

Sunday 4 February 2018

Arrival day at the Snowy River Campus!

Dear Parents, Guardians, Families and students,

Welcome to the community of the Snowy River Campus for our term 1, 7.3 week program.

During the course of the next 7 weeks (and 3 days) we shall be emailing you a number of times. These emails will also be posted on our website and a student blog will be enabled for you to see and read about current and daily events. The content of the communications is to assist you with your side of the Snowy River Campus Experience. The emails will not necessarily deal with individuals and their achievements, but more about the living and learning process all students will be undertaking. We want to provide you with some early reminders and information for your arrival day and to perhaps help you on your return and continued journey. We hope to post images on the website from time-to-time as well.

The first and primary contact for the care and welfare of your son or daughter will be the Snowy River Campus Liaison Teacher. He or she will introduce themselves to you today and also go through the medical forms. Moreover, in every instance (be it to do with communication from staff or your child), no news is good news!

The health, care and wellbeing of your son/daughter while with us is our primary consideration. In the situation that your son/daughter requires a visit to the doctor or requires medication out of what is *normal*, a Snowy Campus staff member will contact you. We will normally ask you to talk directly with the doctor and usually your son/daughter as appropriate.

Communication with your son or daughter at the Snowy River Campus is discussed in depth in the School and Program Information booklet. However, can I stress the incredible value of the **written letter**, snail-mail delivered, even in this age of email? We will encourage your son or daughter to write, and I am sure you will enjoy the narratives you will receive via email, although experience tells us frequency will diminish over time. Email will become available after students receive their laptops during this first week. Each student has an email-box limit and, despite our counseling, guidance and directions, many students exceed that limit and omit to clear their mailboxes, preventing emails. Please be patient, as this is a "resource management" skill we assist students in developing!

Many of you may have noted our web or Facebook presence. Our web page format is ready to peruse in the cyber world. Information is current and the website very user friendly. The address is www.snowyriver.vic.edu.au. To access the Facebook page search for: School for Student Leadership Snowy River Campus. This is regularly updated with pictures from the current term.

Students are involved in a number of important processes this term; discovering their learning preferences, expeditions, working with a local primary school, hosting a range of guests, developing an Individual Learning Plan, developing a personal passport of their learning, presentation of their learning (POL) and ultimately a Community Learning Project presentation afternoon for important school and community leaders.

Can I again advise that the following items are **strictly not permitted** at the Snowy River Campus and parents/guardians should arrange to take them home with them if their son or daughter has inadvertently packed them? **Retaining some of these items may compromise his/her ability to remain in the program and your child may be returned home at your inconvenience and expense.**

Lollies/junk food

Our school prides itself on the healthy food we supply our students and there is certainly plenty of it! There is absolutely no need for lollies or junk food of any description. Possession of junk food creates inequity among peers and can place students with special dietary requirements such as anaphylaxis at risk.

Pocket money

We can take no responsibility for the security of money that could be lost or stolen, so ask students not to have it! The Snowy River Campus shop will cater for student needs through an account. Students administer the shop with supervision and assistance from staff.

Personal Radios/Walkman/CD Players/MP3 Players

Cassette/CD player is supplied in the communal lounge areas. CD's and burnt CD's are permitted providing they contain appropriate language. CD's with inappropriate language will be confiscated. Due to privacy & royalty laws music is not permitted to be downloaded to the school network for the purposes of sharing.

Personal Electronic Games/Software

Not permitted to be loaded on our hardware. We believe these are very isolating and we have genuine licensing legal ramifications in our school setting.

Personal electrical appliances such as hairdryers, hair wands/straighteners and curlers, battery chargers

These pose safety and ownership issues, as well as potential hair hygiene concerns. Students need to talk to staff about their needs, usage and certificate/compliance for electrical safety.

Mobile Phones

There is an increased problem with security of calls, as well as access security of mobile phones. We encourage students to solve issues here rather than rely on communication elsewhere. Communication is available through email as well as written letters.

Incense or Candles

These are health hazards for some people, as well as being a safety hazard in our building.

Aerosol and Pump Pak containers

Deodorant, insect repellent, perfume and so on. These containers do not fit well with the rubbish and recycling program at the Snowy River Campus. We, like you, are concerned about misuse of propellants by inhalation or ignition.

Nail polish

This is a health hazard as some people are allergic to the fumes from these products. Nail polish products can also be a safety hazard as they are flammable.



Cigarettes, illicit or non-prescription drugs and alcohol

Possession, use or attempts to obtain these will result in immediate withdrawal from the program and the continuation in the program is not guaranteed. In the past these activities resulted in involuntary removal from the program and transport home at parent's expense.

We welcome and encourage the use of USB flash drives/memory sticks/portable drives for students to save work, data and images. HOWEVER, they must be empty; free of videos, games, images, or files of any type. This protects our network from both copyright infringement and virus dangers. Please hand these to Snowy River Staff on arrival and we advise that these will be checked with your son's/daughter's teacher at Snowy River.

We encourage a strong sense of stewardship, ownership and responsibility for the school, which ultimately becomes the students' home. While every effort is taken to assist students in making appropriate decisions, if students choose to do something that results in damage to Snowy River Campus property, **they will incur a cost for repair**. This is especially so with Laptop computers which tend to be fragile and portable. I encourage you to have last words of **"have a great time but please don't do anything silly"** before you depart!

It is normal for students (and parents) to experience "separation anxiety", or homesickness, in the first week(s) of their experience here and maybe longer, maybe less. Please be assured this is normal and the Snowy staff team is particularly vigilant and experienced in assisting students to cope with this emotion. For the most part this emotion will diminish. Please do not hesitate to call us, in confidence, if you feel in any way like this. While I make no promises about you being able to talk directly with your son or daughter as often it only exacerbates the issues, and I strongly discourage it except in individual extreme situations, we are happy to be a listener to your experience if you require.

With every good wish,

On behalf of the School staff team,

Mark Reeves BA (Rec.), Grad Dip (OE & PE), Postgrad. Dip (Organizational Change), MACE
(Principal)

Robyn Francis
(Snowy River Campus - Campus Principal)