

# Jesuit High School Campus Ministry

Your parents/guardians might be interested in this- we repeat! Your parents/guardians might be interested in this

## **What to Bring on the Freshman Overnight Retreat 2016 and Other Important Stuff to Know!**

### **Departure:**

Bring all your overnight stuff to the Smith Gym overhang on Friday, January 22 for Retreat 1 at **11:31** and Saturday, January 23 for Retreat 2 at **11:32**! Retreatants must be in the Gedrose Student Center by **11:39 am**. We will have a short meeting and then leave promptly. We will probably not wait for you. Remind your parents that the Jesuit staff phone number is at 503-799-8143. Also remind them to leave the number where they can be reached that weekend if it is different from that marked on your application form. You will be at Camp Solomon Schechter (I- 5 exit 101) in Olympia, WA. We only have a light snack scheduled for the afternoon **so eat a huge breakfast or brunch!** (let us know if you have any new dietary restrictions)

### **PLEASE READ THE BACK SIDE FOR KOSHER DIETARY RESTRICTIONS**

#### **What to Bring:**

- sleeping bag and pillow (teddy bear and/or "blankie" if you need it)
- change of clothes for overnight (bring wet weather gear)
- extra pair of shoes
- toilette articles (a toothbrush is a commonly forgotten item)
- a water bottle if you get thirsty (you can refill there - no problem)
- an open and trusting attitude, a sense of humor, a sense of the Spirit of God
- if you bring candy or any food, please follow the rules on the right side of this

sheet

#### **What not to Bring:**

- drugs NO IPADS!!! -alcohol -tobacco or chew -homework
- any personal sound/video transmitting devices such as an IPOD, MP3 )
- any personal computer device (notebook, hand held games, etc) -.
- if there is a need to talk to your parents, phones will be provided, if you bring a cell phone, it must be turned off before you get on the bus and can be turned on after you get into the state of Oregon on the way home. *Please have your parents/guardians read the attached note on the back side of this sheet.*

### **ON THIS RETREAT, YOU ARE ASKED TO NOT BRING ANY SNACK FOOD CONTAINING NUTS**

#### **Special Notes:**

1. You can be picked up at Jesuit to go home around 12:40 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday, (depending on your retreat day).
2. As the Freshman Overnight Retreat is a school function, all appropriate school rules will be enforced. Yes, you can wear sweats!
3. We will open the freshman hall after the retreat gets back in case you need books for homework. About homework during the retreat, there's no way you'll ever have a chance to do it...plus you can't bring your IPAD.

#### **More Personal Notes:**

The leaders and adults are looking forward to sharing this overnight with you. We have worked hard over the past few months to make this an exceptional experience for you. We hope this 15<sup>th</sup> ever Freshman Overnight Retreat will be great. If you have any special concerns or questions, please see Mr. Clarke.

Derek Echevarria  
Senior Lead

Cici Pham  
Senior Lead

## **SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT GOING TO SOLOMON SCHECTER**

**We, at Jesuit, have been going to Camp Solomon Schechter for over 20 years.** Camp Solomon Schechter is a Jewish Camp and has been a special place for Jews of the Northwest for over 50 years. If you look with "open to growth" eyes, you will see signs of their faith expression all around. (On the door frames, you will see a Mezuzah which contains the shema from Deuteronomy 6:4-9.) *In March of 2002, after a beloved teacher, Mr. Herm Schattenberg (his plaque is near room 10 in Xavier Hall) died while on the March Encounter, the camp placed a memorial tree and bench in his memory.* We want to make sure that we can continue to return to this sacred place. So read on for ways you can make sure we can return for years to come...

Camp Solomon Schechter is a Jewish Camp that adheres to a **strict** Koshrut Policy. This means that foods consumed at the camp are to be Kosher.

Without getting very technical, this basically means that dairy and meat products cannot mix and that only properly prepared and approved food can be served.

As far as snacks go for the camp, we at Jesuit will do everything to respect the camp's desire for this policy ... we do know that the following snack foods companies are usually acceptable on the camp grounds:

Mars Candy products

Frito Lay Products

Sunshine Cookies and Crackers

*The candy shouldn't be of the "gelatin kind" (Skittles, gummi bears etc).*

The main issues are that the preparation is approved and that dairy and meat do not mix. When you purchase snacks from the bulk food areas of some stores, it may not be well marked as to what ingredients were used and because of that we ask that you not bring those kinds of snacks to the camp. In other words "if you have a doubt, leave it out." Any cookie or cracker that may say "beef fat or by product" or "lard" as a filler is not acceptable.

Kosher foods that are found in stores usually have a "K" or a "U" with a circle around it signifying that the preparation and contents of the food have been rabbinically approved. Sometimes you will see the word "Dairy" or the word "Parve" on a package denoting that the food is Kosher but can't be mixed with certain kinds of food.

Please respect this camp's religious values as we expect others to respect ours at Jesuit.

Please give this to your parents or guardians

## Can You hear me now?

By Mr. Don Clarke, Director of Campus Ministry

(I wrote this article for the Principal's Newsletter after the 2006 freshman overnight retreat.)

Consider the changing world of the cell phone.

When I first started at Jesuit, I had a cell phone; it was one of those "brick" phones that had the huge antenna. Three, maybe four faculty had a cell phone, and I think a few students had one, but it was rare.

Soon, I purchased one of those "super duper" analog phones with a black case, and 3db antenna, so I could call from St. Benedict Lodge and other retreat sites. Only my phone would work in those places because typically coverage was not good. I called parents whose kids needed medicine or found themselves banged up after a retreat football game. I remember one sophomore overnight retreat when the snow and ice in Portland made the return trip a little "iffy," and my phone, at the going rate of .90 cents per incoming call, was ringing off the hook. Students thought I was cool to have a phone that could work that way and so did the phone company charging me for each call. We had access to the outside world, and it was a local call to Portland because I had the technology. On a snowy night in March, 2002, when a faculty member died on an Encounter, my phone, considerably smaller with a stylish Donald Duck face plate, logged 90 phone calls to parents from students who needed to talk to mom and dad. About half the students had cell phones, and they were all used that night; I was glad they were there.

Fast forward to the ten retreats of the 2005-2006 school year. Because phones are all over the place, we make numerous requests each time to put them away and just go on retreat, rather than text messaging or calling people continually. On a retreat in January 2006, during a bon-fire, some kids were singing while others were text messaging secretly to friends at a party back home. Responses to "whs n ur cbn" and "u shld b hr" flew through satellite coverage that makes retreat sites now accessible to a number of phone programs. Scores of games, "What's on TV?" and, "Who's doing what?" zipped through space. Groups huddled secretly, not wanting to be found using a phone, called friends back home telling them what was going on, or to hear they were missing a party. Some knew the news; some found it out, but these groups split the retreat. Sadly, cohesiveness soon splintered, and unless God can text message the retreatants in a hurry, even He will be left out

of the loop.

Parents, we need your help. Please, when concerned about your child's well being, avoid calling or text messaging directly to your child as the number one disclaimer of cell phone use while on retreat is, "but Mr. Clarke, it's my mom." Soon after, the boys' cabins are text messaging the girls' cabins, and, when retreat leaders would think their students are fast asleep, meetings are being planned and ... well ... our students may be at the retreat, but they are not **on** the retreat.

Thus, I believe we have a serious problem, one I hope you will help alleviate. I am well aware in this post 9/11 world that cell phone sales skyrocketed so parents could keep track of their kids and that our society finds these a necessity, and our students find their usage defines the way they talk to each other. I also know I need my cell phone each day. On retreats, I have to use it constantly when situations call for it. I have a vague memory of what it was like when I didn't have one. **I do know cell phones are significantly changing the face of youth retreats.** That is why we have a problem: the technology has become so advanced that we may not have the ability to go on retreat, get away, and listen to what God is saying without a vibrating phone yanking us back to a noise that shuts Him out.

As we ask students to turn off their phones--completely not just to "silent"--I realize we are fighting technology that is becoming even more discreet. To ask students to turn in their phones before a retreat simply encourages a more discreet technology. We know in the retreat business that there has to be space from the world and that the desire to get away can not be imposed but has to come from within. This is where it gets insidious. Unless the phones go completely off, a religious experience requiring quiet, thoughtful participation can be destroyed by the ring tones of just one phone. As a result, **we are in real danger of losing retreats in our tradition because the technology is advancing faster than God.** In our society, IPODs, PSPs, BlackBerrys, and cell phones will finally challenge and make senseless the Biblical instruction, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10).

Parents, again, we need your help. Please talk with your children before they go on a retreat. Tell them that if there is an emergency, you will call the phone number on the handout sheet to reach them. Please let them know that it is important that they leave other methods of communication off during the retreat (speaking on the phone, text messaging, sending videos and pictures). It will be a gift to your child and a real gift to all who want to get away.

Let me give you a positive example: March 2005, when we won the state basketball championship in an amazing comeback, one that will go down in history, not one of the girls on the Encounter knew what happened until they were told by the retreat leaders. I knew there was no way they could have hidden their joy if they knew the score beforehand. I hold this group of girls as a shining example that phones being shut off can be done, even with a state championship on the line.

Before the Freshman Overnight Retreat, two students came to my office. The brave one stepped forth asking, "Can we use our IPODs on the bus to listen to our music?" I responded, "Nope, in fact, you can leave them at home." As they turned to leave, the one who didn't speak to me said to the other, "See, I told you he wanted us to talk to each other."

(2012-13) addition... on the first day of the December 14-16, 2012 Encounter, our country experienced an unthinkable tragedy with the shooting and killing of 20 children at Sandy Hook Elementary School. After speaking with the retreat coordinators, we thought it best to let our students call home and talk to their parents because of the monumental story that was playing out away from the retreat site. We also knew that as soon as our students turned on their phones, they would open their world to all the texts they had received and internet possibilities but it was a trade we were willing to make. Parents, please know we will allow phone calls to parents to be made in case of emergencies.

