GRADE SIX CANBERRA TOUR 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After many years of fantastic Canberra tours, we are delighted to announce that we will be embarking on this tour again in 2016 with our grade 6 students.

Why Canberra?

The National Capital Tour to Canberra offers a unique opportunity for all Australians to observe first hand Australia’s parliamentary system and to engage in our cultural heritage. Through our national institutions, we will experience programs and exhibitions that explore Australia’s democracy, values, unity and achievements. During this tour the grade 6 students will be engaged in a unit of inquiry exploring government systems around the world, democracy and law making which will link in directly with the Canberra tour.

In 2016, the grade 6 Tour will depart in Term 2, on Monday 30th of May, returning Friday 3rd of June.

To assist parents with the costing of this camp the grade six department is taking deposits and payment installments. The cost for this camp will be directly linked to the number of students attending.

 Estimated Tour price: $540.00* per student (for 5 days, 4 nights accommodation, all experiences, all travel, and all food)

* Based on 90 students, price may change slightly, depending on student numbers after the deposit deadline, we will inform parents as soon as possible.

The price includes coach travel to and from Canberra, accommodation for 4 nights at Sundown Motel Canberra, breakfast, lunch and dinner (including snacks) for the entire trip and entry into all of the attractions in the itinerary, including a night at Skyzone Trampoline Park! Due to coach availability and our accommodation allocation we will need to book in and finalise our student numbers as soon as possible.

To secure a place for our camp to Canberra, we are asking for a deposit of $50.00 to be paid by Friday 26th February.

A payment booklet will be provided to each family after the deadline for deposits. Installments (minimum of $20.00 please) can be made at any time through the office or Michael Bell (Room 2). Please ensure that all money is in an envelope with your child’s name on it.

All payments will need to be finalised by Friday 20th May.

Please find attached a copy of the draft itinerary for our tour and a school payment envelope, this will need to be returned by Friday 26th of February to secure your child’s place in the 2016 Canberra Tour.

Thank you,

Michael Bell
Grade 6 Department
2016 ITINERARY

Please be aware that the order of the itinerary below is subject to change due to attractions availability.

Monday - May 30, 2016
School to Canberra
We leave school early this morning and travel to Canberra making brief stops when and where necessary. We arrive late in Canberra for four nights accommodation.

Tuesday - May 31, 2016
Electoral Education Centre: Education
The Electoral Education Centre runs topical classes on the federal electoral system for students from upper primary to tertiary level. The centre’s programs are designed to make students aware of the importance of elections and participation in parliamentary democracy.

National Capital Exhibition @ Regatta Point: Guided Tour
A great introduction to Australia’s Capital City. The history and development of Canberra is told with rare photos, original plans, clever and stunning laser show and audio-visual presentations. This is an excellent vantage point to view Lake Burley Griffin, the Captain Cook Water Jet and the various national institutions on the lakefront. The exhibition answers everything you ever wanted to know about the national capital.

Australian War Memorial: Self Guided Tour
The Australian War Memorial is Australia’s National Memorial to those who died in war. It contains an archive centre of research and galleries displaying relics, documents, photographs and art. The Hall of Memory, where the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier is located, is the centre of the formal commemorative areas of the Memorial.

Discovery Zone (subject to availability)
The Discovery Zone offers students exclusive use of a unique hands-on experience. The program looks at one family’s experience in the First World War, the Second World War and the Vietnam War.

Mount Ainslie Lookout: General Visit
This provides a spectacular view of central Canberra and Parliamentary Triangle. From this vantage point you can really appreciate the city’s distinctive layout with its lakes, parks and gardens. The backdrop of hills and mountains adds to the stunning vista before you.

Royal Australian Mint: Guided Tour
The Visitors’ Gallery offers excellent views of the minting process and the fascinating Coin Museum. Exhibitions trace the history of Australian coins and coin design. You can also mint your own special $1 coin during your visit.(extra cost will apply)

Black Mountain Tower: Evening Visit
Black Mountain Tower’s open and enclosed viewing galleries provide a magnificent view over Canberra and the surrounding countryside. Educational kits are available. The Tower contains an exhibition area where models and displays describe the history of telecommunications in Australia. By evening, a spectacular look at the lights of Canberra.

Wednesday - June 01, 2016 Sundown Motel (Meals)
Australian Institute of Sport: Guided Tour including Sportex
Experience the home of past, present and future sporting champions with one of Australia’s elite athletes as your guide gives you a unique view of the world class facilities and an insight into the life of an elite athlete. Includes the Sportex session.

**Parliament House of Australia: Guided Tour**
This tour will provide an insight into the historical and architectural significance of Parliament House. When Parliament is in session, groups can observe proceedings from the sound-proofed galleries.

**Parliament House of Australia: Education Program**
Parliament House is the focus of Australian democracy. The Educational programs explain the responsibilities and procedures of Australia's Federal Parliament.

**Embassy Drive Tour: 30 - 45 Minutes Tour**
Some 70 countries have diplomatic representation in Canberra and many of these missions reflect their country’s architectural style. The Indonesian and Papua New Guinea missions offer cultural centres which you can visit. Don’t miss the stunning Embassy of China, which is built in a traditional pagoda style.

**Museum of Australian Democracy @ Old Parliament House: Guided Tour**
The temporary home of Australia’s Federal Parliament from 1927 - 1988, contains plenty to see. It is a unique venue, highly evocative of Australia’s political history and main characters.

**Sky Zone Trampoline Park: Pizza Dinner Package**
Sky Zone has engineered a way to make exercise fun, healthy and enjoyable for students. Visit our venue and let the excitement of a trampoline park take over! Includes dinner (Pizza + hot chips and drinks), trampolines, foam pit, sky slam and dodgeball.

**Thursday - June 02, 2016**

**National Museum of Australia: Self Guided Tour**
The new National Museum is both educational and entertaining. Technology and imagination are combined to create an experience which explores “the things that have made us Australian". Hands-on interactive exhibitions allow visitors to actually experience the stories of Australia.

**National Gallery of Australia: Guided Tour**
A tour of the Gallery's paintings, sculptures, prints, photographs, drawings and decorative arts is arranged. Displays from the national collection of Aboriginal, Australian, Asian, African, early and modern American and European arts change regularly.

**Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre: Day Visit - Self Guided**
This "hands-on" exhibit is entertaining as well as educational. A spiral walkway leads you to the various galleries of the Centre. Over 200 interactive exhibits deal with the mysteries of science by demonstrating their everyday applications. Amongst the fascinating exhibits is "Bodyworks" where you can learn about your own body for walking, talking, listening, cycling, throwing and balancing. You can experience an earthquake in the Centre's living room, watch a lightning strike or make music on a harp without strings. The Environment Exhibition shows how individual Australians and visitors can make a difference to global environmental issues.

**Friday - June 03, 2016**

**Canberra to School**
After breakfast, begin your journey home again with a late afternoon arrival at school.