Dear Parents,

YEAR 5/6 CAMP HOWQUA 2015

Early in Term 2 this year, the year 5/6 students have the opportunity to attend a fantastic Adventure Camp called Camp Howqua. Camp Howqua is an exceptional camp that the children have lots of fun at. The camp covers in excess of 64 hectares of picturesque countryside situated on the beautiful Howqua River. It is located in the Victorian High Country, only a 45-minute drive from the top of Mt Buller and 15 minutes from Mansfield.

Camps are an excellent opportunity for students to develop independence and social skills and to learn in a different setting that offers a variety of unique experiences. Camp Howqua will complement many of our academic and social programs including ‘Habits Of Mind’ and Health and Physical Education. All activities are conducted according to the Education Department’s ‘Safety in the Outdoors Guidelines’ and students will be fully briefed on safety matters and appropriate use of any equipment being used.

Each small group will get to take part in several adventure activities during the 3 days at camp. These activities are all on a rotational basis.

This year, some of the activities students will take part in will include:
- Horse Riding
- 270m long flying fox
- Waterslide
- High Ropes
- Archery
- Mud Obstacle Course
- Low Ropes
- And lots more!

The details of our 2015 Year 5/6 Camp are as follows:

Dates/Transport:
Camp Howqua is a 3 Day / 2 Night Camp to Howqua Adventure Camp. Our camp this year is in Week 2 of Term 2.

Children will need to be at school at 8:10am on Monday April 20th for an 8.30am sharp departure.

Children will return to school at approximately 4:00pm on Wednesday April 22nd.

Costs/Transport:
The cost for the camp this year is $270 (all inclusive). This amount includes transport by bus to the camp, accommodation, food for the 3 days as well as all the activities, including horse riding, that the children take part in.

All payments and forms must be completed by TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 2015.

Accommodation
Camp Howqua has separate lodges that each accommodate approximately 10-12 students. Each cabin has sleeping, toilet and shower facilities. The site accommodates 200 with dining and recreational areas. Mattresses are provided, but students will need to bring their own sleeping bag, fitted sheet, pillow and pillowcase. Shortly before attending the camp, students will be involved in a process to decide on groups for the cabin and be given a briefing on what activities will occur at the camp.

Program
During the day students will have the opportunity to participate in a broad range of experiences, as mentioned above, and in the evenings we will have a night walk as well as the traditional ‘Red Faces’ type entertainment. (Students are encouraged to have a bit of fun and organise a short performance with a group of friends; minimal costuming is required).
**Parental assistance**
Some parents will be needed to assist with the camp. Please think carefully before volunteering and keep in mind that your assistance is needed for all children and that you may not be assisting the group in which your child is a member. Remember all children need the opportunity to develop independence and look after themselves and their belongings, so your role will be to support and assist all students. For parents to assist with our school camp, they must ensure they have a current working with children check card. Please return the expression of interest form by **FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2015**. Parents will be notified on Wednesday 11TH March 2015.

**Permission note and payment**
To reserve a place for your child it is necessary for you to complete the attached form and return it to school with either full payment or a deposit of $100.00 by **FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2015**.

Full payment of the camp is due by **TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 2015**.

Payment can be made in full or by instalments. To pay by instalments, please see the office staff. **Please note**: Your child cannot attend camp unless payment has been received in full (unless by other arrangement with the Business Manager and authorised by the Principal).

**Special Dietary Requirements**
If your child has special dietary requirements for Camp Howqua, could you please see Chris Weedon in Room 6 to discuss your child’s needs and receive the necessary paperwork to forward to Camp Howqua by **FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2015**.

**Further Details**
Medical forms, clothing lists, program details and a Code of Conduct form will be sent out closer to the camp date.

Bec, Chris, Nancy, Karen, Emma and Lauren
5/6 Team

Phil Clinkaberry
Principal

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**YEAR 5/6 CAMP HOWQUA 2015 PERMISSION AND DEPOSIT FORM**

(Please complete and return to school with your $100.00 deposit by **FRIDAY 6TH MARCH**)

I give permission for my child ______________________ from room_______ to attend Camp Howqua from Monday 20th April to Wednesday 22nd April 2015.

In the event of accident or illness, I authorise the teacher in charge, where it is impracticable to communicate with me, to seek such medical or surgical treatment for my child as may be deemed necessary.

Parent Signature:________________________

Emergency telephone contact ____________________________

- I enclosed my deposit of $100.00, with the remaining balance due by Tuesday 14th April.
- I enclose full payment of $270.00

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**YEAR 5/6 CAMP HOWQUA 2015 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PARENT HELPERS FORM**

Name of Parent:..................................................Contact number:.............................................

- I am able to assist with Camp
- I have a current Working with Children Check

Parent Signature:.............................................