



7 February 2012

Dear Gr.10 parent and learner

MEETING FOR ALL ODYSSEY PARENTS

There will be an Odyssey meeting on **Wednesday 15 February at 18:00 hr** in the school hall. During this meeting final arrangements about the Odyssey will be discussed. Myself and the group leaders will be present afterwards to answer any questions you may have.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

I have neglected to ask that you must indicate on the indemnity forms if your child has any special dietary requirements, I apologize for this. If you have already handed in your child's indemnity form, could you please send me an email stating that your child has special dietary requirements and what they are. If you have not yet handed in the forms, please state any special dietary requirements under the "any other relevant information" section.

INDEMNITY FORMS AND MEDICAL CARDS

Thank you to those who have already handed in these documents. There is still a large amount of indemnity forms and medical cards outstanding. Please hand them in as soon as possible. If you have misplaced it, please notify me and I will send you another one.

EQUIPMENT AND KIT

It's come to my attention that there is a rumor going around that the learners need a hammock for the Odyssey. Learners do not need hammocks for the Odyssey. It is not on the equipment list and at no point has learners been told this. Please refer to the Odyssey equipment list when putting together the learner's kit. Everything needed for the expedition is on the equipment list. If it is not on the list, it is not needed. Anything else is optional keeping in mind that the learner will have to carry it themselves.

It is crucial that the learners are involved in putting their kit together and packing their gear. As they will be the ones using it, they must be aware of what they have and be comfortable with it. In the equipment list document, I refer to 3 local suppliers who have been informed about the Odyssey. They are ready to assist in putting your kit together and will answer any questions you have with regards to gear, equipment, footwear and back packs.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY

Everything possible has been done to ensure the safety of the groups on the Odyssey. An emergency plan has been put into place which enables us to handle any type of emergency that may occur. This includes a helicopter evacuation if needed. To fully complete the coordination of the emergency plan, I need the outstanding medical cards and indemnity forms. The information on the medical cards gets typed, printed and laminated in pocket size. Learners carry 2 cards with them: one always on them and the other one attached to their backpack. The group leaders will have one sheet with all the medical information. This ensures that all information is immediately



THE JOY OF LEARNING

available in case of an emergency. I therefore urge you to please return the outstanding medical cards and indemnity forms as soon as possible.

GROUP LEADERS

The other 2 group leaders will be announced next week. We are working hard to finalize this. In the coming 3 weeks the group leaders will start to meet with their groups to chat about the Odyssey, check that everybody has the necessary equipment, talk about emotional preparation for the journey, answer questions the learners might have, spend time hiking cycling or paddling with the learners and much more.

COMMUNICATION

It has been brought to my attention that there are a lot of rumors circulating regarding Odyssey food, equipment needed and more. With this expedition being the first of its kind at Oakhill, it is understandable that there is a lot of nervousness and anxiety about it. Acting upon incorrect information however just adds to the anxiety of others and yourself and does not help the situation. All the necessary information regarding final arrangements will be communicated at Wednesday evening's meeting. All other Odyssey information is available on the schools website. If you are unsure about anything regarding the Odyssey, please do not hesitate to call me. I am the Odyssey coordinator and I'm therefore available 24 / 7 to answer any questions regarding the Odyssey.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your continuous support with this amazing project. I am blessed to be part of it and I know that the Odyssey will make a significant difference in the lives of the gr.10 learners.

Thank you

Kind regards
Riaan van Straten

Oakhill School
Tel +27 (0) 44 382 6506 • Fax +27 (0) 44 382 5753 • Private Bag X018, Knysna, 6570
www.oakhillschool.co.za

