22 February 2016

Dear Parents

Re: Year 5 Camp

I am pleased to inform you that our Year 5 students will be attending ‘Rawson Village’ as part of their Outdoor Education experience in 2016. The camp will run from Monday 7 March to Wednesday 9 March. This document will provide detailed information about the camp so that parents and students can adequately prepare and ensure that their experience is both positive and memorable.

The Outdoor Education program at Year 5 has been designed to facilitate personal growth through the practical implementation of Positive Psychology principles and the building of new friendships amongst students. All activities have been carefully selected to provide challenges that can be modified to suit students’ individual needs. Many of the skills introduced during the camp will be extended in subsequent years.

Because of local weather conditions that may exist in the Gippsland area, or the dynamics of a group, some of the activities may not run exactly according to the itinerary. Parents and students will be briefed prior to their camp and advised if circumstances change.

Parents and students should note the following:

• The camp is a compulsory part of the Year 5 curriculum at the School.
• The program, staffing, food ordering and transport are organised according to the number of students in each class. If your son or daughter is unable to attend the camp due to ill health, please provide a medical certificate so that, if possible, a partial refund can be organised.
• It is important to realise that outdoor activities involve potential risks, however, the use of highly trained and qualified Outdoor Education staff minimises those risks.
• Every effort will be made to avoid exposing students to situations that will compromise their safety and wellbeing.
• Please ensure that all items on the ‘Clothing and Equipment’ list are included.
• Please do not bring money (there will be no chance to spend it), mobile phones or portable music players to camp.

To ensure the welfare and safety of all students and staff, rules and guidelines have to be applied during the camp;

• Non-cooperation or dangerous behaviour of any description by your son or daughter will result in him/her being removed from the camp at your expense.
• In the event of injury or illness necessitating evacuation, mutually agreeable arrangements will be made for students to be taken home.

The cost of the camp is $220. This amount will be debited to your fee account.
Specific information related to the Year 5 Camp, including an itinerary, clothing and equipment list and information sheet will be distributed through CareMonkey. After reading through this information families will be asked to update their medical profile and any relevant care plans before providing their informed consent. The new CareMonkey portal makes this process faster and simpler than ever before. We request that the above process be completed by Monday 29 February.

Please take the time to discuss this information with your son / daughter. This conversation often helps to alleviate much of the anxiety felt by some students leading up to camp. I ask that all families visit The Rawson Village website at www.rawsonvillage.com. This site provides photographs and descriptions of all activities run at the camp and will no doubt inspire all students. It also assists parents / guardians to provide their informed consent.

If you have any questions regarding the program or if your child has a medical condition or food allergy that you would like to discuss please feel free to contact me on 9788 7723 or mbakker@tps.vic.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Muriel Bakker
Head of Middle Years