20 December 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 7 2015

Welcome to Merici College! I am writing to provide you with some initial information regarding the Merici College Year 7 Retreat Camp which takes place early in the 2015 school year. The camp will run for 3 days, with one night staying at Kianinny Cabins, Tathra, and the other night in tents in the Mimosa Rocks National Park. The camp will take place from Wednesday 18 March until Friday 20 March. The Retreat Camp is supervised by Merici staff and activities are undertaken by fully trained outdoor educators from Coastlife Adventures. Coastlife Adventures is a privately owned Outdoor Education and Recreational Business established to provide safe, quality experiences to a large range of groups. In addition, a select number of senior student Transition Leaders will accompany the Year 7 students and staff. Many of your daughters would have met these same student leaders during Year 6 induction day.

*Please note that at no point will student leaders have sole responsibility for any students during camp. Student leaders play a peer support role in the camp experience.*

The Merici College Year 7 Retreat Camp is a compulsory school activity for all Year 7 students. The staff at Merici see this event as a valuable time for students to get to know their peers, learn about the ethos of the school and as an orientation into high school. The retreat element of camp is also an essential component of this event. During the Retreat, the students will learn more about the Merici story. They will be encouraged to reflect on their talents and gifts and discover how they can share these talents with the Merici community. The girls will deepen their understanding of their relationship with themselves and a God of love. During the liturgy, the students will have an opportunity to reflect on their actions. They will be motivated to start afresh – with a renewed strength of faith. The camp also aims to develop leadership qualities and teamwork as well as respect for each other.

Activities will include an Overnight Camp-Out, Bushwalk with Lagoon Crossing, Surf Life Saving Program, Team Building activities and some recreational activity time. Merici staff will also incorporate some night activities to foster student confidence, social interaction, and enjoyment within the college community.

More detailed information regarding the program will be outlined in the Student Camp Booklet which will be distributed to students during Week 4 of the 2015 school year. In the Booklet there is a very detailed “Camping and Clothing” information sheet and it is very important that these are followed. Please note that students in Brescia, Ningil and Penola will be camping out on the first night and will spend the second night in the cabins. Students in Balgo, Tullow and Sciwa will be at Kianinny cabins on the first night and will camp out on the second night.

Year 7 Retreat Camp buses will depart from Wise Street at 8.00 am on Wednesday 18 March, therefore your daughter needs to be at school by 7.30 am where we will assemble in the Auditorium. There will be a brief stop at Cooma on the way to Tathra. This is intended to be for morning tea and a toilet break so please make sure that your daughter has eaten breakfast before boarding the bus. Students will need to bring a substantial morning tea and lunch with them as the first
meal provided at camp is afternoon tea. A return stop will depend on traffic and timing, as our goal is to return to school at the scheduled time. We estimate that we should return to Merici at 5pm on Friday 20 March. Your daughter will have had a busy few days so please be punctual in collecting her. Supervision will be limited after the last bus arrives so it is essential that students be collected promptly at 5pm.

Should there be an unforeseen emergency and you cannot collect your daughter at 5pm you must contact the College on 62434100 to alert the school of the problem before 4pm. Please leave a return mobile number so you can be contacted. It is important to note that you must phone before 4pm as the school switchboard will close. An alternative trip related school number will be provided at the start of the 2015 year, when students are given their camp booklets and information.

The total cost for the Year 7 2015 Retreat Camp is $350 per student. The cost includes accommodation, the rental of all equipment required, activities staff, insurance, transport to and from camp, a camp t-shirt as well as food provision.

Payment can be made by cash/cheque or credit card. Payments by cheque or credit card can be placed directly into the secure box at the Cashier’s Office. A form for paying by credit card slip is attached. If you wish to make the payment yourself this can be made at the front office during office hours. If students are bringing the payment they can do this before school, recess and lunch at the front office. Please complete and return the permission and medical form to the front office, together with the payment. All forms and payments need to be made by Monday 2nd of March 2015. Payment will not be accepted after this date unless prior arrangement has been made, to ensure planning is completed in a timely manner and so final numbers can be given to Coastlife and the bus company. If you have any concerns about the payment, please do contact the school to discuss.

If you have any questions or concerns about the camp please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to accompanying your daughter on the Year 7 Retreat Camp 2015!

Sincerely,

Mrs Megan Keogh
Head of Junior School
Merici College
(62434169)
megan.keogh@merici.act.edu.au

Coastlife Adventures
1859 Sapphire Coast Drive
Kalaru NSW 2550
(02) 6494 1122
info@coastlife.com.au
ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN CONSENT FORM

Excursion: YEAR 7 MERICI COLLEGE RETREAT CAMP 2015

Date: Wed 18th MARCH – Fri 20th MARCH 2015

Student Details:
Surname: ___________________________ Given Name: ___________________________

Date of Birth: ___________ School: ___________________________ PC Group: ___________

Town: ___________________________ Home Phone: ___________________________

EMERGENCY CONTACT:
Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Relationship: ___________________________

Medicare No: ___________________________

Private Health Ins. ___________________________

STUDENT MEDICAL DETAILS:

Date of last Tetanus injection: ___________________________

Please detail any medical conditions (eg. Allergies, asthma) and treatment plans for your child, relevant to this excursion. If additional space is required, please write on the back of this form. If you have submitted a Medical Management Plan with the school we will have a copy with us at the camp.
SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:

Please outline your daughter’s special dietary requirements. Fussy eaters cannot be catered for. Catering staff at Coastlife are happy to cater for medical dietary needs. All catering with Coastlife is nut free.


Please circle the description that best describes your daughter’s swimming ability/level.

CANNOT SWIM CAN FLOAT AND TREAD WATER CAN SWIM 20 METRES

CAN SWIM 50 METERS STRONG SWIMMER, SWIMS 100 METRES OR MORE

PARENTAL CONSENT:

As Parent/ Guardian of _______________________________ I give my consent for her to participate in all activities at the Year 7 Retreat Camp and agree to delegate my authority to the staff and instructors involved. Such teachers and instructors may take appropriate disciplinary action they deem necessary to ensure the safety, well-being and successful conduct of the students as a group, or individually in the above mentioned activity.

I submit the attached medical information about the abovementioned student and include details of limitations, which he/she has for the activities concerned.

If I cannot be contacted to give approval for medical assistance I authorise the teachers and instructors to obtain medical assistance, which they deem necessary should an accident occur. If I am unable to be contacted to give approval, I further authorise qualified medical practitioners to administer anaesthetic if such an eventuality arises. I agree to pay all medical expenses incurred on behalf of the abovementioned student.

I accept that my child is to behave in an appropriate manner and have explained this obligation to him/her. I agree that if my child seriously contravenes behavioural expectations he/she may be immediately excluded

I give permission for images taken on this excursion of my child to be used by the school in school and system publications, both print and electronic.

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________ Date: ________________
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