Ski Program sessions. Students must also abide by the Alpine Responsibility Code. The most important aspects of this code are always skiing with a partner, and always staying within bounds of the designated ski areas. Failure to observe these aspects of the code can lead to tragic consequences. Students and parents are advised that **any incidents of rude or challenging behaviour**, **failure to meet at a designated time or place**, **skiing out of bounds, skipping a lesson**, **failure to return on time for the bus home, use of the Terrain Park**, etc. may result in their immediate suspension or dismissal from the program **without refund**. Grouse Mountain staff see many school children each year and we want them to conclude that STA students are an impressive group of young people.

**Required Forms**

Please read the attached information and return it to the school along with your payment by Thursday, December 07, 2023. All cheques should be made payable to Saint Thomas Aquinas High School.

1. **Parent Information Letter (this letter):** please read and keep this important information
2. **Registration Form:** please complete, calculate your payment, and return to the school with a cheque made out to STA.
3. **Ski & Snowboard Safety Information Form:** the mountain has online waivers this year.
4. **Equipment Rental Waiver and Rental Information Form:** please complete (renters only) and return with your payment.
5. **Medical Form:** please complete and return to the school. Please pay particular attention to the request for an emergency contact number. This must be an individual whom we can reach in the event you are unavailable, and whom you feel can provide consent for medical care on your behalf.

Students **must** attend a mandatory information meeting on Monday, January 08, 2024 at lunch hour. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 604-987-4431 during the day. You may also want to view more information about the mountain and the ski school at [www.grousemountain.com](http://www.grousemountain.com).

Sincerely, Sincerely,

### Mrs. Carol Sawdon Mr. Mieszko Krol

*Ski & Snowboard Principal*

*Program Coordinator*