October 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many families from Kilberry Valley Primary School have been receiving the EMA since their child/children first commenced school. Two years ago, changes were made so that schools no longer received their portion of the EMA and therefore parents were encouraged to use their parent payment to pay for Student Materials and Essential Educational Items which then left no EMA available to pay for extras such as camps and excursions.

From 1st January 2015 the EMA will be completely abolished.

Schools have been informed by the DEECD that additional funding will be provided to schools rather than directly to parents through the EMA.

Not all schools will receive this additional funding in 2015.

If you are one of our many families who have relied on the EMA payment to help with school expenses, you should plan accordingly to ensure these expenses are budgeted for in 2015.

If you receive Centrelink payments, one of the best ways to pay for school expenses (eg school fees, camps, excursions etc.) will be to apply to pay by regular instalments through Centrepay.

Centrepay is a voluntary direct bill-paying service offered to customers receiving Centrelink payments. Through Centrepay you can choose to manage bills (including educational expenses) by having a regular amount deducted from your payments and transferred electronically to an approved Centrepay organisation (Kilberry Valley Primary School is registered with Centrepay).

There are deduction forms available from the office – just call in to obtain your family code for reference.

It is possible to pay a set amount – eg $200 (per child) which is the total of the 2015 school fees – or you can pay an ongoing amount each fortnight (minimum of $10) and once the fees are paid, the instalment amounts can remain unallocated against your family’s account until you decide to use them for a particular excursion, camp or future fees.

If you do decide to take up this option, it is recommended that you submit the deduction form with Centrepay as soon as possible and that way payments can commence towards your 2015 school fees, which means your child will have their books for the start of the 2015 school year.

If you choose not to pay via Centrepay, it is recommended that you pay regular instalments via scheduled Direct Credit, cash, cheque or Eftpos. You may, of course, choose to pay your school fees in full.

If you have any further questions regarding Centrepay, please do not hesitate to see the ladies in the office.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Cunningham
Principal