



# SACRED HEART COLLEGE

EDUCATION WITH HEART THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDS

15 Eckstein Street, Observatory, Johannesburg 2198  
P O Box 87257, Houghton 2041  
e-mail: shc@sacredheart.co.za  
www.sacredheart.co.za

MARIST SCHOOL  
OBSERVATORY,  
JOHANNESBURG



## Contact Numbers

MAIN SWITCHBOARD

Tel : 011 487 9000/648 1030

HIGH SCHOOL

Tel : 011 487 9019 Fax : 011 648 1047

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel : 011 648 5203 Fax : 011 648 5204

Pre Primary

Tel/Fax : 011 648 1858

23 May 2013

Dear Ryk

I would like to thank you for the wonderful experiences our learners had on their President's Award Silver Adventurous Journey at Buffalo Gorge. They have all agreed that it was the 'best camp' that they have ever been on.

Part of what made it special was the variety of activities on offer. With hiking, abseiling, climbing and horse-riding all part of the three days, there were new experiences and new challenges for everyone. There was also a great sense of freedom being in such a beautiful environment, completely alone, managing by themselves, making many of their own decisions and enjoying one another's company around the night fire with little adult intervention. All of this was away from all distractions, particularly cell-phones!

But the highlight was undoubtedly the horse-riding. Most of them were all but beginners when they arrived; when they left they knew how to work with a horse and how to tack and untack. They could also ride with confidence: walking, doing the rising trot, cantering and galloping (and how they loved galloping!) with relative ease. It was a big learning curve, but something none of them will forget.

I was particularly grateful for your leadership in the riding. Your instructions were simple, clear, consistent and easy to follow (even though you had to repeat them rather often, they have stuck in the learner's minds), your matching of riders to horses was inspired, while the discipline of riding in a carefully planned order made the rides safe and pleasant for everyone.

I wish you every success in making Buffalo Gorge a destination of choice for President's Award candidates. It will certainly be mine.

Kind regards

Alastair Smurthwaite  
Teacher-in-charge