

*Open hearts • Inquiring minds*

**EXCURSION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**  
**YEAR 4 COTTER CATCHMENT AREA EXCURSION**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The following details relate to a Year 4 educational excursion to the **Cotter Catchment Area**.

**Date/time:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 **Departing Red Hill School** at 9.30am  
**Returning to Red Hill School** at 2.45pm

**Purpose of excursion:** As part of our inquiry into 'Sharing the Planet' students will explore and make connections with the natural environment.

**Activities:** Students will have the opportunity to participate in the water bug survey program run by Waterwatch. This program aims to develop an understanding of the sustainable use and management of catchments and the health of our waterways through hands-on discovery – based learning experiences. During our time in the Cotter Catchment Area we will also explore the area and walk the Cotter Dam Discovery Trail (approximately 1.4km return) and the Cotter Honyong Walking Track (approximately 2.6 km return).

**Clothing and Equipment:** Sun-smart hat, jacket, healthy snack and lunch in lightweight packaging, water bottle and enclosed shoes suitable for walking (e.g., runners). All items should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

**Transport:** Bus

**Group Size:** 112 students, 5 staff and volunteers

**Trip Leaders:** Rachael Bellwood, Samantha Harris, Leigh Kanara, Ben Kemp, Kristy Aitchison and Waterwatch Volunteers

**Cost:** \$10.00

*The school has made every effort to keep the cost for this excursion at a minimum level. If necessary, parents or students can confidentially discuss support to meet the cost of the excursion with the Principal. Please contact the front office if you would like to speak with the Principal.*

**Notes/Payment Due Date:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**Excursion Risk Assessment:** Available at the front office

**Parent Volunteers:** To maintain a high level of supervision for this event, we are asking for parent/carer volunteers to accompany us on this excursion. To volunteer for this excursion, you must have your own transport to and from Cotter Avenue (Paddys River). Volunteers will meet staff and Year 4 students at the Cotter Recreational Area. It is preferred that parents/carers accompanying students on excursions as volunteers are up to date with Covid19 vaccination and hold current Working with Vulnerable People registration: <https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/s/article/working-with-vulnerable-people-wwvp-registration-tab-overview> If you are able to attend, please get in touch with your child's teacher and provide your details on the permission note.

**Covid Safety:** Volunteers are requested to travel to and from Cotter Avenue in their own vehicle. It is preferred that volunteers be up to date with vaccinations, wear a mask when indoors or unable to maintain 1.5m spatial distance. All staff are up to date with Covid 19 vaccinations and wear a mask when indoors and on buses or unable to maintain 1.5m spatial distance. All adults and children will practice good hand hygiene, i.e., cough and sneeze into the elbow, use hand sanitiser throughout the excursion as needed e.g., before eating and when using bus or shared equipment. Adults and children who have any symptoms of Covid19 or are sick should not attend.

**Contingency:** In the event of the following conditions this excursion may be cancelled:

- Thunderstorms or torrential rain on the day
- Insufficient funds to cover the cost of the excursion
- Insufficient staff and/or volunteers to maintain supervision at Cotter Avenue

**Behavioural expectations:** Students are expected to show respect for the natural environment, the Waterwatch educators and their equipment. Students are expected to actively participate in the learning experiences and listen carefully to all instructions. Students are to remain with their group for the duration of the excursion and maintain their class Essential Agreements and general school rules (i.e., no tree climbing, no throwing sticks or rocks, 'hands off and feet to themselves'). During travel on the bus students are to remain seated at all times. Students requiring first aid or medication during the day will seek help from their teachers and educators.

Staff accompanying students on excursions will take all reasonable care while the students are in their charge to protect them from injury and to control and supervise their behaviour during learning experiences. Parents should be aware that staff members are not responsible for injuries or damage to property which may occur on an excursion where, in all circumstances, staff have not been negligent. Parents should warn children of the risk to themselves, to others and to property, of impulsive, wilful, or disobedient behaviour.

**Packing list:**

- Sun smart hat
- Water bottle
- Fruit Break, recess and Lunch – Recess will be eaten when the students return to school
- Attire suitable for the weather conditions (e.g. jumper/jacket)
- Sturdy footwear for walking and playing (e.g. runners)
- All items clearly labelled

Students will travel with their school bags so they can securely transport their belongings for the day. Students should bring their fruit break, healthy snack, lunch and labelled water bottle. Please pack foods that your child can easily eat seated on the grass in a picnic area.

If you have any questions about this excursion, please contact your child's teacher.

Kind Regards,

The Year 4 Team