Dear Parents,

Re: 2015 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.

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 science centre).

2014 Projects

In 2014, the voluntary contribution made by parents went towards the following items:

- Continued upgrading of the computer technology and network capabilities throughout the school, including additional iPads and new servers and 2 new Mac Book computers.
- Renewal of the sustainability area, including surface levelling, fencing and introduction of a chook pen.
- Development of a Multimedia Centre, including green screening, video equipment, and editing space.
- Maintenance of schools grounds such as mowing of the oval and general gardening.
- Development of additional outdoor seating area.
2015 Fees

Every attempt has been made to keep 2015 fees to a minimum and as such there will be NO increase from 2013 and 2014 levels.

The 2015 Fee structure is as follows:

**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 2015 school year is set at $85.

**Science Development Levy (Voluntary)**

In 2015, The Library Levy will be used to develop a dedicated Student Science Centre. This learning space will provide an interactive, hands on environment for students to learn about science. School Council has set the levy at $50. We sincerely hope that all families can see the benefit of this science levy. **Note that contributions to this levy are fully tax deductible.**

**Grounds Maintenance Levy (Voluntary)**

We enjoy extensive grounds at Burwood East, which are used for both learning and playing. Through regular working bees and utilising suitable contractors, maintenance is kept to an absolute minimum. To continue to maintain and improve the grounds, School Council requests a Grounds Maintenance Levy of $30 per student.

**Building Improvement Levy (Voluntary)**

The Department of Education 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 student.

**Changes to 2015 EMA- Education Maintenance Allowance**

As from 1 January 2015, there will be NO EMA payments for ANY parents.

The beginning of 2015 sees the implementation of the new education funding agreement between the Commonwealth and the states. The new structure, aims to benefit those students and schools with concentrated disadvantage, with the government to provide the state’s neediest schools with additional funding. However, many schools will not be eligible for this new funding and will not be compensated to assist families losing EMA.

School Council understands that some families may have difficulty in meeting 2015 contributions. As such a $50 discount off the total fee will be offered to families who have a valid Healthcare Card on 1st January 2015.

Mr McDonald is available to discuss your personal circumstances with you in a totally confidential manner and a payment plan can 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 8th December we will put your child’s name in the draw to receive two free movie tickets.

We are accepting payment for the 2015 School Accounts from **Monday 1st December**.

Student Book packs will be available for collection from **8th December 2014**. Payment must be made before packs can be collected. Please complete book payment and collection by **Monday 15th December**.

The School Council, staff and Mr McDonald would like to thank you for your contributions during 2014 school year and we look forward to your continued support in 2015 and beyond.

Mr Mark Hayes  Mr Kevin Ayre  Mr Darren McDonald
School Council President  School Council Treasurer  Principal
## Annual School Account 2015

Students Name.................................................................................. Class........................................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF LEVIES</th>
<th>AMOUNT PAYABLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Essential Education Items</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Pupil Requisites ($85 per book box) / Curriculum Levy</td>
<td>$250 per child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Library Levy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Student Science Development Levy*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Family contribution</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Tax deductible</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Voluntary Contributions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Grounds Maintenance Levy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Family contribution</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Building Improvement Levy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Family contribution</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL AMOUNT BEING PAID</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**METHOD OF PAYMENT:** (Please circle)

Cash  Cheque  Mastercard  Visa

Amount $...................

Card Number ____________ / ____________ / ____________ / _______ Expiry Date ___ / ___

Cardholders Name.................................................................................................

Cardholders Signature..............................................................................................