



OUTDOOR EDUCATION 2011-2012

Dear Parents,

As an extension of our curriculum, our students take several outdoor education trips during the course of their elementary school years. We believe the diversity of the programs offered at the Balclutha, Marin Headlands, Walker Creek, the Mother Lode River Center, and Yosemite National Park supplement and enrich the information studied in the classroom. For your interest and planning, the following is the outdoor education schedule for 2010-2011.

4th Grade Students will participate in the San Francisco Maritime association's overnight living history program on board the Balclutha, which is permanently docked at the Hyde Street Pier in San Francisco. The year is 1906, and the students, or "lads," are immersed in an overnight journey through the past. As "green" hands they must "step" lively and obtain the necessary skills to set sail on the evening tide. Under the watchful eyes of the ship's four officers, crews receive their orders and are expected to carry them out independently. The lads must listen carefully and utilize their own resources to solve the problems presented to them, whether it be throwing a heaving line, rigging a bosun's chair, or cooking for the entire crew. The program helps students to develop self-confidence and self-reliance, which in turn fosters a sense of responsibility for them selves and their community. The trip will take place on Thursday and Friday, May 10 –11, 2012. The cost of this trip is \$175.

5th Grade Students will spend three days at the Marin Headlands Institute located just north of San Francisco from May 9-11, 2012. The Headlands Institute is a private non-profit organization dedicated to teaching science and environmental education in nature's classroom. Students will explore the coastal hills, ponds, and tide-pools discovering how humans influenced the vast natural resources of the area. The cost of this trip is \$300.

6th Graders Students will participate in a five-day outdoor education program at Walker Creek Ranch located in Petaluma, California from September 12-16, 2011. The program includes activities designed to develop academic and social skills and students will have hands-on experience in a variety of habitats, including forest, pond, grassland, and stream. Heavy emphasis is placed on ecology, agriculture, geography and natural history. The cost of this trip is \$375.

7th Grade students will participate in a weeklong environmental education program at the Mother Lode River Center, located along the American River in the beautiful Sierra Nevada foothills from September 12–16, 2011. Throughout the week students will participate in hands-on, science-based, learning activities, along with adventure, team and community building challenges. The week will provide students with a unique opportunity to live and learn about a riparian habitat. The cost of this trip, including charter bus transportation, is \$575.

8th Grade Students will attend the Yosemite Institutes’s weeklong field Science program in Yosemite National Park. From September 11 – 16, 2011, students will spend the week in several locations in the Park: Yosemite Valley, the Institute’s Crane Flat campus and in small group encampments in Yosemite’s backcountry. The high point of the week is a three night, four day backpack trip through the high country in and around Tuolumne Meadows, during which students will learn wilderness skills, study the natural and human history of Yosemite, and debate issues facing the Park’s future. The cost of the week, including charter bus Transportation, is \$700.

***PLEASE NOTE: OUTDOOR EDUCATION TRIPS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF EACH STUDENT'S TOTAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE. THESE TRIPS ARE REQUIRED; THEY ARE NOT OPTIONAL.**