Dear Parents,

In developing financial arrangements for 2014, School Council carefully considered all aspects of the School’s Global Budget from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). This will also facilitate the continuation and smooth running of programs whilst providing equal opportunities for all children.

At Berwick Primary School we aim to offer all children the chance to discover and develop their talents in a wide range of areas. Equipment and resources for this diversity of opportunity obviously require costs not covered by existing funding so parent contributions are of paramount importance. Contributions for 2014 include both a voluntary and a non voluntary component. Details of these are below.

### Curriculum Levy (voluntary)

**Curriculum Allowance**

The government provides a curriculum allowance for each student. This allowance provides limited funds to provide a basic level of teaching materials, specialist programs, welfare, furniture, equipment, maintenance, facilities and staff. School council is able to request that parents pay an additional amount per student to provide a better level of education for students. Much of what is provided to students would not be possible without these additional funds.

**Reading Levy**

Assist with the introduction of a core set of carefully levelled guided reading material in prep to 2. In 3-6 funds will assist with the further development of classroom libraries.

**Fundraising & Grounds Development Levies**

Government assistance is limited; we therefore rely heavily on school community support to provide funds to upgrade grounds and facilities.

**School Magazine**

Annual school magazine, “Inside Berwick”, distributed during December.

**Religious Education**

This is a non-denominational program offered to students in years 1 to 6 by the Council of Christian Education. This is an optional program with permission granted by parents on the student enrolment form and payment of small charge which covers instruction material.

### Compulsory Levy

**Specialist Programs**

Assists with the purchase of resources for the Art, Physical Education and Music specialist areas.

**Mandatory Testing**

Covers the cost of Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) testing materials for all students.

**First Aid**

Assists with the provision of consumable items used in the sick bay, eg. ice / heat packs, bandages, ventolin and able spacers, creams & ointments, bandaid and steri strips, etc.

**Information & Communication Technology (ICT)**

Funds will provide for the purchase and maintenance of equipment involved in ICT.

**Student Reporting**

Student portfolios will be used by students in years Prep to 4 in 2014.

**Colourpad Colour Dotted Thirds (24mm)**

Prep and Grade 1 students require 1 x 36 page colour dotted thirds. This item has been sourced direct from supplier and will be distributed via classrooms during Term 1.

### Whole School Activity Levy (compulsory)

**Literacy Week**

An author will visit as part of literacy week celebrations from 10th to 18th June. This levy will cover the cost of the activity.
Pastoral Care Program Days

The pastoral care program encourages the connectedness of students to each other and to school. Groups are made up of children in different year levels but who are from the same house and are of the same gender. These groups will meet once during term 2, 3 & 4 and participate in activities led by the group’s teacher. The levy will cover the cost of these activities.

Education Week

Wellbeing activities will be the focus this week, commencing Monday 19 May.

Student Welfare

All students in prep to grade 5 will attend an Anti-bullying session on Monday 3 June

Mathletics /Literacy Planet

Educational Maths & Literacy programs to motivate and improve results.

Performing Arts Activity

This dance activity will be held one day a week for 5 weeks for all students in preparation for Production.

Water Safety Day

Grade 5 students will participate in water safety awareness and skills at Edithvale beach in February.

Coach Approach & Tabloid Sports

Coach Approach (3-6) and Tabloid Sports (prep-2) will be held in Term 4 for all students.

Public Speaking

All grade 5 students participate in a 8 week Public Speaking course designed to provide students with leadership and public speaking skills whilst building confidence and self esteem

Grade 6 Graduation & Transition

Covers the cost of the Graduation Dinner and Transition Program activities.

Production Rehearsal Bus

In 2014, the whole school production will be held (dates to be advised). All children will be required to attend a rehearsal at the venue, Frankston Cultural Centre on one of these two days

Payment Options

An instalment of $100 is required by Monday 10/02/14 with the balance by 14/03/14. Of course payments in full can be accepted at any time from Monday 3rd February, 2014.

EMA Families

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA, the claimant must:

• be a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and

• be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent; and

**ie – the parent /guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.**

• submit your application to the school by the due date - 29th February (1st instalment) and 3rd August (2nd Instalment). These deadlines have been set by the Department of Education and must be strictly adhered to.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of 1st Term (28th January 2014) for the first instalment and the first day of 3rd Term (14th July 2014) for the second instalment. Application forms are available from the school office or via the website at


EMA Payment Amounts

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<tr>
<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Prep</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</table>

* Parents have the option of electing to have their EMA payment;
  - Paid by direct deposit (EFT) into your nominated bank account or
  - Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
  - Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the parent contributions for 2014, please don’t hesitate to contact the school on 9707 1026.

Berwick Primary School Council