Dear Parents,

Your child will have an opportunity to participate in an intensive swimming program. Swimming programs are a compulsory component of the Victorian Curriculum at all State Schools in Victoria. If you have any concerns with the program or you wish for your child not to participate then please reply in writing giving the reason by Monday 11 August 2014.

**DETAILS**

When: **Wednesday 20 August 2014** until Thursday 28 August 2014 (seven days over the two weeks not including the weekend)

Where: Bialik College (407 Tooronga Road, East Hawthorn)

Cost: $115 per child **this is an extra payment that is NOT included in the excursion levy.**

The cost breakdown is:

- Two buses (with seatbelts) for hire for seven days = $31 per student
- Swimming lessons = $84 per student (covers 315 minutes of instructional swimming time, pool hire, cost of swim teachers)

As we are trying to keep the costs as low as possible **we cannot refund any bus costs but may be able to refund lessons missed under special circumstances.** If you have any concerns regarding the cost of the program then please speak to Natasha Black.

**WHAT TO BRING**

- Bathing cap, this is a requirement of the aquatic centre.
- Goggles are recommended but not required. These can be purchased at any public swim centre or sporting goods store.
- Bathers **MUST** be worn to school under their school uniforms and change at the end of the lesson. **For children swimming later in the day, especially the Grade 1’s and Preps, can all children who will be wearing one piece bathers please wear them pulled down around the waist. This is to make things easier for going to the toilet. They will then pull them on properly at the pool in the change rooms.**
- Thongs must be worn on the bus to and from school and around the pool. Children are not to come to school in thongs but will be given the opportunity to change into them before they leave for their lesson.

Please make sure that **ALL** belongings are clearly labelled and that a plastic shopping bag is included in swimming bags for wet bathers and towels. All girls with long hair must have their hair tied up for ease of putting on caps.

**PARENT HELPERS**

Each class will require one adult to assist with supervision on the bus for each session, if you are available please let your classroom teacher know in advance. Management of the swimming program is a complex task with teachers required to follow a range of official guidelines to address matters of privacy and safety. We are grateful to the parents who have offered to assist teachers with this task. It is a requirement that parents assisting with supervision of classes at the pool hold a current Working with Children Check that has been sighted at the school office. Any of these supervising parents and teachers, regardless of gender, may assist in either the male or female changing rooms as requested by the teachers in charge. Parents are welcome to attend the pool to watch the swimming lessons but only those parents officially present as assistants are to be in the changing areas.

Parents should also be aware that personal photography at the pool is not allowed and that teachers will take any photos required for school use. At swimming carnivals, parents are welcome to photograph their own child/children only. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in these matters which will help the program to run smoothly. If you would like to discuss these arrangements further, Meredith Carracher would be glad to speak with you.

Please note that parking is NOT available in the school grounds however, you can park on Tooronga Road and enter via the pedestrian gate.

**The permission slip is on the bottom of the next page.**

Please return this with payment should be returned to school by **MONDAY, 11 AUGUST 2014.**

Regards,

Natasha Black