Dear Year 9 Parent/Guardian and Student

Term 2 is fast approaching and preparation is well underway for this year’s Endeavour Camp. The 9-day camp is designed especially for Year 9 students and is a significant educational experience. The Endeavour Camp program is a key part of the College’s philosophy and curriculum and has a proud and successful history – many students count the camp as one of the most significant experiences of their secondary schooling. The program is very well regarded throughout Australia and is unique in the Northern Territory.

YEAR 9 ENDEAVOUR CAMP

The camp will be run during Weeks 10 and 11 of Term 2; Monday 13 June through to Friday 24 June. The expedition will be held in the Chewings Ranges, an adjunct of the West MacDonnell National Park and the surrounding area to the west of Standley Chasm. This unique ‘vertebrae’ of mountains and gorges lends itself well to the various challenging activities the students undertake, such as bushwalking, abseiling, rock climbing, canyoning, low ropes course, navigation, swimming and bush cooking. Each of the groups, of 18 to 20 students, completes a journey-style expedition; moving campsites each day and travelling with all food, clothing and equipment in their packs.

Although the students learn a number of outdoor skills, the focus of the camp is personal development through interaction with others. The camp aims to build confidence, raise self-esteem, increase initiative, encourage leadership and develop strategies that can be used successfully, individually or in a group. Through working in small independent and self-sufficient groups, students are thrust into communal living, forcing them to cooperate with the environment, and also with their peers. They are faced with challenges that provide the opportunity for personal growth and the extension of their horizons.

PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION EVENING – all students should attend

An Information Night will be held on Tuesday, 9 February in The Minnamurra Hall at 6:00pm. A copy of the presentation will be available on the college website.

PARTICIPATION
The opportunities and dynamics of Endeavour Camp are complemented by the ideal of ‘Challenge by Choice’. This puts the ownership of decisions to attend and participate strongly in the hands of the student and parents. Although Endeavour Camp is not compulsory, it is strongly recommended.

This ideal is put firmly to all students, that the decision to challenge themselves is theirs. This means that all participants come enthused, willing to learn and to try hard. In recent years about 98% of Year 9 students have attended. **Compulsory alternative classes will be scheduled at College for those who choose not to attend.** Our hope is that all students will attend. Please note that it is not possible for students to return early from the camp – if students attend they must attend for the entire program.

**Please advise in writing by Thursday 14 April if your son or daughter will not be attending.** Endeavour Camp is a prerequisite for Mittagundi in Year 10.

**CAMP DATES AND GROUPS**

Once the number of students attending is known, students will be placed into groups of boys and girls. It is therefore imperative that forms are submitted on time.

I take great care to design groups with a good mixture of personalities and strengths, taking into account student’s friends and social groups, with a view to creating a successful dynamic that affords all students the opportunity to contribute, and to succeed. Students are consulted about their groups in a limited way. Early in Term 2, students will be offered the opportunity (i.e. it is optional) to choose a partner who I place in a group with them. They will not know who else is in their group until the day of their departure. This is to prevent group dynamics or issues developing before the program. Students are never changed between groups on the day. This option is not available to students who have not submitted Medical Forms.

- **Groups 1 and 2:** Monday 13 June through to Tuesday 21 June
- **Groups 3 and 4:** Tuesday 14 June through to Wednesday 22 June
- **Groups 5 and 6:** Wednesday 15 June through to Thursday 23 June
- **Groups 7 and 8:** Thursday 16 June through to Friday 24 June

**NOTE:**

Students attending camps are not required to be at school from the start of the week their camp departs and do not return to school on the days after their camp returns. Friday 24 June is the last day of Term 2. If a student requires a placement in a particular dated group because of important commitments elsewhere, please submit an email by the end of Term 1. You should expect a response by email.

**CAMP COSTS**

The cost of the camp is $780.00. This fee has been charged to all family accounts at the start of the year. If you do not wish your child to attend please notify me in writing by Thursday 14 April - beyond this a full refund will not be possible as the College will have incurred the costs.

The cost includes all food (except lunch on the first day), all specialist equipment (excluding water proof jacket), transport, expert staffing, and St John Ambulance subscription.

In the event that a student is withdrawn at late notice from the trip, it may not be possible to organise a full refund. The College will endeavour to negotiate the best financial outcome according to the circumstances.

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

Some important points for incoming international exchange students:

- Please study the equipment list prior to your departure as it will be easier for you to bring some of the key clothing items (copy available on the Outdoor Education section of the College website).
Please organise payment beforehand or immediately upon arrival.

Please fax (or scan and email) a signed copy of the Medical Consent Form before you leave or return it immediately upon your arrival. It must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

GIRLS ON CAMP
Female staff and senior girls will meet formally with all Year 9 girls to assist with their understanding of practicalities on camp and address any anxieties.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARD
Endeavour Camp also exceeds the minimum requirements for the Expedition component of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, which was offered to students at the beginning of the term. Students will need to complete a report at the end of Endeavour Camp or keep a personal journal to fully satisfy the requirements. Mr David Atkins coordinates the camps, assisted by the College and specialist Outdoor Education staff.

MEDICAL AND CONSENT FORM & EQUIPMENT LIST
Please complete the attached Medical and Consent Form, and have your son or daughter return it to Student Access by Thursday 14 April. In line with College policy, those who suffer from asthma or an allergy must complete an Asthma Management Form and/or Allergy Management Form available from Student Access or also available for download from the Outdoor Education section on the school website at http://www.stphilips.nt.edu.au/special-programs/outdoor-activities/camp-forms

Students are asked to bring clothing and personal items. However, food, rucksacks, sleeping bags, sleeping mats and shelters are supplied to ensure that all students operate in the same conditions and that appropriate equipment is used.

Please find attached a detailed equipment list so you may begin gathering the correct clothing and equipment early. Please refer to the list for important information and guidance. The correct equipment is essential.

Students will be informed of their allocated group departure dates and times in Term 2.

I look forward to seeing you at the Parent Information Evening. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at the College by phone or email, if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

David Atkins
Head of Outdoor Education

T: 08 8950 4511 | F: 08 8950 4522
E: david.atkins@stphilips.nt.edu.au | Visit: www.stphilips.nt.edu.au

TO DO:

- **IMMEDIATE**: Catch up on the Information Session by looking at the PDF presentation on the website.
- **URGENT**: Notify in writing, if your son and daughter is not attending by Thursday, 14 April to ensure a full refund.
ESSENTIAL: Have your son/daughter return a completed Medical/Consent Form to Student Access by Thursday, 14 April. An Asthma Management Form should be completed by all asthmatics. An Allergy Management Form should be completed by those who have any allergies.

ESSENTIAL: Register email address with David Atkins - david.atkins@stphilips.nt.edu.au

OPTIONAL: If your son/daughter needs to be allocated to a specific group for significant family/sporting reasons, please advise by email or written note by the end of Term 1.

OPTIONAL: Submit the attached form for waterproof jacket hire and payment by Week 1, Term 2.