30 August 2013

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians

On December 4, 5 and 6, Year 9 students will be heading off on camp. It may seem early in the year to begin this conversation but we need to get our planning underway in order to have camp sites, accommodation, transport and facilitators booked.

Camps are an integral part of the educational programme at MacKillop Catholic College and the Year 9 camp offers an excellent opportunity to build on skills students gained during their participation in camps during Years 7 and 8. Students will be involved in a range of challenging, exciting and character-building activities and their camp experience will no doubt be a memorable one.

Unlike the Year 7 and 8 camps, in Year 9 we ask students to nominate from a range of choices which camp they would like to participate in. Due to the varied nature of the camps, there are separate camp requirements. Once students have nominated their preferences and the camp details have been finalised, they will be able to bring home more detailed information and a set of instructions on how best to prepare for their camp.

Subject to numbers, the camps we would like to offer this year are:

- Horse riding at Cradle Country Adventures
- Outreach in Hobart
- Cycle and bushwalking tour of Maria Island
- Survival of the Fittest
- Surfing at Bruny Island or the East Coast
- Cycle tour of Bruny Island

Each camp has a specified number of places available. For this reason, it is important that students return any camp forms as soon as possible in order to avoid missing out on their preference. **We will make every effort to meet the preferences of the students. However, we cannot guarantee that students will receive their first choice.**

Please see below for a brief description of each camp. The information provided may vary once we have a clear indication of the level of student interest. After reading the information and discussing preferences we ask students and parents to complete the attached preference form at the end of this letter and return it to the front office no later than **Friday, September 13 2013**. As mentioned previously, it is important that forms are returned promptly. Final allocation of camps will be communicated in the first week of Term 4, whereby a non-refundable deposit of $100 ($30 for the Outreach Camp) will be required in order to secure a position on the camp list. Deposits can be made via the College office once camp allocation notices are sent home.
Horse Riding – Cradle Country Adventures

Experienced and beginner riders are invited to attend this 3 day camp which incorporates many aspects of horses and horse handling. Riders will be inducted and assisted by experienced instructors and enjoy trail riding and horsemanship. Typically students can expect to spend from 9:30am (subject to having kitchen and bedrooms tidy!) until 4:30-5pm with the horses. There is a comfortable shared lounge room in the Shearer’s Quarters that has a large open fire. The showers and toilets are at the end of the verandah.

Cradle Country Adventures will provide a BBQ on one night. All other meals will need to be organised through shared catering. “The Quarters” has a fully self-contained kitchen including two stoves, an outside BBQ and ample food storage. If lunches are prepared by 8:30am then we can have lunch ‘on the trail’. You can check out the venue here: http://www.cradleadventures.com.au/

Transport: Bus.
Accommodation: Comfy Shearer’s Quarters. Single beds. Some bedding provided.
Equipment: Flat soled boots and comfortable clothing for riding. All riding equipment is provided. BYO sleeping bag, pillow, pillow-case and sheet.
Meals: Self-cater and shared meals. BBQ provided on last night.
Estimated cost: $250-$300 per student.

Cycle Tour of Bruny

Students will use their own (or borrow from the College) mountain bikes to tour Bruny Island. Students will meet at Kettering, catch the ferry and ride first to Cape Queen Elizabeth Bay for lunch and then into Adventure Bay. We will be staying in tents at the camping ground and students will be responsible for their own meals and gear (like the Year 8 camp). Day Two we rest our bikes and go on the award winning Bruny Island Cruise to Friar Rocks, with the opportunity to view amazing coastline, many species of birds, seals and possibly dolphins. During the afternoon we walk up the Fluted Cape for sensational afternoon views. Day 3 is back on the bikes, visiting Bruny Island Cheese Company as we make our way back to the ferry. A support vehicle is provided for gear and safety but it is expected that students have an appropriate level of fitness to enjoy this active camp.

Estimated cost: $150 per student.
Survival of the Fittest

Do you like a challenge? Are you mentally and physically tough? Can you work well as part of a team? If you can answer YES to these questions, this may be the activity for you.

Based on a reality TV show, Survival of the Fittest will require competitors to form a team of two people in a fast-paced adventure around various locations in Tasmania. The race will force each team into challenging situations that will no doubt test their mental and physical strength. Friendships will be tested and challenges will be overcome, all whilst developing important life skills of leadership and resilience.

The important information to know about what you need

Mobile phone
A teammate: Write this person’s name on your preference form. This person must also want to participate in Survival of the Fittest and submit their own preference form with your name on it.
A positive attitude and willingness to give anything a go.

Estimated cost: $175.

Surfing at Bruny or the East Coast

What: A three day surf camp, based at Bruny Island (with an option of heading up the East Coast depending on conditions). Tents for accommodation to keep the costs down.
Who: Surfers/bodyboarders. We plan to cater for around 15 experienced and 10 learner surfers. Anyone attending must be a competent swimmer (and be able to swim at least 150 metres and tread water for 5 minutes).
Where: Based on Bruny Island.
Estimated cost: Depends on numbers and how many beginners versus experienced surfers (who have surfed regularly for at least 2 years), approximately $120.

Cycling and bushwalking tour of Maria Island

This camp is for students who are keen to visit and explore Maria Island. Students will cross by ferry and spend two nights on the island. Maria has much to offer in regards to exploring our beautiful Tasmanian environment and our historical past. The plan is to do some bushwalking, including to the summit of the island’s main mountain. We also plan to take mountain bikes and explore parts of the island by bike. Accommodation will be in tents and there is the possibility of organising a ghost tour on one of the nights of our stay. The expectation is that you enjoy bushwalking, camping and mountain bike riding as well as exploring our natural environment.

Estimated cost: $100-$150.
Outreach Hobart

This camp is for those who want to give something back. Students will meet and make connections with individuals and groups in our community that sometimes go unnoticed. Students will be involved in a range of activities that will enable them to explore, reflect on and reach out to those in need in our local community. This is not an overnight camp - at the end of each day of activities students will return home and reconvene for the next day's activities. Students will need to provide their own recess and lunch however, opportunities will be provided for students to share a meal with people from organisations that we would be assisting.

Estimated cost: $30-$40

If you have any queries or concerns about the Year 9 camp programme, please do not hesitate to contact our Outdoor Education Coordinator, Mr. Jules Farmery or the Acting Year 9 Coordinator on 62 450099.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Alice Smith

Please complete the form below and return it via the Home Room satchel no later than 13 September 2013.

________________________________________________________________________
Attention Year 9 Coordinator OR Year 9 Camp Coordinator
Name: _________________________________ Home Room: ________________________

Please number your preference of camp, with 1 being the most preferred:

Horseriding at Cradle Country Adventures: ☐
Cycle and bushwalking tour of Maria Island: ☐
Surfing at Bruny or the East Coast: ☐
Cycle tour of Bruny Island: ☐
Survival of the Fittest: ☐
Outreach Hobart: ☐

Parent/Guardian name: __________________________________________

Parent/Guardian signature: _______________________________________

Date: _____________________