

January 24, 2013

Dear Parents and Students,

The freshmen and sophomore Creative Writers are invited to attend our second annual Penn Center Writers Retreat held at the Penn Center in Beaufort, South Carolina on March 6-8, 2013. The purpose of the trip is to introduce our students to natural wonders and amazing story-telling traditions of the surrounding Sea Islands, along with exposing them to racial history and the human condition. The curriculum connections and standards follow:

- Students will learn, practice and document the stages of the writing process.
- Students will create written work that has a clear focus, sufficient detail, coherent organization and effective use of voice.
- Students will learn about the Civil Rights Movement and race relations.
- Students will learn about Gullah and Sea Island history, its folklore and rich story-telling tradition.
- Students will learn to work as a group in order to improve individual writing skills.

SOA teachers Sean Scapellato, Rutledge Hammes and Rene Miles as well as one other female will be our chaperones. Our bus service will be provided by our school's activity bus. The total price of the trip is \$250, which covers food, lodging and transportation. Several \$50-\$100 scholarships will be given to students who demonstrate need and explain how the trip will benefit them. Scholarship Applications, which can be found in this packet, are due on February 1, 2013 with the full payment and paperwork.

We will depart from school at 7am on March 6. Please arrive at 6:30am sharp so that we can load the bus and depart on time. If we do not depart on time, our group will not be served lunch at the Penn Center. Each student will be allowed only one small bag. We will return to the school on March 8 around 4pm; your child will call you on the way home if we are going to arrive at a different time.

Since your child will be traveling with a school group, we will need a copy, front and back, of your health insurance card and numbers where you can be reached in case of a medical emergency. Included with this letter is other information that you will need:

- Writers Conference Agenda
- What to Bring
- Address and telephone number of the Penn Center
- CCSOA Behavior Contract
- Emergency Contact Information Sheet
- SOA Medical Information Form
- Permission Slip
- Scholarship Application

Please make note of the following due dates:

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| Feb. 1 | Scholarship Application due |
| Feb. 7 | Parent Information Meeting (6pm sharp at SOA)*
First Payment (\$150) due
CCSOA Behavior Contract due
Emergency Contact Information Sheet due
SOA Medical Information Form due
Permission Slip due
Copy of Health Insurance Card (front and back) due |
| Feb. 20 | Second Payment (\$100) due
(Due to the small number of students attending this trip, refunds cannot be given if your student is unable to attend.) |

*There will be a parent information meeting on February 7 at 6pm in room 4133 on the SOA campus. If your child is planning to participate in this year's field trip, your attendance is required. If for any reason you are unable to make it, please contact me.

Our hope is that this year's Writers Conference will enhance your child's writing process and will also provide an opportunity for bonding, friendship and fun. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 529-4990.

Sincerely,

Francis Rutledge Hammes
Creative Writing Teacher

Penn Center Retreat
9th & 10th Grades
March 6, 7 & 8

March 6

7am Depart
8:30 am Stop at Old Sheldon Church
9-11am Walking Tour of Beaufort, SC
11:30 am Arrive at the Penn Center and unpack
12 noon Lunch at the Penn Center
1:00 pm Tour of the Penn Center Museum
2:00 Workshop I
3:30 pm Break
4:00 pm Workshop II
6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Break
7:30 pm Conference Room
Gullah Storyteller
9:30 pm Campfire & Lowcountry Ghost Stories
10:30 pm Lights out

March 7

8am Breakfast
9am Depart for Hunting Island
- forest and beach walk
- climbing the lighthouse
- reflection time and journal writing
12 noon Bag Lunch on the beach
1:00 Depart for Beaufort
2:00pm Harbor Cruise – reading passages from literature that deals with the coast
and African American culture
6pm Dinner at the Shrimp Shack
8pm Depart for the Penn Center
8:30pm Conference Room
Movie – *Four Little Girls*
Discussion
10:30 Lights out

March 8

8am Breakfast
9am Writing and sharing works
12 noon Lunch at the Penn Center
1:00 Pack, clean dorm and load bus
2pm Depart
4pm Arrive at SOA

What to Bring

- wash cloth and towel
- comfortable walking shoes (hiking shoes or tennis shoes)
- rain jacket / windbreaker (for inclement weather)
- beach wear, including sandals and a beach towel
- PJ's
- flashlight
- toiletries
- Notepad/journal, pens/pencils
- **Bag breakfast for the ride up**

Drinks and snacks will be provided in the meeting room.

Address and Phone Number of Penn Center

Penn School National Historic Landmark District
P.O. Box 126
St. Helena Island, South Carolina 29920
Phone: (843) 838-2432
Fax: (843) 838-8545

Teacher Contact Numbers

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