

14 December 2009

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your children are enjoying the summer break, I know that I am! The office staff are now on leave as well, meaning that that office is closed until the 4th of January. We wish them a well earned break. If you need to make contact with us in the mean time, please use the mobile phone numbers at the bottom of this letter.

NATIONAL SCHOOL PRIDE PROJECT

During the holidays the following projects will be completed:

- Sand and oil the verandah decks.
- Fit out the room under the offices for use as an educational area. It will initially be used as a Library but may be used for other purposes in the future.
- Construct two walls in the P-3 classroom to make three classrooms out of the large area.
- Paint the P-3 and 4-7 classrooms.
- Re-carpet the P-3 and 4-7 rooms.
- Install a new sign at the front entrance.

All these works are being paid for by National School Pride grant we received as part of the Commonwealth Government's financial economic stimulus.

UNIFORM NEWS

Thank you to all parents who placed uniform orders before the holidays. Your orders will be ready by Friday the 15th of January with the exclusion of a couple of items (eg size 12 sports shirts) which were out of stock when ordered. These items will become available before school returns. We will place our next order when suppliers open again on Monday the 18th January. Unfortunately it could take up to two weeks for this order to arrive. If you are yet to make an order, Debbie Appleton will be available in the uniform room on **Friday the 15th January. Please book a time on that day** via phone or SMS on her mobile 0447 400-734 or via email: honeyb@people.net.au

TUITION FEES 2010

Each year a College Board needs to increase tuition fees in accordance with inflation and the cost of living. Normally the fees would increase by the The Consumer Price Index (CPI) which averages at 3.5%. This has not always happened at CQCC meaning that our current fees do not accurately represent the value of education being received. To remedy this, the Board has decided to make increases above the CPI for the next five years. This year the CPI was 1.5%. The Education Index rose by 5%. Therefore, in 2010, the fees will increase by 3%. However, there will also be some new charges that parents are able to claim under the Education Tax Refund (more details below). Next year's tuition fees will be as follows:

Primary	\$1,707.30 per year or \$170.73 per month *for 10 months Feb-Nov
Secondary	\$1,935.70 per year or \$193.57 per month *for 10 months Feb-Nov

FAMILY DISCOUNTS

Our structure of discounts for families with more than one child will continue:

First Child	Full Amount
Second Child	Discount 10%
Third Child	Discount 20%
Fourth Child+	Discount 100%

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS

There is significant reward in paying up-front:

- 10% if the full year's fees are paid before the end of February.
- 5% if a month's fees are paid before the start of the month. For example, if February's fees are paid in January, the discount applies. If March's fees are paid in February, etc. Once the first day of the month arrives, full fees apply.

These discounts are offered because we save significantly on administration when fees are paid in advance.

SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the valued principles of Central Queensland Christian College since its inception is that quality Christian education should be available to all Christian families, regardless of their ability to pay fees. Previously we used discounts to help families with limited income. This year we are introducing scholarships. Our commitment to providing Christian education for all remains the same. Our terminology will be slightly different.

CQCC Scholarships:

- Are available to students in a family with low income, in a difficult economic circumstance, or working full-time in Christian ministry / missions work.
- May be partial or full, depending on the circumstance.

- Are awarded by the Principal or his delegate after consideration of each application.
- The details of scholarships are kept private and not made public so that all students feel equal in the College.
- A fund will be established so that members of the public can contribute to the sponsorship of a child's education.

Families who have been receiving discount assistance previously will automatically receive an application form in the New Year.

Benefits of the Scholarship Model:

- Scholarships recognise the value of education differently to discounts.
- It is our hope that recipients will feel they have been given a blessing rather than just receiving something for free.
- Scholarships allow members of the public to contribute.
- Donations to qualifying Scholarship Funds are tax deductible, an option we are exploring for the future.

50% EDUCATION TAX REBATE

The Federal Government has established an Education Tax Refund. Eligible families can claim the half the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:

- laptops and home computers
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives
- home internet connections
- computer software for educational use, including word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software, internet filters and antivirus software
- school textbooks and other paper based school learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery.

Families cannot claim school fees, school uniform expenses, excursions, tutoring costs, musical instruments, sporting equipment, school subject levies, computer games and consoles, school photos, donations, tuck shop expenses and transport costs.

Apart from laptop purchases, there have not been any items on our invoices that parents have been able to claim. This will change next year.

NEW CHARGES

The following charges are being introduced in 2010. They are not provided for in a scholarship and are not subject to discount. Each of the following charges may be claimed under the 50% Education Tax Refund. Parents are able to elect

whether they would like to pay the amount up-front or over the year. There is a separate charge for each student.

- **Textbook Hire for Secondary**
 - Where a textbook is required for a subject, the school will purchase the book and hire it to parents.
 - Hire will be the cost price of the book divided by the life expectancy of the book (e.g. 2 years).
 - This will only apply to some Secondary subjects (e.g. Maths)
 - The State Government provides a Textbook Allowance for Secondary students through the College. The College will credit each family's account when the allowance is received. The amount is yet to be confirmed, but initial advice we have received is that each student in Year 8-10 is entitled to an allowance of \$100 and each student in Year 11-12 is entitled to \$220.

- **Workbook Purchases**
 - If a workbook is required for a subject, it will be billed to parents.
 - While some workbooks are found on the book list, others have been provided in-class from the tuition fees. Now they will be invoiced separately.

- **Material Costs \$50 per year or \$5 per month** *for 10 months Feb-Nov
 - This charge is for paper based learning material and stationery.
 - Teachers will regularly photocopy learning material or worksheets for students.
 - This charge will also cover the essential computer printouts a student might need to make to fulfil assessment requirements. General printing from the computer will need to be paid for separately.

- **Upper Primary Computer Usage \$50 per year or \$5 per month** *for 10 months
 - This charge is for costs associated with acquiring, repairing and running computers and related equipment used in place of paper based educational material.
 - If a child has been provided with a laptop by their parents, they do not have to pay this fee.
 - This charge will not apply to Lower Primary students until 2011.
 - This charge will not apply to Secondary Students while the Federal Government is making contributions through the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund.

- **Mathletics Subscription \$30 per year or \$3 per month** *for 10 months Feb-Nov.
 - This year we trialed the use of a new online resource for students in years 3-7 and found it to be an excellent assistance to students' learning. For the trial, the College paid for each student's registration.
 - Use of this resource shall continue in 2010, but from now the subscription will be invoiced to parents.
 - Students are able to use this online service at home as well as at school.

OTHER CHARGES

The following charges are not new, but will be administrated differently. They are not able to be claimed by the 50% Tax Education Rebate.

- **Excursions** are charged as events arise. Payment may be made through the office or direct deposit via the internet. Swimming will be charged as one event to save handling money each week.
- **High School Camp \$300 per year or \$30 per month.**
Because this is a larger cost than other excursions we feel it best to invoice this amount at the beginning of the year and facilitate monthly payments. If the event ends up costing less than the \$300 charged, a credit will be issued afterwards.
- **Year 10 & 12 Dinner \$60 per head.**
This event will also be invoiced at the beginning of the year to facilitate monthly payments. It is assumed that each student will be attending with two parents, making the cost $\$60 \times 3 = \180 or \$18 per month. Please let Kathy McCoombes know if this is not the case (kmccoombes@cqcc.org). If the event costs less than \$60 per head, a credit will be issued afterwards.

It has been our desire to make these important changes in a way that is helpful and productive. I would appreciate your feedback and any suggestions for our ongoing improvement. If you ever find yourself in a difficult financial position, please come and talk to me about it. Through our scholarship program CQCC will maintain the practice of making Christian Education accessible to everyone.

SUMMARY OF FEES & CHARGES FOR 2010

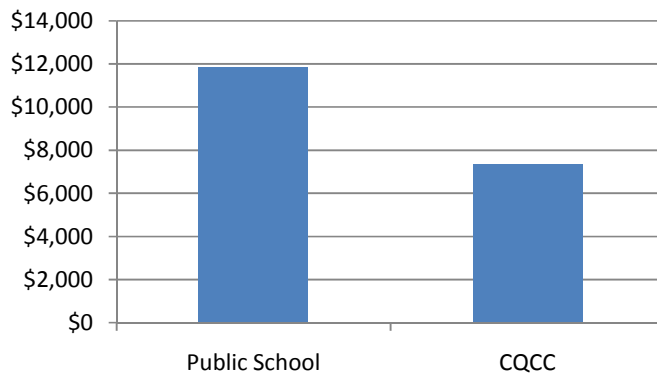
NAME OF CHILD (oldest child first)	PRIMARY FEES	SECONDARY FEES	AMOUNT
1.	\$1,707.30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,935.70 <input type="checkbox"/>	
2.	\$1,536.30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,742.15 <input type="checkbox"/>	
3.	\$1,365.85 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,548.55 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Fourth and consecutive children FREE			
Material Costs \$50 x __ students			
Upper Primary Computer Usage \$50 x __ students Yr4-7			
Mathletics \$30 x __ students in Yr 3-7			
High School Camp \$300 x __ students in Yr 8-12			
Year 10 & 12 Dinner \$60 x __ persons attending (if applicable)			
TOTAL FOR YEAR			\$
TOTAL EACH MONTH			\$
(February to November) = Total for Year divided by 10			

FUTURE FUNDING FOR CQCC

To understand more of the reasons behind these changes I need to explain more of the way CQCC is funded and the direction we are headed for the future.

Combining both State and Federal funding, public support for a student in a government school is on average \$11,874. CQCC receives an average of \$7,376 per student. This is a tremendous amount of support for which we are very grateful.

Funding Support per student



With these funds and tuition fees, I feel that we have been able to do a fantastic job, but we have been advised from numerous professional sources that for the College to grow into the future, our income needs to increase. Our Accountant, Auditor, Block Grant Authority representatives and Department of Education representatives have all pointed out that we need more funds to build a sustainable school that:

- attracts and retain high quality teaching staff,
- keeps class sizes small, and
- provides a high quality educational program.

Currently at CQCC, the majority of our funding comes from the government. If we were to looking at successful independent schools around the country, we would see that majority of their funding comes from sources other than the government. Overseas, most Christian schools do not receive any government funding. Schools have to find other sources of income such as:

- Gifts from donors and
- Profit on investments such as share funds or rental properties.

I am told that large institutions such as Harvard would be able to function on these sources of income alone, even if they didn't have any students!

Similarly, we need to pursue other sources of income so that we can build the well-resourced College we envision. We would like to see a structure of funding based on:

- Tuition fees that represent the value of the education provided
- Scholarships funded by people willing to sponsor a child's education
- Building Fund Donations, which are 100% tax deductible
- Profit on investments such as rental properties
- Government funding
- Grants from other institutions as they become available.

These steps are essential to building a high level of financial viability. Schools that run on a knife-edge budget are adversely affected with the smallest movement in enrolments and always have a question hanging over their future. The College needs to generate reasonable surpluses so that it not only pays its bills but is positioned well for the future.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The College is a Christian Ministry that God has established to help raise a new generation of young people that will make a difference in the world. In our classrooms we see future leaders that will have positive Christian influence in business, government, the arts, media, education, families and the Church. I believe that many more Christian families in Rockhampton are going to want to enrol their children at CQCC. I see the vacancies being filled and waiting lists started. I see a Kindergarten being established, Distance Education commencing and other campuses opening up.

To me, giving to this ministry is giving an offering to the Lord. It is generating advancement in the Kingdom of God, both now in the lives of students and the lives of people they influence in years to come. Debbie and I give an offering to

the School Building Fund each fortnight as part of our regular giving to the Lord.

While there are a number of funds into which donations or offerings can be received, I have been praying that a regular flow would come into the Building Fund so that we can:

- pay the \$285,000 we owe on the property,
- pay for improvements and maintenance to the property, and
- establish our financial ability to construct new buildings in the future.

Donations to the Building Fund are 100% tax deductible, giving money back at the end of financial year.

It is common for schools to set a building levy or make a suggestion as to how much be donated to the Building Fund. I don't like to do this because it is a lot more fun to give freely than have to pay a bill. Could you please consider what God would enable you to give, whether it be a one-off donation or an amount given weekly/fortnightly/monthly. By making a gift to CQCC/Building Fund, you are joining with other Christians across the city in a common purpose for the sake of our children. Please never think that any gift is too small. In giving, you become a greater part of what is taking place, a partner, a member of the team that helped "make it happen".

I am often told that we have a wonderful school. Let us continue to work together to make what we have even greater. I leave these thoughts with you for your prayers.

If you have any questions I would love to talk with you further. Please feel free to contact me at any time. My mobile number is 0428 262-933. If you need to contact Helen Winters, her mobile number is 0400 513-399.

My sincere love to you and your family in Christ Jesus,

Michael Appleton
PRINCIPAL

