

## FIELD TRIP TO SAAS FEE Grade 6 and 6<sup>ème</sup> Classes

1<sup>st</sup> group: 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
2<sup>nd</sup> group: 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010

July 2010

Dear Parents,

It is our pleasure to wish you and your child a very warm welcome to our Secondary school. Given that the transition between Primary and Middle school is not always easy, we feel that it is particularly important to quickly establish a close relationship with you. It is with this aim in mind that we are delighted, by the way of this letter, to present our first Middle School - 1<sup>er</sup> Cycle activity to you.

This activity will take place during the first month of school. All our grade 6 and 6<sup>ème</sup> students will spend five days in the Saas Valley (Valais), staying in a hotel at Saas Grund and exploring the glacial and forest areas of Saas Fee. This is the first CDL trip to this region under the auspices of Village Camps and it represents a new programme for our students. There are two objectives to this trip. The first objective is educational: exploring Alpine ecology, the human impact on the local landscape (e.g. a visit to the Mattmark dam), mountain legends and folklore, geology and glacier formation. Students will keep a journal throughout the stay and will be expected to use this as a base for work back at CDL. The second objective is to help students to become acquainted with their peers, a new environment and their new teachers as quickly as possible.

A typical day will be as follows: breakfast around 8am followed by making lunch. All students make their own as the Village Camps' motto "Take what you want but eat what you take" is put in place from day one! A bus ride to Saas Fee will follow from where all daily activities take place. The educational walks either through the forest or along the glacier will build on students' prior knowledge, allow for note taking during lessons, time for reflection, quizzes and sketches. Experienced instructors will lead the field studies and along with our CDL teaching staff they will ensure the safety and enjoyment of the students. Once back at the centre, students are given some free time to get changed, shower and socialise in the two common rooms at the hotel. Following the evening meal, the instructors once again take charge of their groups for a debriefing where the students can add to their journals and reflect on the days' activities. Under the responsibility of our CDL staff, the students will be able to take part in additional fun activities before going to bed.

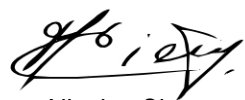
**This trip (all inclusive of transport, food and accommodation) costs CHF 550- per child.**

There will be an additional communication to you in August to inform you which of the two weeks your child will be participating in the trip to Saas Fee and in order to provide you with details as to what s/he will need to take with him/her.

May we wish you an excellent summer vacation!

Yours sincerely,

  
Steve Robbins  
Deputy Principal Middle School

  
Nicolas Sierro  
Director of Studies  
Middle School/1<sup>er</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycles