Dear Year 9 Parent/Guardian and Year 9 students,

Term 2 is fast approaching, and preparation is well under way 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.

2013 Year 9 Endeavour Camp

The camp will be run between Monday 10th June and Friday 21st June [Monday Week 9 to Friday Week 10 - Term 2], 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

There will be a parent and student information evening in The Minnamurra Hall on Thursday 26th February at 6.00pm, which all parents and students are urged to attend. At the meeting the program will be outlined, clothing and equipment will be explained and there will be an opportunity for questions to be answered. The Year 11 Leadership Course Information session will follow directly after the Year 9 session.

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 – Endeavour Camp is not compulsory, but 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 2nd May 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.

- Group 1 departs Monday 10th June, returns Tuesday 18th June
- Groups 2 & 3 depart Tuesday 11th June, return Wednesday 19th June
- Groups 4 & 5 depart Wednesday 12th June, return Thursday 20th June
- Groups 6 departs Thursday 13th June, returns Friday 21st June
- Note that students do not return to school on the days after their camp returns. Friday 21st June is the last day of Term 2.

NOTE:
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 $650. These fees have 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 2nd May - beyond this a full refund will not be possible as the College will have begun to incur costs.

The cost includes all food (except lunch on the first day), all specialist equipment, transport and 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 then email) a signed copy of the Medical Consent form before you leave or return it immediately upon 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 College and specialist Outdoor Education staff.

MEDICAL AND CONSENT FORM & EQUIPMENT LIST
Could you please complete the attached medical and consent form, and have your son or daughter return it to Student Access by Thursday 2nd May. 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 online at the College’s website.

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. An equipment list is attached.

A detailed equipment list is attached 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.

Departure dates and times will be forwarded to students in Term 2.

I look forward to seeing you at the Parent Information Evening. In the meantime please don’t hesitate to contact me at the College by phone or email, if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

David Atkins
Head of Outdoor Education

P 8950 4511
F 8950 4522
E david.atkins@portal.stphilips.nt.edu.au

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➢ IMMEDIATE: Attend Information Session, Thursday 26th February in The Minnamurra Hall.
➢ URGENT: Notify in writing, if your son and daughter is not attending by Thursday 2nd May to ensure a full refund.
➢ ESSENTIAL: Have your son/daughter return a completed Medical/Consent Form to Student Access by Thursday 2nd May. An Asthma Management Form should be completed by all asthmatics and an Allergy Management Form by those who have allergies.
➢ ESSENTIAL: Register email with David Atkins david.atkins@portal.stphilips.nt.edu.au
➢ OPTIONAL: If your son/daughter needs to be allocated to a specific group because of significant family/sporting reasons please advise by email or written note by the end of Term 1.
➢ OPTIONAL: If you wish to hire a waterproof jacket please submit the attached form and payment by End of Term 1.