



Glen Taylor School
172 West Tamaki Rd
Glendowie
AUCKLAND 1072
Ph: 528 6325
Fax: 521 1779
www.glentaylor.school.nz

Thursday 6 June 2019

Dear Edward Kinloch,

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks for sponsoring such an important event, and giving me the amazing opportunity to take part in such a fun week with less worry about the price.

With your support, I was able to make memories that I will remember for a long time. Your generous contribution to our school camp helped me to develop and improve skills that aren't usually taught in the everyday curriculum at our school.

Being at Camp Bentzon took a while to get used to, since it was my first time away from home without any communication to my family for a week. I had my younger brother attending camp too so I was more comfortable with being there. It was weird when I stepped in on the first day. I thought that it was going to be a bore and I wasn't going to have fun, but I didn't know about the memories I would eventually make. After experiencing the full week, I wish I had more time there.

The highlight of my week at camp was hearing the stories that the teachers would tell at night, and afterwards, staying up late talking to friends. Another highlight of my week at camp was practicing the camp performance with my group. Something I will always remember from camp is abseiling down a wooden wall and kayaking around the water during down time.

Every morning I would be the last awake in my cabin and all of the girls would come rushing into my room. I slept in a cabin with 5 beds and 5 girls. A few minutes after I woke up I always walked to the boys stairs and hugged a few friends. At some point we would all hear a bell and we had breakfast. Afterwards, we would get ready for the day. Before we could start with any activities Mr Herlihy had to make sure our rooms were clean by doing a room inspection. If even one crease was on our beds we wouldn't pass. In the morning we had breakfast, morning tea, and lunch.

During the day I did activities with my amazing group, the blue stingrays. We had 3 rotations on Tuesday and Wednesday, then on Thursday we had a walk up the mountain that took four hours! After we finished our activity rotations for the day, we got downtime. This is the time you can use to have a shower, go swimming, kayaking, etcetera. We had afternoon tea, dinner, and supper after all of our activities were finished.

When it started to get dark, our groups got a chance to practice our item and chants. Every night all of the students went into the Dale Reddish / breakout room, and we got told a story. A lot of us cried

because we were scared of the stories, but I didn't really believe them. Each night we brushed our teeth then went to our room at 8:30, and then it was lights out at 9 o'clock. Night time was almost the most fun, because the girls would start fake coughing and sneaking around rooms. Of course, the teachers didn't have much fun with this but we definitely enjoyed it.

At camp, because we didn't have the largest water supply, our showers were only 3 minutes each. Some students tried to cheat the system by waiting to be the last in the shower so they get more time, honestly, sometimes it worked! Every night after I showered I always put the same hoodie on, because I didn't want to get all of my clothes dirty from being clumsy with my food.

On Thursday night there was a burma trail. We were told by our principal that we were going to a cave to see glow worms, but unfortunately that wasn't true. My group was the first to go, but about half of us already knew it was a trick. As we walked along, holding the rope, we discovered marmite smeared on it. Ms Wrack was lying down and grabbing kids legs, but one of our group members were prepared. She was collecting the marmite and when she got to Ms Wrack, she slapped her with it! Throughout the burma trail there were a lot teachers trying to scare us, but for some, it didn't work. At the end of the burma trail, when we went to the back of the house, we were told to scream really loudly so that the other students would get scared, but unluckily they didn't hear it. I was very committed to making them scared, so I covered my clothes in the marmite, and I even put the marmite on my face. The burma trail was probably my favourite activity during the entire week.

On the last night, my cabin roommates were already prepared to be pranked by the teachers, so we made a plan. Our plan was to reverse the prank onto the teachers. First, we got one of the girls to steal her torch from the torch bucket. Secondly, we were going to stay up late and have positions while waiting for the teachers. I was going to stand in the closet and my friend was going to sit on top of it. The other three were going to be fake sleeping on the beds. Our plan was to scare the teachers and flip the pot of leftover food onto them before they could smear it all over our faces while we sleep.

At camp our wonderful Glen Taylor School Staff cooked us meals and snacks that we got to eat for free everyday. The food was sometimes better than at home! At camp we had a long hallway with 23 rooms. My room was right next to the stairs so we were always extra cautious of our noise. Although we were the unlucky first room to the stairs, (which means we were usually the first caught) the room was still very nice and I enjoyed staying in it, especially being accompanied by my friends.

Again I would like to thank you for such a generous donation towards my camp fees. As you can see, it helped me to have my first away from home experience, very memorable. I wish you all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,
Danielle.