



13 September, 2018

## National Mars Rover Challenge 2018 (Newcastle)

Dear Parents,

Our students in Stage 4 and in the Stage 5 iSTEM elective have been learning this term how to develop digital code, and use code to control a StarLAB Mars Rover. We're now ready to send selected teams to compete in the **National Mars Rover Challenge 2018** at the University of Newcastle in Week 2 of Term 4, on **Tuesday and Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> October**. You have received this letter because your child has been selected as a member of one of these teams.

This Challenge will require student teams to collaborate and build on their existing knowledge and skills in coding and robotics. They will be designing algorithms and code to help their Rover navigate its way through a 'Martian landscape' and complete several missions along the way. In 2017, there were 60 schools competing in this Challenge! Our three teams (from Stage 4, Year 9 and Year 10) will start working together over the next few weeks at school, and then we will travel to Newcastle for a day of pre-testing, before the competition day.

The **itinerary** for that trip and a **packing list** for the students is attached. Please note, the students will require their **own food** during the day on Tuesday, and **money** for purchasing food for three meals (Tuesday dinner, Wednesday lunch and dinner). Breakfast and snacks (for morning and afternoon teas) will be provided on Wednesday.

If you would like your child to come on this excursion to Newcastle:

- complete the attached **medical form**;
- complete the attached **media release form** from the company running the Challenge - photos and video from this event may be used to promote the Challenge in future, and your child may appear in those (typically in groups), though no personally identifying information will be collected or published;
- return these forms to the school office in the coming week.

Please contact me via the front office if you have any questions.

Yours in Christ,

Les Follent

Science & STEAM Team Leader



## National Mars Rover Challenge 2018

### Excursion to University of Newcastle

#### Itinerary

- **Arrive at OCS by 6:15am** for a 6:30am departure, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
- Travel by minibus with two supervisors (myself and a parent volunteer) to Newcastle.
- Arrive at University of Newcastle for noon, and teams work on final coding until 3pm.
- Visit Newcastle beach / sea-baths for a swim and/or walk (weather permitting).
- Drive to accommodation (to be finalised), final coding, dinner, get an early night.
- Return to University of Newcastle by 9am, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October.
- Compete in competition throughout the day (lunch at the campus).
- At 3pm, depart the University and drive back to Orange **by 8:45pm that night**.

#### What to bring

- A **day-bag** with a **water bottle**.
- **Food** in your day-bag for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on Tuesday.
- **Swimmers and a towel** for the beach/sea-baths.
- **Pyjamas, sleeping bag and pillow** for Tuesday night.
- Wear **casual clothes** on Tuesday and bring your **sports uniform** for Wednesday.
- **Money** to buy lunch and dinner on the return trip on Wednesday.
- Any **medications** you require (in a bag with instructions to give to staff).
- Your **Mars Rover Challenge Guidebook** and any other notes you have made.