

Dear Parents,

On Wednesday I attended a meeting of Bus coordinators from all schools in the Yarra Valley Region. The subject of passes was discussed at great length and very clear rulings were made.

- Every student must carry a pass for EVERY trip on the bus.
- If a student loses the pass, a replacement will be provided at a cost of \$5. In the meantime a temporary, numbered pass will be issued which must be returned when the new pass arrives. This Temporary Pass is currently being designed by staff at Lilydale Heights College and I will be given 10 only, numbered for distribution as needed. Their use will be recorded.
- A Temporary Pass can only be used 3 times and then the student may lose the privilege of bus travel.
- No student can have a friend (without a pass) travel home on the bus with them. Please don't ask, as refusal may offend.
- No student can use the bus to go to work, or grandparents etc. but must use the bus only for the stops for which the pass is allocated.
- No student should get on the bus in the morning and say "I've left my pass at home, but you know who I am". The driver is obliged to take the student to school in the morning, but will refer him/her back to the school office in the afternoon so that parents can be contacted to make other arrangements to transport the student home. If there is another driver other than 'the usual', he/she will not know who all the students are.
- Drivers are being issued with the rolls next week and will check passes and mark students' names off this list.

If you know you will need additional passes for siblings for next year, please make sure you get the application forms in by the end of Term 3 this year. This will ensure that new passes are ready for the first day of travel in the new year.

The basis behind all of these rules and regulations is your child's safety. If there is an accident or a bushfire and there are unidentified children on the bus, we would not be able to contact parents.

If any of you would like a MECS Lanyard to attach the pass to, (especially for the younger students) please let me know and we'll get one for you.

If you have any questions about the Martyrs bus pass for your students, please do not hesitate to contact me at MECS on 9738 6060 or email rcowan@mecs.vic.edu.au. Thank you for your cooperation as we all strive to keep our students safe.

Regards,

Rosalie Cowan
Martyrs Bus Coordinator
Senior School Secretary
1 March, 2013.