

WILSON'S PROM CAMP – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This is an incredibly popular camp and is often the highlight of a student's time at Wandin Yallock. They are starting to get very excited about their week away and beginning to ask lots of questions. Parents often have questions too, so we hope this information helps. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to ask Veronica (a seasoned Wilson's Prom camper) or any of the teachers attending.

Which teachers are going?

Ms Myring, Mrs McCracken, Veronica and Mr Vass will be attending camp. Mr Vass will travel to and from the Prom in his car.

What time should my child be at school?

Departure time is 8.30am on Monday 13th February. Be at school no later than 8.15am.

Arrival back at school on Friday 17th of February will be between 3.30pm & 4.30pm. Staff will notify the school when they are leaving the Prom. You can check for regular updates on the Wandin Yallock Facebook page throughout the week and on Friday afternoon for a more accurate arrival time.

What should my child bring?

A small backpack on the bus containing; play lunch, lunch, a drink, school hat, a camera (optional) and a small pencil case. Also include \$10.00 souvenir money in a clearly named envelope. Ms Myring will collect it on the bus.

Please use the suggested gear list. Be aware that the weather at the Prom is very changeable so please pack for all conditions. We have experienced heavy rain, light drizzle, 40 degree days, perfect beach days and strong winds! A waterproof jacket is highly recommended, and please ensure an extra pair of shoes is included. If clothes get wet, a large, strong plastic bag is helpful and some pegs are helpful for wet bathers/towels! The school broad brimmed sun hat is required and singlet tops are not appropriate. We are living outdoors and want to reduce all possibility of sunburn. Check the Prom weather forecast before packing.

Don't forget cutlery, plate, bowl and cup along with 2 tea towels in a calico/cloth bag as children do their own washing up!

Cameras

We will allow students to bring an iPod **if it is the only option they have for a camera**. But please be aware that tents can get very sandy and wet. iPods and iPads are easily damaged or broken and it will be the student's responsibility to look after them. Also there are no facilities for charging them so once they go flat they will not be able to be used. These devices will **not be allowed** to be used on the bus or for any games/music during the camp. If a student is found to be using them for anything other than taking photos they **will be confiscated**. Staff will have cameras to take photos and if your child really wants to take photos, maybe a disposable type would be more appropriate. All other electronic devices are also inappropriate. We encourage students to immerse themselves in the natural environment and enjoy the social opportunities a 'device free' week at camp provides.

What shouldn't my child bring?

Do not send mobile phones. A week away from home can be daunting for some, and it is tempting to send a phone so you can communicate with your child. Please allow them the opportunity to develop resilience and prove to themselves (and to you) that they 'can do it'. The personal growth that occurs on a camp like this can be immense and many children come home with a sense of pride in their achievements.

Lollies and snacks are not necessary. Camp food is plentiful and nutritious, with 'seconds' offered at every meal. Wombats will get into tents where food has been kept, no matter how well hidden (which should deter the sweet toothed amongst us!)

What are the sleeping arrangements?

The tents are designed for 2 students. Teachers will ensure everyone feels happy and secure when partners are chosen. We will do this when we get there, not before. Teacher's tents will be spread amongst the students and clearly identified.

What if my child gets homesick?

It does happen. Please have confidence in the experience of the teachers who have cared for many, many children on school camps. They are all parents whose children have been, or will go on school camps. Also have confidence in your own child, and don't 'plant the homesick seed'. Expect that they will have a great time experiencing new and exciting things. Enjoy their excitement and give them wings to grow.

What if my child becomes ill?

All teachers are qualified first aiders and an extensive first aid kit is taken to camp. If your child is taking regular medicine, please label it very carefully and give it to Veronica before getting on the bus. Some students with asthma should have puffers with them at all times. We will also have spares in our first aid kit.

What happens if there is a bushfire threat?

The camp will be postponed in the event of a bushfire threat immediately before camp. Official evacuation and safety procedures will be strictly adhered to whilst at the Prom. Park Rangers will guide us if this occurs.

What activities will my child be doing?

This is a physical, active camp, with time for reflecting and enjoying our beautiful surrounds. Walking, paddling in Tidal River, sketching, sightseeing and beach combing are all on the agenda. Students will also be timetabled to help with meals and cleaning up. Our schedule looks something like this:

Monday: After arriving, setting up camp and having lunch we will spend time on the beach and exploring. A night walk may be taken.

Tuesday: At the Education Centre we will investigate the bio-diversity of the Prom through a ponding and microscope activity.

Wednesday: Surf's Up! A surfing lesson with qualified instructors and hopefully, a surf! Movie night at the open air cinema.

Thursday: A hike up Mt Oberon to enjoy the amazing view from the top. Souvenir shopping in the afternoon.

Friday: Pack up camp and travel home. Be prepared for lots of dirty washing and a tired but happy camper!

What if I need to contact my child?

Any parent contact should be made through the school office. In the event of an after hour's emergency, phone the Tidal River Office on 5680 9555 and the ranger will contact us.