



ST PIUS X COLLEGE

CHATSWOOD

8 April 2019

Dear Parents

On Friday, 3 May, Year 5 students will be going on an excursion to the Sydney Observatory and The Rocks to view 'Pieces of the Past.' This excursion relates to the Year 5 Science and History units respectively.

They will be travelling by train to Wynyard Station, **(each student will need to have their own youth opal card to travel on the train. They cannot use their school opal card)**. The students will then be separated into two groups, one walking to the Observatory and the other group walking to Cumberland Street, The Rocks. The two groups will then swap activities.

Please ensure that your son does **not** bring his PLD to school on this day.

The students need to wear **school sports uniform (blue shirt)**, **school hat** and **bring a raincoat**. They will need to bring their morning tea, lunch and a drink in their **school sports bag**.

The information below outlines the activities that the students will be partaking in at the Observatory.

1. **3-D space theatre** experience produced by Swinburne University of Technology. Using passive glasses, students can travel through the Solar System and the nearby Universe in 3D.

2. **The Sydney Digital planetarium** provides a realistic look at the night sky and an introduction to Indigenous astronomy. Installed in 2013 the Digitalis Zeta digital system and bespoke Vert Design dome empower the students' imagination to transport them from the centre of Sydney to a dark clear site for unmatched views of the night sky. Millions of stars and deep sky objects are loaded into the database for a unique experience. Problem solving exercises make the session practical and fun.

3. **Telescope viewing (weather permitting)**. This is the quintessential Observatory experience. Two telescopes are available for use and include the 1874 Hugo Schroder lens telescope which is the oldest working telescope in Australia, and the student controlled computerised mirror telescope with piggybacked solar telescopes. Depending on visibility, the Moon, Venus and even bright stars may also be seen. Simple exercises with mirrors and lenses help students understand how these powerful instruments work.

4. **Sydney Learning Adventures' programs** incorporate visits to significant historical archaeological sites in The Rocks precinct. A great deal of the enduring evidence of Sydney's early colonial and Aboriginal heritage is preserved in the land and foreshore areas here. Some of the richest archaeological sites are located in Cumberland and Gloucester Streets, Foundation Park and Dawes Point (Tar-ra) Park, and artefacts and remains of structures uncovered at these sites reveal a wealth of information about the area's early inhabitants and their lifestyles.

We are looking forward to an inspiring and busy educational day.

Regards

Tim Long

Head of Junior School

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