30 November 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

Year 7 Retreat

Your son's/daughter's class will be going on their Year 7 Retreat on Monday, 5 December or Thursday, 8 December.

The famous Greek philosopher, Socrates, once boldly stated that "The unexamined life is not worth living." We are unable to grow towards a better understanding of our true nature unless we take time to examine and reflect upon our lives.

At MacKillop Catholic College, the Retreat programme strives to help students appreciate the need for time out and reflection if they are to grow spiritually and personally. Retreats are considered an integral part of the Religious Education programme and, as such, all students are expected to attend. The Year 7 Retreat explores the theme of Identity, Change and Challenge. This year, Year 7 students will be going to Blue Lagoon at Dodos Ferry. The program will be facilitated by the Staff Retreat Team. Please note this excursion will be held near water.

The following Home Rooms will be attending on the following days:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monday, 5 December:</th>
<th>7 Gold, 7 Green</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 8 December:</td>
<td>7 Red, 7 Blue and 7 White</td>
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Students will leave MacKillop Catholic College at approximately 8.45a.m. on the bus, and will return to the College in time for afternoon Home Room. As Retreats fall under the regular School Excursion Policy, where Duty of Care lies wholly with MacKillop Catholic College Staff on the day, students do not have permission to walk to or from the venue, nor to be dropped off at or picked up from the venue on either day, even though they may live close by.

Sports uniform is to be worn for the day, and students are required to bring pencil cases, morning tea and a water bottle. Student iPads and iPods are not to be brought along on the day.

Special Requirements

Students are asked to form groups of four within their Religious Education class to share a picnic lunch. We ask that your son/daughter, in the formation of their lunch group, makes himself/herself aware of any allergies suffered by members of the group, and avoids bringing food which could be dangerous to others. ALL FOOD MUST BE NUT-FREE. Other common allergies are eggs, dairy, sesame, and gluten. Students with allergies have the option of bringing their own lunch and something additional to share with the group.

We look forward to facilitating the Year 7 Retreat for your son/daughter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Linda Pollard
Director of Ministry
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