

Dear Parents

In preparation for the 2010 school year each family will receive an information pack. This pack includes important details about *School Fees, payment arrangements, the Enrichment Levy, Family Information, Student medical information, an Asthma Action Plan, Uniform price list and some key dates for orientation program and laptop distribution.*

There are some **new** things that will be in place for 2010, so please take time to read this letter and **if there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.**

FEE SCHEDULE 2010

The College receives the majority of its income from School Fees. The other major source of income is a combination of Federal and State Government grants. The income that the College receives is required to pay salaries of all staff, repay debt and all other costs such as utilities and insurances. The Board is very mindful that if fees are to increase, it should be done so in a manner that has minimal impact on our families. In the light of this, the decision has been taken to increase School Fees by only 6% for 2010.

Year Level	1st child	2nd child	3rd child	4th and subsequent children
<i>Prep - 2</i>	\$5,235	\$4,055	\$2,095	No Charge
<i>Years 3-6</i>	\$5,925	\$4,590	\$2,370	
<i>Year 7-10</i>	\$7,280	\$5,640	\$2,910	
<i>VCE</i>	\$8,015	\$6,210	\$3,205	

Adjustment to the Family Discount Levels:

As was indicated to Association Members at this year’s Annual General Meeting, the College receives 49% of its income via Government Funding. This funding comes in the form of two categories. The first category is a standard allocation for either a Primary or Secondary Student. The second category is called supplementation, as it is an additional allocation to help cover the ever increasing costs of running a school. Education is the only Government Department where this supplementation funding occurs.

Recently there have been a number of articles in Melbourne’s daily papers about the level of this additional Government funding that some of the exclusive schools in Melbourne receive. These articles and editorials have pointed out that the Federal Government has indicated that within the next two years they will revise this funding model. The net consequence of this is that Independent Schools, including Donvale Christian College, will not receive the Supplementation Funding into the future. This will prove to be a challenge for DCC as we have often relied upon this supplementation funding to support our low fee schedule.

Therefore as part of prudent financial management the Board and I have commenced a strategy that means the College is no longer as reliant on this funding in the future. Even though we expect to get 4% again next year, we have decided to use 1% of this Supplementation Funding to retire debt and 3% to assist in general costs. Within 4 years we will no longer build this additional money into our budget. If we receive money it will help reduce the College’s debt, which in the long term reduces a burden on our families.

In order to achieve the position of freedom the decision has been made to adjust the level of fee discount for second and third children within a family. The second child discount will remain a healthy 22.5% instead of 25% and the third child discount will be a generous 40% instead of 45%. **The 100% discount for four and subsequent children still remains.** In addition to this the College has also maintained the **Maximum Tuition Charge** per family. For 2010 the maximum level that a family will pay in terms of Tuition Fees is \$15,140.

I am of the understanding that Donvale is one of the most generous Christian Schools in Australia in terms of the level of discounts. Even with these adjustments, I still believe that this remains the case.

ENRICHMENT LEVY

One of the areas of discontent that I hear from parents from time to time is the notion of something I call 'Family Fee Creep.' This is where a list of items seem to be constantly added to the Family Fee Account and even though each item is only for a small amount, when there are several items the figure soon becomes large. To prevent *Family Fee Creep* I have bundled the costs for all of these activities into **an Enrichment Levy**. The Enrichment Levy will cover the costs of annual activities such as Year Level Camps (Year 3 to 9), all Excursions, Visiting Performers, Creative Arts Week / Festival and End of Year Activities. **The Enrichment Levy will also contain one new item that has never been offered before - a Health Care surcharge which contains the introduction of Student Accident Insurance which covers students 24/7.**

There will, of course, be elective items that are *outside the levy*. These include specific Subject Camps for Years 10 to 12 (*for example, PE, Biology, Snow Camp, Music Camp, Art Camp*), School Formal, KidsZone, and Private Music Lessons.

By introducing the Enrichment Levy, at the beginning of the year, families will be able to pay in monthly instalments, thus making it easier for families to budget and will remove *Family Fee Creep!*

DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

For quite some time now the College has provided a number of different ways to allow families to pay their account. This has included direct debit, B-Pay, credit card, cash and cheque. From 2010 I have decided to limit the options. All families will have to choose one of the following:

- 1) **The Total Annual Fee** – due fourteen days after School commences.
- 2) **Direct Debit via your Bank Account** - 10 monthly payments between February and November.
- 3) **Direct Debit via your Credit Card** - 10 monthly payments between February and November.

If you have any concerns about payment arrangements, please contact the Finance Department at the College (Nick Nicolaou Ext. 212 or Colleen Fraser Ext. 233).

Ross Grace
Principal

FEE SCHEDULE 2010

YEARLY TUITION FEES

Year Level	1st child	2nd child	3rd child	4 th and subsequent children
Prep - 2	\$5,235	\$4,055	\$2,095	
Years 3-6	\$5,925	\$4,590	\$2,370	No
Year 7-10	\$7,280	\$5,640	\$2,910	Charge
VCE	\$8,015	\$6,210	\$3,205	

Notes:

No fee is levied for the fourth or subsequent children. The whole of the annual tuition fee is levied at the start of the year as is the building levy, computer charges and working bee levy. Other charges will be added progressively throughout the year. **Maximum Tuition Fees Payable per family this year: \$15,140** (Excluding other charges listed below).

OTHER CHARGES

Enrichment Levy:

Please see Page 2 for details.

Building Fund:

An annual Building Fund Levy of **\$550.00** per family will be billed with the first account. This amount is not tax deductible.

Note: Additional Building Fund donations are encouraged for which a receipt will be given to enable you to claim a tax deduction for donations made to the College in excess of the \$500 levy amount. Receipts will be issued for additional donations of \$2 and above. Credit cards will be accepted for the payment of these tax deductible Building Fund Donations to the College.

Working-Bee:

A levy of **\$200** per family will be added to the first account. This amount is refundable on completion of a family's 8 hours involvement in working bees as scheduled throughout the year.

Computer Rental and Associated Fees

Computer Servicing, Software, Printing and Internet fees of **\$170** per annum for each secondary student will be added to the first fee account. For those students who receive a new notebook computer, there is also an initial software set-up and licensing cost of **\$320** for each rental machine. These amounts will also be added to the first fee account.

Booklists and other Supplies (subject to GST):

Books for students Years 3 to 6 will be added to the fee account. Diaries for students from years 5 to 12 will be added to the first fee account. Lockers for all year 7 students - **\$15.00** will be added to the first fee account.

Camps & Excursions:

The cost of camps and excursions for **Prep to Year 9** are included in the **Enrichment Levy**. Camps and excursions for Years 10 to 12 are subject based and will be added as separate items on your fee account where applicable.

Kids Zone (Before, After School Care and Holiday Care program)

After school care charges are added to your school fee account on a monthly basis.

Notification Required for Withdrawal of Children from College:

Parents withdrawing their children from Donvale Christian College are required to give one term's notice in writing to the college office, or a penalty of the following term's fees will be charged.

PAYMENT TERMS

Payment of the total annual fee within 14 days of the start of Term 1.

OR

Direct Debit, (10 monthly payments February to November) due on the 25th of each month.

You will need to complete a Direct Debit Request Form (from your bank account or credit card) - available on the College website www.donvale.vic.edu.au or at the College office. This form should be returned to the College office no later than 15th January, 2010. The first deduction will take place on 25th February 2010.

Fee Statement

Fee statements will be emailed at the end of each month. If you wish a hard copy please contact the office.

ENRICHMENT LEVY

The Enrichment Levy for each level will only include things that **cannot** be claimed by Family Tax Benefit Part A and are consumable items.

The costs associated with **laptop set up, internet, printing, diary, padlock and subject camps and excursions** (especially Years 10 to 12) will be separate items on the family fee account. Each of these items is able to be claimed under **Family Tax Benefit Part A**.

Prep: \$95 per annum

Included is – All excursions, visiting performers, Creative Arts Festival and Heath Care

Year 1/2: \$95 per annum

Included is – All excursions, visiting performers, Creative Arts Festival and Heath Care

Year 3/4: \$350 per annum

Included is – Camp, all excursions, visiting performers, Creative Arts Festival and Heath Care

Years 5/6: \$ 420 per annum

Included is – Camp, all excursions, visiting performers, Graduation Dinner, Creative Arts Festival and Heath Care.

Year 7: \$380 per annum

Included is – Camp, all excursions, visiting performers, End of Year Activity, Creative Arts Week and Heath Care

Year 8: \$130 per annum

Included is – All excursions, visiting performers, Creative Arts Week and Heath Care

Year 9: \$870 per annum*

Included is – Camps (x3), excursions, visiting performers, Creative Arts Week and Heath Care

Year 10: \$130 per annum*

Included is – Excursions, visiting performers, Creative Arts Week and Heath Care

Year 11: \$460 per annum*

Included is – Camp, excursions, visiting performers and Creative Arts Week and Heath Care

Year 12: \$370 per annum*

Included is – Camp, practice exams, excursions, visiting performers, Creative Arts Week and Heath Care

**In each of these years are subject specific costs. These specific costs are outlined in the Year Level Information Booklets.*

For Example: Year 9 OAT - \$750

Year 10 – Sport and Lifestyle, Art Camp, Vis Com Workshops, Ski Trip, VET.

Year 11 - VCE Formal, PE Camp, Surf Camp, Biology Camp, Art Camp etc.

Year 12 - VCE Formal