Stratford Primary School

RACV Energy Breakthrough Challenge Participation Policy 2011

Preamble

Stratford Primary School’s involvement in the Annual Energy Breakthrough Challenge held in Maryborough Victoria every year is a key element in the School’s focus on Sustainability Education. The program is also a key strategy in our Strategic Plan for increasing the engagement of students in Literacy and Numeracy.

Purpose

“The RACV Energy Breakthrough is an exciting program designed to provide opportunities for students, teachers, parents and local industry to work together to design and construct a vehicle, machine or innovation in technology that will represent an ‘energy breakthrough’”

“Energy Breakthrough aims to

- Provide an excellent technology project for students from Prep to VCE level
- Encourage young people to explore solutions to environmental and transport issues
- Provide an opportunity for schools and communities to work together and learn together
- Provide an opportunity for women and girls to participate in what has traditionally been a ‘male’ dominated area of the curriculum
• **Be fun with real world challenges**

• **Offer students opportunities to explore and address vehicle design, driving skills and vehicle and passenger safety issues.”**

*Reference:*

http://www.racvenergybreakthrough.net/about.shtml

Stratford Primary School students in year 5&6 work throughout the year in a cross curriculum approach to understand the environmental issues associated with living sustainably and reducing our carbon footprint. The program dovetails with our focus on reducing waste, recycling, and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program. The vehicles are built to detailed specifications and the students take part in the event at Maryborough in November. An essential part of the competition is the presentation of their learning and the ability for team members to articulate the design and features of their vehicle and their involvement in the program.

Stratford Primary School has been involved in the program since 2006 and it has become a very popular element in the 5&6 learning experience at Stratford Primary School. It is expected that the grade 5/6 teacher will travel to Maryborough and camp with the Energy Breakthrough team. A second staff member also attends. From the beginning of the schools involvement it has been mandatory for all students who travel to Maryborough to have a least one parent or guardian involved in the program. Each year the school receives considerable support from the local community.

The program is expected to be self funding through the securing of sponsorship and fundraising by the students and
their parents. The school has accumulated considerable equipment for use in this program over the years and each year’s group is expected to raise the necessary funds to cover the modifications, repairs and replacement of equipment. Entry fees, team clothing, camping fees, food and travel are to be met from fundraising activities or by the parents of the children involved. There is to be no cost to individual teachers. It is also preferable that teacher replacement costs are met from this budget.

All year 5&6 students have the opportunity to be involved in the program however they are required to meet the following criteria.

- A parent or guardian is able to assist with the preparation of the vehicle and the lead up to the event and **travel to Maryborough and stay with their child for the duration of the event. Parents must also have a current Working with Children’s Check. This is the most important criteria because as parents are required to:**
  - To assist with supervision of the children as there are over 10,000 people involved in this event.
  - To provide welfare support for their child as the physical demands of the event put stress on the students particularly in the likely event of extreme weather conditions.
  - Provide logistical support for the teacher in charge of the schools team through transporting students and equipment, managing the team, setting up camp, cooking,
vehicle maintenance and repairs, ensuring students get to events on time, ensure all students are included in the activities.

- It is one of the few opportunities parents have to share a challenging learning experience with their child that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Parents are also expected to be involved in the following activities

- Attend all team meetings during the lead up to the event at Maryborough.
- Take part in organising the campaign. Eg, organise food and cooking roster, packing etc
- Organise and participate in fundraising activities
- Supervise students training at lunchtimes and after school
- Assist with the building/modifying the vehicle.
- Encourage all students to be involved and part of the team.

2. The Primary School Team requires at least 50% of its team members to be female. There is a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 riders per team.

3. Students are also selected on their ability to meet the demands of the events. That is, physically able to ride the vehicle safely (size can be an issue here) and to be able to articulate their learning and answer questions related to the
goals of the event and demonstrate they understand the issues associated with sustainability.

4. Demonstrate the school values of Acceptance, Respect, Commitment and Honesty through:

- Accepting the different skills of others and encouraging others
- Following instructions of their teachers and other adults the first time they are given.
- Commitment to their training and afterschool activities
- Through their behaviour, commitment and integrity be worthy ambassadors for the Stratford Primary School and the Stratford community.