Dear Parents,

Re: 2014 School Account (Student Education Contributions)

The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 provides for the provision of free instruction in the standard curriculum program, and empowers School Councils to charge for goods and services used in the course of instruction and to raise funds.

Each year our School Council is responsible for the preparation of a budget to provide resources for educational programs, administration, facilities maintenance, and student/classroom resources. The development of this budget is aligned with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) policy, ‘Parent Payments in Victorian Government Schools’.

The DEECD provides funding to schools through the School Resource Package (SRP) which is supplemented through locally raised monies via fundraising, the hire of facilities and family contributions.

The SRP includes funding for staffing, the standard curriculum program, equipment and operational costs such as utilities, maintenance, ICT costs and resources. Approximately 90% of the SRP funding is required to cover the cost of the employment of staff, leaving the remainder to meet all other operational costs.

As such, the maintenance of our facilities, curriculum opportunities and the means by which they are presented rely on additional contributions from parents.

In 2013, the voluntary contribution made by parents contributed towards the following items:

- Two new Mac book computers
- Refurbishment of the Year 5/6 classrooms and the senior common area involving structural improvement and furnishings suitable for the contemporary learning
- Purchase of a number of Literacy, Numeracy and Science resources, library books and sport equipment
- Maintenance of schools grounds such as mowing of the oval and general gardening.

School Council, the staff and Mr McDonald are extremely grateful to all of our school families who have paid their school fees, which have made an enormous difference to our school as indicated above.

In 2014 we require your support again without increasing the total fees which are kept at the 2013 level. We have some major plans to continue the improvement of our school and make a significant difference to the education we offer to our students. Next year we plan to utilise school fees and fundraising contributions towards the following additional programs and projects:

- Development of a Multimedia Centre, including green screening, video equipment, editing space and radio broadcasting infrastructure.
• Continued upgrading of the computer technology and network capabilities throughout the school, including additional iPads and new servers.
• Increase the variety and number of reading material to support our school’s Reading Program
• Renewal of the sustainability area, including surface levelling, fencing and introduction of a chook pen.

Parent Payments

In accordance with DEECD policy, School Councils can request payments from parents for student materials and service charges, and for voluntary financial contributions. These payments fall into four categories:

1. Essential education items which parents and guardians are required to pay the school to provide for their child (e.g. stationery, text books and associated learning materials).
2. Optional extras which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents and guardians may choose whether their child accesses or participates in (e.g. Extra-curricular programs or activities such as instrumental music, swimming, camps etc.)
3. Voluntary financial contributions which parents and guardians may be invited to donate to the school (e.g. grounds maintenance levy or building improvement levy).
4. Levy for specific projects which parents are requested to pay in order for the project to commence and be completed earlier (e.g. the development of the student green screen centre).

Essential Educational Items

The essential education items charge goes towards the cost of stationery and books for each student, including pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, glue etc.; photocopying costs, class sets of texts for Literacy activities, classroom paper and other requisites; supplies for specialist classes in Art, Physical Education, Mandarin and Music; and library books and other curriculum material as well as ICT (computer) consumables. Bulk buying reduces costs compared to what parents would have to pay individually for such items. The cost of stationery items is tax deductible if your family is eligible for the Family Tax Benefit Part A and for the 2014 school year is set at $85.

Multimedia Green Screen Development Levy

In 2014, School Council has introduced a levy in order to assist in the development of the Student Green Screen / Multimedia Centre. This learning space will include filming and editing equipment as well as a radio station to support innovative ICT. School Council has set the levy at $50. We sincerely hope that all families can see the benefit of this multimedia levy. **Note that contributions to this levy are fully tax deductible.**

We also ask parents to make a voluntary financial contribution towards our Building Improvement Levy and also a Grounds Maintenance Levy.

Grounds Maintenance Levy

We are most fortunate to have an excellent working environment for our students and staff at Burwood East Primary School. Through regular working bees and utilising wonderful contractors we ensure the costs associated with maintaining the school grounds are kept to an absolute minimum and so we can allocate maximum funds to student learning. School Council is requesting a minimum of $30 per family.
Building Improvement Levy

The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development grants are insufficient to keep our buildings in their best condition. As a voluntary contribution to your child’s education, the Burwood East Primary School Building Improvement Levy will be used solely for the upgrade and maintenance of our school buildings and support our sustainability program. School Council is requesting a minimum of $30 per family.

EMA Education Maintenance Allowance

Parents holding a Health Care Card valid as at 1/2/2014 may be entitled to claim the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2014. The EMA contribution for 2014 is $200 for Foundation children and $150 for each student from Year 1-6. This can be applied directly to the 2014 fees; interested families can contact office staff for details and application forms.

School Council understands that some families may have difficulty in meeting these contributions. Mr McDonald is available to discuss your personal circumstances with you in a totally confidential manner and a payment plan will be created. These discussions are not known by School Council and remain between yourself and Mr McDonald.

Lucky Draw

When you pay all payments by 29th November we will put your child’s name in the draw to receive two free movie tickets.

We are accepting payment for the 2014 School Accounts from Wednesday 30th October.

Student Book packs will be available for collection from 2nd December, 2013.

The School Council, staff and Mr McDonald would like to thank you for your contributions during 2013 school year and we look forward to your continued support in 2014 and beyond.

Dr Mir Akbar Hessami
School Council President

Mr Kevin Ayre
School Council Treasurer

Mr Darren McDonald
Principal