

CAMPING PROGRAM FOR 2013

Overview and Rationale

Over the 6 years of Primary School children have a wonderful opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor experiences where they can extend school-based curriculum explorations to the broader canvas the Central Australian bush provides.

Camping is a communal activity where many life skills can be taught and practiced. The child's school friends and classmates form a microcosm of their wider community where learning to live harmoniously in close proximity with friends and neighbours is a noble aspiration and one we believe is worthy of our best efforts.

The opportunity to camp with classmates and fellow students from other classes away from creature comforts and the security of home can be a daunting prospect for some students and their parents, but learning to rely on one's own resources and those of peers and teachers is a chance to test oneself against the elements in a safe and supported environment.

Appropriately supervised 'Rites of Passage' are disappearing for young people in today's society with unfortunate consequences for those reaching adolescence and early adulthood. For our students, learning to be away from home for these short periods prepares the ground for a time in the future where children will feel confident about stepping up to the challenges of life in a healthy way.

So many opportunities exist in the camp environment for the children to meet the 'edge' of themselves where they believe they have reached their limits. Watching them reassess the extent of their capabilities is a great privilege and one I have been afforded many times having taken so many groups on camp. This is not 'Boot Camp' we are talking about by the way. For some children it is a big enough challenge just to be away from Mum and Dad for one night. It may also be the case that Mum and Dads find it hard to be away from their children for a night also. There are no Everest walks or cliff traversing, at least not up to class 6. Rest assured all activities are tailored to the group's ability level and carefully supervised. The program is outlined below so that you can be prepared early.

Focus Skills and Attitudes

- We wish to develop key **survival and camping skills** over the 6 years of Primary school
- We wish to develop increasing levels of '**independence**' and foster the capacity for children to operate out of their own thinking and feeling.
- We wish to develop increasing levels of '**resilience**' in children.
- We wish to develop a sense of **co-operative endeavour** in our students, the experience of many hands make light work and that work benefits the many, not just the individual.

Parent Participation

In the past there has been a fairly loose arrangement of parental attendance at camps. This has certainly facilitated positive social bonds for each of the classes.

But as the school grows, the potential to develop a cohesive and sequenced camping program is exciting. Having seen the benefits of camping programs in other schools we understand the enormous enhancement to the curriculum camping brings.

In this respect we are asking for fewer numbers of parents to attend camps but hope they are able to stay for the duration of a camp, fulfilling very particular roles such as first aid, co-ordinating food prep, firewood collection, water etc.. We will calculate the number of parents needed using an appropriate adult : child ratio for each class.

Teachers will contact parents to solicit their support with upcoming camps.

All parents attending camps would need to provide the office with their current Ochre Card details.

If transporting children in private vehicles, all details of fully comprehensive insurance will need to be provided.

Communications and First Aid

All Camps will be required to carry a Satellite Phone (for emergencies only) and a fully stocked First Aid Kit.

Schedule of Camps in 2013

Class 1.

Week commencing 19th August, 2013 (Katy will advise exact date)

Class 1 begin their camping journey with an overnight stay at school.

For this overnight stay we require many hands to ensure, safety, security and provision of basic needs. Katy will advise.....

Cost: \$10 per child to cover Dinner, Breakfast and snacks

Class 2.

Simpson's Gap

Overnight

Date: Overnight on Thursday, 8th August....returning to school on Friday, 9th August

Cost: \$35 for Food and Bus

Parents required: 5 + 2 teachers- Adult/child ratio = 1: 3.4

One vehicle required: not for student transport

Class 3.

Ross River

Starlight Campground

Dates: Wed, 31st July returning Friday, 2nd August

Cost: \$45 for food and camp fees

Transport: 3 Parent vehicles-all need fully comprehensive car insurance + Megan's vehicle

Parents required: 3 (adult to child ratio = 1: 5)

Class 4 & 5

Combined camp

Hamilton Downs Youth Camp

Dates: Leaving the 20th August, 2013.....Returning 23rd August, 2013

Costs: \$135 for Bus, Food and Camp Fees

Parents required: 2 + 3 teachers will be present (Ann Poulsen, Denise Berry, Pam Shiers)

Adult/child ratio 1:8.6

There are also two caretakers on-site at Hamilton Downs Youth Camp

1 vehicle required- not for children

Class 6

6 nights

Venue: Darwin

Details: to be advised by Noel

Cost: \$600

Adult/child ratio is 5 adults to 18 students or 1:3.6

Dates: 16th August, 2013 to 22nd August, 2013