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June 2010

Dear Middle School Students and Parents,

We are excited to start the year off with our annual beginning-of-the-school-year field trip. This year we are planning to go to Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> graders** will be going on a separate backpacking trip for two days and one overnight, which means they will need a sturdy backpack with a waist belt large enough for all the items they will need. They will all be taking food with them as well, distributed to the group on the morning of the backpacking trip. It is very important that they are comfortable with their fully loaded pack. They should wear it around for a few hours at home to make any adjustments so it is comfortable, and to reconsider whether those "extra" items are necessary.

We will be holding a **Field Trip Orientation** for middle school parents and students on **Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**, (all 6<sup>th</sup> grade and new Middle & High School students are requested to attend this Orientation in the Assembly Room in the Upper Campus) to ensure that students are well prepared for the trip. We ask that students bring their gear up to meet with the faculty advisors who will check their gear and help them make any needed adjustments.

All three grades will be traveling together to the Park leaving MMS on **Tuesday, September 7, 2010**.

Middle school students who normally ride the bus will do so – with all of their baggage – to school Tuesday morning. Please unload baggage at the bus turnaround in the designated middle school baggage area. We will have a short orientation in the Library at 9:00 am and will then meet at the bus turn-around at 10:30 am.

**Review the Clothing and Equipment List carefully (on the following page)**

**Please pack your things small and tight for easy transport. Pack a lunch for Tuesday only.**

We will leave the area at noon **on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** and expect to arrive at MMS between 2:30 pm and 3:00 pm.

In order for your child to go on the trip we will need to have the following information on file in the office by **August 9, 2010**:

**2010 – 2011 Registration – Online registration process complete** *(if you did not yet receive the online registration letter with your login and password, please call the office..)*

**Middle School Field Trip Permission Slip** *(attached with this information)*

### **Return**

Parents, you may pick up your children at the Middle/High campus at that time or students may ride the bus home at 3:30 pm, in which case students should also be prepared to help clean up the bus. There could also be a group of students getting off at Aptos Library about 2:00 pm where you would need to pick them up. Please indicate your choice of options on the Permission Slip (last page of this document).

**CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT LIST - All students please bring the following:**

- Hat
- Day Pack—large enough for lunch, journal, rain gear and water bottle
- Water bottle—unbreakable, leak-proof one-quart plastic bottle without a straw, (empty plastic soda or water bottles are good)
- Journal and pen or pencil
- Rain Gear—complete rain suit or poncho (coated nylon is best)
- Brown bag lunch from home for Tuesday
- Sunscreen—SPF 30 or higher
- Insect repellent – there are many varieties at drugstores and natural food stores
- Handkerchief – to be used for games and as a lunch placemat
- Foot gear—sturdy, ankle supporting, and preferably waterproof for hiking
- Foot gear—a second pair of shoes
- Warm sleeping bag
- Bathing Suit
- Jacket—a lightweight lined parka with a hood is a good choice
- Pants—2-3 pair
- Shirts—short and long, to accommodate the changes in weather
- Sweater—fleece or wool is best
- Socks—1-2 pair per day, wool if possible
- Toiletries—toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, bath towel
- Small pillow
- Plate, knife, fork, spoon, cup, bowl (**unbreakable and labeled!!!**)
- Foam sleeping mat
- Small flashlight

**Optional:**

- Tent (highly recommended due to mosquitoes) or ground cloth; it is also highly recommended that the student practice putting tent up before the trip
- Sunglasses
- Camera
- Pajamas

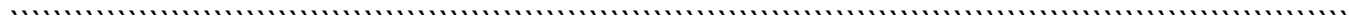
**Eighth Graders must also bring:**

- Waterproof stuff sack for your sleeping bag. A thick sturdy plastic garbage bag OK
- Backpack – capacity of 3000 cubic inches or more for sleeping bag, food, clothing, personal gear, foam sleeping mat, and tent (optional). Your day pack will not suffice.
- Hiking boots/shoes – sturdy, broken-in and waterproof
- Toilet paper – in zipper lock plastic bag
- Long underwear
- Rope – a few feet for securing equipment

***We look forward to seeing you! Premdas, Dayanand, Bob, Nicole, Jen, Elise, Leah.***

**Please fill out and return the attached permission slip.**

**Important: It is absolutely mandatory that your child's 2010-2011 Online Registration Information is submitted before he/she goes on the trip.**



**PERMISSION SLIP**

**2010 Mount Madonna Middle School Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park Trip**

I give my permission for (student name, please print)\_\_\_\_\_

to attend the Pfeiffer Big Sur field trip, on September 7 - 10, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick my child up at Aptos Library bus stop at 2 p.m., Fri, Sep 10<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick my child up at the Middle/High Campus at 3 p.m., Fri, Sep 10<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ My child will need to ride the school bus to his/her regular bus stop

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to MMS by August 9, 2010**