

Peter Laird Smick, Headmaster

15 August 2010

**Subject: All-School Camping Trip—Tuesday, August 31st through Friday, September 3rd**

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope that this summer time has complemented your daily lives with the “times” that matter most—time with family and friends, time to be away, time to reflect and re-create. These summer times, of course, are nearly past, and it is time again that we think of the school year that is almost upon us. As always at Waring, the beginning of the school year means the Camping Trip.

Please note that again this year because of the march of the calendar, the Camping Trip will take place during the week before Labor Day rather than the week after Labor Day. We will make our way up to North Woods Camp on **Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>** and return to Waring on **Friday afternoon, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Classes in Beverly will begin on **Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**. All students except seniors, who will have departed the previous day, are expected to be present at Waring on **Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 8 a.m.** ready to depart for New Hampshire later in the morning. (Seniors will shortly be receiving information under separate cover regarding their departure for New Hampshire on Monday afternoon, August 30<sup>th</sup>.)

The Camping Trip is one of those “liminal moments” in the life of the Waring School that you keep hearing about. That is, it acts as a kind of threshold—in this case between summer vacation and the school year—where many of the best things about summer and school are merged in one experience. There in New Hampshire, along the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee, we will enjoy splendid surroundings, read, swim, hike, discuss, sing with Nick Page, with Tim Bakland, and with each other, play soccer, tell and act out stories around the campfire, gaze at the stars, and make new friends. In short, we will enjoy a ‘liminal moment’ together as we enter the new school year. In the process we will get to know each other better and prepare ourselves for the year to come.

**What, where, when, and how:** We will depart from Waring for New Hampshire Tuesday morning after some initial activities at school. Upon arrival at school at 8 o’clock students should deposit their camping trip baggage on the porch of the School facing the Quad and then go directly to All-School Meeting in the Forum. As usual, we will organize into travel groups and depart for New Hampshire by van and bus between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. The trip normally takes a little more than two hours, so we expect to arrive at North Woods Camp sometime between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. The first meal served in the North Woods dining hall will be dinner Tuesday evening, so everyone should bring a bag lunch to school as they would on any normal school day. We will be lunching in Tutorials upon our arrival at North Woods Camp. Students who are likely to become hungry before this should also bring a snack to eat while on the road. Our arrival back at Waring is scheduled for **Friday, between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m.** We will let the Mrs. Cahill in the office know our time of departure, so you may call the School if you would like to time your arrival for pick-up.

**Background:** For those of you who will be experiencing the Camping Trip for the first time: North Woods Camp is located on Lake Winnepesaukee in the town of Mirror Lake about six miles past Wolfboro on Rt. 109. The camp is owned and operated by the Boston YMCA. Since the YMCA camp season is over by the time we arrive, we generally have the entire facility to ourselves. We stay in one-room cabins that accommodate 10 to 12 students plus an adult. Cabin groupings are done by Tutorial. Boys and girls have separate bathrooms and shower facilities. Bunks have mattresses, but other bedding is not provided. The camp is heavily wooded with large recreational areas, both in and out of doors. Other recreational facilities for such activities as swimming, tennis, and basketball are safe and well maintained. Meals are prepared by the North Woods kitchen staff and served in the camp dining hall.

**General Information:** The telephone number of North Woods Camp is 603-569-2725. This number, however, should only be used for matters of urgency. Parents who need to get a message to their child should do this by calling the school office in Beverly. There are pay phones available for outgoing calls, but we strongly discourage students from using the telephone unnecessarily. We also discourage students from bringing cell phones on the camping trip. **If cell phones are brought, they should be turned off and not used during the camping week, except in cases of emergency.** In other words, school rules apply.

On our return trip to Waring on Thursday, we will be happy to drop students off in Newburyport at the park-and-ride on Rt. 113 just off I-95. If you would like to take advantage of this service, **please inform Mrs. Cahill in the school office prior to our departure for New Hampshire on August 31st.** We will not drop off students without parental consent and unless we are satisfied that someone will be there to pick them up. Also, if you are intending to pick your child up directly at North Woods Camp, please contact Mrs. Cahill to inform us of these arrangements, again preferably before we depart for camp on Tuesday. Our departure for return to Waring is scheduled for 3:00 on Friday afternoon. If you do plan to pick your child up directly from the camp, it would greatly help us if you could time your arrival at camp so that it is prior to our departure. Mrs. Cahill can provide you with directions to North Woods Camp.

### **What to Bring:**

- A bag lunch for the first day, including drink and snack
- A sketchbook (preferably 8 1/2 x 11, spiral or bound)
- A notebook, pencils, pen, and eraser
- The all-school summer reading book, *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, and **your notecard on the book** (There is a sample notecard included with the Summer Reading Lists on the Waring website.)
- Your "Choice Book" and notecard.
- A sleeping bag, toilet articles, insect repellent, sun screen, flashlight (with fresh batteries), and towel (a modest-sized pillow is fine if you can't sleep without one)
- Camp clothing, including jacket or sweater, long pants, shorts, sneakers, rain gear, and swimming suit (long underwear is great if the nights turn chilly, and they often do at this time of year)

- Athletic gear such as soccer or running shoes, shin guards, and clothing appropriate for daily sports time. Other sports equipment is optional, but you might want to bring a tennis racket, for example, if you have fulfilled your team sport requirement and are interested in playing tennis during sports time.

Please remember that you will only be away for three nights and four days: don't bring more stuff than you will need for that amount of time. Limit yourself to one soft-sided bag in addition to your sleeping gear. **It is smart to label your belongings, particularly sports equipment and items like jackets.**

**What Not to Bring:** As always, **do not bring radios, CD players, iPods or MP3 players, electrical appliances (e.g. hair dryers), chewing gum, extra food, candy or soft drinks.** There will be plenty of nutritious food, including snacks, available for everyone. And finally, please do not bring valuables or irreplaceable items.

Finally, our school nurse Jan Lindsay wishes me to remind parents who have not turned in their health and emergency information forms to do so immediately. State law prohibits us from allowing students to attend school (this includes the Camping Trip) before these forms, which can be downloaded from the Waring website, are completed and on record in our office. Also, Registrar Page Gentleman would like to remind everyone to forward their updated Family Information Sheets to her if they haven't already done so. This information is needed in order to complete the 2010-11 Waring Roster. The sooner it is in, the sooner the Roster will be ready for the use of the community. The Family Information Sheets were mailed to all Waring families in July. If you need a sheet, please contact Page at 978-927-8793 x 332.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office. In the meantime, I hope that you will all do your best to drain that heady cup of summer.

With warmest regards,

Peter