Dear Parents and Year 10 Students,

I am pleased to inform you that the proposed Year 10 Mittagundi Winter Camp to Victoria in July will proceed, assuming deposits are received.

This is a lengthy document that should be read in full carefully – especially by students.

At the Information Night I will outline in detail what students will do at Mittagundi, the amazing learning and development opportunities it offers, explain the logistics (phew!) and equipment requirements, and answer any questions. As we are promoting and encouraging student responsibility they must be aware of the requirements, expectations and logistics - therefore students who do not attend will not be permitted to participate in the Mittagundi program.

Key dates:

- **Initial deposit of $600 (non-refundable) required from all students by Friday 20th February**
- **Those planning to travel independently need to confirm and advise me by Wednesday 20th February. Changes after this are not possible.**
- **Students must attend the Information Session on Tuesday 17th February, 6:00pm in The Minnamurra Hall. PDF of presentation available on college website following presentation.**
- **Both Medical Consent forms to be returned to Student Access by Thursday 30th April. This is for Mittagundis and a St Philips College form.**
- **Final payment of $1000 due Thursday 30th April**

Each group will undertake the same activities at Mittagundi, but in a different order. The travel details are listed below. Note flight times to be confirmed – you can check the QANTAS website in the meantime if required.
Groups 1 (40 students) Itinerary (1PLP104, 1PLP105 and 1PLP106 students):

Tuesday 17th February Information Night (compulsory for all students) 6pm in The Minnamurra Hall
Friday 20th February Initial non-refundable Deposit $600 due to secure a place
Thursday 30th April Last day to submit Medical Consent Forms (note there are two forms)
Thursday 30th April Final Payment Due $1000

Sunday 5th July (During the last week of the mid year holidays)

GROUP 1
Meet at Alice Springs Airport: time to be confirmed (1.5hrs prior to departure)
Depart Alice Springs on QANTAS Flight QF 797 to Melbourne: accurate
departure time usually available in June (currently listed as 12:15pm)
Arrive Melbourne: time to be confirmed (currently listed as 3:20pm)
Travel by bus from airport to accommodation
Stay overnight in Melbourne Metro YHA Hostel, 78 Howard Street, North
Melbourne VIC 3051
Dinner at La Porcetta, North Melbourne
Movie in Melbourne Central

Monday 6th July GROUP 1
Travel by bus from Melbourne to Mittagundi,
Bus departs before 7am, arriving at Mittagundi late afternoon.
Breakfast enroute
Lunch enroute.

Monday 6th to Tuesday 14th July

GROUP 1
The time at Mittagundi will be divided between a one day and three day
cross-country skiing trip (subject to weather) on the adjacent Bogong High
Plains and at Mittagundi itself.
While not skiing and snow camping, the group will be at Mittagundi to help
run the farm. This includes milking cows, baking bread, building sheds and
fences, planting trees, blacksmithing, making furniture and helping tend the
vegetable garden.

Tuesday 14th July GROUP 1
Travel by bus from Mittagundi to Melbourne, leave 10am arrive in the
evening.
Stay overnight in Melbourne Metro YHA Hostel, 78 Howard Street, North
Melbourne VIC 3051

Wednesday 15th July GROUP 1
Travel by bus from accommodation to Melbourne Airport
Depart Melbourne on QANTAS Flight QF 796 to Alice Springs: accurate
departure time usually available in June (currently listed as 9:30am)
Arrive Alice Springs: time to be confirmed (currently listed as 11.10am)
Breakfast on the plane

Monday 20th July Return to school

Group 2 (40 students) Itinerary (1PLP101, 1PLP102 and 1PLP103 students):
Tuesday 17th February  Information Night (compulsory for all students) 7pm in The Minnamurra Hall
Friday 20th February  Initial non-refundable Deposit $600 due to secure a place
Thursday 30th April  Last day to submit Medical Consent Forms (note there are two forms)
Thursday 30th April  Final Payment Due $1000

**Wednesday 15th July**  GROUP 2
Meet at Alice Springs Airport: time to be confirmed (1.5hrs prior to departure)
Depart Alice Springs on QANTAS Flight QF 797 to Melbourne: accurate departure time usually available in June (currently listed as 12:40pm)
Arrive Melbourne: time to be confirmed (currently listed as 3:45pm)
Travel by bus from airport to accommodation
Melbourne Metro YHA Hostel, 78 Howard Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
Dinner at La Porcetta, North Melbourne
Movie in Melbourne Central

Thursday 16th July  GROUP 2
Travel by bus from Melbourne to Mittagundi,
Bus Departs before 7am, arriving at Mittagundi for late lunch
Breakfast enroute
Lunch enroute

Thursday 16th to Friday 24th July
GROUP 2
The time at Mittagundi will be divided between a one day and three day cross-country skiing trip (subject to weather) on the adjacent Bogong High Plains and at Mittagundi itself.
While not skiing and snow camping, the group will be at Mittagundi to help run the farm. This includes milking cows, baking bread, building sheds and fences, planting trees, blacksmithing, making furniture and helping tend the vegetable garden.

Friday 24th July  GROUP 2
Travel by bus from Mittagundi to Melbourne, leave 10am arrive 5pm approx
Melbourne Metro YHA Hostel, 78 Howard Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

Saturday 25th July  GROUP 2
Travel by bus from accommodation to Melbourne Airport
Depart Melbourne on QANTAS Flight QF 796 to Alice Springs: accurate departure time usually available in June (currently listed as 9:05am)
Arrive Alice Springs: time to be confirmed (currently listed as 11:30am)
Breakfast on the plane.

Monday 27th July  Return to school

**GROUPS**
Students have been placed in groups based on their classes. It is not possible to move between groups.
Students will be split into two groups (1 & 2) when in Melbourne enroute to Mittagundi.

**TRIP COST, PAYMENT DETAILS AND MEDICAL FORMS**
The total cost of the trip will be $1600 all inclusive, or $1150 for those organising their own airfares.
An initial deposit of $600 to secure our flights and accommodation is required (including those travelling independently) by Friday 20th February. Note that this is a non refundable component for flights. If you miss the payment date of 20th February, you may lose your place on the trip.

ORGANISING YOUR OWN AIRFARES: Those families wishing to organise their own flights/travel should advise in writing when paying their initial deposit – you will need to organise your own flights independently. We cannot arrange one way sections of flights. It will be more convenient and practical to try and match our flight itinerary. We cannot offer transport or supervision for students in Melbourne outside of our travel times, as staff fly with the group. Any additional travel costs (taxi’s etc are at your own expense).

The final balance of $1000 ($650 for those travelling independently) will be required by Thursday 30th April.

All payments are to be made at College Reception where payments are fully receipted. Credit card payments are accepted. Cheques should be made out to: St Philip’s College.

The attached Medical/Forms (NOTE: St Philip’s and Mittagundi copies) should be carefully completed and returned by the Thursday 30th April. An Asthma Management Form is mandatory for asthmatics and an Allergy Management Form for those with allergies – available from Student Access Window or at http://www.stphilips.nt.edu.au/special-programs/outdoor-activities/camp-forms

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

STUDENTS JOINING THE GROUP IN MELBOURNE

Those students who are making independent travel arrangements will meet the group at our accommodation or at the airport if their flight arrives before the main group. The accommodation details are: Melbourne Metro YHA Hostel 78 Howard Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051, Melbourne, Ph: (03) 9329 8599.

If there are problems on the day then telephone staff (students will receive a listing of staff mobile phones later in Term 2). To assist me, and to ensure a problem free meeting, I require some written or emailed details about student movements in Melbourne prior to joining the group - Contact name, phone number, where they are staying and how they will get to the hotel.

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR AND EXPECTATIONS

St Philip’s College has a very positive history in our Outdoor Education programs in general and in particular at Mittagundi, where our students attitude and efforts are highly regarded. The Mittagundi program is an exciting learning opportunity with many varied challenges – it is not a holiday. There will undoubtedly be a lot of fun had, but all should come committed to working hard towards making the program the best it can be.

I have the highest expectation of students in how they will handle themselves during their time at Mittagundi, when travelling to and from Mittagundi and in their dealings with other people – staff and other students. It is also worth restating the enormous effort that has gone into organising this trip and the emotional and financial commitments that all families and students have made to ensure the best opportunities are available.

Individuals who do not believe they can live up to the high expectations should urgently consider whether they should take part in this year’s expedition, and should discuss the issues with me. Consequences for those who are destructive towards the success of the program will be very severe, at which the most likely is removal from the program at the student’s/parent’s considerable expense. The Headmaster and Deputy will be involved if a situation arises. The following are examples of behaviours that would be considered
serious enough to consider removal from the programs :- Smoking; alcohol or drug use; intimidation or bullying; uncooperative behaviour.

OTHER INFORMATION

- If you wish to claim Frequent Flyer Points for your plane trip either keep your boarding pass or present your membership card when we check in.
- Mobile phones may be brought on the program (they will not work at Mittagundi) as they are helpful when we are in the city. Students will be asked to give their number to the staff member supervising them.
- Pocket money – students should remember that this trip is not a “shopping spree!!” In fact there is no time allocated to shopping (although some souvenirs may be available from Mittagundi). All meals are included in the trip cost. Spending money should be kept to a minimum and preferably accessible by key card rather than cash in wallets.
- Lost property – every care should be taken by students with gear. Students can easily misplace wallets, keycards, phone etc on buses, planes, or in the hotel. Please ensure that clothing is clearly labelled as the drying room at Mittagundi makes it easy for clothing to be mixed up with other student’s. At Mittagundi, all lost property is offered to students on the last day – items (usually odd socks!) not collected then, are considered a ‘donation’ to Mittagundi.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

A detailed clothing list for the time at Mittagundi is attached. This list includes the items that Mittagundi supplies and the items that students need to bring themselves. I would like to reinforce the importance of woollen jumpers and woollen socks (e.g. 'Explorers'). A woollen beanie is essential, as are suitable thermal underwear. Some old clothing is advisable for farm work at Mittagundi. All clothing should be clearly labelled with the student’s name.

The organisation of personal equipment and belongings is an important test of students (not parents! ) personal organisation and commitment to coming to Mittagundi. It is one of the only things that students need to do to assist with the running of the trip. Those students who do not come prepared, risk the safety of their peers in the snow!

PLEASE ENSURE I HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESSES – all correspondence is via email: david.atkins@portal.stphilips.nt.edu.au

Students will be regularly updated as any new information comes to hand. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at the College by phone or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

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