

Camp Sagitawa

From: Camp Sagitawa [sagitawa@xplornet.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2010 7:15 PM
To: 'Judy Clavier'
Cc: 'elvern@tyran.ca'; Terry Coe (tcoe@neonet.bc.ca)
Subject: RE: School District Policy #4588 Communication from Outside the Schools

Hello Judy...

Thank you for your response. I have had several discussions with the office of the Assistant Superintendent on this issue, and have felt that doors were closing more each year. His last letter confirmed that for me, and your response now has offered us a bit of hope.

We are truly grateful for the many years that we have been able to bring our brochures to the schools. For many years I was permitted to work out a time with the principal of each school for which to visit the school and offer one of the following:

1. During a morning assembly – give a 5-7 minute presentation on camp programs and leave brochures for those interested
2. During class time – go to classes where teachers would permit me to do a 7 min presentation and offer brochures
3. During recess or lunch – offer a slightly longer presentation to those students who wished for more information

After each of these, schools always put our brochures in a hallway to allow kids to pick them up.

About 5 years ago, we were stopped from making presentations of any kind, and brochures were only made available if principals put them in the office. Some began to place the brochures in places where they were less likely to be seen. The attitude of the school principals was changing, and it seemed to be from a pressure directed down the chain. Some of them confided in me that they wanted to do more for us, but that their hands were tied.

I want to believe that this is a reaction to some unfortunate incidents that occurred about 5 years ago, but I really do not know. I am positive that it is unrelated to Sagitawa, and that the Assistant Superintendent is simply doing as he feels is right to bring blanket policies about that will protect the schools. I do not wish to judge him or his motives. However, I do want for the situation be considered by more than just one individual. I believe that the principals of each school have a lot of personal wisdom when it comes to what is good and not good for students... and I think that “blanket rules” tend to crush the ability of society to consider what is good for ourselves. Incidentally, the policy up for vote in September would not only take the right of choice away from the administration of each school, but it would also take the right to choose away from the children attending those schools. I do not mean that they cannot find out about Camp Sagitawa another way... though there is no doubt that the school has been the best avenue for providing our information. But I am wondering if by operating under blanket policies, do we not teach our children that it is easier to make rules than it is to teach them to make choices through informed discretion?

Thanks again...

Gary Pryzner
Camp Director, Camp Sagitawa