



Taylor Park

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A happy, caring learning community

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January 10th, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians of Grade 6/7 students,

As part of our school experience and to complement our Social Responsibility, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Education curriculum, a year end trip to [Camp Elphinstone](#) has been planned. As in past years, our Grade 6's and Grade 7's will be going together as we plan a camp experience for every two years.

Camp is not a reward or a celebration, instead we design it so that students build the skills and character to try new things, to build determination and learn how to support each other. From over thirty years of taking students to camp I have seen students become more confident, build stronger relationships and do better in school academically, as a result of their camp experience. I don't know of a student at school this year in grade 6 and 7 that would not benefit from camp. At this meeting there will be information about: the camp itself, sleeping accommodations (separate cabins for boys and girls), food, programs (rock climbing, archery, swimming in their indoor pool, etc.), plans for supervision, things students should bring to camp and the cost. We are able to help with financial support and no special clothing or bedding is required so money should not be a reason to not attend camp. Please complete the slip below. Parents are strongly encouraged to come and students are welcome to come as well.

We will be going to camp from June 10 – 12th, 2019. Located on the Sunshine Coast, YMCA's Camp Elphinstone offers a great environment in which your child can actively explore their connections to nature, participate in a range of unique physical activities, and develop skills around teamwork.

All activities and outdoor explorations will be conducted by Camp Elphinstone staff. We have booked cabins designated for boys and girls separately. Each cabin is assigned a team of supervising adults (Taylor Park Staff, parents, and YMCA staff if needed). Food is served buffet-style in the Dining Hall. Camp Elphinstone is able to accommodate any dietary needs we may have. If your child has a dietary requirement which the school does not know about, please let us know and we can pass the appropriate information on to Camp Elphinstone.

Travel Plans: Departure: The buses will leave Taylor Park Elementary at precisely 7:30 am on Monday, June 10th. Please be at the school at 7:15 am to load belongings on the bus. We will be taking the 9:50 pm ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale on the Sunshine Coast. From Langdale we will take a short walk over to Camp Elphinstone, while the camp picks up our luggage. Arrival at Camp Elphinstone will be around 11:30 am.

Return: On Wednesday, June 12th we will be taking the 10:55 am ferry from Langdale to Horseshoe Bay. The estimated time of arrival at Taylor Park Elementary is 1:30 pm. At this time, students returning from Elphinstone will be dismissed.

Cost: When we had camp two years ago, the price was \$240 but the costs have risen. The total cost for the camp (including food), transportation by charter bus, ferry, and supplies is **\$270**. It should be noted that our buses are provided by the generous support of our PAC. Transportation is a significant cost and we thank our PAC for their hard work. We would like to collect \$50 by February 28th as a deposit for each student and the remaining \$220 by May 15st. If you want, the whole amount can be paid by February 28th. This can be done by the **online payment** method or to the **classroom teacher**.

Supervisors: In addition to the Camp Elphinstone staff and parents, the following Taylor Park staff will accompany our students: Ms. Arden, Mrs. Bathurst, Mr. Cockram and Mr. Petroski. We also require a number of parent supervisors with experience working with children. Please let us know if you are willing and available to come on this trip.

Equipment: See the attached packing list. Remember to try to borrow as many items as possible rather than purchasing new equipment. It is critical that the students have the appropriate outdoor clothing as the majority of the program takes place outdoors.

Activities: Daily Activities at Camp Elphinstone (weather dependent) will likely include but will not be limited to the following

- ❖ Kayaking
- ❖ Team Building
- ❖ Outdoor Living Skills
- ❖ Archery
- ❖ High Ropes (signed waiver needed)
- ❖ Low Ropes
- ❖ Running Games
- ❖ Campfires
- ❖ Additional outdoor and indoor games and activities

A **waiver is necessary to participate in the "High Ropes" activities.** This is similar to a "rock climbing" activity and is usually one of the most memorable accomplishments of the trip.

Risks: In addition to the risks inherent with such activities, additional risks may include but may not be limited to the following:

- ❖ Physical injury
- ❖ Weather extremes
- ❖ Evacuation difficulties and remoteness
- ❖ Fatigue and physical exertion
- ❖ Wet, rocky and physical terrain
- ❖ No Wifi/cell service – yikes!

If you have any concerns or questions about our trip to Camp Elphinstone, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Mr. Wall at school.

Sincerely,



Mr. Wall – on behalf of The Taylor Park Staff

Please return this form to your child's teacher – Teachers please collect and hold on to these forms

RETURN CONSENT FORM: **must be returned with payment for student to attend field trip**

I have read the attached materials which set out the details with respect to this field trip. I understand my child will be under the supervision of Taylor Park Elementary staff as well as YMCA staff during the course of the trip and that certain risks apply during the trip. I hereby give my consent for my child to attend this field trip and participate in its associated activities.

Name of Field Trip: Camp Elphinstone Child's Name: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Our parent information event will provide us with some information surrounding the logistics, planned activities, and information for our camping trip at Camp Elphinstone. This is very helpful for parents to get a sense of what the trip is like as there will be pictures, videos, and a question and answer period. Please join us in the school Gym on the evening of Tuesday, January 22nd for this special information session. The session will start at 4:30 pm.

Payment Options (Please check those that apply)

Total Price \$270

- ☐ Option One:
\$270 total paid by February 28th Cash ____ Cheque ____ Online ____ (#____)
- ☐ Option Two:
\$50 (minimum deposit) by February 28th Cash ____ Cheque ____ Online ____ (#____)
\$220 (balance) by May 15th, 2019 Cash ____ Cheque ____ Online ____ (#____)
- ☐ Option Three:
\$____ total paid by _____ (based on arrangements made with Mr. Wall)

Camp Elphinstone Recommended Packing Guide

Luggage

- ☐ We have limited space, so everything should be in **one** labelled piece of luggage that a student can carry for a short distance. Duffel bags, hockey bags, backpacks, **small** suitcases are fine. Sleeping bags and pillows should be in their own labelled bag or a separate, tied plastic garbage bag (clearly labelled), .

Clothing

- ☐ Supply of underwear for three days
- ☐ Socks for three days, plus three extra pairs (they may get wet)
- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Pants (jeans may get wet and cold)
- ☐ 3 T-shirts
- ☐ 2 warm top layers (e.g., warm sweater; sweatshirt; fleece jacket)
- ☐ Waterproof jacket (camp activities continue in the rain)
- ☐ Waterproof shoes/boots/hiking boots
- ☐ Running shoes (old ones, well worn-in and with good soles)
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Hat

Personal items

- ☐ Sleeping bag (or warm blanket/bedding)
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ 2 towels (1 for beach and 1 for bathing)
- ☐ Toiletries(in bag/ziploc): comb/brush, soap(in a plastic container), washcloth(in Ziploc bag), toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine products, etc.*
- ☐ Sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ 2 large garbage bags for wet supplies

Optional Supply List

- ☐ Flashlight (with fresh batteries – insert batteries backwards while packing to prevent light from turning on in luggage)
- ☐ Toque (for cold evenings)
- ☐ Bedsheets (student bunks can be set up with a bottom and top sheet and blanket)
- ☐ Insect repellent (no aerosol sprays, please)
- ☐ Camera (not expensive, labeled and kept with adults)
- ☐ Hair dryer (plan with your friends; you only need one per room)
- ☐ Deck of cards/journal & pencil/etc. for quiet times
- ☐ A small amount of money for purchases at the ferry (all food purchases must be consumed before leaving the ferry)

Students **are not allowed** to bring the following items:

- × Electronic equipment (no phones, mp3 players, games, etc). There are a number of phones that students can use with permission at camp and no cell or wifi access.
- × Food items (e.g., candy, chips, etc. – snacks will be provided by camp)
- × Pocket knife/multipurpose tool/ other dangerous items.

*At Camp Elphinstone, water is treated and returned directly to the ocean. Their system works best and operates cleanly when all soap products (shampoo, soap and conditioners) used are biodegradable. *Please ensure that these products are biodegradable.*