Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you of the School Fees and Levies for 2016.

Thank you for your support and warm welcome extended to me in this, my first year as Principal at St. Finbar’s Primary School. With the school being new to me, I felt that the priorities required that I primarily focus my attention on the class curriculum, the students’ learning and the overall faith journey that the school offers its students and their families.

In recent weeks a more holistic review was required including the general financial position of the school. Whilst the school’s general financial position has improved following the corrective measures taken in late 2014, the Family School Fees and their adequacy in light of the ever increasing “Capacity to Contribute” component of the Grant Funding Formula is an area that is causing the school to fall short in its ability to cover its running costs.

St. Finbar’s high socio economic index puts it at a government grant funding level of 7. There are a total of seven grant funding levels where level 1 grant funding is linked to schools with the lowest socio economic index providing them with the highest level of grant funding, whereas a grant funding level of 7 is linked to schools with the highest socio economic index providing them with the lowest level of grant funding.

The school accountants have explained that in administering the government grants provided to Catholic schools (both Primary and Secondary), the Catholic Education Office applies a predetermined grants allocation formula, and one component of that formula is the school families’ “Capacity to Contribute.”

The “Capacity to Contribute” figure is primarily comprised of family school fees and a smaller proportion is attributed to other income that the school receives through commissions, rents and bank interest. The “Capacity to Contribute” is set at a higher level and at higher increments from one year to the next, for schools with a higher socio economic index and this impacts directly on the grants funding that the school receives.

**FAMILY SCHOOL FEE**
In 2016 the Family School Fee will be $2190 per year ($730 per term). The school’s socio economic index (calculated from the national census data collected every 5 years) dictates the level of grant funding that the school is entitled to receive from the government. Schools with a higher socio economic index receive less government grant funding than schools with a lower socio economic index.

**BUILDING LEVY**
The building project undertaken throughout 2008 cost $2.7 million, on an interest free loan for 15 years from Catholic Development Fund. The loan repayments must always be up to date to retain the interest subsidy. The compulsory levy was introduced in 2007. In 2016 it will be $595 per year. This is a one-off payment generated on your term one account. As this is compulsory, it is not tax deductible, however if you wish to make an additional contribution to the School Building Fund, this voluntary amount attracts tax deductibility.

**MAINTENANCE LEVY**
At the end of 2010, the School Board approved a $60 Maintenance (Working Bee) Levy. This levy is paid per family, per year and is shown on the term one account.

**RESOURCES LEVY**
The Resources Levy of $90 per year, ($30 per term) will be used directly by the school for ongoing re-sourcing and maintaining of school equipment. The levy alleviates the need for ongoing P & F fund raising.

**CHROMEBOOK LEVY**
This year a Chromebook levy of $120 per year has been introduced for the Year 4 – 6 students. At the commencement of the 2016 school year all Year 4 – 6 students will be handed a new Chromebook for classroom use.
STUDENT LEVIES
Levies are paid per child and include the following:

- The Curriculum & Sport Levy includes Catholic Church Insurance, technology, excursions, class sets of text books required for year 3-6 only, swimming and beach programs, Interhouse/Interschool Sport Program & buses, Year 5/6 Tri-School program, F - 6 Swimming Carnival TriSkills and Life Ed Van.
- Sacramental Levy for those receiving a Sacrament in Years 3, 4 and 6.
- Camp Levy for students in Years 3 – 6.
- Book Levy for Years F – 4 only (Years 5 – 6 have Book Orders).
- Chromebooks for Year 4 – 6 students

2016 FEE SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY FEE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Family</td>
<td>$2190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPTAIN LEVY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Family</td>
<td>$595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAINTENANCE LEVY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Family</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESOURCES LEVY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Family</td>
<td>$90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL FAMILY FEES</td>
<td>$2935.00</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
<th>STUDENT LEVY ~ Per Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>$515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>$515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>$515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>$810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>$965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>$1035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$1194</td>
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Please add relevant levy per student in family.

CAMP, SPORT & EXCURSION FUNDING (CSEF previously know as the EMA payment).
Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

PAYMENT DATES
We are continuing with the payment structure of recent years, that invoices will be payable over each of the first three terms, usually within the first three weeks of the new term. No accounts will be sent in term four. This aids our accounting processes and eases the end of year cash flow. Parents may choose to pay:

- Full fees paid by 4th March 2016.
- Full fees paid per Term, (Term 1 – 19th February, Term 2 – 29th April and Term 3 – 29th July).
- Full fees paid monthly in ten (10) equal instalments, (Feb – Nov, either 15th or 30th month).

INABILITY TO PAY SCHOOL FEES
If you are experiencing financial difficulties, you are asked to contact Mr Pat Berlingeri ~ Principal to discuss the matter. Please note that the Levies are NOT negotiable.

Under the guidance of the Parish Finance Committee and the advice of our school accountant Mr. James Manche, we believe that with the cooperation of parents in the payment of fees, we will provide the quality of education that you expect from St Finbar's school.

Yours Sincerely

Fr Malcolm Crawford
Parish Priest

Mr. Pat Berlingeri
Principal
Payment of School Fees in 2016
Choice of Payment Option

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to:

1. Select one of the three options listed below.
2. Indicate how the payments will be made.
3. Sign the documents indicating the intention to pay the fees and return this document to the office by Friday 5\textsuperscript{th} February 2016.

1. **Please tick one of the three options below**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full fees paid by 4\textsuperscript{th} March 2016.</td>
<td>Full fees paid monthly in ten (10) equal instalments from 15\textsuperscript{th} February until - 15\textsuperscript{th} November, 2016.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees paid by the Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full fees paid per Term, (Term 1 – 19\textsuperscript{th} February, Term 2 – 29\textsuperscript{th} April and Term 3 – 29\textsuperscript{th} July).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. **Proposed method of payment for Options 1, 2, or 3.** Please tick one of the boxes below

   - Cash
   - Cheque
   - Credit Card (NO AMEX)
   - Internet transfer

3. **Credit Card details**

   - Name on Card: ………………………………………… Credit Card Type: VISA / MASTERCARD
   - Card Number: _ _ _ _    _ _ _ _    _ _ _ _    _ _ _ _ Expiry Date: _ _ / _ _
   - Signature: ……………………………………………………

   Deducted on either 15\textsuperscript{th} of month 28\textsuperscript{th} of month please circle for 10 monthly instalments only

4. Family Name: …………………………………… Eldest child: ………………………… Year: ………

5. **RETURN THIS DOCUMENT TO THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY 5\textsuperscript{th} FEBRUARY 2016.**

Please note: A *NEW PAYMENT PLAN* is required **EACH YEAR** as the office does not have the authority to carry over any details from year to year. So if you wish to take advantage of the payment plan, please return this form by the due date. Thank you for your understanding.