**YEAR 5/6 CANBERRA EXCURSION 2024**

**DATES:**  Monday 4th November-Friday 8th November

**COST:** The cost of the excursion is included in the school fees excursion levy and this needs to be paid by Monday 30th September.

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $45 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. The rebate has been included in the cost of the excursion.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Canberra Park Resort, Canberra (26 Old Well Station Rd, Gungahlin, ACT, 2912)

**TRAVEL:** Edwards Coaches. The bus is fitted with seatbelts and these must be worn at all times when travelling.

**SUPERVISION:** Mrs Meggie Davey and Mr Dallas Hyatt and 2 x teachers from St Joseph’s Uralla.

**MEALS:** Freshly made, healthy meals will be provided for the students whilst on the excursion. Those students who have special dietary requirements will be catered for, but **this must be indicated on their medical form.** In previous years the choices for a **gluten free diet** were very limited so those students may need to pack some extra snacks to top up their meals.

The school will arrange all meals for the trip to Canberra on the Monday. Each student is required to bring their own water bottle.

The children can carry and consume water on the bus. ***Chewing gum and bubble gum of any sort are banned at all times.***

We will be stopping at McDonald’s on the way home on Friday, the children will need to have approximately $15 for lunch. This should also be placed in an envelope, with your child’s name clearly written on the front, and handed to the teachers on Monday morning.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

**MOBILE PHONES, IPODS AND IPADS AND SMART WATCHES:** Children **will not be permitted** to take these items for any reason. This decision has been made because the activities that students will be participating in are not conducive to carrying these items. It is also very disruptive to have some students with access to these devices and some not, particularly at night time. This type of equipment is just another expensive item to be cared for.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:** The following arrangements will be in place where parents can contact us-

One staff member will ring the school each day to check in.

In an emergency a staff member will immediately ring the child’s family and remain in regular contact.

**MEDICATION***:* ALL medication (including travel sickness medication) needs to be clearly labelled with the child’s name and dosage particulars. Any medication included on the medical form must be included, as well as anything you think your child may need e.g. Panadol. The teachers will not be able to administer any medication without parental permission.

Medication needs to be placed in a zip lock bag and given to the teacher on the morning of departure. Asthma medication should be carried by the child.

**ASTHMA /ALLERGY ACTION PLAN:** The school will copy and take a current Asthma or Allergy Action Plan that is held at school. Any child suffering from asthma or in danger of anaphylaxis must complete the Asthma / Allergy Action Plan if the school does not have a current copy.

**MEDICAL NOTE, DIETARY REQUIREMENTS, PG PERMISSION:** Please return the medical note, dietary requirements (including PG rated DVDs permission) by Monday 23rd September.

**GAME CONSOLES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES***:* Electronic devices that require main power for charging are not permitted. The availability of power points is an issue along with safety concerns of the group using power points. One aim of the excursion is to provide opportunities for card games, word puzzles etc. to develop the students' social competencies.

**POSSESSIONS***:* The children are expected to be responsible for their own possessions. These include wallets, money, cameras, etc. Battery powered games (not recharged by mains power) can be used on the bus trip only. The adults will not be minding children’s possessions. Please consider carefully the items that would be better off left at home. The busy itinerary does not allow very much “free time” and when there is a suitable gap the students are encouraged to participate in physical games or activities.

**BEHAVIOUR***:* Every child has the right to enjoy the excursion and to be safe. With this right comes the responsibility to behave, allow others to feel safe, to enjoy the excursion and to represent the school well.

In cases of severe misbehaviour, parents/guardians would be expected to come to Canberra and collect their child. Severe misbehaviour could include incidents such as: vandalism, physical abuse of a child or adult, constant disobedience, leaving the group, stealing.

**“LIGHTS OUT” MEANS SILENCE:** Children with inadequate sleep spoil the excursion for themselves and others. We will be enforcing this rule strictly and consequences may apply eg. missing an activity the following day if this rule is not adhered to.

**SPENDING MONEY:** Spending money. Up to $80 can be taken for souvenirs etc plus $15 which needs to be kept for lunch at a McDonald's Restaurant on the return trip. The students will be required to give their spending money to Mr Hyatt on the morning of departure and he will distribute the money back to the student when they would like to purchase something during the excursion.

**ORGANISATION:** Children will be expected to keep their rooms tidy and have clothing and possessions organised. There will be room inspections and perhaps a tidy room competition.

**CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS:** The children need to understand that a five day school excursion is very different to a family holiday and therefore needs to be looked upon differently. Consideration of others, adhering to a tight itinerary, following directions and cooperation are all very important aspects to ensure the success of the excursion and enjoyment of all attending.

**WHAT TO BRING:**

* Full summer uniform will be needed for the day we visit Parliament House (Tuesday)
* Tidy casual clothes will be needed for the other days. Canberra’s climate is similar to Walcha but can be a little cooler, being further south. Please label all clothing.
* A hat or cap.
* One towel needs to be packed. Other linen is provided.
* Toiletries- including soap and shampoo as these won’t be provided. No spray deodorants or insect repellent as these can trigger asthma
* Sunscreen
* Large plastic bag for dirty clothes (to keep inside your main bag)
* Reading material, cards, puzzles etc for the bus
* G or PG DVDs (clearly named and given to supervising parent on arrival or to the teacher prior to the excursion, to watch on the bus)
* Pillow

**LUGGAGE:** One small day bag on the bus and one main bag under the bus. Please keep the main bag as small as is practical. Children will not have access to the main bags when travelling on Monday and Friday. Anything needed for Monday and Friday needs to go in the small bag that is on the bus.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONDAY DEPARTURE:**

* Departure Time: 6.30am St Patrick’s School. Please arrive at 6.00am
* Drink bottle (water) is needed for Monday. No fizzy drinks are allowed during the trip.
* The children may carry and consume WATER on the bus. Any other drinks are to be kept for morning tea and lunch. **Chewing gum of any sort is BANNED**.
* Children can bring DVD’s to share with the rest of the bus. These can also be brought into school the week prior to the excursion.

**INSURANCE:**

All children enrolled at a Catholic School in the Armidale Diocese are covered for accidents 24hrs day/365 days a year. It covers students if they are at school, sport, excursions or on holidays.

There are exclusions and conditions that apply to what is covered.

**Canberra Excursion**

**4th November-8th November**

**ITINERARY**

**Day 1 Monday 4th November**

6.00am Leave St. Joseph’s School Uralla

6.30am Leave St. Patrick’s School Walcha

7.45pm Dinner at accommodation, Canberra

**Day 2 Tuesday 5th November**

7.15am Breakfast at Canberra Park

9.00am National Arboretum

11.00am Parliament House

12.30pm Packed lunch

1.30pm Royal Australian Mint

3.00pm National Electoral Education Centre

5.00pm Zone Bowling

7.30pm Dinner at Canberra Park

**Day 3 Wednesday 6th November**

7.30am Breakfast at Canberra Park

8.30am Walk around Lake Burley-Griffin

10.00am National Gallery

11.30am High Court

12.30pm Pack lunch

2.15pm Questacon

5.30pm Australian Institute of Sport

7.30pm Dinner at accommodation

**Day 4 Thursday 7th November**

8.00am Breakfast at Canberra Park

9.00am Mount Ainslie Lookout

9.30am Museum of Australian Democracy

11.00am Australian War Memorial

12.15pm Packed lunch

2.00pm National Museum of Australia

3.45pm Depart for Accomodation

6.30pm Dinner at accomodation

**Day 5 Friday 8th November**

Packed Takeaway Breakfast

6.30am Depart Canberra

7.30pm ETA Walcha