

GRADE 9 CAMP PROGRAM

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Rationale

All camps at St. Patrick's College are designed to provide students with a safe, educational, worthwhile and memorable experience. Emphasis is placed on the fact that, while still learning, students are not required to adhere to a strict structure of bells and set time commitments. Students are encouraged to become more flexible with their routines and to take more responsibility for the running of their camp.

The Grade 9 Camps Program is vastly changed from the House camp of past years. Trialled last year this new format is a camping experience that brings the Grade 9's into line with the camps offered at other year levels, completing the transition of camps being a sequential learning process from one year to the next as part of the Whole College Camps Program at St. Patrick's College.

Program Details

Grade 9 students will be consolidating the skills learned in their Grade 8 House camp, and building skills toward their major camp experience in Grade 10.

The camp is normally held in the second last week of Term 3.

Students are being offered a choice of four campsite locations. At each location, 3 of the activities offered to students for the Grade 10 camp program are being run. This means that for their 3 day camp, students will be taking part in 1 day each of 3 activities.

The other major change is that camps are gender based, with the girls camping from *Monday to Wednesday*, and the boys from *Wednesday to Friday*.

The locations and activities are:

- **Arm River** - Caving, Fly Fishing, Mountain Biking – staying in cabins at the Forestry campsite.
- **Bicheno** - First Aid, Surfing and Snorkelling – camping in tents at Seaview
- **Freycinet National Park** - Sea Kayaking, Bushwalking, Outdoor Investigation with Parks Tasmania Rangers – camping in tents at Richardson's Beach
- **Hillwood** – Rock-climbing/Abseiling, Sailing, Canoeing – camping in tents at Egg Island Reserve.

This complete change of format has necessitated a number of logistical changes to previous years.

- **Camp Staffing** - Whilst all campsites will have at least 3 St. Patrick's College staff in attendance, the majority of activities have been "outsourced" to professional adventure activity companies who provide qualified and experienced instructors to facilitate activities.
- **Participant Safety** - The higher number of adults accompanying students on camp ensures an increased safety factor for all, as activities are being staffed at a much higher adult to student ratio than the minimum standards safety guidelines requirements.
- **Arrival / Departure Times** - To provide students with as much activity time as possible, buses transporting students and staff to the campsites will be leaving St. Patrick's College at ***approximately 7:00am*** on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Campers returning on Wednesday and Friday afternoons will be arriving back at St. Patrick's College at ***approximately 4:00pm***.
- **Equipment** - The majority of activities require the use of activity specific equipment and safety gear. Students are **not required** to make any special equipment purchases for their camp as each "outsourced" adventure company being employed provides all necessary specialised equipment.
- **Cost** - As with Grade 7 and 8 camps, the cost of this camp is already incorporated into student fees so there is no upfront payment required by families.

In a meeting of all Grade 9 students today the camp format was discussed in detail and students are very aware of their responsibilities in regard to returning appropriate paperwork. Parents and students will be given additional camp-specific details after selections have been made and student lists announced.

Any parent enquiries regarding this camp can be directed to Camps Co-ordinator, Miss Cath McQuie at the College on 63419988.