Dear Parents,  

Our planning for the 2008 Australian Schools Cup is well under way. We have completed going through the coach and player feedback sheets from last year’s event. There was excellent information in these feedback sheets to use in our planning for this year’s event in order to make us even better. We thank both our players and our coaches for taking the time to help us improve our program each year.

Our selection for teams and coaches for State League/League Reserve/Junior League has also been done and the competitions are now under way. It is now important that we know now which players are able to commit to the Australian Schools Cup in Melbourne for 2008.

We need a commitment for
- The State Cup, (17th, 18th, 19th October)
- The Nationals in Melbourne (6th—12th December)

And, the trainings that these competitions will involve later in term 3 and term 4.

This intention to compete will be via the return of the attached consent note and the payment of a $100 deposit. This deposit will be refunded if a player cannot attend the Nationals due to injury or sickness under the conditions below.

The deposit will not be returned if a player does not make the team they are aiming for but are placed in a suitable team with their peers. With 21 teams and a very stringent and ongoing selection process which tries very hard to do the best for both players and the overall squad we cannot guarantee that all players will make the team they are aiming for. In fact this is impossible. This is life and players may have to deal with the fact that they perhaps did not make the team they were aiming for and perhaps may have to try again next year. Making and not making teams is a sporting reality and a reality sport’s people have to accept. Our history is full of players who finally made it (and made it big time) through perseverance and a good deal of determination. These are our truly great players. As parents we seek your support in this notion.

This huge event involves 190 players, 45 coach/managers, referees, a budget of over $135,000. You can well appreciate how important it is for us to have a firm indication of who is planning to attend this event in Melbourne and, who is prepared to commit to this event now so that we can book transport, accommodation and so that the right number of coaches can apply for leave from their jobs.

You may note that we have had to move from Ormond College into Mannix College due to The Victorian State Government making a compulsory blanket booking on ALL the Melbourne University Colleges for the “World Homeless Games”. We have however secured accommodation at a college attached to Monash University and Chris Davidson has visited Mannix College during the last holidays to make sure it would suit our needs. We have his photographs on our web site. We will move back to Ormond College in 2009.


Unfortunately, due to bookings we have to make now, our planning for the 2008 event will not be able to consider any player who has not returned their intention to compete note and the $100.00 deposit by the end of week 2 Term 2 (Friday 1st August.)

If there is any difficulty with the deposit please contact the school bursar Cathy Farrent to make alternative payment arrangements.
The cost will be **$720.00** (up by less than the CPI from last year) This is an educated guess at this stage as the bus company has reserved the right to increase their charge due to the fuel price spiral. The cost includes transport, dinner at a restaurant in Lygon Street on the Saturday night we arrive in Melbourne, match and nomination fees, dinner, bed and breakfast, tea the last night before we leave, photographs, physiotherapy supplies and the occasional treat.

We have attached an invoice to allow parents the opportunity to pay in stages and also to pay by credit card on a monthly basis if desired. (This facility is very useful and is used by many families as it saves big bills just before Christmas.)

We ask that your family discusses your child’s participation in this event so that as a family you are happy to commit to the payment and the term 3 and 4 training regime. Once we have a definite list of players we can go the next step with the coaches, managers and teachers.

**Please note that players cannot be considered in further planning for this event unless a the $100 deposit and a firm indication of attendance is received from their family by 1st August.**

Once this intention to play has been received, all players can then start paying in the balance of the attached invoice. This can be paid at any time to the cashier by cash, cheque or credit card (by phone if required) to the cashiers office.

Please remember the Melbourne trip fund raising quiz night. Friday 24th October—tickets available Friday 1st August. Students can make $100 / table.

For parents planning on attending the competition the playing dates are

- Opening ceremony Sunday evening 7th December—Finals on Friday 12th December.
- All parents are invited to our “Big Team” final presentation meeting at 8.30pm at Mannix College on Friday 12th December.

We will arrive back at school on Saturday 13th December at 9.00am.

Regards

David Eldridge
SIV Program Manager

We wish ................................................................. (Student’s name) to be considered for a position in a team for the 2008 National Schools Cup.

This tournament is in Melbourne 6th – 12th December. We enclose a deposit of $100 (Payable to the school cashier) with the understanding that deposit refunds may be refunded in line with the criteria as outlined above.

Parent/Caregiver Signature: .................................................................

Return with deposit to the cashier’s office by Friday 1st August 2008