Financial assistance available to parents with Prep children commencing school in 2013

**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; **uniforms**, **excursions**, **textbooks**, and **stationery**. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- **Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses;**
  (This is the preferred option for our school as it enables us to allocate these funds towards your outstanding costs for the student bookpack, charges and the special events pre-payment.)
- **Paid by direct deposit** (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account;
- **Paid by cheque** which will be posted to the school for collection or sign over.

In 2013, the annual EMA amount is:

- **$200** for prep students
- **$150** for students in years 1 – 6.

**How to Apply:** The EMA application form will be distributed with school bookpack information or you can contact the school office for further information.

**Closing Date:** Parents/guardians need to lodge an EMA application form by **28 February 2013**.


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**Schoolkids Bonus:**

From January 2013, a new payment called the ‘Schoolkids Bonus’ will be introduced by the Commonwealth Government. The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid by Centrelink in January and July each year to help families with school costs.

Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A will receive:

- up to **$410** for each child in primary school

You should consider putting these funds aside to cover schooling costs.


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A sample EMA form is on the back of this notice.
The following details must be completed by the applicant (the concession card holder). EMA is payable by Direct Deposit (EFT) to the applicant, Direct Deposit to the school, or as a cheque payment.

**SCHOOL NAME**

**APPLICANT / PARENT DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>TOWN/SUBURB</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>POSTCODE</th>
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**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** CENTRELINK PENSIONER

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<tr>
<th>CONCESSION / HEALTH</th>
<th>CARE CARD NUMBER (CRN)</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>FOSTER</th>
<th>VETERANS AFFAIRS</th>
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* Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Human Services (DHS) or Courts, etc.

**EMA PAYMENT METHOD**

- [ ] Direct Deposit to parent
- [ ] Direct Deposit to school
- [ ] Cheque

Payment will be made to your bank account by Electronic Funds Transfer (provide bank account details below).

**ACCOUNT NAME** (e.g. John Smith)

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTION** (e.g. Westpac) AND BRANCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSB No.</th>
<th>BANK ACCOUNT No.</th>
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* If you are unsure of the above details check your Bank Statements or enquire at your Financial Institution.

**STUDENT DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHILD’S SURNAME</th>
<th>CHILD’S FIRST NAME</th>
<th>STUDENT ID</th>
<th>DATE OF BIRTH</th>
<th>COMMUNITY</th>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
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**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT**

**DATE** / / 

*School’s preference*