



Monday, April 17, 2017

Dear Parents of Grade Eight Students,

On Monday, May 8 students in Grade Eight will travel to Pittsburg Landing on the Snake River to spend five days hiking in Hell's Canyon, the deepest canyon in North America. Damon Brown, Amanda Micheletty, Jon Moreno-Ramirez and Samantha Cole will lead the trip. Students will return on Friday, May 12.

The trip itself will consist of a five-day, point-to-point hike that will take students along a 20-mile section of the Snake River. The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be shuttled up-river on Monday afternoon and spend the next five days hiking back to Pittsburg Landing. The other group will begin hiking up-river from Pittsburg Landing and be picked up by a jet boat at Sheep Creek and be transported back to Pittsburg Landing on May 12. The two groups will hike past each other in the middle of the trip.

A primary purpose of the Grade Eight Spring Trip is to significantly step up student responsibilities on a backcountry backpacking trip. Similar to the Salmon River trip in the fall, students will move to a new campsite each day and break camp down every morning; this time however, they will be walking and carrying all of their equipment on their backs. Along the way, students will be responsible for the day-to-day routines including navigation, helping in the kitchen, pumping water, camp selection. Students will also be responsible for carrying various group gear including tents, stoves, and food. The length of the trip will challenge Grade Eight students, but they will come away from the experience knowing that they are capable of a significant outdoor experience.

A Riverstone Permission Slip will be distributed during the week prior to the trip and will address any updated health information and will have final departure instructions. A release form from Kilgore Adventures, the jetboat company that will provide the river shuttles on May 8 and 12, will also be sent home then.

I have included an Equipment List with this letter; it can also be found on the school's resource page. You should start inventorying your gear now. If you need new boots, they will need a little break-in time. The weather in Hell's Canyon in May can be variable; in the past, some trips have been treated to sunny 80's, while others have had rainy 50's. Students will need to be prepared for everything in between. Riverstone has packs available for those students who do not own one; let me know if you will need to borrow a pack. A gear check will take place during the week prior to the trip, so start thinking about acquiring equipment.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Many Riverstone seniors look back on this very Hell's Canyon trip as one of their favorites!



Ben Brock

Itinerary for the week of May 13:

*Monday, May 8* - Drive to Pittsburg Landing on the Snake River

*Tuesday - Friday* - Hike through Hell's Canyon

*Friday, May 12* - Finish hiking on Friday morning and return to Riverstone by approximately 6:00pm.