16 December 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

SACRED HEART FEES

On behalf of the Sacred Heart Central School Board we wish to advise you of an increase in the Schedule of Fees for 2014.

The School has six components to the fee structure:
1. Catholic Education Office Tuition Fee over which the Board has no control.
2. School Utilities Fee which the school reviews and sets annually.
3. School Curriculum Levy which the school reviews and sets annually.
4. School Maintenance Levy which the school reviews and sets annually.
5. Building Fund Contribution (voluntary and fully tax deductible).

In setting the Sacred Heart Fee structure for 2014 the School Board has considered the following:
- Annual inflation Education sector at 5.7%, overall 2.4%.
- The substantial ongoing and rising costs of curriculum resources, School maintenance and operating costs.
- Cost cutting measures taken in the current Sacred Heart budget.
- The need to update and maintain technology now that the Federal Government funding is discontinued.

To give an indication of the increase in overall fees:

a) One primary student  Increase of $112 per year
b) One Year 7 or 8 student  Increase of $168 per year
c) One Year 9 or student  Increase of $116 per year

Given the many combinations of fees that parents pay, this is an indicative figure only.
Secondary elective fees have also been raised by $5 per term.

Please find the Fee Schedule for 2014 attached.

Late Fee
Unfortunately the cost of fees not being paid on time has become a difficulty for us given the cost of follow up letters and phone calls, and if necessary the employment of a debt collection agency. Parents experiencing difficulty are encouraged to contact the Principal for a confidential conversation to see what minimum payments can be set up. For these reasons the Board have decided to introduce a late fee for fees that are not paid by the due date. Fees that are not paid by the due date each term will incur a $50 fee which will be added to fees. The due date is clearly stated on the invoice that is sent home each term.

Parents with a direct debit in place will NOT incur a late fee.

An outline of the fees is provided below:

1. Catholic Education Office Tuition Fee - An increase of 3%.
   This fee has been set by the Catholic Education Commission to take into account the costs of teacher salaries, insurance and other related school costs. In setting this fee the Commission takes into
consideration Commonwealth and State funding, CPI, salary and wage rises, student enrolments and other issues that are likely to affect all schools. This fee also reflects the increased costs in delivering education.

2. **School Utilities Fee – An increase of 5%**.
   This fee is charged once per family. It pays for heating and cooling, power, gas, cleaning, grounds and other running costs.

3. **Curriculum Levy – An increase of 5%**.
   This fee is charged per student. It pays for the teaching and learning resources and materials. Note: Only the first three children per family pay this levy.

4. **School Maintenance Levy – An increase of 5%**.
   This fee is paid once per family. Includes the provision of all day to day maintenance of buildings and grounds.

5. **Building Fund Contribution – An increase of $5 per term**.
   This contribution is paid once per family and is tax deductible. It pays building insurances, current loans for buildings updated and future building programs to update fixed cabinets, shelving, classrooms, etc.

6. **Info Tech Levy – An increase of 5%**.
   This levy is paid once per family. It pays for the provision of the intranet, internet and associated technology updates for iPads and computers throughout the school.

**Excursions**

Parents wishing to pay for excursions throughout the year in small repayments rather than one large lump sum payment are most welcome to organise this through the front office.

As a guide we have provided an estimate of costs for 2014 excursions. These amounts will be confirmed once quotes and numbers are finalised.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infants</th>
<th>Swimming</th>
<th>$40</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1</td>
<td>Aviation Museum Temora</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Bethungra Dam</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
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<td>Year 8</td>
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<td>$530</td>
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<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Talbingo</td>
<td>$70</td>
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Other possible payments are required for certain activities throughout the year. These include:

- Sport
- Representative sport and activities such as Mock Trial, Debating, Public Speaking and Tournament of the Minds (these may incur a significant fee if the team is successful as they progress through the competition – for example to compete at the State Championships in 2013, it cost approx. $250 to compete in Tournament of the Minds, plus costs such as accommodation and travel)
- Reflection Days ($5)
- Healthy Harold ($10)

The Board and Principal would like to thank the many parents who have made the commitment to paying their fees and to those who have made arrangements for delayed payments due to financial challenges.

We hope all families recognise the quality of the education in faith and curriculum that is delivered at Sacred Heart and to put their faith in the long term investment they are making to the lives of their children.

The Catholic Education Commission desires that no Catholic student should be excluded from Catholic education because of fees. In light of this, families who believe the cost of the Sacred Heart fees is beyond them, should contact the Principal for a confidential conversation to discuss payments that would bring Catholic education within their reach.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Janet Cartwright
Principal

Mr Michael Murphy
Board Chair