Dear Parent/Guardian,

Fall is here and it is time to begin preparing for an exciting opportunity! The River East Collegiate Outdoor Ed. program is offering our Grade 10 students the chance to take part in a 3 day hiking trip on the Mantario Trail starting at the South trail head at West Hawk Lake.

This trip will give the students the chance to develop skills in wilderness activities such as low impact camping and wilderness living, as well as celebrate and appreciate wilderness settings. This is an opportunity to learn and apply new skills that can be carried on throughout their lifetime and, at the same time, gain respect for our natural environment.

As stated earlier, the trip will take place **Wed. Oct. 11 to Fri. Oct. 13th**. We will be driven by EZ Bus company to the trail head OR will rent vans according to the number of students interested. **The cost will be $80 per student** (can be subject to change if numbers are too low BUT transportation to and from, an emergency vehicle and camping items necessary for the hike.) **Student groups will purchase and plan their meals separately**. We encourage students to borrow equipment they do not own in order to keep costs down. Please do not spend a lot of money on a one-time outing. The school does have some gear to lend, so do not let the issue of supplies exclude your child from joining us. Students will be required to attend all in-class lessons AND an additional three planning meetings prior to our departure. All participating students are required to attend the pre-trip planning sessions. Failure to attend these sessions may jeopardize an individual’s safety and therefore they will be excluded from the trip.

The hiking trip is a special out of school excursion. Students who wish to participate in this opportunity need to currently have, and maintain, satisfactory academic progress in all subject areas. Students must have not had any significant behavior or attendance issues prior to going on this trip. Due to a limited group size, any students who do not meet these criteria will forfeit their spot, and a student from the waiting list will replace them.

A “Mantario Trail hiking trip” parent information meeting will be held at River East Collegiate on **Thursday Sept. 28th** in room 106 at 4 pm. (Enter through gym doors) At this time, we will give an overview of the trip and answer any specific questions you may have. If you know that your son or daughter is going to attend, please send a check for $80 dollars payable to River East Collegiate or you may bring cash or a cheque to the meeting as well. The first eligible 18 students will be able to attend the hike and the **final payment** **deadline is October 6th. (Please email me if this is an issue and REC will try to help out)**

Please email me at pneuendorff@retsd.mb.ca if you have any questions or if **you cannot attend the meeting**. We appreciate your support and look forward to meeting you.

Phil Neuendorff (CPR Level C/AED) (Wilderness First Aid Cert.)
REC Outdoor Education Instructor
mrneuendorff.weebly.com (Permission FORM will be on the home page)

Female staff and additional supervisor: TBA
\*\*\*Please send an email with your intension if your son/daughter plans on attending the trip so we have a better indication of numbers. Thanks for your support!