Financial assistance available to parents with children commencing school in 2013

**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; **uniforms**, **excursions**, **textbooks**, and **stationery**. You can elect to have the EMA paid into your nominated bank account or receive a cheque.

In 2013, the annual EMA amount is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16.

**How to Apply:** Contact the school office to complete an application form for the EMA.

**Closing Date:** Parents/guardians need to lodge an EMA application form by **28 February 2013**.


**Schoolkids Bonus:**

From January 2013, a new payment called the ‘Schoolkids Bonus’ will be introduced by the Commonwealth Government. The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid by Centrelink in January and July each year to help families with school costs.

Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A will receive:

- up to $410 for each child in primary school
- up to $820 for each child in secondary school.