Camps

As part of the College’s co-curricular program, all students in Years 6-9 have the opportunity to participate in off-campus overnight camping experiences. We believe that these are important learning environments for Middle Years students to be a part of. Camps allow bonds between teachers and students to be strengthened away from the classroom. They also create teachable moments in new settings, building upon each child’s abilities.

Camps allow students to explore their individual capabilities to cope with real-life experiences within a controlled environment that is neither home nor school. The development of social skills within planned activities enables students to develop new and strengthen existing relationships. Camps offer children opportunities for independence in an environment where they, at times, need to make decisions based on personal judgement. Organised camp activities ask students to work within a team, developing leadership and decision-making skills.

Physical activity is a major element of our camps. We see the importance of being able to be outdoors exploring new environments and conquering new challenges. Camps will often challenge children to undertake activities that are unfamiliar and sometimes disconcerting. The support given and the thrill of success is always evident when an individual takes that ‘leap of faith’ into the unknown.

In Year 6, students have the opportunity to attend a week-long camp in Canberra. Students are able to learn about Australian government, whilst developing relationships with other students and teachers. Throughout camps in Year 7-9, students participate in activities including: raft building, team building activities, flying fox, mud games and canoeing. Whilst participating in these activities, students are encouraged to develop new physical skills and create positive relationships with their peers and teachers.

As the organiser of camps in the Middle Years, I am always amazed by the teacher response when asked who would like to attend. Teachers are always willing to accompany students on camps as they know the great benefit of seeing their students in a different environment.

If you require any further information regarding camps in the Middle Years, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kate Carroll – Director of Students Middle Years and Steve Gillespie