4th February 2013

2013 Student Charges and Voluntary Contributions

Dear Parents,

We are writing to advise you about student charges and contributions for 2013. Every year the School Council reviews this area and establishes the charges for the subsequent year, with the exception of Mathletics which was introduced last year, there has been no increase to student charges or Voluntary Contributions since 2009. Therefore upon review there will be a necessary increase to the fee structure for 2013.

Essex Heights Primary School has an established tradition of providing a broad and comprehensive curriculum to meet the needs of all students. Educational programs relate to a curriculum based upon the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. The school relies on and appreciates the financial commitment made by all parents to meet some of the costs of their children’s education.

School funding comes from two sources: those that are provided from Government sources and those provided through local contributions. Increasingly funds from local sources are sought in order to meet the expectations our school community has for our students and to ensure that our education provision is second to none.

We receive a grant for each student from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This grant is required to cover a wide range of items such as contract cleaning, utilities (electricity, gas, water, postage, telephone) and other matters central to the functioning of the school. In addition, the grant assists with the provision of very basic curriculum materials and equipment.

Therefore a common levy of $300 is required for each student for 2013.

The $300 is used to fund all the essential education items for your child’s individual classroom requirements and bulk materials for the classroom curriculum programs such as Visual Arts, Library, Information and Communications Technology (including considerable computer related materials and consumables) Health & Physical Education, Sport, Music, Science, Literacy materials and amongst other materials, Mathematics equipment. This money directly funds and enables the delivery of high quality teaching and learning experiences for your child. This levy also includes $10.00 to cover the cost of the Mathletics program.
Voluntary Contribution:

The following contributions are voluntary but important to the effective operation of our school.

Ground Maintenance contribution
This contribution enables our grounds to be kept in a safe and presentable condition and assists with the purchase of materials for grounds improvements. The Department does not provide funds for us to employ a person for this purpose. This charge has been kept to a minimum of $30 per family for 2013.

ICT (Computer) Support
Currently the Department funds a network of schools based technician to work in our school for one day per week. This is not sufficient to meet our needs in this area. Funds provided in this area would enable us to increase the level of support. We are requesting a contribution of $30.00 per family.

First Aid Officer
The Health Centre is staffed by qualified first aide officers five days per week. Contributions here are needed to support the costs involved in having this service for 2013. In order to enable this provision we are requesting $30.00 per family.

Please call the office if you have any queries in this area.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Andrew Crossett                James Fitzpatrick
Principal                        School Council President