

# Prairiewood High School

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Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Parents are reminded that we rely upon payment of school subject fees, sport fees and admin. service fees (which are non-compulsory) to ensure the best possible level of resources and support can be provided for your child at Prairiewood. In recent years, the percentage of outstanding (unpaid) fees has reduced and I can only assume that more parents are becoming aware of the benefits for students.

Sure... there is always the old cliché that "Education is Free" (or supposed to be), but when you consider the costs of materials and services these days, little could be achieved without any contribution from parents. The cost for paper/printing/photocopying/stationery and running our school office at Prairiewood each year is almost \$90,000 and the cost of utilities such as electricity, water and sewerage rates, telephones and postage is greater than \$50,000. In the first example alone, we far exceed the income received from our voluntary school admin. and service fee.

The current school admin. and service fee is \$55 per student ... which amounts to just FOUR CENTS per lesson!!! Can you believe it? ... only \$1.20 per WEEK for your child's education... *less than the cost of a milkshake or cappuccino!!!* My guess is that this amount PER YEAR is also LESS than the average mobile phone bill paid EACH MONTH by parents or students. I believe parents and students are receiving VALUE for MONEY, especially when you consider our fees are more than \$30 LESS than the amount allowed by the Department of Education and Training. Remember, too, that the government's contribution in wages alone at Prairiewood exceeds 4 million dollars per year ... *that's more than \$4,000 per student!*

A printout summary of fees which, according to our records is due for payment for the 2006 school year, is enclosed with this letter. *If you believe an error has been made, please contact me (or my office manager, Mrs Baker).* Thank you to those parents who have ALREADY PAID school fees – in part or in full - for this school year.

**Please note:** As per Departmental policy, *payment of specific subject fees is expected* for all courses which students *elect* to study in Years 9-12. **Enrolment in new courses involving substantial subject costs may need to be restricted in cases where elective subject fees from previous years still remain unpaid.** As previously advised, the school can simply no longer afford to absorb the costs for parents who refuse to pay subject specific fees and as a result alternative elective course choices will need to be made.

Unfortunately, once again this year, the funding special Student Assistance Scheme funding to assist parents experiencing extreme difficulty has been dramatically REDUCED (compared to previous years) and I am no longer able to provide the same level of support to needy students. *Confidential letters requesting financial assistance should be addressed to THE PRINCIPAL and any funding support (up to a maximum of 50%) will be determined according to individual needs on a case by case basis.*

I thank you, in anticipation of receiving your fees payment in the next three to four weeks. As always, an initial payment now (as little as \$20 or \$30), with further payments each month or term is *most acceptable*.  
**EFTPOS and BANKCARD/VISACARD/MASTERCARD payment facilities are available.**

Yours sincerely,

*J. Pickering* – PRINCIPAL

20<sup>th</sup> February, 2006

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Prairiewood's Fees... **cheap as chips!** That's right ... our fees per week are *less than* the cost of a packet of chips! It's hard to believe, isn't it? Please consider!

By paying the current fees listed on your statement, you can help us (in a very inexpensive but significant way) as we strive to provide the best possible teaching and learning and educational opportunities and experiences for your child. Thank you.