



Beginning-of-the-Year Trip

BIG PINE

SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2012

A Note from Headmaster Gordon Sichi:

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year! We are looking forward with great enthusiasm to providing you a superb year. We hope that you maximize your opportunities by participating fully in all of the many special activities scheduled throughout the year.

After our two-day orientation on September 6 and 7, the first big event of the year will be our traditional Beginning-of-the-Year Trip, which—this year—will be a first-ever trip to the Big Pine area on the east side of the Sierra. The prime objective is to visit—for the first time in the school's history—the oldest living forest in the world, the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, where there are living trees as old as 4,500 years and dead trees as old as 11,000 years! On the same day that we visit the Bristlecones, we will also visit the world's largest array of radio-telescopes. We have arranged a special tour of the CARMA facility, where five of the nation's top universities each have an array of radio-telescopes. This VIP tour of the operations will give us an insider's perspective on CARMA's high-resolution telescopes, which peer into the cores of nearby and distant galaxies, allowing scientists to study cold molecular gases, the fuel of star formation and food for massive black holes.

Among the other destinations and activities on our itinerary are the following:

- Visits to the Museum of Lone Pine Film History and the nearby Alabama Hills, the site of multiple film scenes
- A tour of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power facilities in the Owens Valley
- A presentation by Paiute Indians about local Native American history
- An all-day, all-school hike to Big Pine Lakes in the High Sierra
- Dinner at the historic Rossi's Restaurant in Big Pine
- A road trip to Panum Crater, Mono Lake, Obsidian Dome, and—if the weather is warm—a swim in June Lake
- A visit to the Eastern Sierra Museum in Independence to learn about the history of the Owens Valley area

Below is some important information about the upcoming trip. Please take a few minutes to read through it NOW so that you are well prepared on departure day!

Location and Dates: We will stay at **Bernasconi Education Center** in Big Pine. Anacapa will have exclusive use of this wonderful center during our four-night stay.

Departure: Students need to arrive on campus at **6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11** for our departure by chartered bus and two school vehicles.

Food for the Bus Trip: Students should **bring snacks AND a sack lunch** to eat on the bus. It's also a good idea to bring **bottled water** for the ride!

Cost and Payment: The cost for this trip is **\$260**. Please send in your check, payable to Anacapa School, as soon as possible and **no later than Thursday, September 6**.

Equipment: For their comfort and safety, students must have the appropriate clothing and equipment.

Please refer to the enclosed equipment list for details and note that **good hiking shoes are critical** for this trip. Thanks, parents, for your help and support in this very important area!

Return: We are scheduled to return to campus at **5:00 p.m., Saturday, September 15.**

Trip Recovery Day: There will be **no school on Monday, September 17.** We'll resume school on Tuesday, September 18, with classes beginning that day!

Emergency Telephone Numbers: Gordon's cell phone = **(805) 895-4004** and Suzie's cell phone = **(805) 895-9300**

Student Health Information Forms: Most parents have completed and returned the two health forms that **MUST** be on file for a student to begin school. (If you haven't done that yet, please do so right away!)

Medications: If your student will need to take any medications during the trip, please bring the medication to school **by Thursday, September 6.** Medicine should be in a clearly marked container (preferably the original prescription bottle) labeled with the **student's name** and **exact directions for dispensing.** Please put the container(s) in a zip-lock plastic bag and turn it in to the school office.

Cell phone policy: Cell phone use on school trips can undermine what we are trying to accomplish in the important personal / social dimension of our school program. It is absolutely essential that trips be free of unnecessary outside distractions. Our trips are carefully designed to be "in the moment" events to be experienced as a whole with the people on the trip. **Calls to and from friends and family take students out of the moment, pull them away from the experience, and go counter to the objectives of the experiential nature of Anacapa trips.** Because cell phones are useful in an emergency, we do not want to ban them from trips. Teachers will, however, collect cell phones from students and return them at some point on the bus ride home. On the way home, students will be allowed to call their parents to update them on our arrival time. Thank you for your support and cooperation!