

Sunday 15th October 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, Families and students.

Welcome to the community of the Alpine School Campus for our Term 4, Victorian Young Leaders (VYLC) to China program.

During the next nine weeks we shall be writing to you several times. These letters will also be posted on our website for you to see and read about current and daily events. The content of the communications is to assist you with your side of the VYLC experience. The letters will not necessarily deal with individuals and their achievements, but more about the living and learning process all students will be undertaking. We want to provide you with some early reminders and information for your arrival day and to perhaps help you on your return and continued journey. We hope to post images on the website from time-to-time as well.

The first and primary contact for the care and welfare of your son or daughter will be the Alpine School Campus Liaison teacher. He or she will introduce themselves to you today and also go through the medical forms. Towards the end of Week one, he or she will give you a phone call to share how your son or daughter is coping in their new environment here. Moreover, in every instance (be it to do with communication from staff or your child), no news is good news!

The health, care and wellbeing of your son/daughter while with us is our primary consideration. In the situation that your son/daughter requires a visit to the doctor or requires medication out of what is *normal*, an Alpine School Campus staff member will contact you.

Communication with your son or daughter at the Alpine School Campus is discussed in depth in the Parents Information Book. *Email will become available after students receive their laptops later this first week on Wednesday.* Each student has a download and email-box limit and, despite our counselling, guidance and directions, many students exceed that limit and omit to clear their mail boxes, preventing emails. Please be patient, as this is a "resource management" skill we assist students in developing!

Many of you may have noted our web presence. Our new web page format is ready to peruse in the cyber world. Information is intended on being current and the website very user friendly. The address is www.alpineschool.vic.edu.au

Can we again advise that the following items are *strictly not permitted* at the Alpine School Campus or at Utahloy International school in China. Parents/guardians should arrange to take them home with them if their son or daughter has inadvertently packed them. Retaining some of these items may compromise his/her ability to remain in the program.

Pocket money

The only money students should have is 500 RMB to take to China. This money and their Passport should be handed in to the front office where it will be kept locked in our safe until departure to the airport on November 4th. No Australian dollars are required for the first 3 weeks of the program. You can purchase a hat and/or drink bottle from the front office today if you need to. Please do not leave a credit card with your son or daughter just in case. Fees are high and it creates an inequity issue. 500RMB in cash only please.

Personal Radios/CD Players/ iPods

Due to licensing issues, music CD's, DVD's or movies are not permitted to be shared from the Laptops or onto the school network.

Personal Electronic Games/Software

Not permitted to be loaded on our hardware. We believe these are very isolating and we have genuine licensing legal ramifications in our school setting.

Personal electrical appliances such as hairdryers, hair wands/straighteners and curlers, battery chargers.

These pose safety and ownership issues, as well as potential hair hygiene concerns. Students need to talk to staff about their needs, usage and certificate/compliance for electrical safety.

Mobile Phones

There is an increased problem with security of calls, as well as access security of mobile phones. We encourage students to solve issues here rather than rely on communication elsewhere. Communication is available through email as well as written letters. Overseas fees for mobile phones can be extravagant. No mobile phones please!

Aerosol containers

Deodorant, insect repellent, perfume and so on. These containers do not fit well with the rubbish and recycling program at the Alpine School Campus. We like you are concerned about misuse of propellants by inhalation or ignition.

Nail polish.

This is a health hazard as some people are allergic to the fumes from these products. Nail polish products can also be a safety hazard as they are flammable.

Cigarettes, illicit or non-prescription drugs and alcohol.

Possession, use or attempts to obtain these will result in immediate withdrawal from the program and the continuation in the program is not guaranteed. In the past these activities resulted in involuntary removal from the program and transport home at parent's expense.

We welcome and encourage the use of USB flash drives/memory sticks/portable drives for students to save work, data and images. However, they must be free and empty of games and movie files. This protects our network from both copyright infringement and virus dangers. If unsure of the appropriateness of any music, please hand these to Staff on arrival and we will check them with your son's/daughter's teacher at the Alpine School Campus.

We encourage a strong sense of stewardship, ownership and responsibility for the school, which ultimately becomes the students' home. While every effort is taken to assist students in making appropriate decisions, if students choose to do something that result in damage to Alpine School Campus or Utahloy property, *they will incur a cost for repair*. This is especially so with Laptop computers which tend to be fragile and portable. We encourage you to have last words of "have a great time but please don't do anything silly" before you depart!

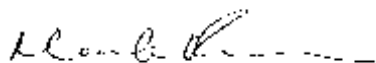
Important Dates

Departure Flight: Saturday 4th November. You can meet us near the China Southern check-in for flight CZ 322 for one hour between 6.30pm – 7.30pm at Melbourne international Airport

Arrival and Pick-up at conclusion of program: Saturday 16th December. Flight CZ 321 scheduled to arrive at 9.40am at Melbourne international Airport

It is normal for students (and parents) to experience "separation anxiety", or homesickness, in the first week(s) of their experience here and maybe longer, maybe less. Please be assured this is normal and the Alpine School staff team is particularly vigilant and experienced in assisting students to cope with this emotion. For the most part this emotion will diminish. Please do not hesitate to call us, in confidence, if you feel in any way like this. While we make no promises about you being able to talk directly with your son or daughter, and often it only exacerbates the issues and indeed I strongly discourage it except in individual extreme situations, we are happy to be a listener to your experience if you require.

With every good wish.



Mark Reeves, BA (Rec.), Grad Dip (OE & PE), Postgrad. Dip (Organizational Change), MACE.
Principal.
On behalf of the School Staff team.



David Chlebna
Campus Principal
Alpine School Campus