You will shortly receive a letter concerning Voluntary Contributions for 2011. We have put together some information to explain how this works and why it is important.

The Eastwood School P&C Association has two funds from which we are able to draw money to pay for school resources, activities, equipment and building projects which benefit your children. We will be asking you to provide financial support to our ongoing activities by making a contribution to these funds on the 30th March, 1st, 4th and 6th April (last two weeks of term). Below is some information on how you can do this. Please note, at our school, Voluntary Contributions are collected once a year only.

Q: Which contribution funds will I be asked to support?

A: The two major contribution funds are:

1. **General Fund** – This fund covers such items as classroom resources, support teachers, grounds improvements, musical instruments, special teaching aids and some administrative expenses.

2. **Building Fund** – Money donated to this fund can only be spent on building-related expenses. In the past, money has been spent on air conditioning, new buildings, new carpet, painting, renovations and so on. Contributions to this fund are tax deductible.

We also ask that you consider making a small donation towards the Family Social Club’s “Student Resources Contribution” which was introduced to reduce the number of fundraising events requested of families.

Q: What are the main recurring expenditures supported by the P&C’s Voluntary Contributions?

A: The P&C supports the school by providing money to spend on basic resources that are used each day by our children in their classrooms. We also fund recurring items each year in a range of other areas, that many in the community assume are paid for by the State Government. Our school is very fortunate to have the resources it has (many other public schools are not as lucky) and this has much to do with the P&C’s voluntary contributions collected each year.

This year, we are seeking your support to allow recurring activities to continue, as well as making further improvements to facilities and provide much needed resources and teacher support. Over the next 12-18 months, we are hoping to have enough funds to support the following recurring expenditures:

- Ongoing support teacher learning assistance
- Technology upgrades
- Swimming lessons and sports programs
- Sports and Music prizes
- School music program eg instruments
- Classroom books and resources
- Maths resources and materials including textbooks
- School grounds maintenance and improvement
- Sports equipment
- Incursions (in-school presentations eg Authors week)
Q: What are other potential areas of spending?

A: Should we raise sufficient funds from parent voluntary donations, we would also look at possibly spending money on:

- More “incursions” (presentations at school e.g Author’s visits),
- Special guest visitors which are much enjoyed by the students,
- Stronger fans for the hall,
- Signage upgrades,
- New storage for School and P&C-funded equipment and resources,
- More library books and resources (selected by students through the SRC),
- Artificial turf cricket pitch, and Hall improvements near the stage area

Q: How much does the P&C recommend that I pay?

A: In order to achieve our plans, as well as have some money put aside for important but unexpected expenses, we recommend that families contribute the following amounts in 2011, which remain unchanged from last year:

General Fund - $110.00 for one child, $190.00 for families with more than one child at the school
Building Fund - $130.00 for one child, $200.00 for families with more than one child at the school

We will also be collecting $40.00 per family for the Student Resources Contribution (SRC). This fund is administered by the Family Social Club and provides extra classroom resources for individual teachers such as sporting equipment, computer equipment, class readers and similar items. It replaces the chocolate drives and other smaller fundraising activities that used to be conducted throughout the year by Family Social Club.

Q: Do I need to pay the amounts recommended amounts?

A: No, these are guidelines only and help the P&C reach its financial fundraising objectives. We wish to stress all donations are voluntary and any amount you choose to donate is appreciated. If you wish to donate an amount that is different to the suggested amounts, just write your amount in the box on the form. As all children benefit from the spending of Voluntary Contributions, our hope is that all families at school will support the Voluntary Contributions in some way, to their ability.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

We understand that some parents, are not familiar with the concept of “Voluntary Contributions” which are collected in Australian public schools. We will be providing more information over the next few weeks but if you have any more questions, please feel free to:

- Ask us at our P&C meetings (third Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm – this Wednesday);
- Ask us at our monthly “P&C News and Helpers Morning Teas” (e.g. Friday 25th March 9.30am);
- Email us at pc@eastwood.nsw.edu.au or leave a note at the school office; or
- Speak to Mr Witney, Jo Harris (P&C President), Christine Lucas (Vice President), Dale Brodrick or other members of the P&C.