

CRAZY KAYAKS

An excited Group 6, slapped on a thick layer of sunscreen, strapped on some old shoes and sprinted down to the glimmering duck pond, on the first rotation of Year 8 Camp. The burning sun beamed down and the shimmering duck pond, set the scene at Mt Hutt Retreat, for what was going to be the best camp ever.

"The first thing we have to do is unload the kayaks off the trailer." announced Mr Hay. A grinning Group 6 unloaded the trailer of heavy kayaks and placed them gently on the gritty stones beside the pond. I felt like a kid waiting to open presents on Christmas morning as Mr Hay showed us a demonstration on how to get in the kayaks.

"Are we ready?" questioned Mr Hay.

"Yes!" we all agreed, eager to get in. We hopped in a kayak and pushed off. SPLASH! SPLOSH! SPLISH! The waves of water thumped into the side of my kayak. At first it felt a bit unsteady but soon I managed to balance myself.

Mr Hay taught us some things about kayaking and we tried them out. The main thing we did was rafting. Rafting is lining up in a row and holding on tightly to the kayaks beside you. After learning the basics we moved on to some more exciting activities.

First we played 'Stuck in the Mud', which is tag but when you get tapped, you whipped your oar up in the air and boom- "Help, Help, I'm Stuck in the Mud!". Then wait patiently for someone to tap your kayak three times and you're back in. Everyone had a grin from ear to ear, although we were panting like dogs, after a long run in the boiling summer sun. '*Who knew kayaking was so exhausting.*' I thought to myself.

After that Mr Hay told us to raft. He explained our next activity. Someone was going to run across the front of the tightly rafted kayaks. "Any volunteers?" asked Mr Hay. Sam volunteered to go first. Then Brea had her turn and got across and back to her kayak. After that, Neil had his go. He was going well until he fell off and lost his croc in the sticky, squishy, slimy mud at the bottom of the pond!

By then it was time to get out. We slowly paddled in disappointment to the side of the pond and jumped out. We were soaking!

"That, was the awesomest thing I have ever done!" I said to Neil. "I definitely want to do that again!"

In conclusion, I had a lot of fun with all my friends and classmates when I was kayaking. I was nervous at the start but soon felt confident. I definitely recommend kayaking to others and would jump at the chance to do it again.

By Lily Chapman
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A Boy kayaking on a pond.