



August 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition and Practice Trip

Elmwood is very fortunate to have a strong Duke of Edinburgh Award Program. The program was first introduced at Elmwood 13 years ago; it is considered one of the best programs for the personal development of young people. Students follow a progression of growth and personal challenge through the categories of Bronze, Silver and Gold. At each level students perform community service, develop skills, participate in physical recreation and complete an outdoor expedition. This fall all students in Grade 9 who are, or will be, 14 years of age before December will complete their Bronze level. Students who will be 14 years of age in 2011 will be registered as they turn 14.

One component of the award program is to complete an "Expedition." At the Bronze Level this involves a hiking trip. It is our hope that **all Grade 9 students**, regardless of their age, complete this component as it is an important bonding opportunity for the students. Prior to the actual trip, the students will participate in a one-day practice expedition on September 23, 2010. The purpose of this trip is to test equipment and check conditioning levels. The expedition itself involves a two-day and one-night campout on October 6 – 7, 2010. During the trip the girls will hike both days, set up camp and prepare and cook their meals. The students will be taught the necessary outdoor skills prior to their trip.

The beginning of school is quite busy and the trip will be upon us before we know it. As a result I strongly recommended that your daughter begin physical conditioning over the summer. I have also enclosed an equipment list; it is important that your daughter has the personal items before our practice trip on September 23rd. I encourage borrowing items where possible, however it is very important that your daughter wear her own hiking boots. If you need to purchase new footwear please ensure that they are broken in over the summer.

I look forward to working with your daughter in the Duke of Edinburgh Program. If you have further questions over the following weeks you can contact me via e-mail at ederbyshire@elmwood.ca or if you need an answer immediately you may contact Karen Gormley, Duke of Edinburgh's Field Officer, at 232-0925 (Ext. 231).

Sincerely,
Erin Derbyshire
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator