Dear Parents,
Each year students at all grade levels have opportunities to go on excursions with their classmates. Excursions and Incursions are seen as an integral part of the learning program for all students as they offer hands on experience outside of the school environment.

The value of excursions for students are that they:

- provide first hand experiences which are difficult to achieve in the classroom
- broaden experiences, interest in and understanding of the complexities of their environment
- provide opportunities to act in a socially appropriate manner
- develop the skills of observation and reflection
- assist in the development of confidence and independence
- offer them an opportunity to gain independence and to learn in a different environment and away from their immediate family.

Before committing a grade to an excursion, arrangements are made with the Principal and then ratified by School Council. Parents/guardians are required to provide written permission for their child to attend an excursion/incursion or camp.

In conducting excursions, our school often requires the assistance of parent helpers to manage smaller groups. Before any parent can be considered for helping on an excursion they must have a current Working With Children’s Check.

Prior to the students going on an excursion/incursion the teachers have completed a good deal of planning and preparation for the event. They have set goals and expectations for both the students and parents. The students have a clear understanding of what is expected of them on the day and may have been placed into groups while parent helpers will have received instructions re: their duties. The teacher organising the excursion has also taken into account the numbers attending the excursion and the cost of the day which includes parent costs. Consequently there is unlikely to be spare seats on the bus for additional parents as the number of buses and the the cost of entry are booked according to numbers and all costs have to be met by the student charge.

On the day of the excursion the students are expected to work as a team and support and assist each other. All students are expected to display excellent manners, cooperation courtesy to the teachers, parent helpers and other people they encounter. They are expected to be model students and represent our school in a very positive manner.

Excursions offer our students an opportunity to be independent and adventurous but under adult supervision. The expectation on our parent leaders is that they care for and assist their group of students according to the guidelines given to them by the teacher.

The ratio of teachers/parents to students is determined before the excursion so we expect that any parent who is not selected to be part of the activity group should not attend the excursion as it can rob students of the opportunity to experience independence. In some cases and at many venues, additional adults are not welcome by the place we are visiting because of their own restrictions.

While we appreciate that many parents like to attend our excursions, not all will be able to do so. We thank you for your understanding in not attending and thereby providing your child with a further opportunity to gain life skills with his/her classmates in a different environment to their immediate family.

As any excursion is part of our school’s curriculum parents who are smokers and who volunteer to be a helper are expected not to smoke.

Yours sincerely,

Wes Holloway
(Principal)