

Friday, 12 January, 2018

Torquay

Honourable Parents and Guardians, Layabouts, and the Unclean,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 2018 school year. In keeping with tradition, Alia College begins the school year with a beach camp. The great William Faulkner, in his seminal novel, *As I Lay Dying*, wrote the following lines in reference to Alia camps: "The nihilists say it is the end; the fundamentalists, the beginning; when in reality it is no more than a single tenant or family moving out of a tenement or a town." This means it is mandatory for everyone to arrive at school on the first day of camp wearing a toga, and to remain in that toga for the duration of the camp. If the unravelling of past decades has shown us nothing else, it has shown us that the people of Torquay are enraged by pants and terrified of the sea. The pitiful locals gather each morning on the sands to wail and howl, as they believe their cries are responsible for the ebb and flow of the tide. To appease them, we must join them. However, their sheepish appreciation can quickly turn to wild terror at the sight of pants. Remember, the Torquay town motto is: *Fire! Fire! Pants on Fire! You had it coming. We warned you.* 2018 promises to be a twelve month year.

Departure from Alia:

Tuesday, 30 January 2018. You will need to be at Alia College, 405 Tooronga Road, Hawthorn East, at 8.30am ready to leave by coach at 9.00am. Anyone arriving after 8.30am will, like Artax in the Swamp of Sadness, sink to the bottom of a muddy bog. Why? Bogs-R-Us™ are subletting the Alia carpark. Their hours of operation are 8.30am-3.30pm, seven days a week.

Location: Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park, 35 Bell Street, Torquay, VIC 3228

Return to Alia:

Friday, 2 February 2018 at approximately 2.00pm

Sleeping arrangements: Tents. If you do not have a tent and cannot find someone to share with, please speak to your Homeroom teacher and they will try and help. Also, please let Team Office know when you have confirmed a tent of your own or a place in someone else's tent. We will be playing tent-roulette this camp. Your tent will soon be my tent and my tent will still be my tent. Stay away from my stuff. What are you going to do about it? Cry? Good. I will gather your tears and use them to nourish my apple tree. When the apples are ripe I will bake them into a pie, a vegan pie, and sell you a slice. It's \$25. Pay now.

Activities:

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Cooking | Weird scenes inside the gold mine | Kayaking |
| Hiking | Rock Climbing | Movies |
| Surfing | Roll Climbing | Swimming |

Regards,
Charlie Orlowski (the Charles in Charge)
S. Pearce (excess baggage)

Pack List

for Torquay

Necessary Items:

- Lunch and other food for the journey
- Strong waterproof tent (or arrange to sleep in another person's tent)
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Mattress or lilo
- Plate, bowl, cup, tea towel and a spoon
- Water bottle
- An understanding that you cannot fly
- Sunglasses
- Backpack
- Toiletries (toothbrush, soap, a shovel, car battery, clamps)
- Clothes for 4 days: underwear, jumpers, shirts, shorts, night wear, socks, hat, old shoes, bathers
- Towel
- Hiking boots or rugged shoes
- Jacket
- Lots of sunscreen

Optional Items:

- Awareness
- Tent
- Annexe
- Rope
- Reading material
- Writing material
- Lots of money (there are shops and people selling things, things like maps to the future and tiny, invisible people made out of air)
- Sweets, chips, chocolate
- Sporting equipment
- Board games, cards or musical instruments

Please do not bring:

- Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes
- An unwillingness to show consideration for others
- Saltiness
- That Uncle you only see at Christmas who always treats you like you were five. He smiles too broadly, laughs too loudly and wants you to pull his finger, rub his belly. You want to tell him to stop it, that you don't understand how he can say the same things, year after year; but curled at the corner of his eyes you can see that fear of a life never lived. Don't bring that guy, he eats too much.

Alia will provide:

- Food
- First Aid Kit
- Transport
- Hilarity
- Sand in each and every meal.

Note: Anything you bring is your responsibility; please do not bring anything that you are not prepared to take responsibility for.

Camp Q & A

Q: I am new to Alia College and I have always hated school camps. They are so regimented and boring; do I have to go on camp?

A: No, you don't have to go, but Alia camps are very different. Yes, there are activities, but they are not compulsory. There are set times for breakfast, lunch and dinner, but you do not need to partake in each meal. If you want to sleep all day then you can do that. The camp serves as an opportunity for the community to come together, celebrate what we have or have not achieved, and build relationships with each other. This is part of what makes Alia different. If you want to make the most of your time at Alia, and you want it to be better or different to your previous experiences, please involve yourself in the community.

Q: Can I do as I please and show a determined disregard for the school?

A: No. Alia camps are, in the eyes of most people outside of the school, unconventional. There have been many times in the past when the owner of a site has expressed some initial concern at the lack formal rules on Alia camps. There has even been an occasion when a park owner reported students were in the camp kitchen making a cake without supervision. The camp owner reported the students were polite, accommodating to other campers and kept the kitchen clean, but there was no adult watching their every move. Alia students need to work almost twice as hard as students at other schools to show people they are not dangerous and destructive.

Q: I am a current student at Alia and recently I procured [insert cool word for alcohol and/or marijuana]. Is it okay to bring those things on camp?

A: No. No it is not. Alia camps give students a lot of freedom, but in doing so teachers put themselves at professional risk. If a student decides to do something really unsatisfactory on a camp, so unsatisfactory that other people get really upset about it, then the teachers on the camp can find themselves in trouble. During the time you are on camp, the teachers have a duty of care to make sure you are safe. If you take advantage of the freedom and trust given to you then you can put yourself at risk, but you also put the school at risk and the teachers on the camp at risk of serious professional consequences. People make mistakes, they make poor choices, and generally we cope with this. Sometimes we do not cope with this. Sometimes, when a person decides they do not want to help out on camp, that they are okay with other people needing to work harder and for longer to cover their absence; sometimes that means that person is not a good fit for Alia. Comments like, "I've been at Alia for 6 years, I've done a lot of things for this school," do not carry much weight. Your choices are statements. Please don't make choices on camp that are so bad it ruins things for everybody else and ends your time at Alia.

Q: I don't have a tent and I don't know anybody. What should I do?

A: Please tell your Homeroom teacher or go to the office and speak with Thomas or Tomer. These people will be able to give you some helpful advice. This does not mean they will solve the problem for you, but they will help.

Q: If a train leaves Mooroolbark station, heading for the city and travelling at 85kmph, makes fifteen stops, each two minutes long, how long before you know what the wind thinks about when autumn comes?

A: Just before you reach Croydon.

Camp Activities at Torquay

On camp there will be both optional activities that we will need to pay for and book in advance (they are outlined below), but there will also be opportunities for other less-rigidly scheduled activities, such as the movies (\$12.50-\$14.50), as well as lots of interesting shops. If your young person is interested in these, we suggest they bring some extra money along with them for the activities. Once bookings are made, further information (such as permission slips, clothing requirements, etc.) will be provided. Payments may be made by EFT, cash or cheque, payable to Alia College. Please return this form and payment to the office by **Monday, 29 January 2017**.

EFT details:

Acct Name: Alia College
Bank: Bank Australia
BSB: 313 140
Acct No.: 23161798

My young person by the name of _____ wishes to participate in (please indicate):

| Activity | | Cost |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Indoor Rock Climbing (2 hours) | | \$20.00 |
| Kayaking (2 hours) | | \$40.00 |
| Surfing (2 hours) | | \$46.00 |

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____