**Year 10 Outdoor Education**

**Tararua Southern Crossing - Camp**

**27 November – 01 December 2023**

Dear Parents / Guardians

Your son has selected this camp as his Year 10 Outdoor Education activity.

**The programme involves:**

# Monday 27 November

We assemble at 7.15am at PNBHS (S Block) and depart at 8.00am after a gear check. Travel to the Waiohine Valley Road end where we will do a final gear check and briefing before starting the tramp. We tramp into Tutuwai hut in the Tauherenikau river valley.

NB Students stay in tents at every venue.

# Tuesday 28 November

Depart Tutuwai hut and tramp up to Alpha hut.

**Wednesday 29 November**

Depart Alpha and head over the Southern Crossing of the Tararua Range, to Kime Hut. Weather dependant.

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# Thursday 30 December

We leave Kime Hut and tramp down to Otaki Forks road end.

## **Friday 01 December**

At Otaki Forks road end our transport will pick us up and deliver everyone back to PNBHS at 3.00pm

### The Tramp

This week will involve carrying our week’s equipment and food on our backs over some steep and difficult terrain. Our days will vary between 5 hours travel to a possible 8-hour day. Tramping time for each day will be determined by the following factors, the fitness levels of the group, physical condition of the students, the attitude of the students towards the challenge, and the terrain and weather conditions. **Students need to build up levels of fitness in the lead up to the camp by walking up hills.**

We will be travelling on marked tracks in the bush and a day on the tops, carrying our full packs all the way.

The tracks may be muddy and will often be difficult. Boots provide greater protection against ankle injury. It is acceptable to wear sturdy sports shoes. These shoes must have a broad “footprint”, sturdy base, and clear “tread”. Blisters are the common problem which need to avoid so good fitting footwear is **essential**.

Most travel is below the bushline, but we will be spending time on the tops **where inadequate clothing can prove fatal**. The area is known for heavy rainfall, and our school groups have struck sleet, snow, very heavy rainfall, and gale force winds in this region during camp week.

It is essential therefore, that your son has the correct clothing, as detailed in the equipment list provided in this letter.

Our group will be carrying both a mountain radio and a cell phone.

We will be using satellite navigation (GPS) to support route finding and a personal locator beacon is also taken.

Staff who are involved in this camp, are familiar with the area, and have considerable experience in leading students in this environment. Decisions made during the week, will be **conservative and aimed at safety** for the students.

### Accommodation

Students will be camping in tents or under a fly sheet. This will depend on conditions through the week. If students have a small portable tent they wish to bring along they should bring the tent to Mr Squire so he can assess it’s suitability (tents need to be light and in good working condition). Remember each student will take turns to carry the tent they sleep in. The School has some good tents for loan.

It is possible that we will “run into” members of the general public. Your son needs to adapt his thinking to caring for the environment and not causing other people concern.

We **will not** have electricity and water will be from tanks (or streams).

We will need to take our own supply of gas cookers and the school can supply some of these cookers – on a “first in first served basis”. If you can assist by providing a small gas cooker, this would ease pressure on school equipment. Students **are not** to bring their own spirit cookers.

We will all need to co-operate in keeping these camping areas clean at all times, and in being considerate of the rights of other members of the public who may be sharing the area with us. All rubbish carried in by each student must be carried for the rest of the week by that student.

### Cooking Requirements

Students will bring their own food for the week.

Each student will need a pot as well as a gas cooker and **two** gas canisters.

Students must allow to bring something to clean eating equipment ie. pot scourers, dish cloths / sponges, dishwash liquid or the like

### Equipment and Clothing

Your son will need the following items.

The School does not expect students to go out and buy everything on this list, they can borrow items where possible off friends, relatives, neighbours etc. Discuss equipment with Mr Squire

* Tramping pack of 60 – 85 litres capacity
* A ‘Mountain Safety Council’ pack liner. This will keep everything dry in the pack, whatever the weather.
* Sleeping bag (packed **inside** the pack)
* Boots or a pair of sports shoes for tramping – Note that these will get muddy and wet
* An extra pair of either sports shoes or sandals for hut/tent wear - these do not need to be “flash”
* All weather **rain coat** **(must be 100% water proof)** over pants are optional (**Wind and water proof** – some raincoats are available through the school on a ‘first in, first served’ basis)
* Two woollen or fleece top jersey/jacket
* Three poly prop tops.
* Two pairs of Poly prop Long Johns
* Two pairs of shorts – **not knee length, nor heavy material** – sports shorts are ideal
* 2 tee shirts
* Thermal or woollen socks (at least three pair)
* Thermal or woollen gloves
* A plentiful supply of underpants
* A towel
* 1 tea towel (probably wise not to expect it back in useable order)
* Toilet gear- tooth brush, tooth paste,toilet roll, and **personal medications**, plus personal panadol, band-aids, sunblock. (Note that the group will have a school basic 1st Aid kit)
* Woollen hat (Absolutely essential – literally a life saver)
* Sun hat (eg. Baseball hat)
* Torch (and spare set of batteries) **No candles**
* Plate, mug and cutlery
* Personal water bottle, 1 - 1.5 litres
* Closed foam sleeping mat
* **whistle**

It will not be possible to dry clothing at the end of each day’s activities, unless the weather is hot.

It is essential that a complete set of ‘dry’ clothing is kept for wearing at the end of each day these items are included in the above list.

Note that PNBHS can assist with packs, raincoats, gas cookers and tents, but this supply is limited.

**NB** Allocation of school equipment is on a “first come, first served” basis. Please speak up early if you need something.

Note: ALL students are to drop their packs for checking on the morning of Wednesday 22nd and collect at the end of the day.