October 31, 2023

**Re: 2024 Parent Financial Contributions**

Dear Parents and caregivers,

Mount Dandenong Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Mount Dandenong Primary School makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all parents. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education for our students.

We rely on these contributions (previously called ‘essential learning items’ or ‘student requisites’ and provided as the ‘book or pupil packs’) to supply your child with many of the materials and items used at school, such as stationery, workbooks, crafting materials, text books etc, as well as iPads, computers, sports equipment and grounds works (previously known as the ‘voluntary’ contributions). We want to thank you for all your support, whether that’s through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer as described above.

For further information on the Department’s Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

**The total cost for your Year 5 or 6 child, for all *curriculum contributions* and *other contributions*, is $385.**

Please find the details of the parent contributions following this letter. Please complete the online form in Compass and return to the school by Monday December 4th so the school can prepare accordingly.

**Financial Support for Families**

Mount Dandenong Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

* The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
* Payment plans
* Financial assistance for families experiencing hardship furnished by donations from the Mt Dandenong parent community voluntary contributions

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact: Kerry Feuser, Ph: 03 9751 1136, Email: Kerry.Feuser@education.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Jake Laurie Alanna Ford

Principal School Council President

### Parent Payments: Year 5 and 6

Please find below the list of *Curriculum Contributions* and *Other Contributions* for your child.

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| --- | --- |
| **Curriculum Contributions**  **Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum** | **Amount** |
| **Year 5/6 classroom subject consumables, materials & equipment**   * General stationery items – pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, glue, scissors, work books etc. ($20) * English – reading journal, reading books, book boxes, Smart Spelling program materials, class sets of novels for literature study ($35) * Mathematics – workbooks, hands-on materials such as counters, dice, rulers, calculators ($20) * Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, craft paper, sequins, pom poms, feathers, glitter, pipe cleaners, clay, art folio, cardboard ($10) * Sports – equipment ($10) * Science – chemicals, food products, materials ($5) * Japanese – games, workbooks, materials ($5) * Music - display book, workbook, instruments ($5) | $110 |
| **Year 5/6 printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials** | $20 |
| **Year 5/6 ICT Devices**  Provision of devices from the shared classroom set of chromebooks and headphones | $30 |
| **Digital and Online Learning Subscriptions**  Students are provided access to a number of online learning resources requiring subscriptions including Accelerated Reader, Maths Online, Essential Assessment and Inquisitive. | $40 |
| **TOTAL** | **$200** |
| **Other Contribution**  **for non-curriculum items and activities** | Amount |
| School Sports Victoria affiliation | $15 |
| School buildings and grounds maintenance and enhancement | $50 |
| Administrative software and communication tools (Compass) | $30 |
| Library maintenance and enhancement | $20 |
| Student wellbeing programs (includes programs, resources and staff with particular expertise) | $30 |
| Enhanced student support services (e.g. learning support programs, tutoring) | $20 |
| First aid equipment | $10 |
| Social Contribution  (to support MDPS families who are suffering from financial hardship) | $10 |
| **TOTAL** | **$185** |

**Extra-Curricular Items and Activities**

Mount Dandenong Primary School offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

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| **Extra-Curricular Items and Activities** | **Amount** |
| *Optional excursions, incursions, swimming, performances as scheduled throughout 2023. The cost of these excursions will be advised throughout the year.* | *To be advised* |

**Total**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** |  |
| Curriculum Contributions | $ |
| Other Contributions | $ |

### Payment methods:

### Compass Pay (a payment plan is also offered) *Preferred method*

### Via direct deposit

### Via EFT or cash at the school office

### Refunds

### Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department’s Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

**parent PAYMENTS policy**

**ONE PAGE OVERVIEW**

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| --- | --- |
|  | FREE INSTRUCTION   * Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL. * Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS  Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Curriculum Contributions  Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum. | Other  Contributions  Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school’s functions and objectives. | Extra-Curricular Items and Activities  Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis. |  * Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices). |

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|  | FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES   * Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn’t miss out. * Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements. |

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|  | SCHOOL PROCESSES   * Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency. |

