

January 17th, 2008

Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

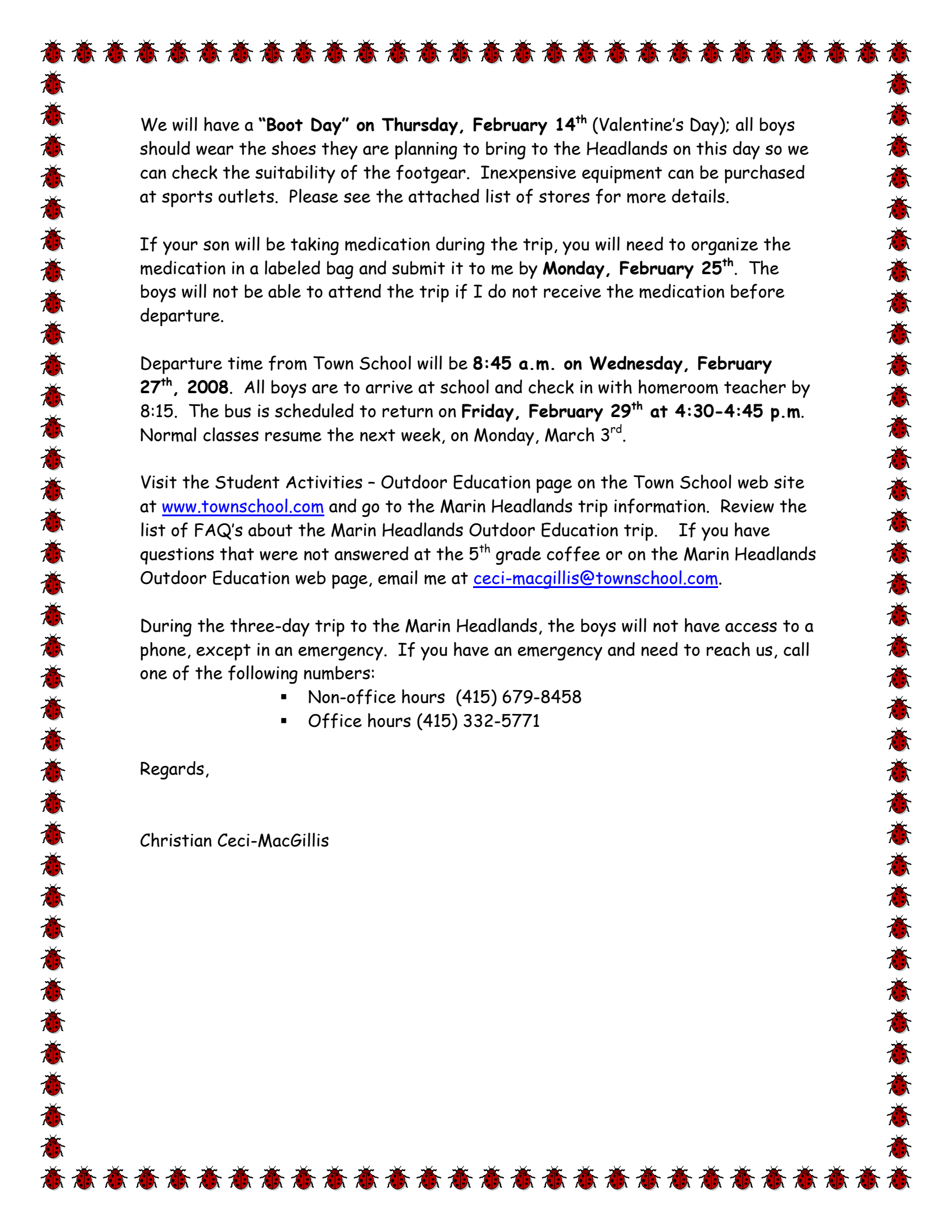
It is a pleasure to introduce the Upper School's outdoor education program for the 2007-2008 school year. In conjunction with Town School, the Headlands Institute presents a three-day program of study and exploration in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Marin Headlands. The program is scheduled for February 27th - February 29th, 2008.

The Headlands Institute outdoor education program is a highly regarded professional outdoor education company providing trained biologists with expertise in dealing with students in a wide variety of educational venues. Small group instruction encourages an understanding of the basic principles of ecology through an intimate association with the natural environment. Each hiking group will promote cooperative learning and personal reflection. The goal of the Headlands program is to broaden the student's awareness of the natural world and his relationship to it. I see this as an exceptional educational opportunity and expect the boys and faculty will share a memorable time studying science and learning more about themselves in a beautiful natural setting.

The campus at which your son will stay is located in the Marin Headlands, just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. It is comprised of a dining/kitchen facility, coast laboratory, playground area, and dormitories. Each dormitory has its own bathroom and shower area shared by students and adults. Telephone availability is limited. Students may use the campus pay phone for emergencies only.

Owing to the generosity of the Town School Parents' Association this year, your cost of the trip will be \$310.00, which covers transportation, tuition, and room and board. Without this subsidy, the charge for all of our outdoor education trips would be substantially higher. We hope to have 100% participation of the group. The fee has been included in the billing for second semester.

The weather at the Headlands can be anything from hot sunshine to fog or windy rain. The required clothing list should be closely adhered to, as most activities will take place outdoors. On the enclosed clothing and equipment list, you will notice that both raingear and footgear are required pieces of equipment. I would like to emphasize the importance of having these items. Rain gear is essential for comfort, health, and safety at this time of year. Hikes continue rain or shine, and the Marin Headlands is an inherently damp place. This gear should offer as complete protection as possible. Hiking boots or all terrain tennis shoes are essential for safety on wet rock and trails. Their heavy soles provide a grip not found in regular sneakers or tennis shoes.



We will have a "Boot Day" on Thursday, February 14th (Valentine's Day); all boys should wear the shoes they are planning to bring to the Headlands on this day so we can check the suitability of the footwear. Inexpensive equipment can be purchased at sports outlets. Please see the attached list of stores for more details.

If your son will be taking medication during the trip, you will need to organize the medication in a labeled bag and submit it to me by **Monday, February 25th**. The boys will not be able to attend the trip if I do not receive the medication before departure.

Departure time from Town School will be **8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, February 27th, 2008**. All boys are to arrive at school and check in with homeroom teacher by 8:15. The bus is scheduled to return on **Friday, February 29th at 4:30-4:45 p.m.** Normal classes resume the next week, on Monday, March 3rd.

Visit the Student Activities - Outdoor Education page on the Town School web site at www.townschool.com and go to the Marin Headlands trip information. Review the list of FAQ's about the Marin Headlands Outdoor Education trip. If you have questions that were not answered at the 5th grade coffee or on the Marin Headlands Outdoor Education web page, email me at ceci-macgillis@townschool.com.

During the three-day trip to the Marin Headlands, the boys will not have access to a phone, except in an emergency. If you have an emergency and need to reach us, call one of the following numbers:

- Non-office hours (415) 679-8458
- Office hours (415) 332-5771

Regards,

Christian Ceci-MacGillis