Wednesday 1st April, 2009

Dear Parents,

Introduction
This letter contains important information about Avondale Primary School. *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) Commonwealth Government initiative and discussions towards the possibility of a school merger with Milleara Primary. Avondale Primary School Council will meet on Monday 27th April to decide on an ‘in principle’ agreement to consider the proposal for a possible merger with Milleara Primary.

Background
The Commonwealth Government has recently released an economic stimulus package known as *Building the Education Revolution* in which it has committed $14.7 billion over the next three years to schools. Every Australian school will be able to access a part of this program.

In relation to primary schools, there are two elements:
1. *Primary Schools for the 21st Century* – allocation $12.4 billion
2. *National School Pride Program* – allocation $1.3 billion.

You can access more information at:

Allocation per school
Notional allocation is based upon school enrolments. The current enrolment of students attending Avondale Primary School is 292.

*Primary Schools for the 21st Century.*

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<tr>
<th>School Size (Enrolment)</th>
<th>Indicative Funding Caps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-50</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>51 to 150</td>
<td>850,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>151 to 300</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>301 to 400</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>401 +</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
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*National School Pride Program.*

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<td>51 to 150</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
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Time Constraints upon the program
The Commonwealth and State Governments are working together to implement this program. As the money is allocated for economic stimulus reasons, the Commonwealth expects that minor infrastructure build will be completed within 6-8 months and major ‘builds’ such as libraries or multipurpose halls by February 2010.

*This means that important decisions need to be made over a short period.*
Decisions

1 National School Pride Program
Avondale Primary School has already indicated that it wishes to spend the National School Pride Program funding on a large, metal, all-weather structure over the basketball court and replace all fences that border footpaths.
Remaining funds will be used for minor improvements to current facilities.

2 Primary Schools for the 21st Century
Because of the time constraint, schools that do not have a relatively new library or multipurpose hall are expected to select one of these options. The design options are available for inspection at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/buildingrevolution/default.htm

The situation for schools in Avondale Heights is a little more complex. Milleara Primary School has experienced declining enrolments over several years. Western Metropolitan Region is inviting Avondale Primary School to agree in principle, to consider a possible merger with Milleara Primary.

This is subject to a satisfactory proposal arising from the elements contained within Building the Education Revolution. If the proposal for a new, merged entity isn’t satisfactory, Avondale Primary School Council would not be committed to a merger and would be able to submit stand alone proposals without prejudice.

Avondale Primary School Council was addressed by a Regional Officer on Monday evening who explained some of the implications and processes involved during a possible merger with BER funding.

School Council will meet again on Monday 27th April to decide on an ‘in principle’ agreement to consider the proposal for a possible merger with Milleara Primary.

I invite parents to discuss issues with School Council members. This year’s members are: Tony Baldwin, Elizabeth Elliott, John Greenwood, Angelo Ramnac, Lindsay Grant, Nick Doukas, Hien Bui, Bronwyn Pearce, Lisa Needham (teacher) Kim Metelmann (teacher) and myself.

Yours sincerely

Paul Mulroyan
Principal
Avondale Primary School