



August 26, 2011

Dear Middle and High School Parents,

I'm writing with information about the Back to School Fall Trips that are scheduled for next week. These trips are a tradition at Riverstone, and they have played an important role in the development of the school community. As a small community, we have the opportunity to ensure that students know a significant proportion of students and faculty at school and these trips help to develop friendships and maintain the unity that has characterized the school since its inception. In its tenth year, the Fall Trip program will feature a solid corps of "veterans" who have been on many trips and who can help new students learn the ropes. The trips are also a great way to showcase the mountains that we are lucky enough to have in our backyards to exchange students joining us from around the world.

Who: Students in Grades 7 through 12

When: Wednesday, August 31 - Friday, September 2

Where: Lakes in the Sawtooth, White Cloud and Salmon River Mountains surrounding Stanley, ID.

Schedule: Students have been divided into, mixed-grade groups of ten to twelve students.

On Wednesday morning, the groups will drive to various trailheads and then hike to lakes in the Stanley area where they will set up base camps and spend the afternoon exploring the area. Thursday will be spent day hiking near the lakes, fishing, journaling, reading, and relaxing in the mountains. (Yes, this counts as school!) Groups will break camp and return to the trailheads on Friday morning and arrive back by Riverstone by 3:30 PM.

* New this year! Students have had the opportunity to sign up for several "theme" trips. This year's initial offering include: Fly-fishing, Mtn. Biking, Yoga and The Long Walk (for the ambitious!).

Accommodations: Tents or under the stars (depending on the weather).

Food: Provided by Riverstone, prepared by students.

Leaders: Each group of students will be staffed by two leaders (one male and one female).

Gear: I am aware that not all students are equipped for this trip. Group leaders will be contacting the students in their group in order to determine who will need certain items and who can help provide equipment for other students. Equipment Lists can be found on The Holt. If you have extra gear that can be loaned out, please let us know; it will greatly help reduce costs for the trips.

Students will participate in many Outdoor Program trips during their time at Riverstone and I encourage families to purchase items such as sleeping bags, sleeping pads, and sturdy hiking boots that will be used on a regular basis.

Any necessary rentals will be coordinated by Riverstone. Families will be billed for any necessary rentals of backpacks, sleeping bags and sleeping pads that cannot be gathered

from within our community. Please let Ben Brock or your trip leader know if you need any equipment.

The school will ensure that students have tents to sleep in, stoves to cook on, and filters to purify water with.

Groups and Destinations: Still in flux due to theme trip choices. Check The Holt for the most updated group lists.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at bbrock@riverstoneschool.org . I'm looking forward to some great trips!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BB', located below the main text.

Ben Brock
Director, Outdoor Program