



## Snow Tour 2017 Newsletter # 1

Dear Parents,

We invite your child to be a member of the 2017 Snow Tour. The Tour is a total educational experience during which students are taught safety in the alpine environment and snow skiing or boarding. The Snow Tour will occur in Week 3 of Term 3 leaving on Saturday evening August 5th and returning on the morning of Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> 2017.

The cost for the tour will be approximately \$1580 (2017 season costs have not yet been finalized) and will include:

Set Costs – The following is included in the set price. Please note that this package represents excellent value for ‘*in snow*’ accommodation.

- ❖ Transport to Mt. Hotham in 5 star coaches fitted with seat belts.
- ❖ 5 night lodge accommodation in the Alpine Village of Mt Hotham with full breakfast, lunch and dinner. Our lodge is outstanding accommodation for students with 3-8 in a bedroom, excellent meals, and prime location by Hotham Central, being able to ski in/ski out from the slopes.
- ❖ Equipment Hire – helmet, skis, boots and poles or helmet, board, and boots. A helmet is compulsory for everyone and boarders will also wear wrist guards.
- ❖ 5 ½ - day lift pass (includes a pass for one night of night skiing/boarding)
- ❖ 5 x 1½ hour lessons with fully qualified, professional Mt. Hotham Instructors
- ❖ Transport directly to and from the lodge on arrival and departure.
- ❖ National Park Mountain entrance fee
- ❖ Group Tour Photo
- ❖ Full supervision by Marryatville teaching staff and other experienced snow sport leaders from the community. All staff have to meet the criteria set by the Education Department to act as a Snow Leader. The ratio of staff to students for a snow tour (set by the Education Dept) is one to eight. Students will be supervised all day on the slopes and there will be no free skiing/boarding.

Extra Costs:

- ❖ It is compulsory for students to have the correct clothing for skiing/boarding –this includes snow specific pants, jacket, goggles, gloves, neck warmer etc. If students do not have their own clothing, a pre-booked hire package (pants and jacket) will be available from the Rental Shop at Mt Hotham at approximately \$66 for the week .Snow Essentials Pack \$88 (goggles, gloves, beanie, 1 pair of socks, neck warmer).
- ❖ The hire \$29 or purchase of wrist guards for snowboarders as protective equipment.
- ❖ Some students may choose to snowboard.
- ❖ Optional travel insurance to be sourced by individuals not supplied by school
- ❖ A refundable deposit of \$20 for armband, whistle and emergency contact card
- ❖ Money for an evening meal on the return journey (students can use their \$20 armband/whistle/contact card refund deposit for this meal if they return these items.)

The Snow Tour is demanding! It is an adventure sport often undertaken in adverse conditions in an unpredictable, challenging and isolated environment. Skiing/boarding requires certain levels of physical and mental fitness, a clear understanding of rules and expectations, knowledge of slope safety and an understanding and respect for the environment in which the activity takes place.

Students who wish to join the tour must understand that they will be expected to:

- ❖ attend lunchtime meetings at school as required
- ❖ promptly return all forms accurately and completely filled in and provide information as required
- ❖ undertake a snow education programme and pass a written snow safety test
- ❖ maintain a Snow Tour display folder with all newsletters, handouts and information
- ❖ meet all financial and other commitments by due dates
- ❖ participate in all snow activities
- ❖ follow rules and directions given by all Snow Tour staff
- ❖ present themselves on the mountain with all clothing and equipment requirements

Students who are deemed to be unsuitable for the Tour through a poor behaviour or attendance record or fail to comply with Tour expectations may be excluded from participating in the tour. The cancellation policy in relation to refunds will apply. A Behaviour Contract will be required to be signed before the student attends this Tour.

Students can secure a place on the Tour by paying a **\$120 deposit** via one of the payment options in addition to returning the attached *Information and Payment Form fully completed before Wednesday Week 4 February 22nd 2017 to the Snow Tour Box located at student services. Deposits can be paid either through the Finance Office before school or recess time, via Bpoint the school website or the Okr App accessible through device e.g. Smart Phone.* The Snow Tour has a limit of 140 places. Once that quota is reached, students on paying their deposit will be notified and placed on a reserve list. The attached lilac Information and Payment Form including Tour conditions, must be accurately and completely filled out, signed and presented with the payment to the Finance Office before the student will be placed on the Tour list.

On payment of this **\$120 deposit** the withdrawal of the student from the Snow Tour will result in the forfeiture of this deposit. Money received by the school for this Tour is then paid directly to the companies providing these Alpine services and they provide **no** refunds once bookings are made.

A **second installment of \$300** must be paid by Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup> Term 1, Week 10.

The **balance of payment** for this Tour **must** be paid by Friday June 16th 2017 Term 2 Week 7.

Invoices will be sent to parents and the student will **not** participate in this activity unless full payment has been received by this due date. No refunds will be given if a student withdraws from the Snow Tour after this payment deadline, June 16th 2017. Parents will be responsible for payment of all damages, loses, and breakages their child incurs and the cost and organisation of any medical, dental or additional transport/services. Alterations or changes to any information including hire requirements for notification to mountain services after June 16th 2017 will incur an amendment fee of \$200 imposed by the tour agent.

Please note that an evening parent meeting will be organised in mid Term 2. We would expect all students and a parent to attend this meeting. Copies of the Snow Tour newsletters and forms will be available on the school web site under Student Activities/Snow Tour 2017.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Janelle Morrissey  
Outdoor Programs Coordinator

