Dear Parent/Guardian and Year 11 Stage 2 Outdoor Education Student,

As part of the St Philip’s College Stage 2 Outdoor Education program, your son/daughter has a planned trip to Mt Arapiles in Western Victoria departing on Saturday 21 May and returning on Sunday, 29 May 2016.

PROGRAM

This journey is actually a combination of two journeys; the first being a base camp at the Mt Arapiles Campground, and the second being a rock climbing expedition also at Mt Arapiles. The base camp journey will camp at the same site each day but move out to various crags for students to construct climbing and abseiling systems that they will climb on. Students will also follow experienced climbers up multi-pitch climbing routes with some potential for the development of lead climbing if deemed suitable. The expedition section of this trip will comprise of spending time travelling away from the campsite and actually camping on the rock itself. This will involve one or two nights where students will be sleeping in their climbing harnesses attached to the rock as it will be 80 to 100 metres off the ground on large ledges.

The aim of this trip is to extend students’ climbing ability, expose them to other climbing areas in Australia, and to focus on future folio tasks, investigation and the journey components of their Stage 2 study. Mt Arapiles provides us with a world class climbing area with a rich history and the park management practices required to achieve at a high level in this study area.

Students will be responsible for much of the planning that goes into this trip and have some responsibilities towards the group as well.

KEY DATES

Students must attend this program to be able to complete their Stage 2 - Outdoor Education

Initial deposit of $650 required from all students by Week 4, Term 1

Medical Consent forms to be returned to Student Access by Week 4, Term 1

Final payment of $500 due Week 1, Term 2
ITINERARY

Saturday, 21 May
Arrive at Alice Springs Airport at 11:20am
Depart Alice Springs at (currently listed as 12.35pm) on QANTAS Flight QF797 to Melbourne
Arrive into Melbourne Airport at 3.40pm
Collect Budget vehicle from Airport and drive to Mt Arapiles stopping in Horsham for dinner and fresh food for the duration of the trip
Set up in campground for the next few nights at Natimuk Caravan Park
Introductory climb if time permits on cliffs close to campground
Group discussion about inherent risks of rock climbing in the outdoors

Sunday, 22 May
Introduction and daylight tour of the Tooan State Park taking in the major sites and locations with some brief history
Students begin introductory placements of protection at Bushrangers Bluff (A part of Mt Arapiles range)
Students begin practice basic top rope climb setup on the ground
Students construct basic top rope system and then climb on system after being checked by staff members
Students spend afternoon climbing on systems that they have created
**Major discussion topic: Risks in Rock Environments (Folio Task 1)**

Monday, 23 May
Students begin practice of basic abseil system setup on the ground at Mitre Rock
Students construct basic abseil system and then abseil on system after being checked by staff members
Students spend afternoon abseiling on systems that they have created.
Followed by construction of more top rope climbing systems
Some students will have the opportunity to complete some seconding of staff members at the Organ pipes to view techniques and strategies to climb and manage ropes outdoors
**Major discussion topic: Investigation Topics specific to Arapiles (External Investigation – weighting 30%)**

Tuesday, 24 May
All students will be involved in a long multi pitch climb during the course of the day
Tour of major bouldering problems close to camp
Top roping some harder climbs on the Plaque and surrounds
Some students that are deemed comfortable and competent will have access to an introduction to lead climbing on very easy grade climbs
**Major discussion topic: Investigation Topics specific to Arapiles Continued (External Investigation – weighting 30%)**

Wednesday, 25 May
Climbing multi pitch climbs in the morning
Haul systems and rescue practice at the Plaque (include prussicking past a knot, abseiling over a knot and escaping the system)
Preparation of equipment for night out on the Flight Deck (this area is a high ledge that does not involve roped climbing to get to it)
Begin 2 night journey phase of the program
Head up to the sleeping ledge following dinner with all equipment required for a practice of roped up sleeping. Prior to climb and haul on Thursday

**Thursday, 26 May**
Organise equipment and prepare for all day long journey to major sleeping ledge (Preludes Wall). Where students will be 80 to 100 metres off the ground on a large ledge for the night where they will cook, clean, eat and manage faecal wastes

**Major discussion topic: Risks in Rock Environments continued (Folio Task 1)**

**Friday, 27 May**
Descend cliff and end journey part of the trip

Time permitting Multi Pitch climbs in the Organ Pipes or Bard Buttress Area

**Major discussion topic: Environmental Perspectives (Folio Task 2)**

**Saturday, 28 May**
Travel by bus from Mt Arapiles to Melbourne, leave 10:00am arrive in the evening

Stay overnight in Melbourne Metro YHA Hostel, 78 Howard Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

**Sunday, 29 May**
Travel by bus from accommodation to Melbourne Airport

Depart Melbourne on QANTAS Flight QF796 to Alice Springs: (currently listed as 9.30am)

Arrive Alice Springs: time to be confirmed (currently listed as 11:55am)

Breakfast on the plane

Students will be available for pick up shortly after their arrival

**Monday, 23 May**
Return to school

**TRIP COST, PAYMENT DETAILS AND MEDICAL FORMS**

The total cost of the trip will be $1,150.00 all inclusive.

**An initial deposit of $650 to secure our flights and accommodation was required by Thursday, 18 February (Week 4, Term 1). The final balance of $500 in Week 1, Term 2.**

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

**STUDENT BEHAVIOUR AND EXPECTATIONS**

St Philip’s College has a very positive history in our Outdoor Education programs in general and this is the first time such a Stage 2 trip has been organised. The Mt Arapiles 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 Mt Arapiles, when travelling to and from Melbourne 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 all of the trip) 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. 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, key cards, phone etc on buses, planes, or in the hotel. Please ensure that clothing is clearly labelled as it is easy for clothing to be mixed up with other students.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

A detailed clothing list for the time at Mt Arapiles is attached. This list includes the items that SPC 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. 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. Those students who do not come prepared, risk the safety of their peers. Where possible St Philip’s will lend equipment that is not available at home.

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

David Atkins
Head of Outdoor Education

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